

SEASON 2022-23



PROGRAMME £3

# WEALDSTONE FC



**COOKIE MONSTERS** Stones scorers - skipper Jack Cook and Olufela Olomola - are delighted at the centre-back's winning goal against Bromley. Sub Rhys Browne turned the game when he came on in the 2nd half **PICTURE: JON TAFFEL**



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# Written in Stone

BY MARK HYDE



## Welcome back to The Vale

**A**fter over nine hours and 420 miles on a coach to Oldham, it is 2.45am on Wednesday morning as I write these notes. What a performance we witnessed at Boundary Park though and fantastic scenes at full time as the 140ish fans celebrated with the players and management.

Welcome to Chris Millington, the directors, staff, players and traveling supporters from FC Halifax Town. We hope you have a pleasant afternoon and a safe journey home after the game.

As we begin to get back into the rhythm of production here at programme towers we can begin to bring you new and hopefully entertaining

features and this issue sees the return, after several years break, the very popular Jon Taffel's 'Alphabet'.

We are always looking for contributors, victims for 'Fan in the Stand' or off beat topics for our regular 'World of Ball' feature so please get involved either by e-mail or via our twitter feed.

We are still very much in need of 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.

This is what we do, this is who we are, make sure you come along for the ride.

Mark

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Every football fan should feel safe when watching their team. But last season we saw a minority of supporters ruining the game for others. That's why we're supporting strong measures across football to tackle antisocial and criminal behaviours within football grounds.

These include entering the pitch without permission, carrying or using smoke bombs or pyros and throwing objects onto the pitch, as well as discriminatory behaviour and taking drugs. All of these are illegal, dangerous and have no place in our game. For everyone's safety, clubs will report anyone carrying out these offences to the police, which can result in a permanent criminal record. These measures could also now apply to the parents or guardians of children involved in these activities.

From the start of the 2022/23 season, anyone who enters the pitch and those carrying or using smoke bombs and pyros will now automatically be banned by their club. These measures reflect the seriousness of the risks to fans and staff – pyros can burn at 2000 degrees Celsius and cause life-changing injuries, while entering the pitch endangers players, managers and match officials – it is impossible for anyone to tell the difference between a celebrating fan and a violent attacker.

The football authorities are working with clubs and the Football Supporters' Association to make sure everyone feels safe on matchdays. We ask all fans to come together to show that those who commit these illegal acts do not represent the majority of supporters.

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# WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2022/2023

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## 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





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BY SUDHIR RAWAL



# The Elmslie

## EE casts his eye over a controversial and less than classic encounter at the Silverlake

**T**ry not to blame the officials for an adverse result. Even when I was playing, I'd rather have had a bad referee than a club one and understand that in the modern game, players can take so many liberties that an already difficult task, can be even worse, but Lee Collins had such a material effect on the game, you can't do anything but comment.

Officials are supposed to work as a team. In the second half, as Eastleigh attacked down their right, the linesman, who are not normally known to flag for anything but throw ins and sometimes offside, furiously flagged for a foul on Elerewe. Bizarrely, the card happy Collins totally ignored him and played on, from which Eastleigh scored. Now, our players stopped, as did theirs, as they all thought it was a foul. Of course, you play to the whistle, the ball should have been booted out to row Z, but clearly everyone knew a foul had been committed apart from the aforementioned Collins.

Eastleigh play a rather unattractive brand of football, dirty tricks, slowing the game down

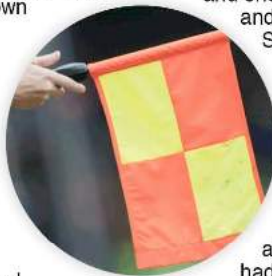


Stones players surround the Ref after Eastleigh

whenever possible but apart from a rather nasty challenge on Olomula, not sure there was a bad challenge, but Collins still managed to issue eight yellow cards. Looking through his previous history, he likes issuing a card or two: six yellow and one red the previous week at Torquay and at least four or more on average.

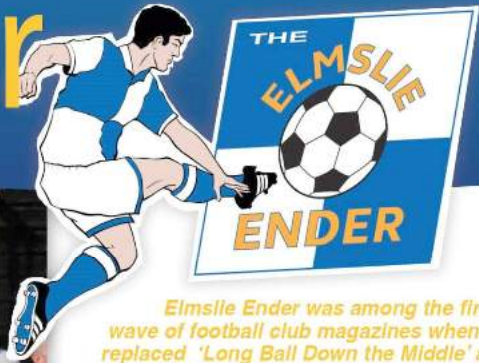
Since the start of 2019 season, he seems to have dropped down to the National League from the Football League.

Of course, I am not for one-minute pretending that the match at Eastleigh was a great game. In the searing heat, with frequent water breaks, something not afforded to our supporters as they had run out of aqua in the away stand, the game never got going. Eastleigh's tactics don't provide for a free-flowing game and we weren't fluent enough ourselves. Neither side deserved a win, a nil nil draw would have





# e Ender



*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. LBDTM's forerunner 'Wealdstone Whispers' was famously the THE very first football fanzine in Britain when it was published in 1971*



Pic Jon Taffel

more than a thousand in the ground!

Of course, our season started with a cracking game at the Vale verses last season's FA Trophy winners, Bromley. Debutant Fela Olomula gave us the lead. Bromley, who were the better side in the first half, took the lead with two headed goals before half time, the first of which we should have dealt with earlier before a dodgy corner was awarded leading up to the goal. However, we came back stronger in the second half and fully deserved our win with two goals from a Browne penalty and a thumping Cook header. The run up to the penalty was bizarre. I think

we all knew that Max Kretzschmar would be on penalties, as he's taken them very successfully at every clubs he's played at. Of course, that didn't pan out, as Brownie, much to the delight of all those that place bets on him scoring due to the generous rates offered by the betting companies, wasn't playing ball and took it upon himself after he was bundled over by the 'keeper. Of course, it worked out well in the end.

We played some nice football, knocked the ball around well, but at the moment we seem to missing an Aaron Henry type of player in the middle of the park. Who knows who may come in on the loan market in the next couple of weeks or so?

I am writing this before Oldham and more on that game, and Arlene's parched peas, on Stonescast which should have dropped before today's match. summer too. Keep an ear out for them!

been as good as it could have got until the untimely intervention of the referee. We had one effort on target at their keeper, they had three. It wasn't a great game for sure.

As those that went last season well know, the pesky and irritating kids at Eastleigh are somewhat annoying. Due to the end which away fans are normally housed being closed, our fans were down the side and the segregation gap was too small and allows said oiks to be even more annoying egged on by adults who should know better. Strange that you have none of these issues at Belts, but clubs that seem to give away very cheap tickets attract all sorts of Green Street wanabees. With Southampton at home, the prospective Football Factory merchants might have focused their efforts there, but as they were playing Leeds, maybe not!

The crowd was given s 1,814; even with our 189 ravelling fans, there didn't seem much

**'Officials are supposed to work as a team'**



**O**lufela Olomola is going to live long in the memory. Not just because he's stolen all the Ls for a vowel-laden Scrabble score, but because his infectious attitude is exactly what the Stones need this season.

"I've had a lot of knock-backs in my career and I recognise now that I need to look hard at myself - I can only affect what I do, I can't blame anyone else and I've got back the hunger I had a few years ago" he confessed when we caught up for a (lengthy) chat after the Bromley game.

"And I can't thank the gaffer, Stuart, enough for believing in me. I'm so grateful for his trust in me, that I can be a main player and be handed the No.9 shirt".

That may sound incredibly humble for a young man who was in the Southampton first team squad, travelling to Europa League games and even making his Saints debut at the age of 18 in a League Cup win over Sunderland.

But he admits that - despite scoring regularly in the EFL when out on loan - a combination of bad luck and bad injuries meant that he was without a club in the summer for the first time after leaving Hartlepool.

"Those months were a struggle for me" said 'Fela' as he likes to be known. "I'm 24 now and just coming up to my peak years as a striker, that's why I'm so appreciative of Stuart recognising what I have to offer.

"And I'm ready to seize this opportunity - I was brought up in Harrow and it really feels like I'm coming home, that this is my club".

**R**emember the David Sesay interview last season? The Sierra Leone international who was brought up in Harrow Weald? Well Fela hails from even closer to the club's original roots - he's from Headstone Drive!

The livewire striker laughed as he described how he is now back living within a long goal kick from our old Lower Mead ground.

"Yeah, yeah, I know all about Wealdstone - my dad Ola told me about the club and he's been the biggest influence on my

# Olufela

**'I was brought up in Harrow and it feels like I've come home. This is my club'**



*Proud Dad: Ola is pictured with his boy Fela just after he had signed for the Stones*

career. Lots of travelling and taking me to training and games since the age of six or seven - a big commitment!"

'Fela' went to Cedars Manor Primary School with Dave Sesay and first played youth football for Parkfield. Fellow fan Sudhir Rawal (who writes in this programme) was involved with Harrow St Mary Youth in those days - mainly through his goalkeeping son Nikhil - and he remembers HSM luring young Fela to play for their Harrow rivals as they were short of forwards.

"I played up front with Dapo Afoloyan (who now

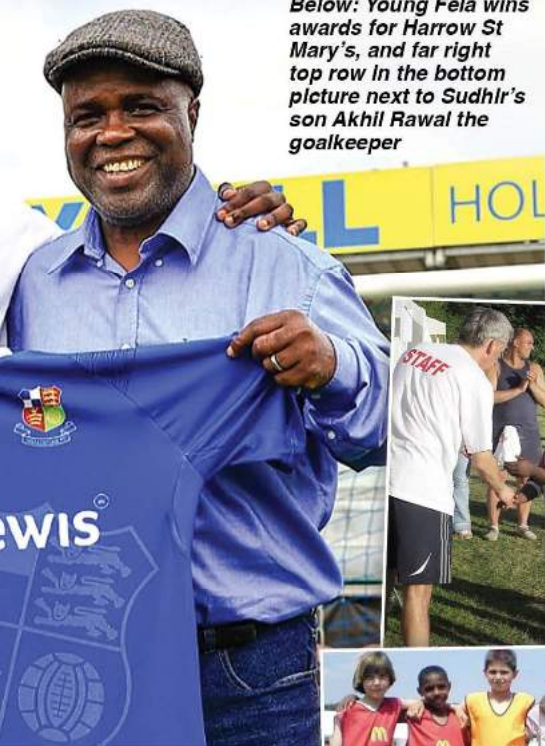


*There's a big interview in every issue of your great Stones programme!*



# Olomola

**Below: Young Fela wins awards for Harrow St Mary's, and far right top row in the bottom picture next to Sudhir's son Akhil Rawal the goalkeeper**



but Southampton had the best academy and the best manager in Mauricio Pochettino. It was the best fit for me, and though I had to go and live in digs down there my career really took off".

**F**ela was made skipper of the Saints' under-18s and handed a pro contract. And then he was on the bench for a Premier League game against Sunderland, at St Mary's. "It was a great period for me, I was in the first team squad and playing and training every day, involved in the Europa League set-up and travelled to Inter Milan as a squad player - and then I made my Saints debut off the bench against Sunderland (again) at St Mary's in the League Cup.

