

SEASON 2022-23



PROGRAMME £3

WEALDSTONE FC



V BROMLEY

SATURDAY AUGUST 6 2022, KICK-OFF 3PM



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Written in Stone

BY MARK HYDE



The new Vale season kicks off today!

Welcome back to Grosvenor Vale for the start of our third season back at National League Level.

Welcome also to Andy Woodman, the directors, staff, players and traveling supporters of Bromley FC. We hope you have a pleasant afternoon and a safe journey home after the game.

We should be in no doubt that this season will be even tougher than last. We may have lost worthy champions Stockport County and playoff winners Grimsby Town from our ranks but we have gained experienced EFL sides in the shape of ex Premier League side Oldham Athletic, Scunthorpe & York City. As last seasons incredible 16th place finished proved, we are far more than the sum of our parts, we are unique

and our moment is long overdue.

A huge thanks to our Board of Directors and all our staff, volunteers and supporters who worked so hard over the summer to ensure that we had a new and improved Wealdstone FC to come back to this season.

The ground and squad improvements are testimony to the 'All in this together' spirit at our wonderful club.

We are obviously still need your help where possible, either as a volunteer or as a Match, ball or kit sponsor. Details of all of these opportunities can be found within these pages.

More to come and new features from us here at programme towers as we settle in so stick with us

Mark

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KARL RUSKIN SARGEANT

Harrow Windows Ltd would like to dedicate today's game in memory of a lifelong Wealdstone fan, Karl Ruskin Sargeant. Karl sadly passed away in June, aged just 57. Karl was one of life's true gems who will be sadly missed. RIP my dear friend.

BALL DONOR - ALAN COUCH

ALAN LEAPER - 1935 -2022

It's with great sadness that I announce my dear Dad's departure from this life. He passed away Monday 25th July after a short illness at the age of 87.

Alan was a Stones fan from childhood having attended Vaughan Road school in West Harrow with such luminaries as Wealdstone super fan Lew Shepherd and Sir Roger (4 minute mile) Bannister. This affinity with the club continued through his long and eventful life. Visits to Lower Mead with him was where I cut my teeth as a football fan and whilst in the last couple of years it became more of a challenge for him to get along to the Vale he followed the results avidly and sometimes knew more about the game than myself who was at it.

Dad was the proud shop keeper of Leaper's hardware store in Rayner's Lane for a number of years. This prevented his attendance at games on a Saturday but on his retirement he got right back into it. Nothing thrilled him more than seeing old customers and friends at games it was almost as important as the result to him.

Clive



3 generations of Stones fans.

This photo was taken in the clubhouse a couple of years ago. Me, Dad and my boy Ollie.

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WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2022/2023

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1981 / 1982 Southern League Southern Division
1981 / 1982 Southern League Championship
1984 / 1985 National League Premier (Gola League)
1996 / 1997 Isthmian League Division Three
2013 / 2014 Isthmian League Premier Division
2019 / 2020 National League South

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1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

1958 / 1959 Senior Cup
1962 / 1963 Senior Cup
1964 / 1965 Senior Cup
1967 / 1968 Senior Cup
1984 / 1985 Senior Cup
2003 / 2004 Charity Cup
2010 / 2011 Charity Cup

NON TITLE-WINNING PROMOTIONS

1997 / 1998 Isthmian League Division 2 (3rd)
1998 / 1999 Isthmian League Division 1 (3rd, annulled)
2003 / 2004 Isthmian League Premier Division

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Football Club (2000) Ltd
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Shares in excess of 10% are
held by Peter Marsden Property
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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.
- 6) No Smoking or Vaping inside the ground.

Wealdstone FC Board of Directors

From the Gaffer

STUART MAYNARD

Good afternoon and welcome back to The Vale for our opening game of the 2022/23 season.

We welcome Andy Woodman and his Bromley side here today for what will undoubtedly be a very tough, but hopefully exciting game.

Bromley are a team that will be expecting to finish in the Top 7 this season and off the back of their FA Trophy win at Wembley confidence will be high. They have got tremendous resources and the quality of their squad reflects that so we know it will be a good gauge of where we are currently.

As a group we are going into this season full of optimism and excitement as we are very happy with our summers business. We have added bits of experience alongside bits of quality so we feel we are stronger than we were at this point last season. We had a very strong group at the back-end of last season so our aim wasn't to better it, it was to replicate it going into the start of this season and we feel we have done that.

Over the last couple of weeks we have really seen the group come on leaps and bounds as they're starting to take on board the information, and our patterns of play are becoming more and more ingrained in them.

The way we work and play is probably the toughest philosophy to coach as it's very in depth and players need to start becoming "thinking footballers". This is often different to what they are used to so it does take time to understand it and be able to put it in to practice when you're under pressure. We saw the rewards we got from it last season so we have no doubt it will be worth all the work and you'll see a team who passes and moves teams around all season.



On a final note we just want to thank all the fans who contributed to get the Max Kretzschmar signing over the line. It shows how strong and close we are as a club now and everyone at the club really appreciates the contributions people made.

Hopefully we can start the season as we mean to go on, but it's important to remember that it's a long season, and whether we win, lose or draw today, the result doesn't dictate our season.

UTS

Stuart



NEXT HOME GAME Saturday August 20 WEALDSTONE v FA HALIFAX TOWN



Welcome back to The Vale for the start of the 2022/23 National League season. I hope you all had a good Summer and are ready for another season of following the Mighty Stones and everything that brings! Welcome to Bromley and congratulations on winning the FA Trophy last season.

Only 12 weeks ago we cheered our team off the pitch following a 3-1 win at Aldershot to secure a 16th place finish with 51 points. An incredible achievement for Stuart, Matt, Craig, Jason, Rachel and the rest of the backroom team.

Since then, we've seen the usual flurry of activity on and off the pitch. Stuart and Matt have signed new contracts which should excite everyone. They are an outstanding management team, hard working, intelligent and committed. It's pleasure to work with them and have then lead us on the pitch, good luck for the season.

We have a new kit man, in Brett Aherne who's been a fantastic addition to the team, welcome Brett and massive thanks to Tony Waugh who left us at the end of last season – what a stalwart and club man he's been.

A number of last season's squad have moved on including top scorer Josh Umerah to Hartlepool and Nik Tavares to league rivals Dagenham. We congratulate both of these players on their moves and wish them well in their future careers, we will miss their contribution as both footballers and men. We also wish everyone who represented the club last season who have moved onto pastures new injury free and successful seasons and thank them for their contribution whilst at the club.

The flip side of those departures is the influx of new players who bring a great mix of youth, experience, quality and character to the squad. The support of our fans fundraising has been immense and *genuinely helps get deals over the line*, when called upon, this fan base never ceases to amaze. I won't comment on individual signings but as a supporter of over 40 years, I'm genuinely excited by the talent we have recruited. If we can replicate our resilience at the back from last season, we now have even more

in the final third to create chances, taking those chances will be key to winning games.

Off the pitch a tremendous amount of work has been completed to vastly improve the stadium from the replacement fencing, concreting, paving and a huge effort to tidy up the ground. Thanks to Nick, Rory and Harvey for leading this but also all the volunteers, too many of whom to name but I can't not mention Peter Edwards and Gordon Thomson who spent what seemed like the whole Summer at the stadium helping out.

Adam Rowlands and his ground team have done an exceptional job with the pitch given the dry weather and the pressure to host home friendlies to generate some income. The QPR game was a huge success operationally with over 2,500 in the ground and no major congestion or viewing issues.

We welcome Watford Ladies to the club, as we'll be hosting a number of their home league games at The Vale on Sunday's and the occasional midweek. Following last season's relegation they're looking to bounce back and it's great to have such a high quality women's team playing in Ruislip – come down and have a watch.

Harvey Hicks has moved on as General Manager. A real gentleman who did an outstanding job while he was with us in a really challenging set of circumstances. A personal thanks to Harvey and I hope we keep seeing him at The Vale in the future. Harvey has been replaced by

FROM THE BOARDROOM



PIC OF HOME STADIUM

THE LATEST UPDATE FROM
THE WEALDSTONE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS BY DOMINIC WHYLEY

Richard Hopwood who is another great addition to the club and hopefully a lot of you will meet his over the coming weeks. Welcome Richard.

Sarah Gowdy, Nathan and our great bar staff continue to do all we can to make the social club as welcoming and affordable as we can. This is a hugely valuable source of revenue for the club so please try and drink in OUR bar where you can and let us know where we can try and improve.

As everyone knows, costs are going through the roof and we're trying all we can to hold prices and provide special offers to keep things affordable. We've invested in a new cellar cooling system, have refreshed the range of beers and the generously funded big screens are great for watching sport.

There have been some changes to the Board with Nick Symmons re-joining, Kevin Afleck coming on board to lead our media team and Mark Randall stepping away to focus on driving the supporters club forwards. Welcome Kevin and thanks Mark.

Financially, we remain underdogs. Whilst the rewards of being in the National League are significant, the operating costs and wage bill required to compete are equally, (or more), significant!! The requirement for investment, supporter fundraising, players sales and a long overdue cup run is as great as ever but everyone at the club is pulling to make sure we stay at this level and progress.

We saw last season that the profile of being a National League club can attract interest and

this led to US businessman Todd Johnson joining the Board. It's great to have Todd involved and he's back over in October for a couple of games. Commercially, we're seen the benefit of playing at the top level of non-league football with the exposure that brings with deals like Kelme but there's more we need to do to make further progress.

