

SEASON 2022-23



PROGRAMME £3

WEALDSTONE FC



TARRYN THE TRICKSTER! More slippery than a snake dipped in olive oil: Stones' Tarryn Allarakhia pictured in the 1-1 draw with Torquay last Saturday
PICTURE: MICHAEL RENNY



V SOUTHEND UTD
SATURDAY SEPT 24, 2022 KO 3PM



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Written in Stone

BY TIM PARKS

Hello and welcome to a Vale that will be buzzing with a big, big crowd for today's visit of ex Football League behemoths Southend United. Their head of football John Still, and head coach Dave Maher will be hoping for better than last season's 13th placing and with their resources it's only a matter of time before the Shrimpers come galloping up the table - last Saturday they ended Wrexham's run of straight wins with a goalless draw at Roots Hall.

With this being an international weekend, and no Prem or EFL games, we are expecting 1,000 Southend fans to fill the away end, and some 2,000 Stones fans to make up what could be the biggest-ever Wealdstone crowd for almost half a century. There were close to 2,000 home fans in the ground for the game with Barnet last season, so why not today?

In his 'Elmslie Ender' column later in this programme, Sudhir Rawal recalls the New Year's Day battle with Wimbledon that packed almost 3,500 into our old Lower Mead ground and the football we are playing this season is redolent of the thrills and excitement of those far-off days.

Southend will be a big test this afternoon. After 101 years as a Football League club they fell through the League Two trapdoor (a second successive relegation) in the summer of 2021 and it was a real pleasure to entertain them here at the Vale on August Bank Holiday - a 0-0 draw marked by a 2,151 crowd - and an even bigger pleasure to collect a smash-and-grab 1-0 win at Roots Hall in front of almost 6,000 on Good Friday. Rather surreal experiences for Wealdstone fans who have been more used to Essex matches at Canvey Island and East Thurrock... and equally surreal, I'm sure for Shrimpers fans more used to the Ipswiches and Sheffield Wednesdays of this world.

The biggest difference between our two clubs is shown with a quick glance at the back page of today's programme. Our modest squad is dwarfed by the 30 full-time professionals in the Southend line-up - and our lack of number was exposed last Saturday with standout performers Ayodeji Elerewe, Max Kretschmar and Mason Barrett all injured, and Lewis Kinsella suspended (a three-match ban that ends after today's game).

Hopefully that trio will be available today as we enter a run of away games, travelling to Aldershot and high-fliers Solihull Moors before our next home game with Boreham Wood on October 8. And then the FA Cup on October 15! We come into the mix at the 4th Qualifying Round stage on Saturday October 15, with the draw made after the 3rd Qual Rd games on October 1st. Exciting times!

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FRED CALLAGHAN - 1944 - 2022

In this age (it seems) of notable departures we have to add former Stones manager Fred Callaghan to the list: He died, aged 77, on September 13 and will be remembered as a jovial character and great raconteur while he managed the Stones for one season in difficult circumstances while we groundshared at Yeading in the Southern League (Southern Division). He made his name as a player as a powerful full-back at Fulham (over 300 appearances) and managed Brentford, Woking and Enfield with some success.

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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
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 - Throwing any article onto the field of play • Climbing floodlight pylons, fences, stands or any structure or building
 - Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others • Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulla stand
- 2) No spectator ball games.
- 3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.
- 4) Vehicles parked on the Grosvenor Vale site are at the owners' risk.
- 5) Wealdstone Football Club supports the FA's campaign on pyrotechnics (e.g. flares and smoke bombs). Any misuse of such items in and around the Ground will result in those responsible being asked to leave the ground and, in line with football authority guidance, may result in a report to the Police, potential prosecution and a ban from the Club of up to three years. 6) No Smoking or Vaping inside the ground.

Wealdstone FC Board of Directors

From the Gaffer

STUART MAYNARD

Patience & Trust

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to Kevin Maher and his players from Southend United.

Another home game and one that will be, as they all are, extremely tough.

Southend will be looking to get one over us today as revenge for our end of season victory at Roots Hall. As a group we are not outcome or results based and we are honest enough to say that on the day they were way better than us. We were resolute and dug in, waiting for a moment or an opportunity, and Brownie delivered on that front. It was a game that was special in a way, because it was our first away win of the season against an ex Football League team and the celebrations with the fans after the game was in my Top 5 moments of the season.

Things are very different for both teams now, with players having moved on from both sides. From a Wealdstone point of view we are in a good place with us still in a playoff position after 9 games. We are always fair and call it as we see it, and in truth we should be a few points better off than we are. We should have beaten Maidstone and we should have beaten Torquay last Saturday. We need to be more clinical in games, but that said we do have the youngest group in the division and we need to be patient with them in the final 3rd. A clinical edge costs a fortune in this division, so rather than buying it, we need to coach it and work with the players so that they as individuals start getting the rewards for their good play, and us as a team keep picking up points. We did it with Josh Umerah last season



and he went on to repay our patience and trust with 17 league goals, so we know they'll all come good with time.

I would say from a Southend perspective that they will feel that they are probably in a false position currently as they have been very good in a lot of the games that we have watched them in. They had a very similar 2nd half against Torquay as we did last week, and they come to us today off the back of a good draw against Wrexham so we won't be underestimating them. The reality is that they will be favourites with the bookies which always suits us as there is no additional pressure on us as a management team and our players as individuals.

As always, we just need to focus on what we do well and hopefully we can give the fans another 3pts and an enjoyable weekend.

UTS

Stuart

SOLIHULL AWAY TRAVEL

Coach tickets are now available online or from the Supporters Club stall for the **SOLIHULL MOORS** trip on Tuesday 4th October.

Departs Grosvenor Vale @4.30pm returning directly after the match.

Prices are just **£20** for Adults and **£15** for Under 16's

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NEXT HOME GAME **Saturday 8th OCTOBER** WEALDSTONE v BOREHAM WOOD **KO 3PM**

BY SUDHIR RAWAL



The Elmslie

....Musing on how dominant Stones failed to give Gulls a damn good thrashing



2022

I am sat here on Sunday morning still wondering how Wealdstone didn't just beat Torquay United, but how we didn't send them back down the A303 with a real thrashing.

I am not sure that we have had such a dominant half of football as the second period where we swarmed all over the Gulls but apart from once, couldn't put the ball in the onion bag. Even the first half at Oldham, where we played silky samba football, I don't think we were quite the dominatrix as we were last Saturday.

Torquay came to the Vale low on confidence having won only two of their opening eight games to date, sat just above the relegation zone. Having been gifted an opener in the early moments of the game and then hitting the post, they somehow held out as the Stones laid siege upon the Gulls goal.

The stats are pretty clear: possession of over 70%; Stones had 10 shots on target to their one, we had 13 shots off target to their one (the goal) and we had nine corners to their two. It was one-way traffic down the Vale slope, but we missed chance after chance, with their keeper pulling off a few decent saves as well and the referee applying the laws in a rather random and unfathomable way. Our goals conceded in our nine games to date have been miserly and the last two of those were errors by us, Habergham at Maidstone and Howes v Tor-



quay, yet our goals for column is probably causing some angst amongst the management team with only ten in those nine games. We have drawn our last four and it is easy to say that we probably should have

had six points more from those matches alone had we been more potent in front of goal.

What was pleasing about the Torquay game was, as the clock was ticking down, we didn't revert to a big boot up the pitch – though with our lack of height up front it would have not made a lot of difference – but continued to play our passing game. It has been clear all season that we need to be more clinical in front of goal. Dare I say it we are missing Josh Umerah's goals from last season. Fela Olomola does a lot of hard yards and good play, but much of it is outside the box. When Stephan Browne is on the pitch that dynamic works much better than when Olomola is up there on his own. We need to score more, it is as simple as that, yet for the neutral that second half would have been really entertaining.

We were missing three likely starters from the Torquay match, with Kretzschmar and Elerewe out with injuries and Kinsella absent with suspension and there is likely a need for some replacements to bolster the squad, though we

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

Ender

WEALDSTONE FC
2022-23



Rhys Browne (far left) nets the leveller against Torquay



1975

Last Stones League crowd of over 3,000 and Bobby Moss flies in to worry Wimbledon keeper Dickie Guy. Stones won 1-0 on New Year's Day

are reliant on the loan market to cover those gaps.

In the midweek before Torquay, we travelled to Maidstone United and it was the proverbial game of two halves. Maidstone were better in the first, without really causing us too many problems, whilst we were in control of the second but missed a sitter and then at the other end, Habergham slipped over on a wet artificial service and Maidstone took the lead.

To be honest, I thought that was game up, but we rallied, and captain Cook scored on the turn in the final minute to secure a point that was the least we deserved.

Not sure I have seen a more commanding performance from a player in a game than Jack Cook's for a long time, as he was literally all over the pitch and covered every blade of grass, if there had been any.

Maidstone have a decent set up at the Gallagher Stadium, which is close to the town centre. Since my last visit, the small terrace at one end has been replaced by a big covered end, which presumably was built for seating when required as they progress up the leagues. What happened is after it was built, they went down and have only just returned.

Their style of football was similar to ours, to Gateshead, lots of possession-based football and what has been refreshing to see is how little long ball football is played at this level and whilst some teams are physical and press

space, pretty much every team can play the ball around well.

In what might be a reflection of what is to come this season, our away support was the lowest it has been since our return to the National league and the going back further to Truro one midweek a few seasons ago.