"I thought I might get a few minutes but Jay Rodrigues suffered a head injury after 30 mins and I played the final hour in our 1-0 victory. What a great experience!"

Fela played up top with Lloyd Isgrove on a night when the veteran Jermain Defoe was playing for the opposition.

Did he mould his game on people like the ex-England star Defoe?

"That's interesting because he came alive in the box, a pure goal poacher" said Fela. "I see myself as more of a nine and a half rather than a No.9!" he laughed. "I like to get involved more in the game, be a bit unpredictable... you might see me on the shoulders of defenders and running in behind, and then dropping a bit deeper to pick up the ball in the pockets".

"You were a bit of a poacher when you put us ahead against Bromley though" I told him.

"True!" he said. "That was the sort of goal you need if you're going to get 20 or 25 a season, and I just read where the ball was going to drop after their keeper had pulled off that amazing save from Max (Kretzschmar).

"Charles-Cooke (the Bromley keeper) was very decent, I can see why he's so highly rated" said Fela. "He made two more saves from me,

**CONTINUED OVERPAGE**

plays for Bolton) and his dad and mine were good friends" recalls Fela.

"I played up a year and when I was eight I went on a big trial with all the best kids in London, and joined the Arsenal academy. I was at Hatch End High School when, at 16 I was offered a scholarship at the Gunners.... but there so many bright forwards I decided to try elsewhere.

"West Ham and Newcastle offered scholarships





# THE STONES INTERVIEW CONTINUED

## FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

one from a freekick and one from a header that I really should have scored. You're coached to head back across the keeper but he read where I was going to put it".

**I**t was that eye for a goal that endeared Fela to the Yeovil Town fans when he went to the then-League Two on loan at the age of 19, for six months.

"A bit like now at Wealdstone, I had a manager there who played a system that suited me and I got seven goals in 12 games - including two on my debut in a 3-2 win over Accrington Stanley at Huish Park. Two decent goals too... the first a sweet left foot finish on edge of the box, then a lob over the keeper. I was man of the match!"

Those figures helped Fela win a three-year contract at League One Scunthorpe, where he had former Stones star Abobaker Eisa for company. "Abo was great, a real handful for defenders and he told me about his beginnings at Wealdstone and how the club had nurtured him.

"But it didn't work out for me at Scunny. I started the first game against Coventry which we won, but I wasn't great. And then I didn't really get a sniff again for three or four weeks. I was offered to chance to go on loan again to Yeovil, where I was welcomed with open arms... but I don't know, my hunger had gone. Maybe I was complacent having won a three-year contract at Scunthorpe. Whatever it was, it was part of my journey and I know now that you have to be consistent, mentally and physically strong, 100% of the time".

He scored three for the Glovers in 17 games but his game time at Scunthorpe was limited by a series of injuries. There was another loan at Carlisle, scoring five in 27 games but the game-plan (after boss Steven



*Two happy men: Fela celebrates his goal against Bromley with Tarryn Allarakhia*

Pressley was sacked) was 'a bit Boreham Wood' according to Fela!

"It was a direct, chasing-the-ball style under Chris Beech and I only started one game. Then Scunthorpe released me during the depressing Covid season and I went on trial at Hartlepool.... and scored four goals off the bench in the second half as 'Triallist A' in a pre-season game at Runcorn!"

**T**hat performance was hard to ignore by the just-promoted Pool and manager Dave Challinor snapped him up on a one-year deal. "It wasn't a bad season in League

Two, and we had an FA Cup game against Crystal Palace, but after Challinor left for Stockport my face didn't fit" said Fela.

He played the last three games of last season against Scunthorpe, Swindon and Colchester but was then released... luckily for us!

"I'm really pleased I signed for the Stones. The coaching has been excellent, really innovative and everyone gets on in the squad. Football's not always like that!

"We had a good bonding session after the Bedford trip and it was tough to make my Wealdstone debut against QPR's first team but that was an interesting game.

"Then the opening league game against Bromley: That was always going to be a test and we knew we couldn't get into a fight with them 'cos they were so big they'd win! We just had to do what we do best, keep the ball moving and thankfully it paid off.

"But this is still very early days. We've achieved nothing yet and there are bits of our game that we have to improve. Personally I feel that nobody's seen the best of me yet. There's a lot to come!"



*Fela holds the ball up for Scunthorpe alongside former Stone Abo Eisa (far left)*





9

OLUFELA OLOMOLA



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# Stones Fan Zone

BY MARK RANDALL

**Y**ou hopefully would have seen that I have stepped down from the role of Director of Wealdstone Football Club. As per the statement at the time one of the reasons that I have chosen to do this is to spend more time on driving and building upon the great work that WFCSC has done.

Thinking back over the last few years myself, the committee and its volunteers have been involved in so much behind the scenes, that has never been communicated effectively. From donating £10k to ensure that we had toilet facilities for the less able to buying a replacement washing machine for the kit.

From challenging the club when it introduced charging under 18's in response to anti-social behaviour to helping the club make a stand against racism when Ryan Gondoh suffered online abuse, where with the help of "Love Football, Hate Racism" we printed T shirts that were worn away to Woking in the final game of the 2020/21 season.

With more time available we will be looking to promote these efforts more, run additional fundraising events as well as challenging the club on supporter matters and general governance.

As part of my preparation for my maiden, and hopefully not final, appearance on the Stones-cast podcast I got thinking about what got me attracted to the Stones. My first season back in 1995 was also the first of a certain Gordon Bartlett and the first season back in ICIS division 3. My first game a 2-1 win away to Harefield, where most of the away support sheltered in what looked like an old cow shed from the thunder and lightning. What was clear from that moment was the passion of the fans, and the more I learnt over the next few matches about the halcyon days of our Trophy win to the sale of Lower Mead. The spirit and sheer determination to keep the club alive when others were folding made me feel, and still does, that our club would always be special. This is why I wanted to put



## The latest news from the Supporters Club and our magnificent Megastore

something back in.

This upcoming season will be another tough test and we will need all the help we can get so if you want to get involved or re-involved whether that be on a matchday selling 50:50 tickets or helping at one of our famous Wembley BBQ's then please get in contact.

Thank you to everyone that has purchased a 50:50 ticket last season and we look forward to seeing you this season. The maximum prize we paid was around £140 but I know that we can do more, especially with some of our larger games. Just think what we could do with some extra pairs of hands. There is also time to enter the predict a score competition, just remember to get your entries on before kick-off Saturday to be eligible for full points.

I wish you all well and please come and say hello at matches and feel free to ask any questions or raise any concerns.

Up the Stones

Mark

## SUPPORTER PROFILE: BERNARD BENHAM

# The Fan in the

**96-year-old Ben was in the Navy, sinking subs & seeing the sights, but his biggest passion is football and following his beloved Stones**

**B**ernard Benham - known as Ben right back to his days in the Royal Navy - is now 96 years old and possibly the longest surviving Stones fan.

Alan Couch and Lew Sheppard are definitely the oldest regular supporters but it is a pleasure today to chronicle the life of the almost-centurion Ben who now lives in Oxhey, close to Bushey Arches. Just 100 yards from my own dear Mum in fact, who coincidentally is also 96. Ben's daughter Caroline joked that we should perhaps set them up on a date... zimmer frames and all :)

Ben, like my mum Pat, clearly has all his marbles and he was such a globetrotter in his youth he might even have been to Elgin!

"I've had a great life and football has always been at the heart of it" he says. "I was born in 1926 in West Drive, Harrow Weald - it was originally stables in the farmhouse there, but it's still all fields at the end of that road, leading up to Grimsdyke. Good views all over London from there - I remember in 1937 seeing a terrific glow



*Ben's ship HMS Redmill after being torpedoed in 1945, assisted by HMS Rupert*



*The perfect mug shot! Ben with his commemorative above right he is pictured in the Navy at wartime*

in the sky and it was Crystal Palace burning down! A terrible sight and it destroyed the building completely".

It was around that time that young Bernard was at a loose end one Saturday afternoon and his Mum asked their neighbour (Sgt Garrard based at the Wealdstone police station) if he'd take 'Ben' to watch the football with his own son.

"I didn't know much about it but it was very exciting" he said. "It was 1937 and Stones

were a good Athenian League side (they always finished fourth in the 18-team league around that time) and of course the crowds at Lower Mead were big, in their thousands.

"We stood on the High Mead side, which



# Stand

BY TIM PARKS



*mug from the FA Trophy game ten years ago... and Portsmouth harbour*



was later concreted - but I can't say I was a regular until I came out of the Navy ten years later".

Ben had been a young sea cadet at Kenton when the War started. His main memory was the Battle of Britain raging over London and Harrow Weald was a scary place to be with the Kodak Factory to the south west and Bentley Priory (wartime operations) to the East being targeted by the Luftwaffe.

"The searchlights at Belmont used to pick up the bombers but quite a few big 'uns fell in the nearby fields, creating big holes! Just a few horses were killed. As kids we collected shrapnel and the nose cones from the bombs".

When Ben was 16 he was drafted into the Navy. "They had lost so many trained signalmen and telegraphers they were keen to use our sea cadets training in semaphore - I joined HMS Foudoyant in Portsmouth Harbour, then went up to Chatham before I saw active service with the HMS Redmill in Scotland.

"We were patrolling The Minches - the sea lanes around the Inner and Outer Hebrides and caught one German U-boat trying to sneak through. We depth-charged it, blew it up"

Ben's next major action on Redmill was the race down the Irish Sea to help out at the D-Day evacuation of thousands of Allied troops from Normandy, northern France.

"We were trying to protect all the ferrying boats from the submarines and we caught a torpedo astern one morning. Hitler had brought in ten new subs encased in rubber which stopped our radar and sonic from picking them up... they just lay on the seabed while the ships passed over them, unaware. If he had ordered more of them, Germany would have won the war!

"As it was, we lost 49 men that day. I was lucky as I was at the front of the boat and the Americans managed to tow us to safety".

**B**en's war wound down after 1945 with a memorable trip from Southampton to Algiers with 500 Wrens and WRAFS (female navy and airforce personnel) to Algiers. "I can't tell you what went on on that boat. But I was sad when I had to get off at Malta where we were involved in the Gibraltar air-sea rescue.

"We patrolled the flight path leading to the Americans' Air base at the Azores but spent most of our time fishing for sharks!

"Then it was over to Egypt where we drove jeeps around Cairo, to the Pyramids and Botanical Gardens."

Civilian life after being demobbed must have seemed a bit tame, but first of all the servicemen were all kitted out at Chatham Barracks with a suit, shirts, overcoat and trilby hat... the perfect outfit in which to return to Harrow Weald!

"The job I wanted was as a bus conductor at the Bus Garage but there were no jobs there - but they had no vacancies so I began what was to be a 45-year career on the railways at Swiss Cottage, as a porter. Then I trained as a guard on the Bakerloo

**CONTINUED OVERPAGE**

## SUPPORTER PROFILE: BERNARD BENHAM

# Fan in the Stand contd



*Stones keeper Danny Wiltshire (far right) is alert as Colchester attack in vain in the 1949 FA Cup tie at Lower Mead in front of over 9,000. Right: The glorious 1952 Athenian League winners with the deadly Poles circles Mikrut (top row) and Wegrzyk (below)*

### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE Line at Neasden"

After his return to Harrow, Ben took up his passion for Wealdstone FC again... a great time in the club's history as the Polish strikers Henryk Wegrzyk and Henryk Mikrut (both posted to Britain and staying on after the war) transformed the Stones into Athenian Championship material.