Our academy is on track to recruit a strong intake for 22/23 growing the footprint of the club. We've seen a good number of academy players involved in pre-season and first team training which is great to see. We'll be playing in the U19's National League, the Tactic League and the FA Youth Cup so come down and watch the boys in action. The first National League home game happens to be against Barnet on Wednesday 21st September....

Whilst all the above is great, it genuinely only really matters if you have a passionate and growing fanbase to enjoy the highs and lows and support the club on our journey. We all know, all fans are brilliant, home and away, giving time and money to help the club – we massively thank everyone who plays apart from buying a match ticket, a pint, a scarf to travelling up and down the country to support Stuart and the team.

Season ticket sales have been lower than we hoped but Darren Linden is leading some great work to grow our next generation of supporters with pricing initiatives, free U16's season tickets, school visits and much more. Of course, Nick Symmons is also involved in this as he continues to seemingly be spending his retirement helping the club! Growing the supporter base is really important to helping the club stabilise at this level and we want to remain an affordable, fun and safe place for everyone to watch their football. Wealdstone FC is a special club.

Finally, enjoy the season everyone. We'll inevitably have dark days, sub-par performances, a tough run of fixture but we'll also have some brilliant away days, some big and passionate home crowds, the excitement of the cups and some great times with friends and relatives who are part of the great Wealdstone family. Get behind the team, stay positive and let's make some more great memories.

Dom

BY SUDHIR RAWAL



The Elmslie

Let's get this show on the road. EE is back and joining Uncle Tom Cobley with his predictions...

It is that time of year when Uncle Tom Cobley and all make their annual predictions. Of course, most of them are done with little or no knowledge, without any basic research either. Take one from the sports editor of the Derbyshire Times, who covers Chesterfield, the sports editor no less, that stated with assurance that Dorking would have the smallest budget in the league! He's not met Marc White yet!

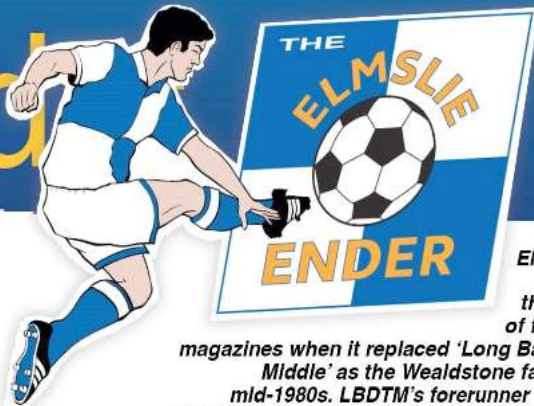
So, what of these predictions across social media, most of which based on how "big" a club is? Well, pretty much all of them have little old Wealdstone in the bottom four, if not bottom. I suppose if truth be told, many supporters wouldn't necessarily disagree, but their predictions, guesses, are no different to last year and the year before. And Wealdstone confounded them then, so

why not this year too.

Last season Wealdstone weren't ever in the relegation frame, which was great testament to the management team and squad. The squad this season has changed considerably from last season, as would have been expected, and the who comes in on loan will be the key again this season. Three of our four loanees from last season were in our top four players of the campaign. George Wickens, young player of the season, a colossus in goal, Connor McAvoy, Stonescast player of the season, had a brilliant partnership at the back with Jack Cook, and Aaron Henry, whose introduction in the team saw us play much further forward and we were a more potent force in the attacking third. So, they will be hard to replace.



e End



Elmslie Ender was among the first wave of football club

magazines when it replaced 'Long Ball Down the Middle' as the Wealdstone fanzine in the mid-1980s. LBDM's forerunner 'Wealdstone Whispers' was famously the THE very first football fanzine in Britain when it was published in 1971

First those that have left. Josh Umerah, who divided opinion like no other Stones player, but who scored seventeen league goals in the lower mid table side, has been rewarded with a move to the Football League and Hartlepool United. After his best season ever, Umerah will look to consolidate his position in the full-time ranks, whether he's at that level some will argue against, but he certainly deserves his chance. Nico Tavares left for full time football at Dagenham and Redbridge. The classy defender, who had nothing but praise for our management team on his departure, was suspected to likely to move to the Football League but probably his injury record may have hindered such a transfer. I don't blame anyone for moving for more money, we would almost all do the same at work especially if it is double what you are being paid previously, but it was still a surprise that our captain Jerome Okimo made the short journey to the cuckoos. In total contrast to Tavares, six years at Wealdstone in his second spell seemed to go without a word.

Incoming has seen a number of new faces. Former Stones Sam Howes takes over in goal, with Tarryn Allarakhia, who has probably been the best player in pre-season, returning as an attacking midfielder, from Woking. Sam Habergham has a welter of experience in the National League and the Football League returns from a spell in Australia having previously suffered a serious injury. Lewis Kinsella joins from Aldershot where he was player of the year but wanted to move to part-time football. Kinsella received a lot of praise from Shots fans on his departure. Dom Hutchinson, who has looked good in pre-season, joins from Watford, which leaves two more major signings. Max Kretzschmar was a player in demand, with the cuckoos certain they had his signing done and dusted. In the end, Woking's player of the year, who was touted as joining Football League clubs as

well, arrived at the Vale, thanks to a crowd funding scheme which raised thousands of pounds in less than twenty-four hours to secure his signature, another remarkable fund raise organised by the king of emails, Jeremy Albert.

That brings me to Olufela Olomola: he's a local lad, from Harrow Weald if I remember correctly who started his football journey at Parkfield. My son's team, Harrow St Mary's, who were the best side at that age group, nabbed him for the last half of his final season at local club level before he moved to Arsenal and two of our lads went to Chelsea. He was a small all action unit up front in his younger days and it appears nothing has changed. Whilst very different in stature to Umerah, Fela may actually be better suited to our style of football.

With Oldham Athletic, now under new ownership – and Scunthorpe coming down from the Football League, and the likes of big spending Dorking, Maidstone, Gateshead and York City coming the other way, and no obvious basket cases, the league has only got harder. Wrexham continuing their fairy-tale underdog against all the odds journey handing out more big money deals that could even feature Jacob Mendy-Mendy, likely to finish top of the pile. Oldham fans are in for a shock. They seemed to have out belted, all other Belts. Just see the unveiling of their new owner. It couldn't be more whippets and flat caps if you tried, mocking the league they were in, we are all Dorking on the opening day.

So, as the season begins, no doubt Wealdstone will look to prove their doubters wrong. At the time of writing, our loanees haven't come in yet, bar one, and they will undoubtedly be crucial in our finishing twentieth or higher.

Sud

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'The place to be is where you are most loved & I'm feeling that already here. I can't wait for the season to begin!'

Max Kretzschmar



Stones' new signing Max Kretzschmar offered a fascinating insight into the motives behind his surprise decision to sign for Stuart Maynard in the midst of pre-season - while he was being courted by several monied clubs on the back of a terrific 2021-22 season for Woking.

Thirteen goals from midfield in 34 league games are numbers that would delight most strikers. And how happy were we when Twitter exploded into life that June morning with the news that a late 'crowdfunding' exercise would see Mighty Max wearing the GPF Lewis shirt next season!

"It was a combination of factors" said the 28 year old when we caught up for a lengthy chat before the QPR friendly.

"Mainly though, it was the fact that Stuart had been in my ear for two years, persuading me that his style of play would suit my style of play. And Cookie dropped quite a few DMs to me

during the summer! But once I'd seen how he and Matty Saunders structure the training I knew I had good reason to be excited. My strengths are finding space in and around the box and getting on the end of things, and I'm confident we'll hit the ground running when the league starts on August 6.

"I can't wait for it all to begin. To be honest, the place to be is where you are most loved and I'm feeling that already at Wealdstone, from the players and staff to the fans".

"I know you ended the season with a calf injury, so are you match fit now?" I asked him.

"No! I'm a little bit nervous because I'm a couple of weeks behind everyone else, but I'm going to be playing four or five 45 mins between now and the first game.

"My game is about covering every blade of grass, threatening teams and trying to win the ball back - although I'll have more of a forward,



Max is pictured in action against QPR in the home friendly but said he was still two weeks off being fully match fit



No.10 role this season. People shouldn't read too much into the friendlies: I've had pre-season games at Woking where we've lost to teams from a couple of levels below. It's all about getting ready for the first game."

"What do you know about Bromley?" I asked him. "Well, big strong side, probably play 3-5-2 with giant defenders, dangerous from dead balls, like to bosh it up the pitch but they've made some good signings and it will be a good test for us.

"We'll be all about movement and keeping possession, moving teams around and then finding the cutting edge. I like to set little targets for myself each season and I got nine assists as well as my goals last year, so I'll be aiming to improve those stats this season."

"And will you be on penalties?" "Well I'm assuming so! I've been on pens for every club I've played at, starting at Wycombe in the EFL when I was 19,

and I look at it like 'when do you ever get a shot at goal from 12 yards with no opposition apart from the keeper? What's to be nervous about?"

Max's family (from German descent) is from Kingston-Upon-Thames and he was scouted by Southampton as a boy, when he starred for his winning Molesey Juniors side in a tournament at Camberley. But after he was released he was offered contracts by Wycombe and Brentford, and chose the Buckinghamshire side.

There he made an astonishing debut at Hartlepool in League Two in August 2013, scoring twice off the bench in a 2-1 win (replacing ex-Stone Nick Arnold).

"My dad said: "What the f*** have you just done!" laughed Max.

He returned an impressive six goals from 35 appearances that season, but was then released and joined Garry Hill's Woking in the National League.

"That was a difficult time as I suffered a broken collarbone and did my medial ligaments, and I moved on to Hampton in the NLS... I was thinking, bloody hell, I've dropped two divisions in two years! But I really enjoyed it and we reached the play-off final, only losing on penalties to Braintree".