Whether it was the appalling weather, people being more mindful of how they are spending their money with the looming cost of living crisis or maybe the arrival of HM the Queen at Northolt that may have taken the interest of those locally, I don't know, but attendances were generally down both overall and especially away support. Even last Saturday, there were quite a few double-figure away supports, 24 Altrincham at Dagenham, 36 Halifax at Aldershot were the lowest, but not as low as 17 Dagenham fans at Wrexham in midweek.

I am not sure who thought it was a good idea to send a team from east London to Wales in midweek when it wasn't rearranged. I am sure we will get our first sub-100 away support at Altrincham for the re-arranged match in November.

Yet, whilst writing about attendances, we could well have a record Vale crowd today, with Southend expected to sell all of their 1,025 allocation and with no Premier League or EFL football in town, the attendance is expected to top 2,500 possibly nudging 3,000, with the Vale record being 2,662 and our professional era high - which has stood since New Year's Day 1975- of 3,400.

Heady times indeed!



Nathan Ferguson

How to endear yourself to the fans.. score a cracker against Barnet in your second game!



WE'RE updating and republishing this interview with Stones' dynamic midfielder Nathan Ferguson - which appeared for the behind closed doors game with Torquay in February - because hardly anybody saw it!

'When are you going to interview Nathan?' has been a regular request this season as the 6ft 2in former Southend ace has established himself as a real fans' favourite. **"It was in the Torquay prog, didn't you buy it?"** cut no ice as a reply - and fair enough as we only sold a couple of hundred copies online and to programme fanatics.

So here it is, with with a few alterations to bring it bang up to date....

Nathan Ferguson had a rapid introduction to Wealdstone, the club he calls 'a bit different'. First he was taken aback with the number of welcoming messages from the players 'and the club president' he received when he signed last season.

"Is that unusual?" I asked the 26-year-old midfielder. "Yes, really unusual. Made me feel straight away at home... normally you're greeted like just another player, just another number.

"Mind you" he said, laughing, "In my first training session Matty Saunders came straight over and said hello - we'd played together at Dagen-

PICK THAT ONE OUT!

Nathan thumps in our opening goal in the battering of Barnet last season.

Pics: JON TAFFEL



ham & Redbridge in the past - and then told me: 'One thing we've spotted is that your marking is terrible'.

"So that was brutally honest! He said: 'You can mark space but not the player'... so that's one thing I've had to improve upon. But I've started every game since signing in February, 18 last season and all nine this season - I'm being trusted to make things happen with the ball, play on the front foot and I feel wanted here. Last season I had a good partnership with Aaron Henry because



Nathan takes the plaudits from the 848 away fans (left) after his first Stones goal



drive the ball across the keeper but it sat up nicely so I just thought I'd smash it...the ball ended up in the middle of the goal but it was the pace that beat the keeper".

You may have seen on You Tube the extraordinary goal he scored for Southend in the League Two behind closed doors game at Forest Green - off the laces from fully 45 yards - so is Nathan a prolific goalscorer from midfield?

"The only one other last season came in the home National League match with Eastleigh, the only goal in a 1-0 win but it came in the middle of protests about the Southend management.

"There were fans threatening to invade the pitch and stop the game and my goal was almost an irrelevance! The ball went in the net and they looked round and thought 'Oh we've scored' but it barely registered with a lot of the fans".

That must have been an awkward time to be a Southend player. Under former Weymouth manager Mark Moseley the team made a terrible start to last year's National League season after being relegated - and were in the drop zone right up



he liked to sit deeper and get on the ball earlier, and be creative from those areas. And now playing alongside Charleseey brings out the best in the both of us. I've really been enjoying it and we're disappointed now if we only draw games".

Nathan signed from Southend United - alongside Charlton loanee Aaron - just before the home Yeovil game and the pair were pitched straight into battle. Three points that evening were followed by the epic derby clash at Barnet.

"That was brilliant. A great atmosphere from so many Wealdstone fans and it was the perfect start when I managed to score. At first I was going to

until Christmas. Then Kevin Maher, an ex-player, came in and reorganised things. John Still came in a Head of Football an even ex-Southend star Stan Collymore helped out with the motivational stuff!

"It was an interesting time" said Nathan. "I played in the early season game at Wealdstone, a 0-0 draw and got a battering from the manager when I didn't throw myself into a challenge on George Wickens near the end when he ran out of the box.. but it was 50-50 at best and I was on a yellow card. I felt I was a convenient target".

The big midfielder took some stick from the Southend fanbase for his 'languid' style but Nathan

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

THE STONES INTERVIEW CONTD

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

responded that when you are clever on the ball that is an easy label. "Because I'm big I'm not going to be one of those buzzing-about players, so it may look as if I'm not moving quickly, but when I get going I'm fast! It's all about perception really.

"I was really pleased to switch to Wealdstone. Compared to Southend it may seem like a smaller club but it's where you're happy that's important".

Nathan was born in Walthamstow but now lives in Woodford Green. His dad, Dave, also played non-League for a number of clubs in North London and then ferried Nathan to training and matches for Interwood Youth FC - where a team mate was a certain Rhys Browne. I remember Brownie describing it as the best non-academy set-up in the country, with 11 of that 15-strong squad going on to make a professional career.

"Yeah, I know Rhys from way back. He's a terrific player and I know how dangerous he can be. There was a trial set-up with Norwich City Under-13s and Rhys was chosen to sign on for them - but I was taken on for a scholarship by Dagenham & Redbridge, when they were in League One and stayed for a couple of years until I was released.. then it was off on the road to a whole list of non-League clubs in my late teens and early twenties".

Deep breath, here we go: Chelmsford City, St Albans City, Hastings United, Billericay Town, Grays Athletic, Dartford, Southport, Bromley and Folkestone Invicta. Plew! Nathan also had two brief and unsuccessful spells in the EFL with Burton Albion and Port Vale, after impressing in his six-month spell at Grays.

So at the age of 22 Nathan's career was at a crossroads. Fortunately, he got a helping hand from the (recently sacked) Dulwich Hamlet boss Gavin Rose. "I didn't have a club for six months after leaving Port Vale and signing for Dulwich was just what I needed - Gavin is really tough on his players but I needed that. I had a great

couple of years there, in midfield as a No.10 and sometimes up front... we won promotion from the Ryman Prem on a penalty shoot-out and then had a good season in the National League South - we even beat Wealdstone 3-1 at the Vale!"

Those sort of performances put Nathan in the shop window and in June 2019 he signed a three-year deal with Crawley in League Two. He played 39 games that season and made a strong goalscoring start with one against Salford City and then also in the EFL Cup as Stoke City were KO'd.

His stock was high as he signed for fellow League Two side Southend in January 2020 for an undisclosed fee. "But it was a terrible season in many ways, with games being played behind closed doors. No atmosphere and you realise how important the fans are... it's like playing in an Under-23s game and there is no importance attached to the games. You had to be mentally very strong. The supporters give you that adrenaline when you're tired: it's like an extra half-yard in your legs. That's a large part of why we were relegated".

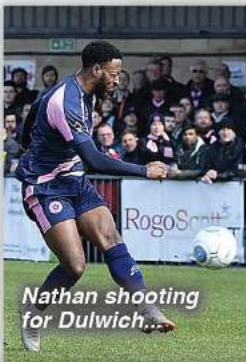
So did Nathan enjoy being part of the 1-0 win Stones chalked up at Roots Hall on Good Friday?

"Yeah, although we didn't play that well... we were just very resilient. I remember miscontrolling one pass and getting some grief from the home fans, but I left there on good terms and it was just another game really"

What he'd really like to add to his skillset is more goals, and was disappointed not to score against Torquay last week when the ball 'just wouldn't sit up and allow me to hit it' after he went on a surging run in the second half. And one powerful blast in the first half nearly decapitated the poor defender from close range!

"As far as consistency goes, I think I'm probably playing the best football of my career at the moment. We're really in control of games"

So does he harbour thoughts of getting back into the EFL? "I think you always want to further your career but it's also about how much you're enjoying your football... and I'm enjoying it a lot at the moment".





8

NATHAN FERGUSON



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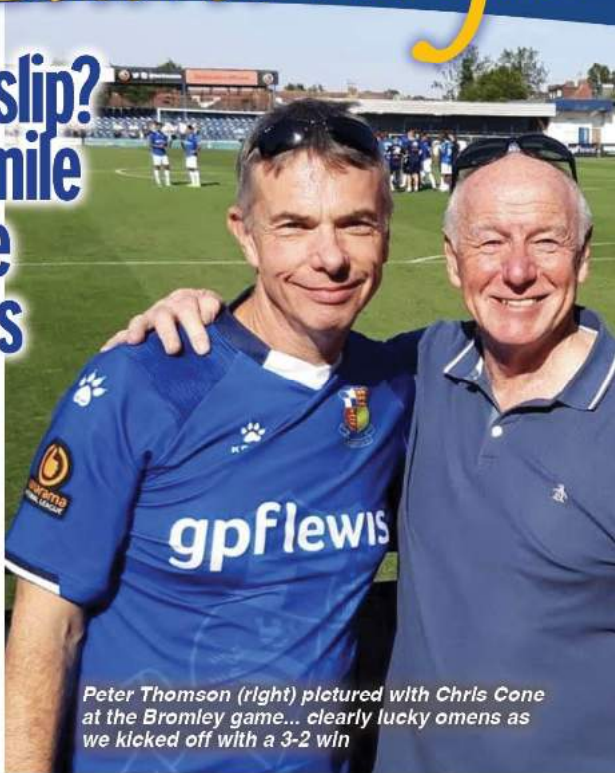
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Stones' Edinburgh

**Edinburgh to Ruislip?
It's a mere 800-mile
round trip for the
intrepid members
of this unofficial
fan club branch!**



Peter Thomson (right) pictured with Chris Cone at the Bromley game... clearly lucky omens as we kicked off with a 3-2 win

JOINING the large crowd at the Vale today are the founder members of the Edinburgh Stones' Fan Club... Peter Thomson and Jim Sorrell, who hadn't met before this feature exposed both as long-distance travellers!