"They were brilliant - one great in the air, the other great on the ground - but there were other stars like the winger, Phil White, who was signed by Orient and the fullback Tommy McGhee who went to Portsmouth in the league.

"The goalkeeper, Danny Wiltshire (pictured right) was also a star around that time. We had an FA Cup run that included a 1-0 win over Colchester at Lower Mead - with over 9,000 in the ground - and the only goal he conceded in seven games was the only goal of the First Round Proper tie at Third Division leaders Port Vale".

Apparently, at the end of that game small boys implored the heroic Stones team as they came off

the pitch: 'Leave us your goalkeeper, mister!'

"I used to go with my mate Len Wiggins and his brother Cyril, walking down from Harrow Weald but you had to get there early to grab a good spot to watch the game."

"Did you have a bite to eat, or a beer on the way?" I asked him.

"No, because Len was a teetotaler. I'd been in the Navy with him and he was very popular 'cos he never used his rum ration. Didn't use his tobacco leaf ration either!"

In 1951 Ben got married to Kathleen, his wife of 40 years until she died of cancer in 1991. They moved to a maisonette in Garston, North Watford and had four children - Caroline, Christine, Denise and Stephen.

Unluckily for the Stones, that move meant he was more likely to go and watch Watford at Vicarage Road - though it wasn't such a hard switch in the early 50s as The Hornets also wore blue and white!

"After we'd moved to Watford I put in a works







transfer to the Watford Bakerloo depot, but that service was gradually diminished by Barbara Castle (the minister for transport) from 13 trains to eight, then down to four in total. It meant the last train left London at 7.30pm on Sundays!" he said, shaking his head.

He later worked at Stonebridge park and it was coming back from a night shift that he narrowly avoided the terrible 1952 Harrow & Wealdstone train tragedy.

112 people were killed and 340 injured one morning when the fast train from Bletchley collided with a commuter train that was waiting in the station.

"Our train was just approaching the road bridge when it happened... we all jumped off and went to help, with Americans coming over from the Ruislip airbase to help out. Funnily enough my sister Beryl was in another train approaching the station but hers pulled up short too. We both did what we could to help but it was a terrible, terrible sight".

**S**o what's his view of the current Wealdstone FC? "Well it was a real mess up, by the sound of it, the sale of Lower

Mead and moving to Watford" he said. "Totally different grounds. And what about the move to the Hive? Did that fall through for similar reasons? I've only been to Grosvenor Vale a few times and for health reasons I am pretty much confined to home. But I follow everything on the internet and Twitter - what great improvements have been made to that ground! I was there the last time for the 1966 Amateur Cup winners lunch reunion five or six years ago.

"And the ground had been transformed since then. I always like the slope at Lower Mead so I'm glad Ruislip has one too!

"That lunch was really good, really entertaining. Because I was at the final in 1966, right behind the goal where the late goals went in to seal the match against Hendon, and then I got the chance to talk to those players 50 years later. Really friendly too, and I had a good long natter with the famous referee that day, Norman Burtenshaw.

"I'd like to try and get along with my daughter Caroline for another home game - her four children and her grandchildren have all been to the Vale - but I do stay in touch and cheer every win.

"You never forget your first love - I'm a Wealdstone fan and I always will be"

WEALDSTONE FC  
SUPPORTERS CLUB PRESENT..

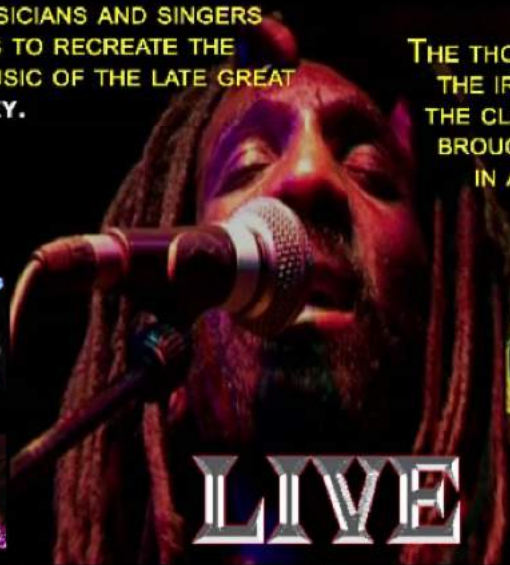


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# Opposition in focus



## THE SHAYMEN

**F**ollowing the demise of Halifax Town AFC at the end of the 2007-2008 season, a new Club was born and re-formed just in time for the 2008-2009 season. The new Football Club was placed in Level Four of the Non-League pyramid, taking a place in the Northern Premier League Unibond North One and it was called FC Halifax Town.

Time was short and the new Club was faced with appointing a new Manager and bringing a team together from scratch in only five weeks.

Jim Vince, a coach in the Crewe Alexandra Football Academy working closely with Crewe Manager Dario Grady and a former Manager of Witton Albion in the Unibond Premier Division, achieving two consecutive second places in the previous two seasons, was appointed.

Pre-season friendlies were hastily arranged and the first ever game by the Club was played at Tamworth, when 22 trialists made appearances for the Club, trying to catch the eye of the new Manager.

The first ever official game for FC Halifax Town was a home game against Bamber Bridge at the Shay Stadium. For the Halifax fans, it was an emotionally charged game; as they were so relieved to see their beloved 'Shaymen' play a real game of football again, after all the heartache of previous years.

Over 1,500 fans attended the game, watching a team that barely knew one another. Perhaps with a possible sign of things to come, the Club went in at half-time 0-0, but ended up losing the game 3-0. Not the best of starts!

Disappointingly, the team had a mediocre first season and for whatever reason, Jim Vince struggled to get things going with any real conviction on the



pitch, culminating in a far from satisfactory 8th place, even missing out on a Play-Off place. A new Club and striving for stability and continuity, reluctantly the Board had to make a change, with Jim Vince leaving the position prior to the end of the season and player, Nigel Jemson taking the club though to the end of the season.

Players who have gone on to play at a higher level include from that season include, Junior Brown in League Two at Fleetwood Town, Colin Daniel a loanee who is now playing in League Two also with Mansfield Town and Gavin Rothery at Guiseley.

An early appointment was made for the 2009-2010 season, with Neil Aspin joining from Conference North side, Harrogate Town.

Despite dropping two divisions, he was confident of a bright future for the Football Club and was ready for the challenge of moving the club further up the pyramid. A mixture of new recruits, players known to him and some already involved with the Club from the previous season, he set about trying to establish a successful team. As we all know, achieving promotion from any division is a huge challenge and the early pace setters were Lancaster City, scoring goals for fun with striker Jordan

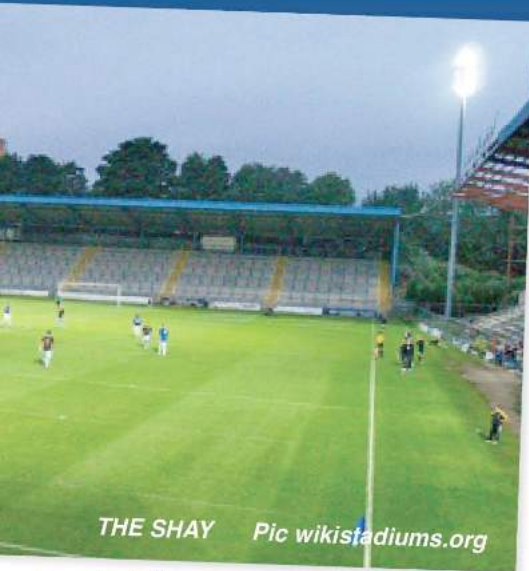
**OUR RECORD AGAINST FC HALIFAX TOWN**

**P4 W1 D0 L3 F2 A5 GD -3**



# FC HALIFAX TOWN

**HOME GROUND - THE SHAY STADIUM**  
**CAPACITY - 14,401 (5,830 SEATED)**  
**MANAGER - CHRIS MILLINGTON**  
**2021/22 - 4TH NATIONAL LEAGUE**



Connerton hitting a rich vein of form, gaining him a move to Crewe Alexandra and seemingly winning games, no matter what.

At one stage in the second half of the season, they held a twelve-point lead over the Shaymen, although Halifax had lost a lot of games through postponement due to the weather.

Fighting their way through the backlog, the ultimate period in the second season and the moment at which Halifax moved into pole position in the league was an eventful three match period spread over six days in the final third of the season. The first game was Garforth away on a Thursday night, two minutes to go the Shaymen were losing 3-1. A goal for the Shaymen pulled it back to 3-2. The referee announces four extra minutes and in the 91st minute another goal made it 3-3. Everyone was delighted, equalising so late and hopefully securing an unlikely point out from the game. What drama was to follow. With the last kick of the game, Richard Marshall thirty yards away from goal, produced an exquisite lob to beat the keeper for a 4-3 win. Despite Lancaster winning on the same night, they were told the Shaymen had lost, so what a shock when they got back on their coach, only to find Halifax had won so late in the game. A real night of drama!

Our next home game on the Saturday? You

guessed, Lancaster City at home at the Shay Stadium. In front of over three thousand fans, the afternoon was electric, and Halifax won the game comfortably, 4 nil and taking over the leadership of the division. The following Monday evening was a tough away game at Curzon Ashton who were also in the play-off places and Halifax recorded a stunning 5 nil away win. From then on, momentum carried the team to its first promotion as Champions, with 100 points and over 100 goals.

A step up to the newly sponsored EvoStik Premier division. With some more astute signings and the average age of the team being reduced, Halifax tried to emulate the previous season.

Again, the Club achieved promotion and the Championship, with five games to spare, missing the 100 points by just two and again scoring over 100 goals. As in the previous season, the Club just missed out on the 1st Round proper of the FA Cup, losing to Wrexham in 2009-10 to a 97th pile-driver and 2010-11 to a 1 nil defeat against Mansfield Town.

A nice recognition for the Club was goalkeeper Jonathan Hedge being called in to the England 'C' squad as he had also been chosen in the previous season. The only blot on a wonderful season was the emotional loss of Neil's assistant Trevor Storton, who sadly died after a long battle with cancer. He was with the team nearly all the way, passing away just before our promotion was secured. Promotion was a fitting tribute to a wonderful man.

So, 2011-2012 saw the arrival in the Football Conference and the Blue Square Bet North division. Another tough challenge made all the harder with the departure of star striker Jamie Vardy, after only four games of the new season. Jamie moved to then Conference Premier, Fleetwood Town and soon to be Champions, making their way into the Football League for the first time in their history.

Jamie shortly made a second move to Championship Club, Leicester City becoming the first £1m non-league player. Despite that set-back on the pitch, the Shaymen battled their way to a play-off position, to meet Gainsborough Trinity. In the away first leg, a disastrous start being two nil down in the

**Cont.....**

# Opposition in focus

**first twenty minutes and seeing very little of the ball.**

Two Lee Gregory goals, one just before half time and one midway through the second half brought the Shaymen back into the tie for the second leg. In front of over three thousand fans in the second leg, Town could not turn their superiority in to goals and lost to a set piece, one nil.