Max had scored 14 goals in 40-odd appearances, and when Hampton boss Alan Dowson was installed as the new Woking manager the midfielder followed him back to Kingfield for the 2018-19 season.

"I know what you're going to ask next... you're going to ask me about the NLS play-off semi-final against Wealdstone!" he chuckled.

"My dad says it was the most emotionally-draining game he's ever seen. I know the Stones had a tiring game on the Wednesday night against Bath, while we had a week to prepare, and you don't have to be a genius to realise why we scored three times in the last ten minutes. Wealdstone were leading 2-0 but they were knackered... We got one back, then I managed to find a pocket of space to equalise"

And Jake Hyde's winning goal... was that offside?" I asked him.

"I don't care!" he said. "Godfrey Poku joined us

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

THE STONES INTERVIEW CONTINUED



Max (far right) breaks Stones hearts as he strikes the late Woking equaliser in the play-off semi final three years ago. But we'll forgive him if he scores crucial goals in a blue shirt this season

from Wealdstone the following season and I have to admit we teased him a bit about that game”.

We've touched on Jack Cook's role in persuading Max to sign for the Stones, but MK believes that the coaching at Wealdstone has really helped the centre-back to come on leaps and bounds as a player.

“He was always a good player but he's really dominant now, one of the best centre-backs in the League. And the way Stuart and Matty set up the training makes me think they'll have a really big future in the game.”

“So what's the difference in how they set up training?” I asked him.

“Well most teams play keep-ball sessions but they come off a small area of the pitch. Here we mark out a grid but it's **WHOLE** pitch size... it's called pitch geography and the players are coached as to where they should be within the system. It's really very different. It's exciting to play within that system and when you have a small budget and a small squad you have to rinse every drop out of the players... and it works”.

So how does Max organise his time, being a full-time player in a part-time environment?

“I do have my own one-to-one football coaching business, and that will really kick off in the school summer holidays. I have just signed off my coaching B licence, and I also have plans to get into the media side of the game after doing a degree in sportswriting and broadcasting. But for the mo-

ment I'm focussing on getting fit for the season.

“There is talk of a few of the players getting together for a few mornings, to create a type of hybrid training model and I'm all over that. At Woking I was the one who reinforced the standards of what we were trying to achieve. I'd be out there every day with a ball if I could!”

And now for some “favourites” questions...
Favourite food: “Sushi. I like to take my girlfriend Rachel to Sticks & Sushi in Wimbledon or Covent Garden, but to be honest I love curries and, well anything really”

Favourite goal: “I scored a long, looping half volley for Woking against Billericay a few years ago. Really enjoyed that one”.

What about the two goals you scored for Woking at The Vale on the opening day last season?
“Well, a bit of movement at the near post for the first one, opened my body up and stuck it in the near corner. The second one was a bit of a flick and a deflection off Cookie... his own goal really but I asked him and he said he didn't want it!”

And are you aware of games that mean a lot to the fans?

“Well yes, I've heard a bit about rivalry with Barnet. To be honest, at Woking the rivalry was with Aldershot and we always seemed to lose or draw against them. But I always seemed to score”

“The man for the big occasion then?” I asked him. “Yes that's me” he said. “The man for the big occasion”.

There's a big interview in every issue of your great Stones programme!

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Bromley, a famous old amateur club now knocking on the door of the Football League

Here's a good quiz question: Who scored his only goal in two years in a Stones' shirt the last time we played Bromley in the NLS? Strange but true - it was Richard Jolly, our ace goal poacher who had prematurely retired when we lost in the Ryman play-offs in April 2013.

Jolls returned 18 months later, in late 2014 after we had won promotion to the Conference South without him but only played a bit part in our first campaign at the higher level... but his goal at Hayes Lane was a memorable one. Bromley were flying along at the top of the table (later winning the title and promotion) but we put a bit of a spoke in their wheel on December 28th when Jolls' sharp turn and hook shot earned us an unexpected point in a 1-1 draw.

Four months earlier, on August 30, the Ravens had smashed us 4-0 at The Vale (programme cover, right) in what was a torrid introduction to life in the Connie South, as we failed to record a league win in our first nine starts.

And before that? Well our two clubs had not met for eight years since the days of the Stones' annual battle against relegation from the Ryman Prem. It was successfully negotiated in April 2006 though the decent Bromley



Final goal of the Great Jolls: The memorable volley (above) that earned a 1-1 draw at Bromley eight years ago. Left: celebration with Matt Ball

side beat us 2-1 at Chestnut Avenue, where we were groundsharing with Northwood, on their way to a finish in the top ten.

The following season saw Wealdstone transferred across to the Southern League Premier Division, and we missed the pleasure of facing an even better Bromley side (by then managed by owner Mark Goldberg) that ended the season being pipped for automatic promotion by Hampton, but tasting the glory of promotion via the play-offs. The Whites overcame AFC Wimbledon at Hayes Lane in the semi-final in

front of a 3,000 crowd (mainly Dons fans)... and over 3,000 turned up again for the final against Billericay, again at Hayes Lane, and saw Goldberg's side snatch a dramatic win on penalties.

Thus Bromley elevated themselves into the non-League elite after decades of languishing in the lower reaches of non-League. All the sweeter for the longer-in-the-tooth Bromley fans who longed for a return of the immediate post-war years when the Whites won the Isthmian

CONTINUED OVERPAGE



v BROMLEY

BT Sport

Vanarama

Saturday August 30
2014, kick-off 3pm

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HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE? CONTD

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

League and even the Amateur Cup at Wembley (three times in all, a terrific record).

Here we feature a couple of the memorable previous meetings. Apologies (as usual) for the quality of the cuttings and old pictures)...

Saturday August 18, 2001, Ryman League Division One: Wealdstone 4 Bromley 1

WHAT a great start to the season this was! After the grim 2000-2001 campaign, when doubts over where we would be starting the season (groundsharing at Edgware or Chesham?) resulted in Gordon Bartlett scratching together a team at the last moment, and then living hand-to-mouth until the last game, the summer of 2001 was comparative luxury!

The boss, writing in the programme for the Bromley curtain-raiser, was gushing about the pre-season preparation at Broadfields, the positive friendly results and the opportunity to work on some pattern-of-play even on the morning of the first game.

New signings Fergus Moore, Mick McDonagh and Vinny Somers, plus Jason Shaw and keeper Andy Carter started against an equally much-changed Bromley who had finished 2000-2001 just above the relegation places. They had been in real danger of the drop until winning three and drawing two of their last five games, including a 4-0 thumping of the Stones in the final game of the season to delight their boss Dave Garland.

So along we trooped to the White Lion ground this sun-drenched August Saturday, and were pleasantly surprised by the surroundings - the hotel was finally finished and the brand-new car parking and lawned surrounds made it a much better environment, leading up to the new turnstile block and boardroom. And on the pitch - wow!

GB's refashioned team really looked the part, with former Hampton playmaker Shaw and the wily McDonagh setting up the chances for returning striker Bryan Hammatt and target man Lee Walker. Danny Reeve and Billy Amarteifio looked like a good combination at centre-back, with Tom Bryson at right back and Fergus Moore down the left lending support to Danny Tilbury and the tricky Somers.

The training ground manoeuvres paid off after just six minutes when a freekick move saw Fergus



Fergus Moore's freekick finds the back of the Bromley net and Lee Walker celebrates by sitting on the visitors' hapless keeper Danny Harwood! Visiting fan Machel recalls this game in the 'View from the away end' elsewhere in this programme

Moore slam a low 20-yarder past keeper Danny Harwood. Bromley quickly levelled but we were in dreamland as new boys Shaw and Somers both rifled in terrific shots to leave Harwood grasping. 3-1 at the break!

Moore then turned villain with an angry response to a late tackle that saw him red-carded, but the Stones regrouped and finished the game worthy winners thanks to a Danny Reeve penalty. Hammatt had tumbled in the box after Harwood's ill-advised challenge.

Wealdstone: Carter, Bryson, Moore, Reeve, Amarteifio, McDonagh, Somers, Tilbury, Walker, Shaw, Tibury. **Subs:** Shayne Chandler, Ricky Pither, Dennis Greene. **Attendance:** 304.

La Ronde's puts

By
John Comfort

Bromley 1 Wealdstone 2

A DRAMATIC last-gasp injury time winner from the ebullient Everal La Ronde sent the vociferous Wealdstone faithful home happy from Hayes Lane on Saturday, rejoicing that their favourites had clinched a deserved place in the last 32 of the FA Trophy and at the same time had halted an agonising spell of 11 matches without a win.

La Ronde's decisive strike came as Stones were settling for the apparent inevitability of a Lower Meadow replay with the match drifting into its third minute of stoppage time.

All bar Alan Cordice turned to defensive duties as Bromley forced a late corner but his presence proved to be the only requirement Stones needed to turn defence into attack as the kick was cleared off him midway in his own half and he set off on a dazzling solo run down the right. It culminated at the Bromley by-line



● Everal La Ronde - scored Stones' dramatic winning goal.

There are great reminiscences in every issue of your great Stones programme!

'Bromley Boys' and the dismal 1960s...

**Saturday January 10th 1970, FA Amateur Cup
2nd round: Wealdstone 3 Bromley 2**

REMEMBER that brilliant book about Bromley FC, **The Bromley Boys**, penned by Dave Roberts? Well you probably know that it was made into an indie film and was released about ten years ago to critical acclaim, turning the book's self-deprecating author Dave into the biggest-selling scribe since JK Rowling.