Peter explains how the new 'branch' came about...

Chris Cone introduced me to the club. We had worked for Standard Life Bank as Mortgage BDM's with Chris covering part of London and myself in Scotland. We usually talked about football although he then supported Watford!

"We kept in touch after being made redundant some 14 years ago. In 2018 I asked him if he had any way of getting Watford v Man Utd tickets.. He said he hadn't but was now following the Stones and would I like to come down and watch? The rest is history!

When was your first game then Peter? First game was Sept 2018 v Chelmsford City... we lost 3-2 largely thanks to a Chelmsford defender scoring from 55 yards! We have three members now: Myself, 66 yrs old joint founder, plus Jim Sorrell also from Edinburgh (Londoner really) mid-50s, and also

Chris Cone, joint founder and local member aged 56 - Stones Season Ticket holder.

What are your usual travel plans? A typical visit to the Vale would be to get up at 5.30am and get a tram/bus into either Waverley or Haymarket train stations. If flying down, then a tram to Edinburgh Airport about 8.30am which means a long lie in.

If travelling by train, can go down east coast to Kings Cross or down the west side to Euston, changing at Crewe. I'd arrive in London about noon and head for the tube to Ruislip Manor - have had some fun doing this at first and going in wrong direction! I will meet Chris about 1pm at the Manor and then sample a couple of

fan club



drams/refreshments in Moons Bar. We will head up to the Vale and buy programmes, maybe speak to the Raider- perhaps another lemonade in the Social. Be rude not to !

What is your usual vantage point? We usually stand behind the home end and enjoy a tea/coffee at HT before the second half. Sometimes meet some of Chris's mates and discuss how good or bad we've been. We are all football experts of course.

Post match drinks and more expert analysis follow after the game. If staying in London on the Saturday night I will check in to a budget hotel (usually Northolt) after conversations with members of the team but mostly the excellent bar staff who sometimes struggle with my Scottish accent. !

How did you come to meet your fellow Edinburghian Jim? Jim Sorrell was introduced to me by Tim Parks in 2019 when he had written both articles for Fan in the Stand. By coincidence he went to the same school as Chris. I attended another home game in Feb 2020 of which Jim also attended...thus Member No. 3 was created.

On 9th November 2019 we travelled down to see the match v Eastbourne which was called off due to a local electricity problem! Myself and Chris found out from fans walking back from ground! So we had a couple of drinks in the social club and met some of the players, notably Jerome Okimo, Greenie and Northy. I had also bought a ticket for Barnet's FA

Cup tie v Fleetwood on the Sunday which they lost- thankfully ! Since Jim was a local in Edinburgh I invited him to a Hearts home game v Motherwell, which ended in a 1-1 stalemate, just before the lockdown March 2020. Lockdown obviously prevented further trips until May 2021 when the first fans were let into the Solihull game... which we lost 4-2 unfortunately.

Our first official 'away day' was at Wrexham in Nov 2021 when the Stones earned a very good 0 0 draw against a team taken over by the Hollywood stars. I had travelled down to the game via 3 trains in the morning, Jim Sorrell was visiting family in Wrexham area, and Chris got the supporters bus up to the Racecourse ground. Jim then gave me a lift back to 'Auld Reekie' ie Edinburgh, getting home just after 10 pm. A long but enjoyable day.

The new season for 2022-2023 commenced with a Home game against Bromley which resulted in a fantastic 3-2 win. The latest away day featured only Jim Sorrell and his young son Tom who travelled the 120 miles down to Gateshead a couple of weeks back to see another Stones victory which kept us high in the table. Young Tom has now been initiated into the Club as the founder of the Junior Supporters section - Youth development is the way forward- not only on the playing side!



Jim Sorrell and his son Tom join the large Stones contingent at Gateshead at the end of August.. for a 1-0 win!
Right: Jim, Peter and Chris all together at Wrexham



Opposition in focus



THE SHRIMPERS

Organised football in the Borough of Southend-on-Sea really started taking hold in the late 1890's. Clubs such as Southend Victoria, Southend Amateurs, Southend Corinthians, Southend Ramblers and even Southend Wesleyans were on the local scene at this time. .

A team called Southend United were recorded as early as 1898 but it is not known where they played. One thing is for sure is that they are in no way related to our club. At the same time over at Marine Park, which incorporated a football pitch among its attractions, Southend-on-Sea Football Club were establishing a reputation as a top amateur side. The clubs' colours were white shirts and blue 'knickers'. By 1900 this side has changed its name to Southend Athletic, and although Marine Park was later to become The Kursaal, Athletics' ground was radically different to the one occupied by Southend United in their early Football League days. It consisted of a railed off pitch surrounded by a 'trotting' track and a large pavilion with absolutely no spectator accommodation. Also during 1900 a new pitch was laid out adjacent to the large property in Victoria Avenue called Roots Hall. Ironically one of the first teams to stage games there was Southend Athletic. However the face of football in the Borough was to change forever following a meeting held in the Blue Boar Public House on May 19th 1906. It is well documented that Southend United were formed at this meeting convened by landlord Oliver Trigg and a band of fellow enthusiasts. In 1920 the Southern League clubs, including Southend United, were elected en bloc to form the new Third Division of the Football League. A year later this became the Third



Division South as a northern section had also been introduced.

The 1955/56 campaign was to prove one of the most pivotal in the club's history. After 21 years at the largely unpopular Southend Stadium the Blues moved into their new home. The new Roots Hall had been built entirely by internal labour with Sid Broomfield leading a small band of men to build the stadium we know and love today. The entire cost of the stadium, save for a small grant from the Football Association, was met by the Supporters Club and their extensive fund-raising programme.

Southend United joined the new national Third Division in 1958, where they remained until 1966 when they suffered their first ever relegation, into the Fourth Division. The club had to wait six seasons until 1972 to experience the club's first ever promotion as runners-up behind Grimsby Town. In 1976 Southend suffered relegation again before taking another runners-up spot behind Watford in 1978. Another relegation in 1980 was directly followed by one of the most successful seasons in the club's history as they won the Fourth Division Championship in 1981, breaking a series of club records in the process. Despite success on the pitch and low admission prices, the club's gates were low and condemned as "a bad reflection on the town"]

In 1984, the club was relegated to the Fourth Division (Bobby Moore was manager), and the

OUR RECORD AGAINST SOUTHEND UNITED

P13 W3 D3 L7 F15 A24 GD -9

SOUTHEND UNITED



Pic. southendunited.co.uk

HOME GROUND - ROOTS HALL
CAPACITY - 12,392 (2,878 SEATED)
MANAGER - KEVIN MAHER
2021/22 - 13TH NATIONAL LEAGUE

champions after beating Bristol City 1–0 at Roots Hall - the club's first title in 25 years. Tilson was named as the League Manager Association's Manager-of-the-Season for League One.

In 2006/07 the Shrimpers were relegated back to League One & the 2009–2010 season was tougher: a run of just one win in 2010 left Southend deep in trouble, and relegation to League Two was confirmed.

A transfer embargo at the start of the 2012–13 season saw the club start its campaign with a depleted squad. However, a successful loan signing - Britt Assombalonga from Watford - helped Southend to a run of 14 games unbeaten which saw them reach 4th in the table. League form dipped in early 2013. Phil Brown was brought in as manager but picked up just one win in his eight games in charge as Southend finished the season in 11th position. In 2015 Brown led the team, via a play-off final against Wycombe Wanderers (decided 7:6 on penalties), into League One.

On 22 October 2019, Sol Campbell was appointed manager of Southend. Financial difficulties, including a winding-up petition heard on 22 January 2020, resulted in non-payment of players' and other employees' wages. The winding-up petition was dismissed after debts were cleared.

On 9 June 2020, Football League clubs in Leagues One and Two agreed to end the 2019-20 season; Southend were relegated to League Two. On 30 June 2020, manager Campbell and three assistants left the club by mutual consent.

On 13 August 2020, Southend United appointed Mark Molesley, formerly manager of Weymouth, as their new manager on a three-year contract. On 9 April 2021, Molesley was sacked by Southend United having only won 8 games out of 45. The club were 23rd, five points from safety with six games remaining. Phil Brown returned as manager but could not rescue the situation; Southend suffered a second successive relegation.