The season was also highlighted by finally achieving the FA Cup First Round Proper and what a draw. League One leaders Charlton Athletic who were to go up as Champions and the game also being chosen for national live TV broadcast. Managing to stay in the game one nil until the 80th minute was very creditable, but once Danny Lowe was harshly sent-off, the team eventually lost 4 nil. Nevertheless, what a great day and profile for the Club.

Understanding the league, a little more, Neil Aspin brought in one or two fresh faces for the 2012-2013 campaign and said 'goodbye' to some good players, who had helped the Club progress so much.

This season was the hardest for the Club since reformation, only due to the number of match cancellations, both home and away for a variety of reasons, but mainly the incredible amount of rain. The fixture backlog and numerous re-arrangements took their toll and Halifax would have to do well, playing so many games a week to secure a play-off spot.

This they did in fifth place and faced a local derby against Guiseley in the semis, who were in the play-offs for the third consecutive season. Chester FC had walked away with the Championship. After a 1 all draw at the Shay Stadium, Halifax managed a two-nil deserved win away at Nethermoor, with Gregory and Johnson getting the goals. So, to the

Final and a long trip to Brackley, who in their first season has done tremendously well and it was going to be a difficult tie. In a tight game perhaps dominated by the Shaymen, Lee Gregory scored the only goal of the game to send the fans in to raptures and earn a place in the Conference Premier division, for the first time in their history. A great achievement in five years with three promotions, but everyone involved with the Club knows this will be a tough campaign and despite that, everyone is up for

the challenge and look forward to welcoming everyone to Halifax and the Shay Stadium.

The following season FC Halifax Town finished 5th in the Skrill Premier and the play-offs beckoned again, this time with the chance of a Wembley final and promotion to the Football League. However, despite a 1-0 home win over Cambridge United at the Shay, a 2-0 defeat at the Abbey Stadium saw Cambridge head to Wembley.

Neil Aspin promised several changes over the summer, which he has duly promised. However, just a few games into the season, Aspin departed the Club having been in charge for over 300 games. Aspin's departure would kickstart the managerial merry-go-round that was to come in the next few years.

Gareth McClelland, Darren Kelly, and Jim Harvey all had spells in charge during the 2015/16 season. The season was to be one of mixed emotions as Town were relegated from the National League. A terrible start to the season was then met by a revival under Harvey but the damage was already done.

Despite the relegation, The Shaymen made it to Wembley for the first time in their history. FC Halifax Town beat Nantwich Town 6-4 on aggregate to reach the final of the FA Trophy. Grimsby Town were the opponents that day and an early second half goal from Scott McManus was enough to give the Town fans their dream day out in the capital as The Shaymen lifted the FA Trophy.

The 2016/17 season saw another manager in charge as Billy Heath took over the coaching duties and was able to guide Town straight back to the National League. Town had finished 3rd in the National League North and were promoted after winning the playoff final against Chorley.

Heath's second season in charge did not get off to a good start as Town languished near the bottom of the league. Eventually, the decision was made to part ways with Billy Heath and Neil Young was given the role of caretaker manager until Jamie Fullarton, was instated on a permanent basis.

Fullarton managed to save The Shaymen

**FACT - FC Halifax Towns leading goal scorer of all time is Lee Gregory who scored a total of 102 goals for the Shaymen between 2010 & 2014**



# FC HALIFAX TOWN CONT.



**FACT - The Shaymen's most capped player is Scott McManus with 290 appearances between 2011 & 2018**

from relegation in 2017/18 as they ended up finishing 16th.

In the 2018/19 season, Town had one of the highest clean sheet records but struggled for goals and finished in mid table. However, Jamie Fullarton decided to leave the Club in mid-July and former Oldham boss Pete Wild took charge for the 2019/20 season.

Wild guided The Shaymen to a 6th placed finish after 37 matches - due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the season was cut short in late-March. Halifax played the final televised National League game that season - a 1-0 loss to Ebbsfleet, this would be Town's last game up until the league made the decision to go ahead with the play-offs.

This resulted in Town playing Boreham Wood away in the National League Play-Off eliminator in July - four months after the season ended abruptly. The Shaymen unfortunately lost the match, after going 1-0 up through Tobi Sho-Silva, the Wood came back to win 2-1.

Wild is tasked with another season as the boss at the Shay and has had a summer overhaul ahead of the 2020/21 season.

The 2020/21 season was one that started with inconsistency for FC Halifax Town but three consecutive wins in early December ensured that the Shaymen's season got going.

It was an unusual season in that matches were played without supporters in the ground which affected FC Halifax Town as well as a plethora of teams up and down **THE COUNTRY**.

After the three successive wins, Halifax's form dipped slightly and this could have led to a derailing of the season however, 4 wins in March

on the trot meant that the Shaymen were at the upper echelons of the table and harboured ambitions of the play-offs.

These ambitions appeared realistic when after a 4-2 victory at home to Kings Lynn Town, FC Halifax Town sat 5th and in the play off places but inconsistency towards the end of the season plagued them.

They had an outside chance of the play offs on the final day of the season at home to Chesterfield in front of their own fans but unfortunately lost 2-1 and the play off dream was over. The club finished 10th.

But despite that, it still represented a good season for the Shaymen in the oddest of circumstances and let us hope that the Shay is back to full capacity or somewhere near that by August.

Pete Wild, the manager, will take confidence from parts of the season and will look to for the new season, to eradicate the inconsistency from the beginning and end of the season.

Town had a great start to the season for the 2020/21 and got to the quarter finals of the FA Trophy. However, after defeat to Wrexham in the quarter finals, the season petered out and Town finished in mid table.

Last season, the Shaymen finished 4th in the table with the best home record in the Vanarama National League but lost out in the play-off eliminator against Chesterfield.



# Opposition in focus

## FC HALIFAX TOWN

### 1. SAM JOHNSON - GOALKEEPER

The goalkeeper is Halifax's longest-serving player, having first appeared for the Shaymen on-loan in the 2015-16 season – the same season he was part of the FCHT side that won the FA Trophy. Johnson then had a second loan spell in 2017 – during both loan periods the 6'7" keeper was contracted at Port Vale. In May 2017, the Valiants released Johnson and he subsequently joined Halifax on a permanent deal. Sam has since played over 250 league games.



### 2. TYLOR GOLDEN - DEFENCE

The full-back came through the youth ranks at Wigan Athletic, making his debut in the EFL Trophy against Middlesbrough U23s. Whilst with Wigan, Golden spent time on loan at Droylsden and Nantwich Town before being released in June 2020. Tylor joined from Salford City who he joined in 2020.

### 3. JACK SENIOR - DEFENCE

A left-sided player who can operate as a full-back or wing-back. Senior is Calderdale-born – making him popular amongst the fans as a hometown lad – he signed for the Shaymen in the summer of 2020. Before playing for Halifax, Jack began his youth career at a local amateur side, then getting snapped up by Huddersfield Town – where he spent nine years. The defender spent one of his nine years in the first team at Huddersfield, before joining Luton Town in 2016; he played 10 league games in three years. He has also had a loan spell at Harrogate Town and a permanent outing with Gloucester City before ending up at the Shay.

### 6. JAMIE STOTT - DEFENCE

Jamie joined from Stockport County. The centre-back began his career with Oldham Athletic, rising through the youth team before making four appearances in League One for the club. During his time with Oldham, the 24-year-old spent time on loan at Curzon Ashton in the National League North, AFC Fylde in the National League and Stockport before making the move permanent in July 2020.

### 9. EMMANUEL DIESERUVWE - FORWARD

Emmanuel Dieseruwwe has joined the Shaymen following his release from League Two side Tranmere Rovers. Dieseruwwe began his career at Sheffield Wednesday, progressing through the youth ranks before signing his first professional contract in 2013. Whilst with Wednesday, the striker was sent on loan to Hyde, Fleetwood Town, and Chesterfield before signing with the Spireites permanently in 2015. In 2016 Dieseruwwe made the move to National League North side Kidderminster Harriers and had a brief spell with Boston United during the season before being released by Kidderminster at the end of the 2016/17 campaign. The striker was picked up by then National League North side Salford City. In 2019 Dieseruwwe opened the scoring in the National League play-off final against AFC Fylde, helping Salford reach the Football League for the first time in their history. Just a few months later Dieseruwwe netted Salford's first ever league goal in 2-0 win over Stevenage. Following his release from Salford in 2021, Dieseruwwe signed for League Two side Tranmere Rovers and made 12 appearances in all competitions before joining Grimsby Town on loan in February 2022.

### 11. SAM SMART - MIDFIELD

Sam joined the Shaymen from Eastleigh. The 23-year-old made 27 appearances in the National League last season, including substitute appearances in both games against Town. Smart began his career playing for



# THE PLAYERS TO WATCH

## LAST SEASON

Sat 11th Dec 2021 - (H) L 0-1

Sat 2nd April 2022 (A) L 0-2



JORDAN SLEW



CHRIS MILLINGTON

various local clubs before earning a move to Portsmouth and featured in their community development team. The winger went on to join Basingstoke. In 2019, Smart made the move to Eastleigh.

### 15. TOM CLARKE - DEFENCE

Clarke came through the academy at Huddersfield Town and went on to make over 100 appearances for the Terriers, mainly in League One. During his time with Huddersfield, Clarke spent time on loan with the Shaymen in 2008, as well as spells with Bradford City and Leyton Orient. Whilst with Huddersfield, Clarke was also capped by England at both under 18s and under 19s level. In 2013, Clarke joined Preston North End, then of League One. During his seven years with Preston, The defender helped them gain promotion to the Championship, winning the play-offs in 2015. Following his time at Preston, Clarke signed for Salford City and made 30 appearances in League Two for the Ammies as they finished in 8th place, narrowly missing out on the play-offs. Following the conclusion of the 2020-21 season, Clarke was released and went on to sign for Fleetwood Town in League One. The defender made 35 appearances in the league, helping Fleetwood to a 20th placed finish, only avoiding the drop on goal difference.

### 16. JORDAN KEANE - MIDFIELD

Jordan joined the Shaymen from League Two side Stockport County. Keane has previously spent time at Stoke, Alfreton, Lincoln City, Nuneaton, Worcester City and Boston United before signing

for Stockport in 2018. The versatile player, who can play in both midfield and defence, played a crucial role in their 2018-19 National League North title winning season. Keane made over 100 appearances for the 'Hatters', including 25 appearances in their Vanarama National League title triumph.

### 19. JAMIE COOKE - MIDFIELD

Signed last summer, Cooke was a real impressive sight for Halifax in Pre-Season. The Scouse attacking midfielder was picked up after a compensation fee was paid to Colne, and it was at Fleetwood Town where Cooke first came onto the scene through their youth ranks.

### 20. HARVEY GILMOUR - MIDFIELD

A central midfielder who has been at the Shay since the summer of 2021, Gilmour has played for Sheffield United, Tranmere Rovers & Stockport County before his move to Halifax Town. Gilmour's game time has been limited at previous clubs, but he has shown his attributes in plenty of minutes at FCHT.