Okay, that last bit's not true. But the whole idea of a book (and film) about non-League football can only be a good thing. Dave then wrote a follow-up book (**Home and Away**) about when he returned to the UK after many years abroad just in time to see his once-hopeless team playing in the National League!

There are a few parallels there with the Stones as (after a season of Covid) our legions of fans enjoyed the pleasures of travelling this sceptred isle to watch our team.

Anyway, 'The Bromley Boys' has come to the rescue again as a memory jogger for this clash with the Ravens almost 50 years ago.

Dave's book, which amusingly chronicles his team's awful 1969-70 season, has this to say about the game... **"The vibrant atmosphere saw**

Wealdstone roar into an early 2-0 lead on the wet and slippery pitch. Home favourite Bernie Bremer forced in the first goal after the ball got stuck in the mud, and then struck with a lucky shot from the edge of the area.

"Bremer then seemed determined to score his hat-trick, which was probably what saved Bromley from total humiliation.... the winger was on a single-minded mission and refused to contemplate passing or even speaking to his colleagues, shooting every time he got the ball.

"Bromley then got a goal back from an Eric Nottage header – Bremer then hit the bar as a reminder that his personal crusade was not yet over – and amazingly Bromley then levelled when David Wise's cross was met on the volley by Eddie Green.

"This was cup football at its most exciting, with Bromley and Bremer taking it in turns to attack. Then, just before the break a corner was swung over and somebody who wasn't Bernie Bremer headed home to put Wealdstone back in front."

The Stones winning goal was headed in by Dave Bullock, by the way, but the Amateur Cup adventure ended at the hands of Wycombe a week later. Over 4,000 were at Loakes Park as we lost 1-0.

last gasp goal Stones through

Cordice sets up dramatic Trophy triumph in the dying seconds

with an inch perfect cross which the supporting La Ronde at the far post and he had time in hand to control the ball before lashing it past keeper Hayes via the underside of the crossbar.

Bromley only had time to restart and it was all over – a dramatic and stylish finish to the match for Stones that was in marked contrast to the disastrous way they had started it.

Only three minutes had gone when Stones blundered away a goal courtesy of Paul Morris who foolishly attempted to play his way out of defence.

He lost the ball just outside the area to Brenton who evaded Alan Risk's covering challenge before slotting past Darren Williams.

Stunned Stones could have gone further behind in the 22nd minute but they had referee Hayes to thank for denying Brenton a second goal.

The tricky Bromley midfielder broke through and shrugged off Risk's attempts to haul him down but as he fired past Williams, Mr Hawes inexplicably blew for the foul and brought play back for a free kick which needless to say came to nothing.

To their credit however Stones battled their way through their unhappy opening and their efforts were rewarded on the half hour with an equaliser that was a total triumph for good football.

Kirk Corbin, John Margerison and Steve Browne were all involved as Stones neatly built up an attack on the right flank from deep inside their own half and when Alan Cordice whipped the ball over into the Bromley goalmouth, Paul Wilkins was on hand to slam a low shot past Hayes for the equaliser.

It was the filip Stones needed to take the tie by the scruff of the neck with the

classy Margerison and the articulate Steve Browne always in the thick of the action.

But sadly some good approach work too often fell foul at the final pass as promising moves petered out around the Bromley area.

The closest they came to a second goal was 25 minutes into the second half when both Wilkins and Morris failed to force the ball home in a goalmouth scramble sparked off by Browne's corner.

And although Stones made most of the running in the last quarter, it seemed certain they would have to be content with a draw until Cordice made his sensational surge to set up the dramatic late winner for La Ronde.

Wealdstone: Williams, Risk, Harrison, Morris, Corbin, La Ronde, Wilkins, Margerison, Cordice, Olaleye, S. Browne, Subs: Bailey, Wright.

**January 14 1989, FA
Trophy 1st round
proper: Bromley 1
Wealdstone 2**

EVERALD La Ronde has one of the best names in Wealdstone history.. and his last-gasp goal is an enduring memory for every one of the 200 Stones fans at Hayes Lane 22 years ago. Brenton had give Bromley the lead but Paul Wilkin scored a rare goal to level things up before La Ronde sent the away fans crazy. The reward was a visit from Conference top dogs Wycombe at Lower Mead and a 1,469 crowd saw us bow out unluckily (again) 1-0....

WEALDSTONE FC
SUPPORTERS CLUB PRESENT..

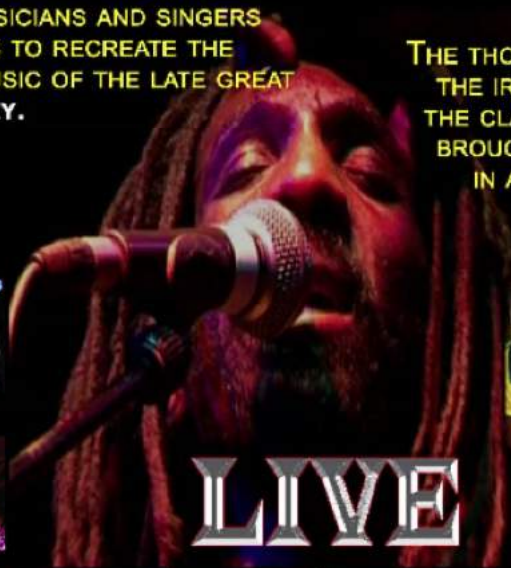


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Opposition in focus



THE RAVENS

Bromley Football Club were founded in 1892 when they were playing in the South London League, and then they became founding members of the Southern League in 1894.

The Ravens play their home games at Hayes Lane, but this wasn't always the case, the Club played at Queensmead Recreation Ground before moving to Glebe Road and then Plaistow Cricket Club, before they moved to Hayes Lane in 1938.

Bromley's first piece of silverware came in 1896 when they were crowned London League champions shortly after becoming founding members. They then switched to the Kent League before returning to the division.

In 1907, the Club were founder members of the Spartan League before joining the Isthmian League the following season, winning back-to-back titles.

They won the FA Amateur Cup in 1910/11, beating Bishop Auckland 1-0 in the final; they'd go on to repeat their success in this competition, as they beat Erith & Belvedere 1-0 in the 1937/38 season. During the time between both FA Amateur Cup victories, the club saw themselves win the Athenian League in 1922/23.

In the same season as their second FA Amateur Cup win, they also reached the FA Cup for the first time, beating King's Lynn in the first round, but losing 4-1 to Scarborough in the second. They'd go on to repeat this feat the season after as they played Football League opposition for the first time, losing 8-1 to Lincoln City in the second round.

1948/49 was yet another successful season for The Ravens, winning the Athenian League title and the FA Amateur Cup.

They rejoined the Isthmian League in 1958, in which they finished runners-up in their first season,



and winning the league in their second. They'd also go on to win the league again in 1960/61.

In the 1974/75 season, Bromley found themselves in Division One, however, they finished bottom that season. Two seasons after relegation, The Raven's played in the FA Cup first round for the first time in over twenty years, losing 7-0 to Swindon Town.

Bromley started their rise into the Conference Leagues in 2006/07, after yo-yoing between the Premier Division, Division One and Division Two since 1976. In 06/07, they finished runners up in the Premier Division. They went onto beat AFC Wimbledon 1-0 in the play-off semi-finals and then coming out on top against Billericay Town on penalties in the final, which saw them promoted to the Conference League South.

In the 2014/15 season, Bromley were crowned champions of the National League South, earning them promotion to the National League, where they have been everpresent

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BROMLEY FC



HOME GROUND - HAYES LANE
CAPACITY - 5,000 (1,300 SEATED)
MANAGER - ANDY WOODMAN
2021/22 - 10TH NATIONAL LEAGUE

since.

Bromley also visited Wembley in 2018 for the FA Trophy Final against Brackley town, which they lost 5-4 to Brackley Town on penalties after the game finished 1-1.

With the EFL firmly in their sights during the 2020-21 season, it was a play-off finish for the Ravens. However, it wasn't to be as they fell to defeat at the hands of eventual winners, Hartlepool United.

The following season ended in silverware as Andy Woodman's side managed to erase the heart-break of 2018 by winning the Buildbase FA Trophy. Going into the game off the back of a tough run of results and coming up against a strong Wrexham side who were eyeing promotion through the play-offs, the Ravens went into the game as underdogs. However, it would be the BR2 side who came away victorious under the Wembley arch, thanks to a 63rd minute Michael Cheek winner.



BROMLEY LIFT THE 2021/22 FA TROPHY

[PIC thenonleaguefootballpaper.com](http://PIC.thenonleaguefootballpaper.com)

Opposition in focus

BROMLEY FC

Unfortunately our deadline was too early to include Bromley's squad numbers for 2022/23

BILLY BINGHAM - MIDFIELD

Billy Bingham, a product of Crystal Palace's academy, began his senior career at Dagenham & Redbridge. Bingham also had short loan spells at Sutton United and Grays Athletic during the early stages of his time with Dagenham. Crewe Alexandra was his next destination in 2015 before joining League One side Gillingham two years later.



BILLY BINGHAM



MICHAEL CHEEK

CHRIS BUSH - DEFENCE

Chris came through the youth set-up at Brentford having loan spells at Salisbury City, Woking, East Thurrock and AFC Wimbledon before joining Gateshead. He then went on to represent Lincoln City, Hereford United, Welling United and Chelmsford City before joining Ebbsfleet in 2017.

OMAR SOWUNMI - DEFENCE

Sowunmi came through the youth set-up at Ipswich Town before joining Yeovil Town. After four years at Huish Park, the defender swapped Somerset for Essex, penning a permanent deal at League Two outfit Colchester United in a spell that ended early last year.