Southend started their first season in the National League with a 1–0 victory at King's Lynn Town but following a 4–0 defeat by Chesterfield at Roots Hall on 9 October Phil Brown was sacked.

following season finished 20th, narrowly avoiding having to seek re-election to the Football League. However, Southend gained promotion in 1987. Although relegated again in 1989, successive promotions in 1990 and 1991 saw Southend United reach the second tier of the Football League; in 1992, under manager David Webb, the club finished 12th in the old Second Division, having briefly topped the division on New Year's Day, 1992. In 1995, former Liverpool player Ronnie Whelan became player-manager & Southend finished 14th in Division One, but were relegated a year later and Whelan left the club. He was replaced by Alvin Martin but Martin was unable to avoid a second consecutive relegation. Martin left in April 1999, with Southend fifth from bottom in the Football League. Alan Little was manager for a brief spell before the club turned again to David Webb, then Rob Newman, Steve Wignall and, in late 2003, former Southend United midfielder Steve Tilson.

Under Tilson, Southend reached their first national cup final, meeting Blackpool in the final of the Football League Trophy but the team did not rise to the occasion and Blackpool won 2–0. Tilson then led Southend to promotion to League 1 in 2005, while making a second successive appearance in the Football League Trophy final, which the Shrimpers lost 2–0 to Wrexham, but the third appearance at the Millennium Stadium in the League Two play-off final against Lincoln City brought success giving the club its first promotion via the play-off system and their first major silverware since 1981.

In May 2006 Southend became League One

Opposition in focus

SOUTHEND UNITED

1. STEVE ARNOLD - GOALKEEPER

Steve joined after leaving Northampton Town in 2021. Arnold twice previously helped Forest Green Rovers to the National League play-offs before joining Dover. He also had spells in the Football League with Wycombe, Stevenage & Shrewsbury.

2. GUS SCOTT-MORRIS - DEFENCE

The right back joined Hemel Hempstead Town from Royston Town in 2021 and went on to make over 40 appearances for the Tudors in 2021/22. Scott-Morris became the fourth addition to Kevin Maher's squad in the 2022 summer transfer window after the defender agreed a two-year deal.

3. NATHAN RALPH - DEFENCE (C)

Nathan joined in 2019. Formerly of Peterborough, Yeovil, Newport and Woking, with loans at Kettering Town and Aldershot Town, Ralph won Dundee's Player of the Year award in 2018/19.

4. LOUIS LOMAS - DEFENCE

The centre-half was identified as a key target by head coach Kevin Maher and the rest of the recruitment department after an impressive 2021/22 season for Brackley Town.

5. SHAUN HOBSON - DEFENCE

The centre back signed from AFC Bournemouth in the summer of 2020. The Manchester-born defender started his career at Burnley before signing for the Cherries in 2016. He joined Weymouth on loan at the start of the 2019/20 season. Prior to that Hobson spent time on loan at Eastbourne Borough, Chester and Eastleigh.

6. OLLIE KENSDALE - DEFENCE

Ollie Kensdale joined Southend United for an undisclosed fee from Concord Rangers. The 21-year-old centre back became Head Coach Kevin Maher's first permanent signing.

7. JACK BRIDGE - MIDFIELD

Re signing in 2021, Jack started his career at Blues but after making 11 appearances in two years he departed in January 2018 to join Northampton Town. In June 2019, Bridge signed for Carlisle United and went on to make 35 appearances for the Cumbrians.

8. NOOR HUSIN - MIDFIELD

The former Reading, Crystal Palace, Notts County and Stevenage centre midfielder arrived at Roots Hall after Blues agreed an undisclosed fee with Dartford in January 2022. Husin, 24, is an Afghanistani



international, appearing 14 times for his country.

9. RHYS MURPHY - FORWARD

Starting his career at Arsenal, Murphy joined Dutch second-tier club Telstar in 2012 after loans with Brentford and Preston North End, then Dagenham & Redbridge. In 2015 he signed for Oldham the Wimbledon. Since then, the striker has joined Forest Green Rovers, Gillingham and Chelmsford City in permanent deals.

10. DAN MOONEY - FORWARD

Dan Mooney signed from Altrincham in May 2022. A former Wales U21 international, Mooney began his career at Fleetwood Town.

11. CALLUM POWELL - FORWARD

Callum signed in January 2022 from Kettering Town for an undisclosed fee. Formerly of Northampton, Wrexham, Tamworth and Stourbridge.

12. TOM CLIFFORD - DEFENCE

An ex Blues youth player Tom was handed his first professional contract with Southend in the summer of 2018. He spent some time on loan at Concord Rangers during the 19/20 campaign.

14. JACK WOOD - MIDFIELD

Jack signed for the Shrimpers from Kings Langley in January 2022. He joined the seventh-tier side in 2019 at the age of 16, and signed for Southend on a two-and-a-half-year deal

15. MARCUS DACKERS - FORWARD

Dackers signed for Blues on a month-long loan on 9 September 2022. He began his career at Manchester City, who he joined at the age of five. In 2015 he signed for Brighton & Hove Albion. After leaving Brighton, he signed for Salford in 2021 before arriving at Roots Hall.

THE PLAYERS TO WATCH



LAST SEASON

Mon 30th August 2021 - (H) D 0-0
Fri 15th April 2022 (A) W 1-0

16. HARRY TAYLOR - DEFENCE

Harry joined the Blues on a two-year deal with the option of another year. He signed from Barnet, where he made over 185 appearances over an eight-year span. Capable of playing in midfield or in defence, Harry began his career in Chelsea's youth team before joining Barnet's academy in 2012 along with his younger brother Jack, now at Peterborough.

17. CAVAGHN MILEY - MIDFIELD

Cav was another player to join the club in the summer of 2022, signing from fellow Vanarama National League side Eastleigh. Miley joined Eastleigh aged 22 in 2017 from Jersey-based club St Pauls, going on to make 178 league appearances and scoring seven goals from the centre of midfield.

18. WESLEY FONGUCK - MIDFIELD

Joining the club in the summer 2022 transfer window, Wes Fonguck left Barnet after 121 league appearances over an eight-year period. He began his football journey with Crystal Palace, leaving the Selhurst Park club at the age of 16, joining Barnet in 2014.

19. CHRIS WREH - FORWARD

Son of the former Arsenal striker with the same name, Chris Wreh enjoyed a prolific 2021/22 season with Banbury United in the Southern Premier Division Central.

Chris initially joined Blues on trial, netting two goals and providing two assists in the 2022/23 pre-season.

21. JON BENTON - MIDFIELD

21-year-old playmaker Jon has spent a decade with Southend United after making his first forays into the game with local grassroots club Leigh Ramblers.

22. KACPER ŁOPATA - DEFENCE

Łopata is in his second spell at the club, joining permanently from Sheffield United at the start of September 2022. The Polish U21 international was on loan at Blues in the 2021/22 campaign from the Blades.

23. HARRY CARDWELL - FORWARD

Harry signed in January 2022 from Chorley. A former Scotland U21 international, Cardwell began in the youth system at Hull City, before joining Reading's Academy then Grimsby.

24. JASON DEMETRIOU - DEFENCE

Southend United completed the signing of Jason Demetriou in July 2016 following the end of his deal with Walsall.

25. LOUIE ARROWSMITH - DEFENCE

Louie has worked his way through the Blues academy, having been connected to the club since the age of six.

26. TOMMY DAVIS - DEFENCE

Tommy spent time out on loan with Heybridge Swifts and Welling United in the 2021/22 season, before training with the first-team squad in the pre-season of 2022.

27. JADEN CROWHURST - DEFENCE

Jaden made his first-team debut at the start of the 2022/23 season against Solihull Moors.

28. OLLIE COKER - MIDFIELD

Oli Coker grew up watching Blues with his family, initially joining the youth team system in 2011. He made his first-team debut in October 2020 against Portsmouth.

29. LUKE REEVE - DEFENCE

The 2021/22 U18 Player of the Year impressed for both the youth team and on loan for Great Wakering Rovers.

30. COLLIN ANDENG-NDI - GOALKEEPER

Collin Andeng-Ndi first signed professional terms with Blues in September 2021 after an initial trial period.

39. JAKE HYDE - FORWARD

Jake Hyde is at Roots Hall on a season-long loan from Wrexham. Jake has represented Barnet, Dumfermline, Dundee, York, Stevenage, Maidenhead, Woking & Halifax.



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Southend were KO'd at Liverpool in '79.. and their next FA Cup date was away to Wealdstone!

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24 1979,
FA CUP 1ST ROUND PROPER:
WEALDSTONE 0 SOUTHEND UTD 1

It's over 40 years ago but I still remember the thrill of hearing that we'd been drawn at home to Southend - in those days there was nothing like the immediacy of the live draw on Talksport (although the later FA Cup rounds were always broadcast live on Radio Two).

You could either wait until the Evening Standard or Evening News was published later that day, or phone a mate at the paper (which I did, in my first journalistic job for the Watford Observer at the time). The Shrimpers were fresh in everyone's memory after holding the Double European champions and foot-

CONTD OVERPAGE



Dalglish in action at the snowbound Roots Hall

Players agree: We left it too late

AS Stones have to wait another year for the chance of a lucrative FA Cup run, several of their players are left to reflect on what might have been writes **Ron Smithson**.

Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of Saturday's game is the fact that all the players know they never really rose to the occasion against a Southend team whose total performance was not that of third division standard.

Most of the Southend mid field play was pretty enough to watch, but the forwards looked very ordinary around the penalty area.

For their part Wealdstone just seemed overawed by the occasion as corners and free kicks were wasted in a way that is rarely seen now since Payne took over.

Flurry

Stones know they have blown a golden chance but they lacked nothing in terms of commitment on Saturday and when at last it did begin to come together in the last ten minutes Wealdstone looked at least as good as the League side.