### 25. JORDAN SLEW - FORWARD

A striker who joined Halifax last summer Slew was a one-million-pound signing when Blackburn Rovers acquired his signature from Sheffield United in 2011. The striker spent four years with Rovers – having loan spells out to Stevenage, Oldham Athletic, Rotherham United, Ross County & Port Vale. He then signed for Cambridge United in 2015, where he spent two seasons. Slew has since turned out for Chesterfield, Plymouth Argyle, Rochdale, Boston & Morecambe – it was at the Shrimpers where he was in the side that won promotion to League One.

### CHRIS MILLINGTON - MANAGER

New manager of FC Halifax Town – appointed May 2022





# 1ST TEAM RESULTS SEASON 2022/2023

Comp | Score | (Total) | (Away) | Lge | Goal scorers

<b>6 BROMLEY</b>	VNL	<b>3-2</b>	1,090	TBA	5	Olomola, Browne (P), Cook
<b>13 Eastleigh</b>	VNL	<b>0-1</b>	1,814	189	12	
<b>16 Oldham Athletic</b>	VNL	<b>2-1</b>	6,869	140	4	Browne, Allarakhia
<b>20 FC HALIFAX TOWN</b>	VNL					
<b>27 Gateshead</b>	VNL					
<b>29 YEOVIL TOWN</b>	VNL					

## SEPTEMBER

<b>4 WOKING</b>	VNL
<b>10 Altrincham</b>	VNL
<b>13 Maidstone United</b>	VNL
<b>17 TORQUAY UNITED</b>	VNL
<b>24 SOUTHEND UNITED</b>	VNL

## OCTOBER

<b>1 Aldershot Town</b>	VNL
<b>4 Solihull Moors</b>	VNL
<b>8 BOREHAM WOOD</b>	VNL
<b>15 TBD</b>	FAC4
<b>22 Dorking Wanderers</b>	VNL
<b>25 NOTTS COUNTY</b>	VNL
<b>29 Dagenham &amp; Redbridge</b>	VNL

## NOVEMBER

<b>5 To Be Decided</b>	VNL
<b>8 CHESTERFIELD</b>	VNL
<b>12 WREXHAM</b>	VNL
<b>19 York City</b>	VNL
<b>26 SCUNTHORPE UNITED</b>	VNL

## DECEMBER

<b>3 Barnet</b>	VNL
<b>10 Bromley</b>	VNL
<b>13 OLDHAM ATHLETIC</b>	VNL
<b>17 To Be Decided</b>	FAT3
<b>26 MAIDENHEAD UNITED</b>	VNL

## JANUARY

<b>1 Maidenhead United</b>	VNL
<b>7 EASTLEIGH</b>	VNL
<b>14 FC Halifax Town</b>	VNL
<b>24 Yeovil Town</b>	VNL
<b>28 GATESHEAD</b>	VNL

## FEBRUARY

<b>4 DAGENHAM &amp; REDBRIDGE</b>	VNL
<b>11 Wrexham</b>	VNL
<b>18 YORK CITY</b>	VNL
<b>21 Chesterfield</b>	VNL
<b>25 Woking</b>	VNL

## MARCH

<b>4 ALTRINCHAM</b>	VNL
<b>7 MAIDSTONE UNITED</b>	VNL
<b>11 Torquay United</b>	VNL
<b>18 Scunthorpe United</b>	VNL
<b>25 BARNET</b>	VNL

## APRIL

<b>1 ALDERSHOT TOWN</b>	VNL
<b>7 Notts County</b>	VNL
<b>10 SOLIHULL MOORS</b>	VNL
<b>15 Boreham Wood</b>	VNL
<b>22 DORKING WANDERERS</b>	VNL
<b>29 Southend United</b>	VNL

Sam HOWES

Jack COOK

Rhys BROWNE

Ashley CHARLES

Alex DYER

Dom HUTCHINSON

Tarryn ALLARAKHIA

Max KRETZSCHMAR

Lewis KINSELLA

Matt YOUNG



## FRIENDLY RESULTS

5th July	Hendon	A	W	4-0	Allarakhia (2), Trialist G, Trialist I	=
9th July	Slough Town	A	W	2-1	Umerah, Trialist	
11th July	Beaconsfield Town	A	D	4-4	Hutchinson, Allarakhia, Trialist E, Trialist B	



MIAICHII NAPA	Jordy MONGGOY	Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH	David SESAY	Nathan FERGUSON	Elijah HEARN	Tecane SHROWDER	Ojufela OLOMOLA	Mason BARRETT	Eric NGRARU	Deje ELERWE	Sam HABERGHAM
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DATE IN RED = Midweek fixture

	23 (3)		8			9	6	5			
(23)	23		8			9	6	5		28 (5)	
	23 (7)	11 (17)	8				6	5		28	



Rhys and Tarryn putting Oldham to the sword on Tuesday night - pictures courtesy of Jon Taffel

16th July	Charlton A U23s	H	L	0-1	
20th July	QPR	H	L	2-8	Ferguson, Trialist A
23rd July	Bedford Town	A	W	4-1	Trialist B, Kretzschmar (2), Hutchinson
27th July	Billericay Town	A	W	5-1	Napa, Olomola, Allarakhia, Kretzschmar, Ferguson
30th July	Chelmsford City	H	L	0-3	

BY MARTIN READ



# World of Bal

## Here's one for Alex's grandad...

**W**ho says Wealdstone's media streams aren't seamlessly synchronised? Last season the StonesCast podcast ran a 'yoof' edition on which fresh-faced Alex spoke of his grandad's request for some kind of wordsearch in the programme. Well, your wish is our command. "It would take a long time to get it sorted," mused Alex. Yeah, too true mate - so don't expect one of these every match. But give it a go, anyway. The clues range from the 1960s to the present day. It's not exactly MENSA stuff, but some of our younger fans may need to ask around for help. Fingers crossed it all works, I'm sure I'll be pilloried if it doesn't. Oh yes, and if you've not yet done so, check out the StonesCast podcast wherever you get your podcasts from.

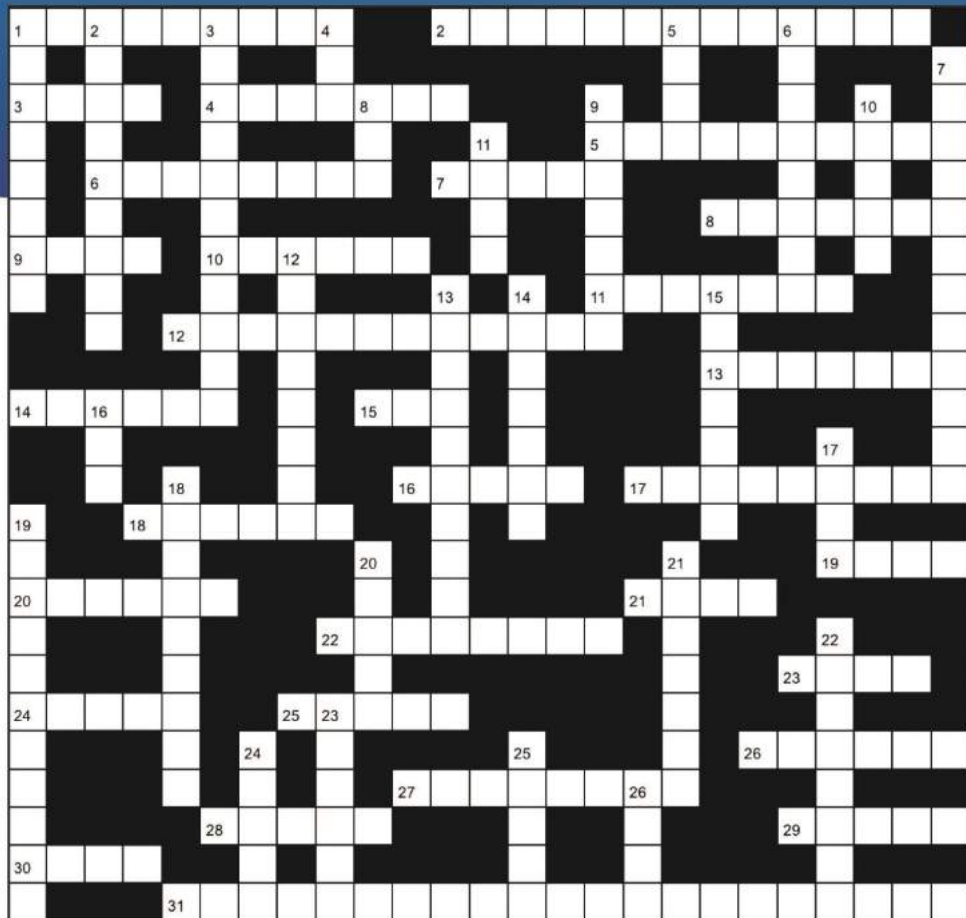
### ACROSS

- 1 Surname of former title-winning Stones boss.
- 2 Full name of our illustrious home.
- 3 Borough fans; Spurs wins at Chelsea; steaks where the insides are still red; all can be described as...
- 4 That fela we've got up front.
- 5 Scorer of our first winning goal in a league match against former Premier League opposition
- 6 Rather than attend matches in 2020/21, we \_\_\_\_\_ them.
- 7 I know I am, I'm sure I am.
- 8 The type of geographical location in which you'll find Southend and Torquay.
- 9 First name of Robinson, mercurial 2007 Watford loanee.
- 10 Formerly of Claremont Road, our Amateur Cup final opponents.
- 11 We get a fresh sense of this whenever a new season starts.
- 12 We really shook this lot up in '85 when we did what they couldn't do.
- 13 Surname of brothers pivotal to our eighties success.
- 14 A long-tailed, medium-sized bird. Known for chirping on the hour in clocks.
- 15 Goddard, Knowles, Fulton...
- 16 First name of 17 Across.
- 17 Surname of former Fulham man who played a key part in our non-league double-winning midfield.
- 18 Regal nickname.
- 19 Three on England's badge, but just one in the name of a ground we once shared.
- 20 Nickname of one of the clubs we visited in pre-season.
- 21 Surname of one of our Isthmian League title-winning players, now at Port Vale.
- 22 First name of player once of Leeds, Preston, Tranmere, Bury....
- 23 Umerah, Hutchinson, McLeod-Urquhart...
- 24 We'll need to do this at least once today if we're to win.
- 25 Wiltshire, Bailey, Green...
- 26 Their defences were terrified because this guy was on fire.
- 27 Club in England's largest county; we'll be playing them for the first time this season.
- 28 Floodlights are positioned on one of these.
- 29 Morse's mate - and a tricky recent Stones winger.
- 30 Cordice, Massey, Risk(!?)...
- 31 Cry of 1970s Stones fans that became an iconic fanzine title (4,4,4,3,6).

### DOWN

- 1 Surname of iconic former Stones boss, two-time title winner.
- 2 Seldom visited South Harrow location.
- 3 And what have you got?
- 4 First name of 21 Across.