MICHAEL CHEEK - FORWARD

The 2020-21 season saw the prolific striker pick up the National League Golden Boot award, bagging 21 goals. Cheek first made his mark at Heybridge Swifts, before moving on to Chelmsford City. After a successful spell with the Clarets he made the move to Braintree Town. Cheek remained with the Iron for two seasons when his prolific spell earned him a move to fellow Essex outfit Dagenham & Redbridge. In the Summer of 2018, Cheek signed for Ebbsfleet United.

LOUIS DENNIS - FORWARD

Dennis started his career in the youth ranks of Watford, before making the move to Victoria Road and joining Dagenham & Redbridge. Dennis spent time on loan at no less than five clubs, those being Bedfont Town, Welling United, Grays Athletic, Canvey

Island, as well as Hayes & Yeading United. A first spell at Bromley ended with him signing for Portsmouth. He then moved to Leyton Orient before re-joining the Ravens.

BYRON WEBSTER - DEFENCE

Byron arrived at Hayes Lane having played for Carlisle United during the 2019-20 season. Webster started his career in the youth ranks of York City before he moved on to Harrogate Town in 2007. Webster then moved to the Czech Republic and spent two seasons with FK Banik Most before joining Doncaster Rovers including loan with Hereford United and Northampton Town. He signed for then League One side Yeovil Town, earning promotion to the Championship with the Glovers in 2013. Millwall swooped to secure his services in 2014 before joining Scunthorpe United...

COREY WHITELY - FORWARD

Corey joined the Club on loan from Newport County at the start of 2020. Whitely began his career with Boreham Wood, before a string of prolific spells in non-league with Waltham Forest, Cheshunt and most notably Enfield Town. Spells followed at Dagenham & Redbridge & Ebbsfleet United came next

HARRY FORSTER - MIDFIELD

Forster started at Watford as an U11. Following time on loan at St Albans City. He was then loaned out to Bromley

FACT - Wealdstone's biggest win over Bromley came in September 1964. Wealdstone winning 7-2 at home in the Isthmian League.

THE PLAYERS TO WATCH

FACT - Wealdstone and Bromley played out a 5-5 draw in the Athenian League at Lower Mead in May 1946



ADAM MARRIOTT



JAMES VENNING

DAVID SMITH - FORWARD

Signed in July from Isthmian League Premier Division outfit Folkestone Invicta.

JAMES VENNING - MIDFIELD

Signed following his release from Charlton Athletic.

GEORGE ALEXANDER - FORWARD

George joined last summer following a successful trial period from Millwall, netting three times in pre-season with numerous assists to his name already. George also spent time on loan at Concord Rangers helping The Beach Boys reach the FA Trophy final.

MARCUS SABLIER - DEFENCE

PALACE FRANCIS - FORWARD

Francis joined Bromley from Walton & Hersham

MASON BLOOMFIELD - FORWARD

ADAM MARRIOTT - FORWARD

Adam arrives at the club with a whole host of National League experience. Marriott began his senior career in the fifth tier at Cambridge United before joining Cambridge City. He then moved to the EFL, signing for League Two outfit Stevenage. He returned to the National League with Lincoln City in 2016 and played a big part in both their title win and FA Cup run during his first and only season at Sincil Bank. Royston Town was Marriott's next destination before a short stint at Boston United followed. In 2018, he joined King's Lynn Town. A short stint at Eastleigh followed in 2020 before making the move to North London to sign for Barnet.

CALLUM REYNOLDS - DEFENCE

REECE HANNAM - DEFENCE

Crystal Palace Academy full-back Reece has joined Bromley on loan. The 21-year-old will spend the rest of the season at Hayes Lane

TUNJI OBEMBE - MIDFIELD

KELLEN FISHER - DEFENDER

Kellen Fisher, another Academy Scholar, needs no introduction to Bromley supporters, having featured in the now history-making FA Trophy run, which included a Man of the Match performance away to Tonbridge Angels.

BEN KRAUHAUS - FORWARD

Ben is one of our Academy scholars who starred in the Ravens' FA Youth Cup runs in back to back seasons, scoring some vital goals along the way.

CHARLIE NICHOLAS - DEFENCE

FINLAY LOVATT - FORWARD

ANDY WOODMAN - MANAGER

In March 2021, he left his position as Head of Goalkeeping at Arsenal and was appointed as the new manager of Bromley. After guiding the club to the play-offs on the final day of the season, Woodman was awarded the league's Manager of the Month award for May 2021. As a player, his highest achievement was playing for Northampton Town when they won the Division Three play-offs in 1997.





1ST TEAM RESULTS SEASON 2022/2023

Sam HOWES

Jack COOK

Rory BROWNE

Ashley CHARLES

Alex DYER

Dean HUTCHINSON

Tariq ALLARAKHIA

Max KRETZ SCHMAR

Lewis KINGSLEA

Matt YOUNG

Comp | Score | (Home | Away) | Top Goal scorers

6 BROMLEY	VN
13 Eastleigh	VN
16 Oldham Athletic	VN
20 FC HALIFAX TOWN	VN
27 Gateshead	VN
29 YEOVIL TOWN	VN

SEPTEMBER

3 Woking	VN
10 Altrincham	VN
13 Maidstone United	VN
17 TORQUAY UNITED	VN
24 SOUTHEND UNITED	VN

OCTOBER

1 Aldershot Town	VN
4 Solihull Moors	VN
8 BOREHAM WOOD	VN
15 TBD	FACD
22 Dorking Wanderers	VN
25 NOTTS COUNTY	VN
29 Dagenham & Redbridge	VN

NOVEMBER

5 To Be Decided	VN
8 CHESTERFIELD	VN
12 WREXHAM	VN
19 York City	VN
26 SCUNTHORPE UNITED	VN

DECEMBER

3 Barnet	VN
10 Bromley	VN
13 OLDHAM ATHLETIC	VN
17 To Be Decided	FATD
26 MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VN

JANUARY

1 Maidenhead United	VN
7 EASTLEIGH	VN
14 FC Halifax Town	VN
24 Yeovil Town	VN
28 GATESHEAD	VN

FEBRUARY

4 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	VN
11 Wrexham	VN
18 YORK CITY	VN
21 Chesterfield	VN
25 Woking	VN

MARCH

4 ALTRINCHAM	VN
7 MAIDSTONE UNITED	VN
11 Torquay United	VN
18 Scunthorpe United	VN
25 BARNET	VN

APRIL

1 ALDERSHOT TOWN	VN
7 Notts County	VN
10 SOLIHULL MOORS	VN
15 Boreham Wood	VN
22 DORKING WANDERERS	VN
29 Southend United	VN



FRIENDLY RESULTS

5th July	Hendon	A	W 4-0	Allarakhia (2), Tifalet G, Tifalet I	-
9th July	Slough Town	A	W 2-1	Dunah, Tifalet	-
18th July	Beaconsfield Town	A	D 4-4	Hutchinson, Allarakhia, Tifalet E, Tifalet B	-

Maselli RAVVA
 Jerdy MONGGOT
 Jayden MUNDLE-SMITH
 David SESAY
 Nathan FERGUSON
 Elijah HEARIN
 Tevave SHIRO WIDEB
 Oufela OLOMOLA
 Mason BARRETT
 Eric MGRARU
 Deje ELDEWE E
 Sam HABERGHAM

GAZE IN RED = Midweek fixture



16th July	Overton A U23s	H	L	0-1
20th July	GPR	H	L	2-8
23rd July	Belford Town	A	W	4-1
27th July	Bilfcaay Town	A	W	5-1
30th July	Chelmsford City	H	L	0-3

Ferguson, Tifalot A
 Tifalot S, Kretschmar (Z), Hutchison
 Napa, Oloemola, Altanahia, Kretschmar, Ferguson

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World of Bal

You have in your hands a piece of paper – and that's still a good thing. Here's my defence of matchday programmes

A few years back I found a commemorative 50p coin in my change. One of those Olympic ones, I think. Anyway, it inspired me to keep hold of any similar "specials" I subsequently found. It's not a collection as such, but it has started taking up a bit of shelf space - much as my football programmes do.

Alas, we've since had the pandemic. And now, having adapted my spending habits like everyone else, I've realised I use far fewer coins these days, so my collecting is suffering. And there's a link between the use of coins and football programmes, I think - with both in severe decline.

Accordingly, as we start this new season - and being appreciative that the cost of living may be causing you to reconsider your purchase - my column today represents a 2022 defence of this, your humble matchday magazine. (By the way, I appreciate the very fact of you actually reading this suggests that you, dear reader, need less convincing than others. But nevertheless, let's press on.)

We've had coins since the Bronze Age, the printed word since medieval times - but both are now threatened by the internet, an electronic phenomenon not much more than 35 years old. Ironically, while hardly anyone at The Vale today will use anything other than debit or credit cards to pay for stuff, it'll be the programme for which most of us will still be shelling out actual cash, searching our pockets for change of a fiver.

A 'programme' was first so called because it was a printed list of proceedings, the only means by which an attendee could get to know the schedule of events for the day. Of course, our 21st century online world has long since allowed us to grab all that detail way ahead of time. And so, for that purpose, I'll happily concede that programmes have become next to irrelevant. But programmes, par-

ticularly those produced over the past seventy years or so, have always been much more than that. Here are four things that programmes do that the internet or your mobile phone can't.

1. A key part of the actual matchday

Most people offering up a defence of football programmes focus on how they offer a long lasting, physical souvenir of the match you've attended. That's certainly true. But check eBay and you'll find a huge market in folks ditching their collections. Just as with annual directories, the ability to access information over the net has reduced the value of a well maintained collection. Keep some, maybe, but not all.