'Stones' final flurry prompted captain John Watson to say afterwards "We didn't realise we could win until too late. Everyone gave one hundred per cent and if we'd played as well as we could, we would have got a result."

Fair

Wealdstone's elegant mid field player Robin Wainwright, who had an outstanding match, said he thought a draw would have been a fair result.

"I thought we just about deserved the draw. I was reasonably pleased with my own play, especially in the first half. But really the general mood of players was one of disappointment. Rob Wealdstone striker Rob Moss was a disappointed

and slightly bitter man after the game. Said Bobby, "All the players were confident — but Cup football is all about winning on the day isn't it?"

Moss went on to tell how he had been asked to change his game for Saturday's clash. He said "I was told to play in a different way — to push out wide and not be full back. I was a bit upset. There might have been few players who froze because of the big occasion. I don't know. We played well enough to get a draw, but I'm very disappointed to be honest."

Walker booked it over me," he said.



Walker wrecks the



WIGGONS LIE 'Stones cup dream

Wieldstone 0, Southend 1

A rather fortunate goal by defender John Walker after 52 minutes wrecked Alliance Premier League Wieldstone's FA Cup dream against Southend at Lower Mead on Saturday.

The all important score came after a string of corners by the Third Division club.

Colin Morris's fourth flag kick to the near post was headed up in the air by a team mate and with most of the team watching, thinking the ball had crossed

Wieldstone disappointed in that they didn't play as well as the shades of OPA Coler Morris, the Southern winger rated at £175,000, justified Geoff Hurst's misgivings with a poor display and Football League referee Ron Challis drew a pretty convincing doubt over whether or not he didn't exactly inspire confidence.

But the biggest disappointment was the performance of the 'Stones' who had they are struggling in the basement of the Third Division.

Despite the better being the better, all too often relied on the off side trap and their technique fell far short of a good Third Division team.

When they were back on this side of the Wieldstone, the fact they woke

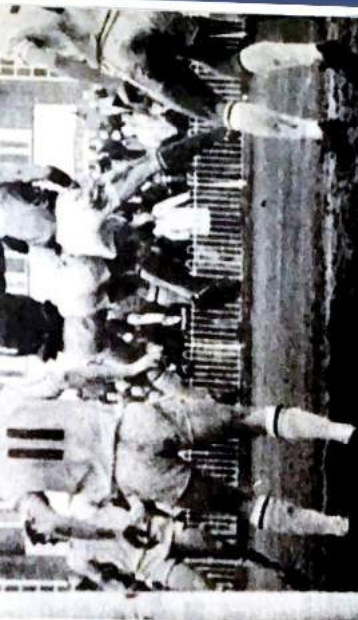
By
Pat Mooney

at the end line, the alert Walker scored with an overhead kick.

But if the 'Stones, who were appearing in the first round proper, seemed hard done in that incident, justice was seen to be done as Southend were the better team.

Wieldstone, who had only lost two of their last 14 games, including clean sheets in their last four, battled courageously to a man. But, I sensed, they could win until the closing minutes.

Overall, however, it was a disappointing cup tie for the 400 fans who braved the November cold.



Southend goalkeeper Mervyn Cawston punches clear from Wieldstone's Bobby Moss. Picture by LARRY MCINTOSH.

son outfit checked Wieldstone's advance more than 100 yards. The referee trap after 28 minutes when Hull beat out by Cranstone.

A minute later, however, the ball in the net through Pat Mooney but referee Challis disallowed the "score" for an infringement on the keeper.

Then on the half hour, Cranstone's first coming created the first scoring chance. A shot free pushed to Watson whose low centre was side-footed over the crossbar by Bobby Mooney.

Stones first corner. But from the uncleared flag kick Colin Johnson dived too long in the penalty area and the chance disappeared.

The second half started with Colin Johnson having a shot saved following a header from Moss. But then when they forced a corner and from the fourth Walker hooked home.

And the Third Division side, who had their own mistake by Watson allowed Morris in but Cranstone rescued again with a courageous stop.

Wieldstone slowly in Cranstone's second corner and after Barwick was just wide with a shot young Stu Pearce almost scored from a free kick.

WIELDSTONE: Cranstone; Brannigan, Wainwright, Barwick, Johnson (C); Moss, Cordice, Johnson (N). Sub: Furdond.



Kneeling 'Stones' Robin Wainwright loses out to a block tackle by Southend defender Mike Strad at Lower Mead. Picture by DOUG AVENT.

'Southend sharper

"I feel, had we gone at them harder from the start we could have beaten them but for some of the lads, whether some of the lads, I don't really know, we didn't until the end.

"We batted well but their extra fitness showed in stretching and kicking the ball at crucial times. Also thought young Stu Pearce did a fine job on Colin Morris.

"Obviously I'm disappointed at losing but I thought Southend were just a little bit sharper in the vital areas," he added.

"However, I was pleased with the lads' efforts — they gave me one hundred per cent.

— Payne



Ken Payne — "We have done Wieldstone's proud."

WE'VE MET BEFORE **CONTD**

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

League winners Liverpool to a goalless draw in a snowstorm at Roots Hall the previous January. Despite a gluepot pitch that would never have passed inspection today - let alone the throwback orange ball that refused to run as it accumulated a three-inch coating of snow - the midweek televised game on 'Sportsnight' had millions spellbound.

Commentator John Motson barely mentioned the appalling conditions but just referred to the battling qualities of the Third Division side as they went toe to toe with Kenny Dalglish, Graeme Souness, Alan Hansen & Co. There were 30,000 at Roots Hall that night to watch Southend fully deserve the prize of a Third Round Anfield replay the following Tuesday in which two late goals confirmed Joe Fagan's side as 3-0 winners.

The Reds were the best team in Europe - and now Southend's next FA Cup match would see them travel across London to face Alliance Premier League Stones!

Our FA Cup pedigree - five successive appearances in the First Round, and a run to the Third Round two years earlier - meant we weren't taken lightly and in the end the Shrimpers had a touch too much quality, as the Harry O match report admits... though I like the bracketing of Southend's star winger, the £150,000-rated Colin Morris, with our own

Royal Blue Review 20p
SEASON 1979/80

Saturday, 24th November, 1979
F.A. Challenge Cup 1st Rd. Proper
Kick-off 3 p.m.

WEALDSTONE 0 v. 0 **SOUTHEND UNITED**

WEALDSTONE	SOUTHEND U.
1. Ben Cranstone	1. Mervyn Cawston
2. Paul Brownigan	2. Phil Doolley
3. Stuart Pearce	3. Alan Moody
4. John Watson	4. John Walker
5. Alan Parrott	5. Mike Scott
6. Robin Wainwright	6. Ron Pountney
7. Fred Barwick	7. Tony Hadley
8. Bobby Moss	8. Anton Chabounski
9. Neil Cordice	9. Mick Tushy
10. Nigel Johnson	10. Derrick Parker
11. Colin Johnson	11. Terry Gray
12. Terry Boyle	12. To be announced

Referee: Mr R. Challa (Tottenham)
Mr J. C. Deakin (Sheff Wed) Mr G. Gordon (Harrow Park) (Yellow Flag)

The Official Programme of Wealdstone Football Club Ltd
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Winners: FA Amateur Cup 1965-6
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Southern Lge Div. 1 (South) 1973-4

teenaged Stuart Pearce while suggesting that both would go far. They did... Morris went to Blackpool and Sheffield United while Stuart went to World Cup and Euros semi finals!

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Well, Wealdstone's first season in the APL (fore-runner of the National League but still entirely part-time) saw Payne steer his side to lower mid table safety. Southend were drawn against another non league side - the unknown force of Isthmian League Harlow Town - and were shocked to be held 1-1 and then eliminated 1-0 at the unlovely Harlow Sports

Centre in the replay. From Anfield to Harlow must have been a tough comparison!

Although the 'Hawks' were no flash in the pan as they drew 1-1 at Leicester in Round Three before dumping the Second Division leaders (Gary Lineker et al) out in another home replay.

● You may have spotted Ken Payne's mention of the 'Wealdstone FA Cup curse' in one of the articles, the fact that Aldershot (1976), Reading (1977), Hereford United (1978) and QPR (also 1978) were all relegated after facing the Stones... well, the same fate befell The Shrimpers in 1980 as they fell into Division Four. At least it's a league game today!

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15 2022, VANARAMA NATIONAL LGE: SOUTHEND UTD 0 WEALDSTONE 1



This smash-and-grab victory at Roots Hall in front of a sun-baked 5,849 crowd has to go down as one of our club's greatest-ever away wins... but we survived early scares as Kevin Maher's side were awarded a penalty after ref Tom Bishop harshly adjudged Connor McAvoy to have fouled Noor Husin in the box. George Wickens produced a brilliant save from Jason Demetriou's penalty however, and the Shrimper also missed another glorious chance while Stones were still finding their feet. Home keeper Steve Arnold denied Jerome Okimo an equaliser, but after Southend had been denied a 'goal' due to a handball offence it was **Rhys Browne** (left) who rattled in a magnificent 56th minute winner from 25 yards. The August clash at the Vale resulted in a 0-0 draw... so are we the Shrimpers' bogey side?