- 5 First name of the longest serving of 13 Across.
- 6 League sponsors.
- 7 Who put the ball in the Margate net? (7,6)
- 8 The opposite of our current Leyton Orient loanee's surname.
- 9 Current owner of a blue and white army.
- 10 Colour of shirts worn by the former inhabitants of The Vale. Also the colour of 19 Across.
- 11 Sponsors of 12 Down when we won the double.
- 12 Name of the league we're in.
- 13 A 1980s school teacher. When he got the ball, he scored a goal. (4,6)
- 14 Nationality of other teams in a late 1970s tournament we competed in.
- 15 How we hope to be feeling about the game today.
- 16 Colour that should never stain our kit. Birds of this colour often said to 'bob along'.
- 17 Surname of double-winning boss.
- 18 Location, 1921-1991 (5,4)
- 19 Someone putting in Maximum effort in our midfield this season.
- 20 Nature of sheet Sam will be aiming for today.
- 21 Venue at which we've won both versions of non-league's biggest knock-out prize.
- 22 Surname of Sixties Stones stalwart and Amateur Cup winner (32 England caps!).
- 23 Flowery reporters might talk of goals being scored with 'familiar' \_\_\_\_\_.
- 24 Mundle-Smith's monicker.
- 25 Surname of key player in two title-winning Stones sides.
- 26 Our opposition today will hope to give our boys a stern one of these.

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BY JON TAFFEL



# The Stones

**A** is for Alphabet...Yes, the legendary Wealdstone alphabet back for a third edition!!

It was many years ago now that Terry Hissey (from the Supporters Club) would, with some regularity, ask me if I was going to do another alphabet for the programme. He was a keen fan, myself less so having been down that route twice already.

Nonetheless, our award-winning programme is always open to contributions to keeps things fresh, so for a couple of years now I've been wondering whether it was time again to let the creative juices attempt to flow. Alas time has always been the enemy, not least because I seem to spend an inordinate amount of time sorting and editing photos these days.

And so it was that Tim messaged me back in June: "Sir Ronald of Raffle, would you consider writing a reprise of your Stones Alphabet for next season? We have lost Steve Ducker's column."

Two things sprang to mind: Firstly, I considered Steve's column to be very un-Stones oriented, so this was good news surely. Thanks Steve for the contribution though, I'm sure it was a labour of love and anyone who makes the effort is OK by me.

Just maybe I might now have a little more time on my hands due to my new found three-day working week.

So here we are. Spoiler alert: there may be the odd repetition from versions 1 and 2, but hopefully readers that have been around awhile will have as lousy a memory as me so it won't matter one jot. For new readers, I hope it might provide some entertainment, even if some (most) of the content relates to events of many decades ago.

**A**nd so we begin. A is for **AVANTI WEST COAST**, the train carrier that will be taking you on some away trips this season if you

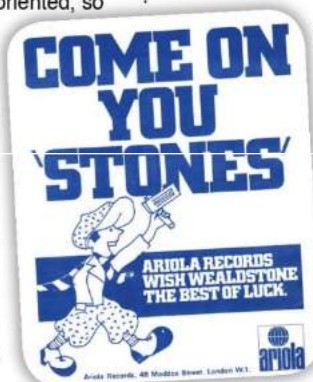
## Jon Taffel's weird and wonderful world (just wait for the Ws) kicks off, not unreasonably, with the letter A...

can no longer afford petrol or can't squeeze on to the Supporters' coach. First up will be Oldham, followed shortly afterwards by Altrincham. That is, if their workers are not on strike, and to that end we have our own insider train manager 'Megaphone' Mike Vincent who will take full personal responsibility for any issues that may arise.

If my summer experience is anything to go by then prepare for a rocky ride, trips to Edgbaston for cricket and Workington for Rugby League were trickier than planned - on both occasions return trains were cancelled. So, good luck everyone, and remember to be as kind to Megaphone (and his fellow staff) as he is to match day officials. Remember they're just doing their job.

**ARIOLA RECORDS** have a lot to answer for. Robin Blanchflower (I think it was)

arrived onto Wealdstone's Board of Directors in the late 70's and Ariola records was his company (so we were led to believe, although Companies House records might suggest otherwise). Anyway, their big hit record was



Only another 25 letters to go! With any luck there won't be enough home games to force the ignominy of X and Z on you, dear reader



# Alphabet

# A

'Love is in the Air' by John Paul Young (not to be confused with our own commercial supremo John Young).

Every home match thereafter, Love is in the Air would be broadcast from the Lower Mead tannoy box, sometimes both before the match and at half time. Such a football song. Chic Adams had taken over from Bill Emerson on tannoy duties at that time and it was he who spun the decks, occasionally interrupting Love in the Air to spin the other 45 from the Ariola collection, none of which were hits and therefore thankfully don't serve as painful earworms to this day.

You may not know that Love is in the Air was written by George Young, not related to John, and also not the same George Young who served on the Stones' General Services Committee for years. Our George was memorable in his own right for his Sunday lunchtime raffles in the Lower Mead social club.

If you went to our FA Cup 3rd round tie at QPR in January 1978, you would have been treated to the Ariola flyer (pictured left) inside every match programme. It featured a ridiculous cartoon representing no football fan I've ever come across.

Where would we be without **ARCHIVES?** I'm desperately in need of an updated player and season statistics booklet to supplement and/or consolidate the various pieces of literature produced over the years by the late great Roy Couch, Pete Worby and Roger Slater amongst others.

Something that can be referred to as required when some trivial event crops up that needs instant checking to satisfy curiosity. A good recent example was when Altrincham announced the signing of **ALEX Samizadeh**, with Wealdstone in 2018 listed among his former clubs. Now this was a name that didn't immediately stir any memories for me, but thankfully the flurry of twitter activity on the subject that followed revealed that he was a part of one of the Stones' more underwhelm-

ing triple signings in recent times, along with Pawel Kowalkowski and Ogo Obi. Alex and Pawel both featured in one of the most miserable days of the Wilkinson era, the Matt Ball defeat at Biggleswade. Enough said. All three would not go on to have distinguished Wealdstone careers, although that they have made it into this article is an achievement in itself.

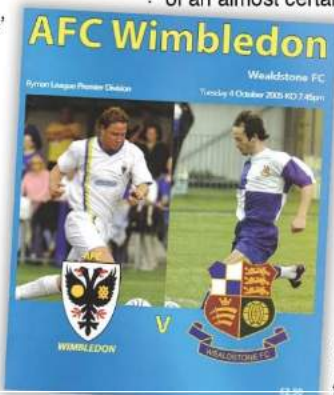
**ARTIFICIAL** pitches, who likes them? Not me for sure, there's something very special about grass and I really don't think I'd enjoy watching the Stones play on these abominations every week. What can beat the spectacle of players covered in mud and sliding through puddles, not that we get much of that these days with current day pitches. I don't recall which match but I certainly have a memory of an almost certain goal being scored at Lower

Mead only for the ball to stick in the mud enabling the beaten keeper to recover and save. (It was George Urquart who rounded the Arsenal goalkeeper in the famous FA Challenge Cup game at Lower Mead in the autumn of 1971 - sad Ed).

Unfortunately the artificial pitch is something we are having to get used to more and more, and even our pre-season friendlies were blighted by playing on 3 such surfaces. The Hendon groundsman was especially precious about his new carpet, and truth be known he really wasn't happy about the footballers going

on it at all. It certainly wasn't good news Dorking and Maidstone getting promoted, and many hoped that Wood and Bromley would have managed at least one of the promotion slots between them. Whilst one can understand the commercial benefits, the artificial pitch is certainly a Room 101 entry for me.

**AFC**, or Association Football Club. An abbreviation synonymous with phoenix clubs, those who failed, folded and reformed, or some other such story. Gladly we've never gone down that route despite facing many challenges over the years. It wasn't always the way, and the first 'AFC' club may in actual fact have been AFC Bournemouth back in 1971, the intention being to appear 1st in alphabeti-



# Stones Alphabet contd...

## FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

cal lists of football club.

It does seem rather a bizarre reason to change a name but anything to do with the alphabet is fine by me. One of the most famous AFC's is of course **AFC WIMBLEDON**, a club that has absolutely nothing to do with the Wimbledon club that we had some stirring battles with back in the 70's. Rather than fight for their club, fans of Wimbledon decided to do their own thing after the idea of a trip to Milton Keynes proved unpopular.

What really annoys me about this is that the consortium that was looking to take a football team to Milton Keynes approached a number of clubs. One of those was Barnet, now surely that would have been a better choice?

**A**nother non-favourite amongst Stones fans in the 'AFC' category would certainly be **AFC HORNCHURCH**, a boom-and-bust club that play in a horrible ground and inflicted some horrible results on us during our time at their level. Farnborough also qualify for this horror category by association, although they re-formed without the AFC tag.

**AVELEY** – a good reason to enjoy being in the National League.

John **ARNOLD** signed for the club at the beginning of the 1976-77 season. The first sight of him for Stones fans was in the Harrow Observer pictured at pre-season training with a triallist who we later found out was Alan Fursden. See newspaper cutting above.

Quite how these two would have got on with the modern day strength and conditioning coach



*Hold back there ladies... No, this isn't contenders for a mid-70s Love Island but Stones stars John Arnold (left) and the xylophone-chested Alan Fursdon. Damn, should have saved that for the Xs which may well be thin on the ground. A bit like Furze in fact.*

'if Arnold had any brains he would be dangerous'. My friend Tim seems to think Arnold had such a big hooter he could cross the ball with his nose. I remain unconvinced.

We didn't really see much more of John Arnold: he only started 14 competitive matches scoring 2 goals in that FA Cup run, but I enjoyed watching him that season.

On the subject of Arnold, in my student days in Nottingham I ground-hopped to see **ARNOLD FC**, then managed by the late Ivan Hollett. Anyone remember his screaming goal for Poole Town in our 3-2 win one Sunday there in 1974 during the fuel crisis?

And.... that's your lot for this week, we'll be back next time.

I wonder what **B** for **B\*\*\*\*T** might include?

I have no idea. Anyway, John Arnold certainly looked more a dustman than a footballer, but it has to be said he was a very skilful winger, and like so many of his type back then he shunned the shin pads in favour of the rolled-down-socks look.

On his debut in a friendly against Torquay he was described thus in the Harrow Observer, 'skilful bundle of energy, looked an asset on either flank and in the middle.' A few months later both Arnold and Fursden were sent off on the famous Lennie Prince FA Cup defeat at Reading, with manager Geoff Coleman commenting afterwards that

he would be danger-



# IT'S A LAUGH!

Stones kicked off the 2022-23 National League campaign with a stirring fightback win over pre-match favourites Bromley at The Vale. And alongside Nicole Cho-Yee's excellent match report for the Non-League paper (right) we had ace cameraman Jon Taffel catching all the match action at the Vale... and some off the pitch.



I'm pretending nothing's happened

Me too

We loved this picture of Olufela Olomola celebrating his goal with the equally manic Max.... but look at the Bromley fans studiously avoiding looking!



Yeah I reckon so

Could we squeeze through the fence?

Also behind that goal.. three well endowed Ravens fans considering a pitch invasion when they won



Who's got the 10?

Me

Me

Shouldn't someone be marking Cookie?