A printed programme, though, is a uniquely compiled snapshot of the game that the internet cannot easily replicate. Yes, you can go online when you want to search out that single piece of detail. A score line, perhaps, or that niggling uncertainty as to who started up front. And sure, you'll probably go on to meander all over the web as you link to videos, pictures of the match, forum meltdowns, online reports, Twitter deconstructions.

It's possible to argue that all of the above effectively replaces anything the programme can offer. But I think we should look at this from the other end of the telescope. We underplay just how important the physical programme is in the match day moment. Programmes are as much about the 'now', the immediate match day experience, as all of those meet-ups with mates, the pints, the burgers, the actual game itself. And it's a "long tail" too: a programme extends your match day experience as you read it on the train on the way home, or on the next day with cup of tea / pint of beer in hand.

2. A multi-faceted memory jogger

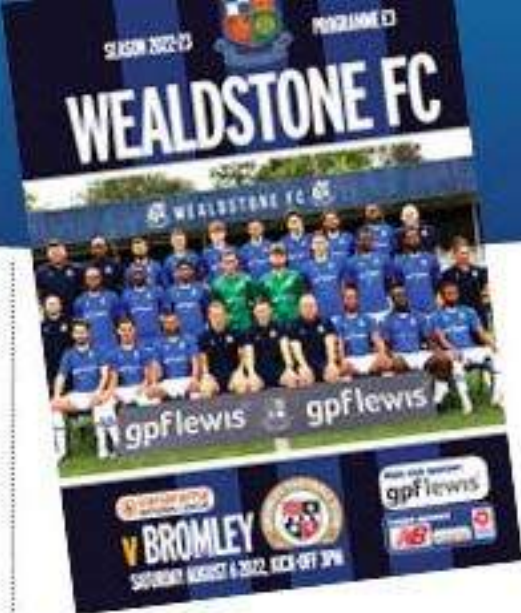
A programme is a postcard from the past, be it immediate or distant. Unlike an internet report, the physical nature of the programme is as much a social statement as it is a journal of record. No matter what year, what era, it's a time capsule for everything that led up to the game.

It's not just the information, it's the presentation. Any programme from any age gives you the detail you need, for sure - but it then sends you on a journey. The match reports from the games just played, the language used, the profiles of up and coming players who never quite made it, the aspirations of the directors of the time, the managerial mission statements, the club ambitions, the hair styles, the fashions, the very page design itself. Who sponsored the match, who was the fan in the stand? Which local business folk were making themselves known through their ads? Each page allows you to see and learn more about the character and culture of the club; everything that was important at that time.

3. A unique cultural artefact

That picture top left, the league table bottom right, the record shop advert, the interview with that new player. A printed programme is full of all the little details about things you didn't know you'd forgotten. A club lottery, perhaps, or those plans to replace a grandstand.

Even the adverts bring the world of the time back to life. Check out these from a 1969 Stones programme: "Ask for Mackeson after



the game!" "Roll out Red Barrel tonight!" "Every shot a winner on Kodak film!" "Visit Millets - for the largest selection of duffle coats, motorcycle and industrial wear." How's that for an evocation or a different age? A programme conveys so much about the atmosphere of the times. An internet report can't do that.

And all of this is bound together in one handy physical document, a unique statement about the club as it existed at that time.

4. A souvenir for all participants

Programmes can close the gap between club and supporter in unique ways, too. In the eighties, our very own Supporters' Club team, in the spirit of that halcyon fanzine age, produced programmes for its own games. Yes, a bit niche perhaps. But not niche enough for SFC, which even produced programmes for its reserves' games. (No word of a lie - check out that cover.)

From this distance, those programmes, and all those programmes for even the smallest occasions, are important souvenirs to all those who took part in the games as well as the supporters. Imagine if those SFC matches had happened with no such programme produced. What would those involved have to evoke all those memories?

Of course, that goes for the biggest of games too, obviously. Imagine, for example, no 1985 FA Trophy Final programme. Insane, right?

All in all, it's my contention is that here in 2022 there are still plenty of reasons for you to keep paying the paltry £3 it costs for the Wealdstone programme. We thank you for your custom - see you on these pages for our next match.

SFC WEALDSTONE reserves

SFC
W

The Official Magazine 1966/67
Programme Number 12



Sunday 12th April 1967

BLACK HORSE (Greenford)

North Kingston League

Kick off: 11.00am

20p

WEALDSTONE FC PROGRAMME PRINTED BY THE STONES PRESS

The view from the

'It's the camaraderie, the bond with the players and staff that makes non-League football so special'

We've got a double bill of Ravens fans to kick off the new season... and are particularly chuffed to get the views of 40-year-old Machel, a noted 'Assistant Headteacher/Podcaster/Freelance Journalist – take your pick' as he styles himself!

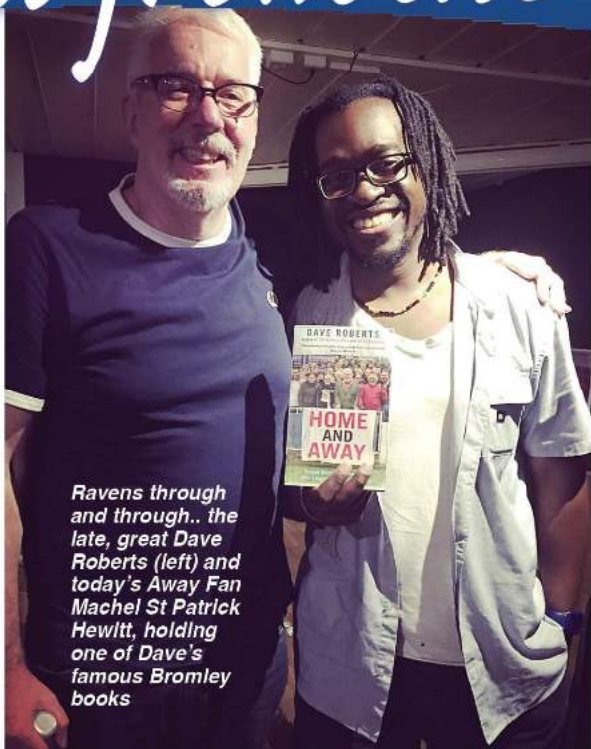
Machel wrote a very considered piece on the Stones return to non-League top flight at Londonfootballscene.co.uk. Check it out. So let's hear what he has to say...

Do you live in Bromley, Machel? I now live in New Cross but grew up in Bromley – South London diehard!

When was your first Ravens game? My first ever game was Bromley 1-0 Uxbridge on 19th October 1996. Up until that moment I would have described myself as an Arsenal fan but I was convinced by a very good friend to watch Bromley. Never looked back from that first game. You know when you've found home.

What is the best thing about following a non League team? The National League is a different beast, truth be told. It's basically League Three in all but name. That said, having seen Bromley go up through the leagues from Ryman 1 South to being FA Trophy winners inside 18 years I've seen all there is to see about non-league. Frankly it's the camaraderie, the bond with the players and staff that simply isn't possible at the higher levels.

Even in the National League there is still that sense of the players not being able to get too far above their station and the connection still being



Ravens through and through.. the late, great Dave Roberts (left) and today's Away Fan Machel St Patrick Hewitt, holding one of Dave's famous Bromley books

there with the fans. It means a lot and makes us believe we have a unique energy in non-league football.

And the most frustrating thing? Managers and players will tell you it's the ability of the referees. However I now think it is the fact the National League only has two promotion places. Non-League has changed and the quality of teams across all three levels has risen substantially. Yet despite all that the EFL still treats Non-League as something inferior

What is your standout moment watching Bromley? Needless to say it's the FA Trophy win in May 2022, having seen Bromley almost relegated into the Kent League at the turn of the century to see us win the FA Trophy at Wembley 22 years later in front of 42,000 was the stuff

away end



dreams are made of.

And your favourite away trip, and why? This is a genuinely hard question – how do you pick from so many? That said, in our first season in the National League we beat Lincoln City 1-0 away with a Moses Emmanuel winner nine minutes from time. It wasn't the performance per se, it was more the fact that so many people had travelled who had seen us at our lowest ebb (in the modern era). Seeing us turn over a former EFL club and deservedly so with so many mates from the old school there to see it. It was a special feeling

Who have been your favourite Bromley players of all time? I suspect it has to be Nic McDonnell. In the National League era it is Michael Cheek who is essentially an upgraded version of Nic relative to the level. Nic McDonnell was as close to a guaranteed goalscorer as I've seen in my Bromley-supporting life. His name is etched in Bromley history for scoring the key goals in the Playoff SF and Final that helped us get promoted to the Conference South. He understood what it meant to play for the club and formed a connection with the fans that bordered on adulation.

Did you see the games between our two clubs last season?

What do you remember of them? I saw the home game which saw us win with a fortuitous injury time goal. That was the game where we remembered our dearly departed Dave Roberts, so in some ways it was fitting that Bromley won in dramatic circumstances. Dave's family were there that day and it felt like we received some divine intervention.

That said I felt Wealdstone were a good side who battled well with 10 men deservedly equalising and should have got a point. Stones have a really good gaffer in Stuart Maynard and he gets more out of the squad than he should relative to the other clubs in the league.

Can the Ravens improve on their league placing this time around? Make no mistake the actual target last season (internally) was

the playoffs but I also sense the club need to be a bit realistic. Solihull Moors aside, all the clubs in the top seven were former EFL clubs and even the Moors have a big budget.

That doesn't mean Bromley can't make the playoffs but this is a difficult league and realistically you need some luck to go your way with injuries etc. These affected Bromley at the wrong time last season which meant the team dropped points and struggled to recover.