JOHNNY



JOHNNY 2 BAD



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THE HARDER THEY COME NIGHT NURSE MONEY IN MY POCKET
RAT IN MY KITCHEN 007

SET TWO

HARDER THEY COME 54-46 TEARS ON MY PILLOW HELP ME MAKE IT
BABY COME BACK RED RED WINE YOU CAN GET IT FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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1ST TEAM RESULTS SEASON 2022/2023

	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lege	Goal scorers
6 BROMLEY	VNL	3-2	1,090	162	5	Olomola, Browne (P), Cook
13 Eastleigh	VNL	0-1	1,814	189	12	
16 Oldham Athletic	VNL	2-1	6,869	152	4	Browne, Allarakhia
20 FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL	1-0	1,197	72	2	Browne
27 Gateshead	VNL	1-0	1,104	135	1	Browne
29 YEOVIL TOWN	VNL	0-0	1,714	251	2	

SEPTEMBER						
4 WOKING	VNL	1-1	1,638	269	6	Kretzschmar (Pen)
13 Maidstone United	VNL	1-1	1,799	110	6	Cook
17 TORQUAY UNITED	VNL	1-1	1,366	208	6	Browne
24 SOUTHEND UNITED	VNL					

OCTOBER						
1 Aldershot Town	VNL					
4 Solihull Moors	VNL					
8 BOREHAM WOOD	VNL					
15 TBD	FAC4					
22 Dorking Wanderers	VNL					
25 NOTTS COUNTY	VNL					
29 Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL					

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

DECEMBER						
3 Barnet	VNL					
10 Bromley	VNL					
13 OLDHAM ATHLETIC	VNL					
17 To Be Decided	FAT3					
26 MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VNL					

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

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

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

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

To be arranged: Altrincham Away, VNL

Sam HOWES	Jack COOK	Rhys BROWNE	Ashley CHARLES	Alex DYER	Dom HUTCHINSON	Tarryn ALLARAKHIA	Max KRETZSCHMAR	Lewis KINSELLA	Matt YOUNG
13	2	10 (7)	4		17 (19)	7	22	3	15
13	2	10 (9)	4		17	7	22		15
13	2	10	4		17	7	22		15
13	2	10	4		17	7	22		15
13	2	10	4		17	7	22	3 (7)	15
13	2	10	4	18 (22)	17 (7)	7	22	3	15
13	2	10	4	18 (4)	17	7	22		15
13	2	10	4		17 (9)	7 (22)	22		15
13	2	10 (18)	4	18	17	7			15



Pictures from weekend at courtesy of

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	

	MIAICHI NAPA	JORDY MONGGOY	JAYDN MUNDLE-SMITH	DAVID SESAY	NATHAN FERGUSON	ELIJAH HEARN	TECANE SHROWDER	OLUFELA OLOMOLA	MASON BARRETT	ERIC NGRARU	DEJE ELEREWI	SAM HABERGHAM
		23 (3)		8				9	6	5		
(23)		23		8				9	6	5	28 (5)	
		23 (7)		11 (7)					6	5	28	
(7)				11 (17)					6	5	28	
(22)				11 (6)					6	5	28	
		21 (10)		11					6	5	28	
(22)				11	8			9 (10)		5	28	
(11)		23		11	8			9		5	28	
(4)		23		11	8			9			28	

DATE IN RED = Midweek fixture



from our match last
against Torquay United,
Tommy Cockles



16th July	Charlton A U23s	H	L	0-1
20th July	QPR	H	L	2-8
23rd July	Bedford Town	A	W	4-1
27th July	Billericay Town	A	W	5-1
30th July	Chelmsford City	H	L	0-3

Ferguson, Trialist A
Trialist B, Kretzschmar (2), Hutchinson
Napa, Olomola, Allarakhia, Kretzschmar, Ferguson



Investigating the (tenuous) links between our club & the Royal family



So nearly a Royal connection at Wembley..

I thought you and your Wealdstone team were quite magnificent today Mr Ashworth

Er, that was a few weeks ago Ma'am

As the nation, and indeed many parts of the world, comes to terms with the passing of the Queen, I was looking for a way to pass on my own personal tribute to our lost Monarch.

I'm aware that amongst Wealdstone Supporters, whilst we do have our sceptics, we do have many fans of the Royal family and many England fans amongst our ranks who proudly sing the national anthem before England matches - fellow fan Tony Maidment pointed out to me that when the national anthem was sung at the Maidstone game soon after her death, that it was the first time it had been sung before a Wealdstone match. So I hope you will accept the following as my homage...

For starters, the Queen was a patron of the England Football Association and of course Prince William the President of the said Association. It's a well known fact that Prince William is an Aston Villa fan and it was rumoured that the Queen was quietly an Arsenal fan - and it appears that the Queen was also patron of Virginia Water FC who play at Stag Meadow in Windsor so not too far from the castle where she spent many years of her youth.

Unfortunately, though, I've got absolutely no record that her Majesty had any interest whatsoever in Wealdstone Football Club or indeed that any members of the Royal Family had actually attended any of our games... so what possible links have the Monarchy got with Wealdstone Football Club? ...well I've found a few which may pique your interest!

So, my first link relates to Wealdstone's visits to Wembley Stadium of which there have been three. The first was on Wednesday 3rd June 1942

when Wealdstone played His (as it was then) Majesty's Royal Air Force (Uxbridge). The competition was The Middlesex Senior Red Cross Cup Final (currently known as The Middlesex Charity Cup) and was the first County Cup Final ever to be staged at Wembley Stadium. Wealdstone went on to win 5-2 and all the proceeds from the match went to The Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross Fund. The Duke of Gloucester (Prince Henry) was touring abroad with the Army for the War effort so was unable to present the trophy on the day so it was done by a Captain Leslie Bowker OBE MC...enough royal links for a mention?

The second was on Saturday 16th April 1966 when Wealdstone beat Hendon 3-1 in the FA Amateur Cup Final. The Cup was presented to Wealdstone captain John Ashworth by Field Marshall Harold Alexander. Whilst not actually a Royal he was appointed Earl Alexander of Tunis. That said, a couple of months later, The Queen was in the same spot to present the World Cup to Bobby Moore in the 1966 World Cup so you could say Harold warmed the Royal Seat for the Queen at our Cup Final.

The third was when we beat Boston United 2-1 on 11th May 1985 and the FA Trophy was presented to Wealdstone Captain Paul Bowgett by Joe Mercer MBE...only football royalty there I'm afraid! So, whilst no member of the Royal Family actually presented trophies to the Wealdstone captains of their time, all the players did have to walk up the Royal Steps to the Royal Box to receive their medals and trophies so it deserves a mention.

The next Royal link is of course our nickname

which for quite a period of time from the seventies up until the new millennium was of course "The Royals" (as well as "The Stones") which we were happy to share with The Queen and her family. The Wealdstone programmes for a short while during the late 70's were indeed called **The Royal Blue Review**. Whilst this obviously related to the Royal Blue colour of our shirts we wore at the time, the definition of the actual colour Royal Blue does originate from the Royal Family.

However, for the last and probably most important link to the Royal Family you need look no further than our very own club badge. What's that got to do with the Royal Family you may well ask? Well I've had good look at our badge and I really do believe it was actually inspired by the Royal Coat of Arms which was created in 1707 when the Union of Nations took place. Remove the decoration around it and focus (for the moment) on the centrepiece (pictured right). You will see what is a Royal Blue Garter arranged in a circular fashion. It is edged in gold with the motto "Honi soit qui mal y pense" (Middle French for "Shame on him who thinks of evil") also in gold lettering (strangely obscured by the supporting icons). This surrounds a shield which contains 4 quarter segments. Two segments contain similar "3 Gold Lions on a Scarlet background" which represent England. The colour gold on the lions represents the throne and the colour scarlet represents royalty. One segment contains the Lion of Scotland and the other the Harp of Ireland. In modern language a United Kingdom. If you're wondering why there is no Welsh representation I'm afraid that when the union of nations took place Wales had already been adopted and formed part of England.

Now look at the Wealdstone badge (above right). This is the original Wealdstone badge designed in and around 1947. Does the shape & colours not at least bear a strong similarity?

Roger Slater tells me it was designed by the Ways and Means Committee (circa 1932) and

was a simple round royal blue and white quarters badge with WFC emblazoned on it. However in 1948 the round ornate "Penny" badge shown below was designed primarily by gentleman called Harold 'Chippie' Luck who was involved with the club as a player and officer from 1928 to 1971. He suggested the club colours, the badges of Middlesex and England and the football to identify the sport all of which is minuted from the 1948 AGM. The shape, scroll and overall layout also came from that meeting. Let's start with the badge itself...

For starters as mentioned it shares the same shape and design as the centrepiece of the Royal Coat of Arms. The Garter has been adapted into a simple roundel but the banner remains in royal blue edged with gold - like the 'Wealdstone' lettering on our badge. The three Gold Lions on a scarlet background are exactly as they appear on the Royal Coat of Arms, and the three Seaxes (short notched swords) and royal crown represents the County of Middlesex. They appear on a number

of local football club badges within our County and it was the College Of Arms (founded by royal charter in 1484) who gave London its own distinct Coat of Arms - and in 1910 separated the Middlesex and Essex shields by awarding Middlesex a distinctive Saxon Crown on top of its swords. Rightly so as Buckingham Palace did fall within the realm of Middlesex. So another nod to the Royal Family...

Locally, establishments like the huge H.M. Stationary Office building at Wealdstone - located roughly where the current Harrow Crown Court is now - employed a lot of local people during wartime while to the rear of the HMSO building in 1940 the Government had built a hidden and secret "Air Ministry Citadel" which was code named "Station Z", used during the War as an operations room as well as an air raid shelter for the Air Ministry. So more royal connections in the Wealdstone area.