...but my favourite was this snap of SIX giant Bromley defenders marking Ryhs Browne from a free kick after he had come on to terrorise them in the second half

**WEALDSTONE 3**  
Olomola 16, Browne 68, Cook 76

**BROMLEY 2**  
Sowunmi 33, Cheek 44

## COOK HAS THE RECIPE AS STONES HIT BACK

By Nicole Cho-Yee

PLUCKY Wealdstone produced an impressive second half comeback to overcome a dominant Bromley side in an entertaining season opener at The Vale.

New signing Olufela Olomola put Wealdstone in front on 16 minutes, only for the Ravens to turn the tables with goals from Omar Sowunmi and Michael Cheek.

Super-sub Rhys Browne then won and converted a penalty within three minutes of his introduction to draw the home side level before captain Jack Cook bagged the winner for the Stones with 12 minutes remaining.

Assistant manager Matt Saunders said: "It was a great win considering how disrupted our pre-season has been."

"We have players that have only trained two or three times, so for them to do what they've just done, makes us really proud of them. In the second half, we were the better team and their goalkeeper made four or five unbelievable saves to keep the score as close as it was."

Former Hartlepool United striker Olomola opened the scoring on 16 minutes, burying a rebound into the net after Reece Charles-Cook had produced a superb save to deny Max Kretzschmar's effort.

The visitors equalised in style on 33rd minutes as Sowunmi's bullet header from Reece Hannam's corner flew into the top corner, past Sam Howes.

A minute before half-time, the Ravens deservedly edged in front through

Cheek, who latched onto a fantastic cross from Corey Whitley to head beyond Howes.

Wealdstone came out for the second half showing more attacking intent but a string of exceptional saves from Grenadian shot-stopper Charles-Cook prevented the Stones from capitalising on their opportunities – Olomola in particular proving a constant threat.

Introduced in the 65th minute, Browne made an instant impact, winning a penalty and coolly stepping up to slot the ball past

Bromley's number one from 12 yards.

And ten minutes later, the Stones completed their fight back as

Kretzschmar's delightful cross was emphatically headed home by Cook to register a winning start for Stuart Maynard's side.

His opposite number Andy Woodman said: "It was a big moment in the game when the ref gave them

a penalty, which I'm not sure if it was. I'll have to look at it back to be honest. That then gave them the momentum.

"I thought we had a lot of chances. Our defending was a little bit not quite us but, that said, we still scored two goals away from home. It hinged on that penalty decision for me – that was a big moment and he took an age to make his decision.

"It didn't look clear and obvious to me."

### MATCH STATS

#### WEALDSTONE V BROMLEY

8	SHOTS ON TARGET	4
2	SHOTS OFF TARGET	9
5	CORNERS	7
0	OFFSIDE	3
17	FOULS CONCEDED	11
1	YELLOW CARDS	2
0	RED CARDS	0

**WEALDSTONE:** (4-3-3): Howes 6; Blowers 5; Cook 7; Kinsella 5 (Murdie-Smith 51, 45; Barnett 4; Napa 5 (Hutchinson 51, 19; Charles 6; Ferguson 6; Kretzschmar 7; Adeniyi 6 (Browne 45, 40; Olomola 9. Subs not used: Searcy, Mongy)

**BROMLEY:** (3-5-2): Charles-Cook 9; Bush 6; Webster 6; Sowunmi 7; Hannam 6 (Gethers 76, 6; Bingham 5; Whitley 5; Vennings 6 (Cochran 79, 46; Foster 5 (Bloomfield 79, 6; Cheek 7; Mann 7. Subs not used: Dennis, Brattshaw)

STAR MAN: Reece Charles-Cook (Bromley)  
ATT: 1,090

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★  
REFEREE: Daniel Middleton

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	<b>FC HALIFAX TOWN</b> Saturday, 20th August <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Ruislip Windows & Doors	
	<b>YEOVIL TOWN</b> Monday, 29th August <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
	<b>WOKING</b> Sunday, 4th September <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Keith Walklate	Your name or business here
	<b>TORQUAY UNITED</b> Saturday, 17th September <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Raine & Kevin Robb	Your name or business here
	<b>SOUTHEND UNITED</b> Saturday, 24th September <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Rolfe-East	Your name or business here
	<b>BOREHAM WOOD</b> Saturday, 8th October <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Harrow Windows	In Memory of John O'Connor
	<b>NOTTS COUNTY</b> Tuesday, 25th October <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Rolfe-East	Richard Finch
	<b>CHESTERFIELD</b> Tuesday, 8th November 2022 <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
	<b>WREXHAM</b> Saturday, 12th November <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Keith Davies	Optera Ltd
	<b>SCUNTHORPE UNITED</b> Saturday, 26th November <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Rolfe-East	Your name or business here





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	<b>MAIDSTONE UNITED</b> Tuesday, 7th March Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Your name or business here
	<b>BARNET</b> Saturday, 25th March Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	Your name or business here
	<b>ALDERSHOT TOWN</b> Saturday, 1st April Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
	<b>SOLIHULL MOORS</b> Tuesday 10th April Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
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# REWIND >>>> ON THIS DAY IN

## August 20: A date to remember as Stones hit the ground running in 1974... and then 2013

**Tuesday August 20, 1974, Southern League Premier Division: Wealdstone 4 Dartford 1**

Many people have an ability to remember names, scientific equations, bus numbers, the alcohol percentage of beers or every stop on the London Underground system. Some of them anyway.

My ability is to remember dates. It comes in handy when you have a glut of children and grandchildren, and especially when one comes to researching matches from the past for this feature.

August 20th! Wow, what a day in Stones history - a handful of games immediately spring to mind, and

they seem to have a special resonance as the season has only just kicked off.

Hopes are still high of recovery after a poor start. And after a good start the hopes are skyrocketing for a stellar season. Such was the case 48 years ago when I was just 17 and besotted with the Stones... and so, so excited at how we'd started our debut season in the Southern League Premier Division.

The Southern Prem these days is two levels below the National League, but back in 1974 it was joint top of the non-League tree (alongside the Northern Premier League) and its clubs

nominaly had the chance for promotion into the Football League. We had won the Division One title by 11 points from runners up Bath City, we had beaten Weymouth 2-1 at Lower Mead in our opening game and were now facing Dartford, the reigning Southern

**Yes, they are the champions**

# 'Stones sink Premier title-holders with first half goal burst

By Phil Sugden

**WEALDSTONE 4, DARTFORD 1**  
"WE ARE the champions." The familiar Elmslie Road end war-cry which resounded round Lower Mead from Easter Monday onwards last season after 'Stones had clinched the Southern League Division One (South) title was heard again as 1,700 jubilant fans roared Wealdstone to victory on Tuesday evening.

Rightly so. This was a battle between the First Division winners and the side which won the Premier Division title and reached the final of the F.A. Challenge Trophy at Wembley last April.

Frankly, I attended hoping at best for a draw for Wealdstone, and expecting a defeat against a side comprising ten of last year's all conquering heroes.

What we saw was a scintillating display by the Lower Mead lads which firmly announced to the big boys of the Premier Division: "We are here to stay".

Let's face it: 'Stones have already made their presence felt. In four days they have beaten two of the most powerful outfits in the division. Against Weymouth last Saturday they struggled for a while to find their feet and meet the pace of the opposition.

On Tuesday they took the three fine ground saves and it must be said that he is a commanding figure in his area, making himself very much heard in moments of stress and strain.

The back-men were again solid, so much so that one is perhaps inclined to forget the quiet but positive work of Eric Burgess, Chris Kinnear and John McCormick.

It was all systems go from the first minute when Dartford's new goalkeeper Alan Clarke, from Exeter, made a hash of a powerful Burgess free-kick, almost letting in Duck.







**Bill Byrne (right) blasts the Stones 2-0 ahead on the night and Darts defender Graeme Carr (dad of comic Alan Carr) can only watch on**

League champions. It was a real test of the potential of Eddie Presland's side and this teenager had barely been able to think of anything else all summer.

O-Levels? Phooey! Music and girls? A poor second best - my head was filled with the prospects of ace goalscorers George Duck and Bill Byrne terrorising non League's top flight and

Johnny Henderson causing palpitations with his extraordinary wing play. And would new striker Terry Evans from Trowbridge make us even better, or destroy the balance?

We even had a new goalkeeper who may look a bit familiar in the photos overleaf... John Morton, who

**CONTINUED OVERPAGE**

Duck roared in again after ten minutes and then Henderson and Byrne linked in masterly fashion to lay off a pass which Terry Evans drove into Clarke's body.

### REWARD

The first, after 23 minutes, was a just reward for sheer persistence by Ray Fulton who lost the ball, recovered possession, battled his way through on the left and let fly a great drive which beat Clarke all the way before going in off the far up-right.

Three minutes later Byrne took a pass from Derek Evans, ran a few yards and blasted the ball home from outside the area.

Dartford's defence was sagging and Stones filled them off in the 30th minute when Terry Evans raced up the left and cleverly delayed his cross as Godfrey raced dive and head a truly superb goal.

The Kent club hit back and Morton was broken out of sight by Mitchell Burgess sawed the bar and the referee signalled duty with a timely tackle when Robinson's defence soaked up pressure for much of the second half but the Kent club pulled one back when McConnell, sensing the danger of a cross from the ball into his own set as he tried to clear.

But Wealdstone had plenty in hand and proved the point in the 75th minute when Fulton crossed perfectly and Evans glided in to head through just inside the post.

Duck netted but was ruled off-side, but by that time there was no doubt about the night.

Wealdstone: Morton; King; Walters; Burges; McConnell; Evans (D); Fulton; Byrne; Duck; Henderson. Sub: Fairclough.

field looking an extremely confident side. Eventually they won as comfortably as the score-line suggests.

In fact in gaining their 4-1 victory they scored six times. Four for themselves which created, one disallowed and one for the opposition.

Eddie Presland, who appears to be gaining stature as a shrewd manager with every game, dropped himself and Terry Dyson and brought in Ray Fulton and Jim Godfrey.

Both did everything, and perhaps more, than their manager had anticipated, for both scored a goal apart from knitting beautifully into the team.

Above all, this was a wonderfully encouraging team display with everyone playing a full part in everything going on.

That goes equally for substitute Paul Fairclough who replaced a limping John Henderson ten minutes from the end, in that brief spell. Fairclough served up two defence splitting passes which would have been a credit to any player.

There can now be little doubt that the shrewd Presland made two masterly signings when he persuaded the Evans twins to join the club.

MAJESTIC  
Derek had an almost majestic game in midfield, covering huge areas of ground, tackling superbly and using the ball with great intelligence.

George will be there any game now. Morton, perhaps still a little suspect in the air, celebrated his acceptance for the night as his former club with a signal, his former club with

# REWIND >>>> CONTINUED

## Morton switches to Wealdstone

By ALEXANDER CLYDE

SOUTHERN League champions Dartford have suffered a body blow on the eve of the new season with the departure of goalkeeper John Morton.

Morton, even-present in the team that won the League and reached the F.A. Trophy final at Wembley last season, has switched to Premier Division rivals Wealdstone.

The 26-year-old goalkeeper, rated among the top three or four in the Southern League, is due to sign professional forms for the Harrow club tomorrow night.

### Purchase

Morton, who teaches at Paddington Comprehensive School, has recently bought a house at Hatch End, less than a mile from the Wealdstone ground.