Did winning the FA trophy make up for the tailing off in the league? For me, yes - and I suspect deep down for all fans yes too. Would you rather be knocked out in a 1st stage playoff eliminator or beat Wrexham in front of 46,000 at Wembley? I'd take the same again this season if it came to it. In truth the club isn't ready for promotion yet – but then again Sutton probably weren't when they did it.

Has the club made decent additions to the squad this summer? The transfer business doesn't seem finished yet and I suspect we'll see some promising loanees join us at some point.

The club clearly wanted another striker to take the burden off Michael Cheek and in Adam Marriott (Barnet's top scorer) and David Smith (35 goals for Folkestone Invicta) Andy Woodman will hope he has the right

additions.

Midfielder James Vennings has signed permanently as expected after being on loan with us last season from Charlton. He should kick on this season after putting in a fantastic display in the FA Trophy final. Further experience has also been added in the former Barnet, Aldershot, Dagenham & Redbridge defender Callum Reynolds.

And now a new wingback in Reece Hannam, on loan from Crystal Palace, has signed so all good news.

Have you been disappointed to see some players leave? No one has left in the post-season that I didn't half expect to leave. Eyebrows were raised at Luke Coulson, James Partington and James Ababi's

'Stones have a really good gaffer in Stuart Maynard and he gets more out of the squad than maybe he should'

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

View from the away end contd...

..AND WE ALSO

departure but in truth they weren't guaranteed to be first team starters this season.

What do you know about Wealdstone? Everyone in Non-league knows the Stuart Pearce and Vinny Jones connection and should know that Wealdstone were the first to do the Conference/Trophy double and frankly Wealdstone should rightly be considered a famous Non-League outfit. As for our shared history, my experiences with Wealdstone stem from the early 2000s onwards. I still remember a harrowing visit to Egdware to see us get turned over 4-1 on the opening day of the Ryman 1 season!

Do you think Andy Woodman is the right man to get Bromley closer to the promotion places? The real question is whether Woodman will be around long enough to see us do that. We assumed he would go last season when by all accounts terms were agreed with Gillingham. He continues to seemingly be linked to every EFL job that comes up in L1 or 2. If he does stick around I think his resume says enough to be given the benefit of the doubt that he can get us to the promotion places. Playoffs 2 seasons ago, FA Trophy winners last season is quite the achievement.

What do you think about the whole upgrading of Hayes Lane as a hub and a stadium? The chairman Robin Stanton Gleaves has made it clear he has three objectives off the field, a) building a stadium that befits league football and b) creating a facility for players that leaves no excuses for their develop-

ment and c) making the club a sustainable community hub. He is a very driven character who means what he says, Bromley fans have had to get used to clinging on for the ride.

For those Wealdstone fans that remember going to Bromley in the Ryman/Conf South days the ground is now unrecognisable in many ways.

Are you happy with the plastic pitch? For me it is inevitable that 4G/Hybrid pitches are the way forward for all clubs – it is a matter of time before the EFL embraces it. Does it give a distinct advantage to teams like us? I'm not so convinced. Certainly many non-league clubs train on 4G and by now are used to playing teams on those pitches

Where do you think Bromley FC will be in five years? And will Wealdstone be at the same level? If Bromley haven't been in a playoff final or promoted in five years time I am certain there will be some in and around the club that will consider it a failure. At the minimum I expect the club to be a top half National League club all the same.

Wealdstone are very much where Bromley were in our first few seasons in the National League. There is no shame in trying to stay in the league and slowly established yourselves over time. Ultimately however a lot will depend on how Wealdstone adapt to full time football and how sustainable they can make it. Treading water in the National League can only work for so long before relegation eventually catches up with teams.



Today we also have 17-year-old Joe Thornton representing Bromley's younger fanbase. Take it away Joe!

Hi my name is Joe and I live near Bromley about 3 miles from the ground and I am currently a student.

When was your first Ravens game? This was all the way back in 2013 - we played

HAVE JOE THORNTON!



Gosport Borough and beat them 2-1, and I remember really enjoying the experience and I couldn't wait to go again. I went to watch Bromley in the first place because I used to support a Premier League team and my dad said "come and watch the local team with me, you'll enjoy it" - he wasn't wrong, I've been hooked ever since!

Have you ever followed another team? I used to support Man City around 10 years ago however once I started going to Bromley they became my team.

What is the best thing about following a non League team? It's definitely getting to know people over the years since going to Bromley - I've made lifelong friends who I look forward to going to matches with. Another thing that you can't beat is the connection you get with the players, especially the ones who have been at the club a long time. Getting 3 points and then talking

to a player in the bar afterwards - you wouldn't get that in the premier League.

And the most frustrating? Definitely when a team higher up takes your best players - I know that happens a lot in football but it does hurt seeing one of your favourite players move on

What is your standout moment watching Bromley?

Been a few however winning the FA trophy last season was very special. We were the underdogs, all the focus was on Wrexham but we played so well and deservedly won the game. I was at the 2018 final and to lose that game was devastating... winning the final this year made up for that pain we felt four years ago

And your favourite away trip, and why? For me it has to be Notts County. The journey itself isn't too bad and the ground is incredible for non league. Would've been unimaginable to think that nine years on from my first game we would be competing with teams like Notts.

Did you see the games between our two clubs last season?

I went to the home match, it was a very close game. We didn't start brilliantly but once we grew into the game we started to dominate, one thing that stood out for me from that game was that you guys played some great football and didn't give up... luckily for us we got that last minute winner and at the time a huge three points.

Has the club made decent additions to the squad this summer? Yeah I definitely think we've made some decent additions Adam Marriott is a big signing for us. 17 goals last season in a team that finished 18th is impressive, I'd like to think if we can give him the service he could hit 20. Another big addition for me is Callum Reynolds from Dagenham - he's got experience at this level and he stood out as a very solid defender. Definitely disappointed

to see James Alabi and Luke Coulson go, they were fan favourites and for me they played a massive part in us getting to the playoffs in 20/21 and winning the trophy.

Who do you think will fill the promotion and play off places? For me 1st and 2nd will be Wrexham and Notts county respectively both have big budgets for the level and have signed some excellent signings. I think 3rd and 4th will be Dagenham and Chesterfield, Dagenham were not far off last season and have made improvements to their squad.

Who are the standout Ravens players this season? Michael

Cheek is a consistent performer in the national league and ever since he's signed for us he's been nothing short of exceptional. With the right service he can easily get 20. And Louis Dennis is definitely up there with one of the best.

Any Stones players

who have impressed? Jack Cook for me is a very solid player at this level, he stood out at Woking for being consistent and when he played against us last season he was brilliant, a commanding presence. And in the past couple of years he's scored against us.

Another Wealdstone player who stands out for me is Lewis Kinsella, who is up there with the best left backs in the National League and will definitely be a big player for Wealdstone this season.

Marriott and Reynolds are great signings ..though I'm sad to lose Alabi & Coulson

WEALDSTONE FC

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REWIND >>>> ON THIS DAY IN

In the space of 15 years we've gone from absolute tinpottery to a club that can compete on the brink of the Football League

**Tuesday August 6, 2007, pre-season friendly:
Ruislip Manor 0 Wealdstone 1**

Never mind that in 10 days we make the trip to deepest Lancashire to take on Oldham in a league match. The same Oldham Athletic who were founder members of the Premier League in 1992.

Never mind that Wealdstone Football Club have climbed an astonishing five divisions since our 1995 low point in the Isthmian Division Three, to meet the Latics on their own four-division plunge. And never mind that Oldham's fans are so entitled that they are railing against facing ourselves and Dorking Wanderers in their first two home games. The indignity!

No, never mind all that. For it is 15 years since my own low point as a Wealdstone fan. The point when I became seriously depressed about WFC's future even after suffering a previous 15 years that had seen our club lose its old, iconic Lower Mead ground and embark on the lunacy of groundshares at Vicarage Road (barking mad), Yeading FC (borderline suicidal), Edgware FC (relative sanity) and Northwood (penniless and hopeless; like playing in the county league).

It was on this day in fact. August 6, 2007. The new Isthmian League (Premier Division) season was on the horizon and the club was still hobbling along thanks almost entirely to the energy and expertise of Nick Symmons (and new chairman Howard Kraiss) and team manager Gordon Bartlett. Nick hardly takes a back seat even today but in those Chestnut Avenue (Northwood) days he did virtually everything including the kitwash.



GB, the cunning fox, managed to entice decent footballers to wear the Wealdstone Quarters with a combination of charm, ingenuity and the occasional untruth. His players enjoyed performing for Gordon and his assistant Leo Morris so much that they readily overlooked the dubious promises.

But the management team, the board and the diehard 250 supporters were on the brink of desperation. Our long-held salvation, the new stadium and infrastructure that had been started at Prince Edward Playing Fields four years earlier, was receding into the distance. Our building partners had gone into administration and, as a club, there was no way we could take on the giant undertaking. Barnet FC had swooped to buy PEPF and the original terms of the deal with Harrow Council - that we would be equal partners and guaranteed 'first dibs' at playing there, as League Two Barnet would not be allowed to stage EFL football - were disintegrating.

We all realised that Wealdstone FC was effectively being airbrushed out of the agreement. And there was nothing we could do about it.