I believe our club's badge is the biggest homage to the Royal Family you can get ...and certainly more so than any other football club badge.

May Her Royal Highness rest in peace...



BY JON TAFFEL



The Stones

From Queen Elizabeth to Enfield FC... some Es are much easier to swallow

It's Season III Part IV of this fascinating series and we're with the Es...

It would be wrong of me not to begin with **ELIZABETH**, our former Queen. Someone who for most of us has been in situ for all of our lives, part of the very fabric of our nation. What a lady, the country will never see the like of her again. Thanks ma'am.

E is also for **EASTCOTE**, which for those of you not in the know is split into two postal areas – Eastcote, Pinner and Eastcote, Ruislip. I was born and bred in the latter, the one thing that I never expected to happen was for my football club to end up on my doorstep!

Growing up in that area, the nearest clubs to my home were at the Vale and Earlsmead, but like many other Eastcotees (newly invented word), Lower Mead was the only local attraction of any appeal.

Being in the London Borough of Hillingdon, maybe Hillingdon Borough should have held some appeal, but the Leas was not only a horrible place but also horrible to get to. I do recall



ENFIELD FOOTBALL CLUB

The Stadium, Southbury Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 1YQ
Telephone: (0181) 292 0665, Facsimile: (0181) 292 0669, Newline: 0930 555 845



July 19, 1999

Dear Mr Taffel

I am replying to your letter of 15th July. I do so not only as Secretary of this Club and as a member of the League Management Committee but also as a keen supporter of our game, to which I happily give many hours of my free time.

I accompanied Alan Turvey when he came to speak to you on the evening of the League AGM and felt that you and the vast majority of the other Wealdstone supporters present conducted yourselves admirably.

You may recall that a few years ago this club faced a similar disappointment when we were denied promotion to the Conference after winning our league championship by 14 points. Despite lengthy, expensive and ill-advised litigation we lost the day and still remain in the Ryman League. It is of little comfort that the rule preventing our progress has now been swept away.

Our problem then, like yours now, was that the Board of Directors had not put our house in order so that we would be in a position to gain promotion. The rules are not secret and you are right to be disappointed with those who let your Club down by not meeting the necessary ground grading by the due date. There was certainly a lot of anger aimed at the Chairman of Enfield Football Club when we failed to gain promotion on a "technicality".

There are many rules and regulations governing our game. The Football Association, the County Associations and the Leagues set these. Not all of them are universally popular but they are fairly applied and generally work for the good of the game.

As an example of this you may have heard that Barrow F C have been relegated from the Conference because of the breach of a rule and must now face life in the Unibond League.

I admire your tenacity in trying to right what you perceive as a wrong for the possible benefit of clubs in the future. The setting of a deadline of May 31st, as you suggest, would certainly give clubs more time to bring their facilities up to the required standard, but what if an aspiring club failed to meet that date but were ready by say June 7th. Would you argue for a further extension of the date to assist them?

In these circumstances one also has to consider the club moving in the opposite direction who would have to wait to hear their fate. Valuable time could be lost in areas such as player contracts and sponsorship, goodness knows the close season is short enough as things stand!

Also consider that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to apply a different deadline to clubs applying for election to our league. A date as late as you suggest might have an impact on those lower leagues when it came to voting on a constitution at their AGM.

We are not prepared to divulge how we voted at the AGM.

As a club we would consider carefully any proposal to extend the date by which a ground must achieve the required grading.

Yours sincerely

Roger Reed
Secretary

Above: The letter Jon received from Enfield secretary Roger Reed. It didn't help

Alphabet

E

one lad at my primary school who started following them and was one of their bully boys when we visited them in the 70's, but he was the exception. Today we still have many Eastcotees watching us who have been with us since pre-Vale days, but plenty of new ones too, will we ever see an Eastcote Stones flag?

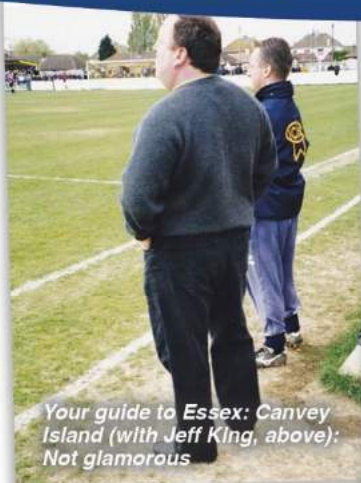
E is also for **ENFIELD**, and I'm not going to dwell on this one as we've been there before. However, when sorting out some stuff recently I came across some letters, and one of these is certainly worth re-producing (left).

When we were denied promotion all those years ago (in 1999), I wrote to all the other clubs canvassing their support at the league AGM to give us the promotion that we felt we deserved, due to a misunderstanding over the deadline to have extended cover over the seats at the White Lion Ground in Edgware (where we were then ground-sharing). Many clubs simply ignored me, but fair play to those that did take the time and effort to respond, some even hand-written.

In Enfield's letter, their secretary Roger Reed stated that they would not divulge how they voted at the AGM, but it is not difficult to conclude how they did from the rest of the contents.

Interestingly he comments that the 'vast majority' of the Wealdstone supporters present at the AGM protest conducted themselves admirably, so hands up if you didn't fall into this category and what did you do?

E is also for one of my not so favourite counties, **ESSEX**. My personal dislike originally



Your guide to Essex: Canvey Island (with Jeff King, above): Not glamorous



Roots Hall (especially when we win there): Glamorous

stemmed from an awful childhood holiday not far from Clacton-on-sea. So bad was our chalet and weather that we came home early, my only compensation being that my mum bought me a budgie in Colchester (pictured below) to try and cheer me up. It wasn't the best compensation to be honest: I already had two budgies and Bertie turned out to be a rubbish budgie with no character whatsoever.

Moving on, as a staunch Middlesex cricket fan, **ESSEX** (along with Surrey obviously) were much disliked local rivals, but Essex in particular had a well-earned reputation for doctoring pitches to suit their team. And don't even start me on Derek Pringle. On to the football then, and my early experiences of watching Weald-

stone against Essex teams was good, Chelmsford City were a big club in a great ground at New Writtle Street. It was much later that we started visiting places/clubs that we didn't really enjoy and certainly don't miss now, Aveley, East



The cherubic-looking Jon and budgie Bertie (far right). He was 24

**CONTINUED
OVERPAGE**

Alphabet continued

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Thurrock and Concord Rangers to name just a few. The only real enjoyment of visiting Canvey Island was that we could combine it with a visit to the lovely Leigh-on-Sea and also Southend to make the whole day more palatable. So it is with great pleasure that our league fixtures in Essex now include Southend United rather than Concord Rangers, we are in a happier place.

E is also for Andrew **ELEFThERIOU** (pictured above) - a player who, after I sponsored last season never played again, permanently injured, I have no idea whether this is still the case as I can't find any record of him elsewhere. So that was money well spent then....

And E is for **EGLITE**. Some of the Wealdstone newcomers may wonder why it is that my match photos are published under the banner '**Eglite Photos**.' Well, the reason is twofold. Firstly, my circle of drinking and travel chums have occasionally been branded 'Elite' by virtue of our choice of drinking establishments that tend be rather less than mainstream.

Elite is not the term I'd use, it's all a matter of taste in more than one sense of the word. However, Eglite is a composite, embracing the Elite tag whilst paying homage to our 1970's player

Adriaan Eglite. Eglite's Wealdstone career was not a long one, but most of us remember him quite fondly, a very distinctive player once allegedly on the books of Ajax. Having seen him play, it was more likely that he used Ajax in his bathroom. (This is clearly scurrilous, as Eglite was verified as a former Ajax Youth team player alongside John Cruyff in a previous programme. You'd think he never reads it! -Ed)

There was brief temptation last season to substitute Eglite with **EGLITO** when Medy joined us, but the temptation was brief.

E is for **ENTERTAINMENT**, this is why we come to football isn't it? Or is it a 'results business' - we're back to C for cliches? Well, it's a balance, if no-one was ever entertained then crowds would plummet. There were certainly times last season where there were some rumblings amongst our fanbase bemoaning the sideways sideways backwards passing that seemed to be getting us nowhere in the early part of the season. There was clearly more to our team than that though, and our final league position certainly endorsed the process that Stuart and his team had put in place.

Has this season been **ENTERTAINING** so far? Well of course it has, because Entertainment is about **ENJOYMENT**, and to come out of games such as Gateshead and Yeovil with the points that we did with our backs firmly against the wall, well what's not to enjoy? **EXCITING** perhaps not, but with the quality of opposition in this league we're not going to be able to play the kind of **EXPANSIVE, EXCITING** football that some may crave for. It's all about **EXPECTATION**, and the vast majority of us are realistic in that regard.

So that's it for this week, **ENJOY** the match!

REWIND SPECIAL BY TIM PARKS

Well, would you believe it? There we were, wondering idly if our ex-player Eglite truly was a star alongside Johan Cruyff... and he was!