He spent five years at Dartford, joining them from Chatham, but retained his amateur status in the vain hope that the England amateur selectors would recognise him.

Wealdstone vice-chairman Colin Pope commented, "We're delighted to have captured such

a fine goalkeeper. It's our luck that John has bought a house here."

"Our manager, Eddie Presland, saw him play a couple of times last year and was most impressed."

Ironically, Wealdstone's second match of the new season, on Tuesday, August 20, is at home to Dartford.

*The Evening Standard reports on the surprise signing of Dartford keeper John Morton*

Wealdstone open their Mid-Surrey Professional Midweek Floodlit League programme in October.

FRI JULY 19



The bespectacled John Morton signs on the dotted line watched by Wealdstone charman David Martle (left) and manager Eddie Presland.

had been between the sticks when the Darts won the title - and had played at Wembley as they had been beaten 2-1 by Morecambe in the FA Trophy final three months earlier - had moved up to the Harrow area for a teaching job and quickly became Stones' No.1.

'Morty' of course has become a Stones institution in the intervening years. He can now be found in the Grosvenor Vale social club/sponsors lounge as a club ambassador alongside George Duck - and of course performed as a live stream co-commentator for many of our games in the Covid-interrupted 2020-21 season.

On the night, Dartford were simply swept away and we concluded the night with a hot and tasty bag of chips from the Dominion Fish Bar outside the ground. Simple teenage pleasures, dreaming of the Stones conquering the SL Prem and probably gaining immediate promotion to the League!

As it was, we went and lost at Tonbridge the following Saturday and then smelled the coffee as the experienced Margate side rolled into town and squashed us flat, 3-0.

It was a fabulous season though, full of highlights and big crowds: 3,400 for the visit of eventual champions Wimbledon and an average that has only since been surpassed by the 1,400 regulars here at the Vale last season.

We finished eighth. I'd settle for that this season!





# On this day nine years ago: The unheralded springboard to the Stones Ryman Prem title

**Tuesday August 20, 2013, Isthmian League Prem: Hampton & Richmond Boro 0 Wealdstone 3**

**Y**es, this was the season the Stones finally won the Isthmian Prem after two close misses in the play-offs. After the defeat to Concord Rangers at the Vale the previous May, and star players Richard Jolly and Lee Chappell deciding to retire and leave respectively, our chances looked slim.... and indeed the season started with three successive draws against Maidstone (away) and Bognor and Wingate & Finchley at home.

And Hampton always was a difficult place to pick up points. But luck was on our side at The Beveree in front of over 100 travelling Stones and a 429 crowd - home defender Joel Ledgister picking up an early, pointless booking for handball and then repeating the trick in his own penalty area after 42 minutes. Penalty king Sean Cronin blasted in from the spot.

Dancing winger/midfielder Tom Pett was the star that season and he came close three or four times before our former defender Tommy Brewer decided to knock the ball into his own net from a Sivapath-sunderam corner. Even so, we still looked nervous until the reliable Peter Dean won the ball from the home left back in three-way chase with keeper Rodney Chiweshe... he was caught hopelessly out of his goal and Deano sweetly shot home from out near the corner flag - and celebrated with the delirious fans.

Actually, Petty was not **THE** main man that season and we had a brief glimpse of the aura of Glenn Little for the final 15 minutes at the Beveree. The former Burnley and Pompey star had joined from



*Handball! Wes Parker, Jerome Okimo and Tom Pett all appeal ... and it's given*



*Deano love-in with the fans after his clinching third goal*

Wrexham but was clearly only half fit... and it was a couple of weeks later that he announced himself by taking charge of the home 4-1 win over Enfield Town as we trailed 1-0. Never has a match been so transformed: Everything went through Little and he kept it up for the rest of the season as we won the title by an amazing 11 points. The same margin as the Southern League Division One South title-winning season in 1973-74. Uncanny!

**Stones line-up: North, Hammond, Okimo, Parker, Cronin, Godfrey, Pett, Bailey, McGleish, Moore, Siva. Subs: Dean (used), Haxhia, Little (used), Martin, Hutchinson (used).**

# WEALDSTONE FC

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A traditional package for businesses (from **£225** + vat) or fans (**£180**) for two people that will give you the satisfaction of knowing you have paid for the ball that Wealdstone FC are banging into the net (or out of the ground!).

As match ball donor you will enjoy:

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- 1 Publicity over the PA system and via the official club website and social media
- 1 Captains Lounge hospitality with refreshments & snacks.
- 1 2 x match-day programmes
- 1 A fabulous autographed team ball.

If you or your organisation are interested in donating the match ball for a home match then please contact Club President, Paul Rumens on **07710 929692** or at **paulrumens59@gmail.com**

\*All above subject to current COVID restrictions.

	<b>BROMLEY</b> Saturday, 6th August Vanarama National League	<b>Alan Couch</b>	
	<b>FC HALIFAX TOWN</b> Saturday, 20th August Vanarama National League	<b>Toby Jackson (Lapels)</b>	
	<b>YEOVIL TOWN</b> Monday, 29th August Vanarama National League	<b>Duncan &amp; Sandra Towell in memory of Arthur Rogers</b>	
	<b>WOKING</b> Sunday, 4th September Vanarama National League	<b>Mike &amp; Val Weston</b>	
	<b>TORQUAY UNITED</b> Saturday, 17th September Vanarama National League	<b>Your name or business here</b>	<b>Your name or business here</b>
	<b>SOUTHEND UNITED</b> Saturday, 24th September Vanarama National League	<b>In Memory of Kat Kelly</b>	<b>Your name or business here</b>
	<b>BOREHAM WOOD</b> Saturday, 8th October Vanarama National League	<b>Your name or business here</b>	<b>Your name or business here</b>
	<b>NOTTS COUNTY</b> Tuesday, 25th October Vanarama National League	<b>Your name or business here</b>	<b>Your name or business here</b>





 <b>CHESTERFIELD</b> Tuesday, 8th November 2022 Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>WREXHAM</b> Saturday, 12th November Vanarama National League	<b>In Memory of Kat Kelly</b>	Your name or business here
 <b>SCUNTHORPE UNITED</b> Saturday, 26th November Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>OLDHAM ATHLETIC</b> Tuesday, 13th December Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>MAIDENHEAD UNITED</b> Monday, 26th December Vanarama National League	<b>In Memory of Roy Couch</b>	Your name or business here
 <b>EASTLEIGH</b> Saturday, 7th January Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>GATESHEAD</b> Saturday, 28th January Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>DAGENHAM &amp; REDBRIDGE</b> Saturday, 4th February Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>YORK CITY</b> Saturday, 18th February Vanarama National League	<b>In Memory of Kat Kelly</b>	Your name or business here
 <b>ALTRINCHAM</b> Saturday, 4th February Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>MAIDSTONE UNITED</b> Tuesday, 7th March Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>BARNET</b> Saturday, 25th March Vanarama National League	<b>Alan Couch</b>	Your name or business here
 <b>ALDERSHOT TOWN</b> Saturday, 1st April Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>SOLIHULL MOORS</b> Tuesday 10th April Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>DORKING WANDERERS</b> Saturday, 22nd April Vanarama National League	<b>In Memory of Fans No Longer With Us</b>	Your name or business here

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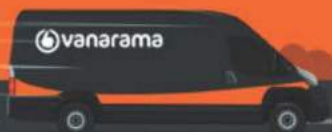
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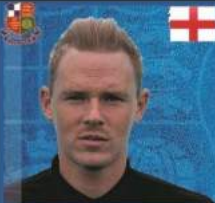
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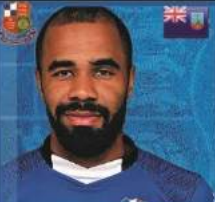
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CS = Coaching Staff  
GK = Goalkeeper  
CB = Centre Back  
RB = Right Back  
LB = Left Back  
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LW = Left Winger  
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To donate the kit of your favourite, contact club president **Paul Rumens** call **07710 929692** or email Paul at **paulrumens59@gmail.com**

# Next at The Vale



**Yeovil  
Town**

**National League**

**Monday  
29th August  
3:00pm**



**Woking**

**National League**

**Saturday  
3rd September  
3:00pm**



**Torquay  
United**

**National League**

**Saturday  
17th September  
3:00pm**

For all Vanarama National League fixtures: £10 admission for EFL or Premier League season ticket holders and members of the armed forces

## VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE PREMIER TABLE @16/8/22

	ALL					HOME					AWAY					RESULTS						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	(H)	(A)
1 Barnet	3	2	1	0	6	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	0	4	3	3	7		
2 Chesterfield	3	2	1	0	5	2	2	2	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	3	7		
3 Woking	3	2	0	1	4	2	2	2	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	6			
4 Wealdstone	3	2	0	1	5	4	1	1	0	0	3	2	2	1	0	1	2	2	1	6	--	--
5 Maidenhead United	3	2	0	1	5	5	2	2	0	0	5	2	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	6		
6 Notts County	3	1	2	0	6	3	1	1	0	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	3	3	3	5		
7 Solihull Moors	2	1	1	0	5	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	4	1	3	4		
8 Dorking Wanderers	3	1	1	1	8	7	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	1	0	1	6	5	1	4		
9 Boreham Wood	3	1	1	1	4	4	2	0	1	1	3	4	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	4		
10 Oldham Athletic	3	1	1	1	4	4	2	1	0	1	4	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4		2-1
11 Bromley	3	1	1	1	3	3	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	3	0	4	3+2	
12 Eastleigh	3	1	1	1	3	3	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	4		0-1
13 Torquay United	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	+0	4		
14 Maidstone United	3	1	1	1	5	6	2	1	0	1	4	5	1	0	1	0	1	1	-1	4		
15 Wrexham	3	1	1	1	3	4	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	1	3	-1	4		
16 York City	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	+1	3		
17 Gateshead	3	0	3	0	5	5	2	0	2	0	3	3	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	3		
18 Scunthorpe United	3	1	0	2	4	6	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	2	2	5	-2	3		
19 Aldershot Town	3	1	0	2	3	6	1	0	0	1	1	4	2	1	0	1	2	2	-3	3		
20 Southend United	3	0	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	1	1	-1	2		
21 Dagenham & Redbridge	3	0	2	1	3	5	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	2		
22 Altrincham	3	0	2	1	1	3	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2	2		
23 Yeovil Town	3	0	1	2	3	5	2	0	1	1	2	3	1	0	0	1	1	2	-2	1		
24 Halifax Town	3	0	1	2	0	3	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	-3	1		

# Stones on the road



**Gateshead**

**National League**

**Saturday  
27th August  
3:00pm**

[gateshead-fc.com](http://gateshead-fc.com)  
@GatesheadFC



**Altrincham**

**National League**

**Saturday  
19th September  
3:00pm**

[AltrinchamFC.com](http://AltrinchamFC.com)  
@AltrinchamFC



**Maidstone  
United**

**National League**

**Tuesday 13th  
September  
7:45pm**

[maidstoneunited.co.uk](http://maidstoneunited.co.uk)  
@MaidstoneUnited

Wealdstone FC Supporters' Club often runs subsidised coach travel to our away games. Check online for full details.





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