Pre-season 2007 saw the Stones again preparing for our third (and, as it turned out, final) season of groundsharing at Northwood and the usual dozens of triallists turned up. The club were just about surviving on the £80,000 transfer fee received from Leeds Utd for Jermaine Beckford 18



Spot the differences: Top of the page is the view from the camera gantry at the QPR game, looking cross the new terracing toward the Tecknuovo Stand, the new seating at the top end of the ground. Right: The Grosvenor Vale end, pictured 20 years ago

HISTORY



BY TIM PARKS

WEALDSTONE FC
2022-23



months earlier (literally a life-saver) and a 1,150 crowd for a friendly against Watford's full Championship side helped boost the coffers just when it was most needed. Aidy Boothroyd's Hornets won that game 4-0 but then they had a £5m striker in Marlon King who made all the difference! That game was played at Harefield's Preston Park ground and attracted its record attendance.

Then, couple of weeks later I had a call from Jez Albert (Stones fan and fundraiser extraordinaire) who lived nearby in Enfield. "Fancy going to the friendly tonight?" he asked. "I didn't know we were playing" I told him. "Who is it?"

"Ruislip Manor away" he said. "Mmmm....oh okay" I said. "Not been there for a few years".

And as we made the hour-long drive across-North and West London (which was to become a very regular journey of course, in the ensuing years) I'm convinced that there was a belief

that Ruislip Manor was a valid contender as a new home for the Stones.

We carried a feature in the programme last season chronicling "The Summer of the Plunge" where club directors Pete Worby and Quentin Fox mentioned that a takeover of RMFC was first mooted in September 2007 - but I'm sure there was an understanding of that possibility when we turned up at Grosvenor Vale... because I was so depressed at the sight before our eyes. And the thought that we might soon be playing there.

Ruislip Manor had fallen into disrepair. I'd not been to the ground since the turn of the 1990s, when Stones were famously tipped out of the FA Cup 1-0, and it still then had the vestiges of the charming ground I'd remembered from my teens.

But now....

The clubhouse was shabby and neglected. The stands were weed-strewn and tatty, with broken seats and everywhere the reek of abandonment.

But what was worse was the playing surface, lauded as one of the best in London in the 70s and 80s when most football grounds were a mess of sand and mud from October onwards. Grosvenor Vale always had a reputation for its green carpet, yet here was a pitch that, frankly, I was surprised we were allowing our players to run about on. There were hollows and divots, vast bare patches and then tufts of grass that hadn't seen a mower for months.

Stones won the game 1-0 with a strike from Luke Muldownie but it was a terrible game played on a terrible pitch.

As we drove back to Enfield I remember saying to Jez that surely Ruislip Manor - as a home for Wealdstone FC - was out of the question. It looked beyond hope.

A year later, of course, I had to eat my own words. Sure enough, months of negotiating had seen the four-strong consortium of Stones directors buy out Ruislip Manor; and then months of sheer hard graft had seen the dilapidated Vale stadium turned into an acceptable venue for Isthmian League Premier Division football.

Quite astonishing really. And yet, compared to the continuing ascent of Wealdstone Football Club, just one step on the road.



WEALDSTONE FC

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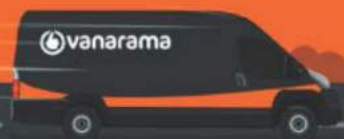
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CS

CS

15.9.99 | 1.75m

JIM SORRELL



Lewis KINSELLA

CS

CS

2.9.94 | 1.75m

TO SPONSOR LEWIS,
CALL 07710 929692



David SESAY

CS

CS

18.9.90 | 1.84m

TO SPONSOR DAVID,
CALL 07710 929692



Max KRETZSCHMAR

CS

CS

12.10.93 | 1.74m

JAMES BLAIRFIELD



Nathan FERGUSON

CS

CS

12.10.95 | 1.75m

TO SPONSOR NATHAN,
CALL 07710 929692



CS = Coaching Staff
GK = Goalkeeper
CB = Centre Back
RB = Right Back
LB = Left Back
DM = Defensive Midfield
RM = Right Midfield
LM = Left Midfield
RW = Right Winger
CF = Centre Forward

Sam HOWES
10.11.97 | 1.90m **CB**
TONY & PETER BRYN

Elijah HEARN
18.9.99 | 1.84m **RB**
TO SPONSOR ELLIJAH,
CALL 07710 929692

Dom HUTCHINSON
17.11.01 | **LM**
TO SPONSOR DOM,
CALL 07710 929692

Malachi NAPA
26.5.99 | 1.85m **CF**
GARY SMITH

Mason BARRETT
34.9.99 | 1.9m **CB**
TO SPONSOR MASON,
CALL 07710 929692

Sam HABERGHAM
29.2.92 | 1.82m **LB**
BARRY BENVENISTE

Tecane SHROWDER
29.2.92 | 1.85m **LM**
TO SPONSOR TECANE,
CALL 07710 929692

Eric NEGRARU
TO SPONSOR ERIC,
CALL 07710 929692

Matt YOUNG
6.2.08 | 1.71m **CF**
TO SPONSOR MATT,
CALL 07710 929692

Jack COOK
16.9.99 | 1.85m **CB**
SUDHIR AKHIL KHUL,
SARIN AND RAMRAN BHAWAL

Malachi NAPA
26.5.99 | 1.85m **CF**
GARY SMITH

Rhys BROWNE
16.11.95 | 1.75m **CF**
RAY CORNER

Support your favourite player by donating their kit for every game of 2022/2023. The cost is £165 for either home or away kit, and as well as your mention here and on the web site, you'll get your name published on the club website and on player interviews which will be published on Twitter and Youtube.

To donate the kit of your favourite, contact club president Paul Rumens call 07710 929692 or email him at paulrumens59@gmail.com

Next at The Vale



**FC Halifax
Town**

National League

Tuesday
16th August
7:45pm



**Yeovil
Town**

National League

Monday
29th August
3:00pm



Woking

National League

Saturday
3rd September
3:00pm

For all Vanarama National League fixtures, EFL admission for EFL or Premier League season ticket holders and members of the armed forces

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE PREMIER FINAL TABLE 2021/22

	ALL						HOME					AWAY					RESULTS					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GO	PTS	(H)	(A)
1 Stockport County	44	30	4	10	87	38	22	15	3	4	67	38	22	15	1	6	87	38	49	94	1-4	2-4
2 Wrexham	44	26	10	8	91	46	22	15	6	1	91	46	22	11	4	7	91	46	45	88	0-0	0-0
3 Salihull Moors	44	25	12	7	83	45	22	14	5	3	83	45	22	11	7	4	83	45	38	87	0-0	1-2
4 FC Halifax Town	44	25	9	10	62	35	22	17	2	3	62	35	22	8	7	7	62	35	27	84	0-0	0-0
5 Notts County	44	24	10	10	81	52	22	15	5	2	81	52	22	9	5	8	81	52	29	82	0-0	2-3
6 Grimby Town	44	23	8	13	68	46	22	15	2	5	68	46	22	8	6	8	68	46	22	77	1-0	1-0
7 Chesterfield	44	20	14	10	69	51	22	11	7	4	69	51	22	9	7	6	69	51	18	74	1-2	0-2
8 Dagenham & Redbridge	44	22	7	15	80	53	22	10	6	6	80	53	22	12	1	9	80	53	27	73	0-0	2-2
9 Boreham Wood	44	18	13	13	49	40	22	11	8	3	49	40	22	7	5	10	49	40	9	67	2-0	0-1
10 Bromley	44	18	13	13	61	53	22	11	7	4	61	53	22	7	6	9	61	53	8	67	1-1	2-0
11 Torquay United	44	18	12	14	66	54	22	11	6	5	66	54	22	7	6	9	66	54	12	66	1-1	0-3
12 Yeovil Town	44	15	14	15	43	46	22	7	7	8	43	46	22	8	7	7	43	46	-3	59	2-1	0-0
13 Southend United	44	16	10	18	45	61	22	10	5	7	45	61	22	6	5	11	45	61	-16	58	0-0	1-0
14 Altrincham	44	15	10	19	62	69	22	10	4	8	62	69	22	5	6	11	62	69	-7	55	1-0	0-4
15 Woking	44	16	5	23	59	61	22	8	0	14	59	61	22	8	5	9	59	61	-2	53	1-2	0-2
16 Waldstone	44	14	11	19	51	65	22	8	7	7	51	65	22	6	4	12	51	65	-14	53	---	---
17 Maidenhead United	44	13	12	19	48	67	22	9	5	8	48	67	22	4	7	11	48	67	-19	51	0-0	2-0
18 Barnet	44	13	11	20	59	89	22	6	6	10	59	89	22	7	5	10	59	89	-30	50	1-0	3-1
19 Eastleigh	44	12	10	22	52	74	22	8	6	8	52	74	22	4	4	14	52	74	-22	46	1-2	1-4
20 Aldershot Town	44	11	10	23	46	73	22	4	5	13	46	73	22	7	5	10	46	73	-27	43	2-2	0-1
21 King's Lynn Town	44	8	10	26	47	79	22	4	4	14	47	79	22	4	6	12	47	79	-32	34	2-1	1-0
22 Weymouth	44	6	10	28	40	88	22	3	7	12	40	88	22	3	3	16	40	88	-48	28	3-2	1-1
23 Dover Athletic	44	2	7	35	37	101	22	1	3	18	37	101	22	1	4	17	37	101	-64	1	2-1	3-2

Stones on the road



Eastleigh

National League

Saturday
13th August
3:00pm

eastleighfc.com
@EastleighFC



**Oldham
Athletic**

National League

Tuesday
16th August
7:45pm

oldhamathletic.co.uk
@officialOAF



Gateshead

National League

Saturday
27th August
3:00pm

gateshead-fc.com
@GatesheadFC

Waldstone FC Supporters' Club of ten runs subsidised coach travel to our away games. Check online for full details.



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