LEGEND EGLITE

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

AMATEUR SOCCER EXTRA

Double Dutch

BY COLIN GRANT

BACK IN THE early 1970s Adriaan Eglite (nicknamed 'Double Dutch') was a star at Wealdstone. He was a former Ajax Youth team player alongside Johan Cruyff in a previous programme. You'd think he never reads it! -Ed

Since the 1970s Eglite has made a name for himself as a former Ajax Youth team player alongside Johan Cruyff in a previous programme. You'd think he never reads it! -Ed

Adriaan Eglite, former Ajax Youth team player alongside Johan Cruyff in a previous programme. You'd think he never reads it! -Ed

The article in last season's Stockport 'home programme that produced the evidence: Eglite DID play for Ajax, and in the same team as the mercurial Cruyff

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WEALDSTONE FC

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over the PA system, website and social media together with a piece in the programme

- Boardroom, Gordon Bartlett Lounge or Main Hall hospitality including a pre-match hot meal with wines and half-time refreshments courtesy of in-house caterer Lynn Evans.
- Match-day programmes for all in your party.
- A dedicated table for you and your guests throughout your stay.

	QUEENS PARK RANGERS Wednesday, 20th July <i>Pre-Season Friendly</i>	Robert Barrett		
	BROMLEY Saturday, 6th August <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Harrow Windows		
	FC HALIFAX TOWN Saturday, 20th August <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Ruislip Windows & Doors		
	YEOVIL TOWN Monday, 29th August <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Russell Grant, Patron of Wealdstone FC & Middlesex Heritage	Wealdstone FC Supporters Club	
	WOKING Sunday, 4th September <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Keith Walklate		
	TORQUAY UNITED Saturday, 17th September <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Raine & Kevin Robb		
	SOUTHEND UNITED Saturday, 24th September <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Rolfe-East		
	BOREHAM WOOD Saturday, 8th October <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Harrow Windows	In Memory of John O'Connor	Steve Ford's 50th
	NOTTS COUNTY Tuesday, 25th October <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Rolfe-East	Richard Finch	
	CHESTERFIELD Tuesday, 8th November 2022 <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Ruislip Windows & Doors	Your name or business here	
	WREXHAM Saturday, 12th November <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Keith Davies	Optera Ltd	
	SCUNTHORPE UNITED Saturday, 26th November <i>Vanarama National League</i>	Rolfe-East	Michael Nutt	



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Please note that we can accommodate multiple match sponsors and
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 MAIDENHEAD UNITED Monday, 26th December Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 EASTLEIGH Saturday, 7th January Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	Your name or business here
 GATESHEAD Saturday, 28th January Vanarama National League	Rob Millington	Your name or business here
 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Saturday, 4th February Vanarama National League	Coach Forever Ltd	Your name or business here
 YORK CITY Saturday, 18th February Vanarama National League	Oldfield Construction Ltd	Your name or business here
 ALTRINCHAM Saturday, 4th February Vanarama National League	Raine & Kevin Robb	Your name or business here
 MAIDSTONE UNITED Tuesday, 7th March Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Your name or business here
 BARNET Saturday, 25th March Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	Your name or business here
 ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday, 1st April Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 SOLIHULL MOORS Tuesday 10th April Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 DORKING WANDERERS Saturday, 22nd April Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Your name or business here

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**Monday September 24 1973,
London Challenge Cup 1st
round: Tottenham 4
Wealdstone 0**

If only the London FA had the clout to resurrect this wonderful competition!

One of the major benefits of the Stones turning semi-professional in 1971 was that we were eligible to take part in this prestigious Cup which (I am led to believe) was compulsory for all London pro clubs to enter. Which meant Arsenal, Tottenham, Chelsea, Charlton, QPR, Fulham, Orient, Millwall at al having to field teams against the Barnets, Wimbledon, Bexleys and Wealdstones of this world. Ker-ching!

Even if the top clubs fielded mainly reserve players they were a terrific draw for clubs like ourselves... in our first Southern League season, 1971-72, we were drawn at home to double-winners Arsenal and 3,100 people turned up to see the Gunners' youngsters win 3-0.

Sadly, with the demise of the 'amateur' game in 1974 there were only a few seasons left for the London Challenge Cup - when the 'big clubs' could eagerly say that the competition was too diluted by all the Isthmian and Athenian League clubs.

So the Stones made hay while

49 years ago: George Duck's memories as Stones are beaten by Spurs at White Hart Lane

Earlier in 1974, Stones' Brodie had been in goal as Margate were beaten 9-0 by Tottenham in the FA Cup 3rd round. Here he saves from Martin Peters



the sun shone. In 1972 we were drawn against Millwall and after an excellent 2-2 draw at the Den, proceeded to beat a strong Lions side 3-1 in the replay in front of 1,189. We were then beaten 3-2 by the strong Enfield side who had been invited to enter as Isthmian League champions.

And so to 1973-74. This was to be a

momentous season for the Stones as we ended up winning the Southern League Div One South by 11 points. But first of all the London Challenge Cup!

We had to face local rivals Barnet (from the division above) in a preliminary round tie, but after smashing the Bees 4-1 at Lower Mead came the news that we were then drawn away to... Tottenham Hotspur!

In modern Wealdstone history this comes (in my mind) a close second to being drawn at QPR in the FA Cup 3rd round four years later. Yet bizarrely,



Above: Tragedy for Stones keeper Chick Brodie (then playing for Brentford) when a dog ran onto the pitch at Colchester in 1967, chased a back pass (left) and collided with the keeper when he collected the ball (right). It effectively ended Brodie's professional career

Burgess, the captain, whose past clubs include Colchester; Eddie Pressland and John McCormick, both formerly with Crystal Palace; and Chic Brodie, who played for Brentford for years and last season played against Spurs for Margate in the F.A. Cup.

George Duck, who has played for Millwall and Southend, is a Tottenham man. His home is only a short distance from this ground.

On Saturday Wealdstone lost their Southern League match 3-2 at Ramsgate.

AT LAST!
Spurs Res. 2, Swansea City Res. 1
At last a Spurs team has won a match on this ground this season! After two defeats and two draws in home Combination matches the Reserves bagged both points at the fifth attempt in beating Swansea 2-1 on Saturday.

We had to work hard for our win and for more than 20 minutes were a goal behind. Wyndham Evans headed through for Swansea in the 27th minute after the visitors' goal had had a number of narrow escapes.

Danny Clapton hooked the ball over after five minutes and later was robbed of a goal by two great saves, within seconds of each other, by goalkeeper Peta Bala. Then Gary Mabee shot wide following a good move by Mike Dillon and Chris McGrath.

Spurs equalised in the 49th minute when Keith Osgood fired in a hard, low shot from a free-kick by Joe Peck. A few minutes later McGrath scored what proved to be the winner from a pass by John Margerison.
Team: Lee; Osgood, Anderson, Naylor, Collins, Peck, McGrath, Clapton, Mabee (sub. Jones), Margerison and Dillon.

FINAL CRUNCH
Liverpool 3, Spurs 2
We were close to breaking our long sequence without a win on the

London Challenge Cup, 1st Rd. 24th Sept., 1973 Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
White Shirts, Blue Shorts

RIGHT WING		DAINES		LEFT WING	
KINNEAR 2		GIBBINS 3			
NAYLOR 4		OSGOOD 5		PECK 6	
NEIGHBOUR 7		McGRATH 9		DILLON 10	
CLAPTON 8		JONES 11			

Referee: Mr. A. A. NATHAN, Essex

Linesmen: Mr. L. A. COTTRELL, London (Red Flag) Mr. R. L. LOGAN, Kent (Yellow Flag)

11 DYSON		10 DUCK		9 HENDERSON		8 BROWN		7 WATSON	
6 BURGESS		3 FULTON		5 MCCORMICK		4 KINNEAR		2 PRESLAND	
LEFT WING		BRODIE		RIGHT WING					

WEALDSTONE
Yellow Shirts, Yellow Shorts

Substitutes: (Home Club) _____ (Visiting Club) _____

U.E.F.A. CUP, 1st ROUND, 2nd LEG
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR v GRASSHOPPER-CLUB, ZÜRICH
On Wednesday, 3rd October, 1973, kick-off 7.30 p.m.

RESERVED SEATS: Postal applications for seats, priced £1 and £1.20, will be accepted up to next Thursday, 27th September.
Personal applications may be made at the Ticket Office during normal office hours (9.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.), should be clearly shown on the reverse side of cheque.
UNRESERVED SEATS: priced 80p will be obtainable on payment at the turnstiles at the Park Lane and GROUND ADMISSION 45p (Juniors 20p).

BALL LEAGUE CUP, 2nd ROUND
RANGERS v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
To Be Played on Monday, 8th October, 1973

TO BE AN "ALL-TICKET" MATCH
50p GROUND, 45p uncovered and 55p covered (Juniors, 30p), will be considered for the LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS available, should enclose Coupon "A" with application. (A stamped and addressed envelope please.)
Ticket Office during normal office hours, 9.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.

We were forced to fight a defensive action, but Martin Chivers regained the lead for Spurs soon after half-time. In the 75th minute Alex Lindsay levelled matters for Liverpool from the penalty spot after Pat Jennings had moved too quickly in saving the first kick from Emlyn Hughes.

We were then under siege, and Jennings, who had sustained badly bruised lower ribs in the first half, made a couple of fine saves before Lawler dealt us the final blow. Team: Jennings; Evans, Knowles, Pratt, England, Beal, Gilman (sub. Kinneare), Perryman, Chivers, Peters and Holder.

Q.P.R. Youth 2, Spurs Youth 3
The Youth team improved their record in the South-East Counties League on Saturday morning by beating Queen's Park Rangers at South Ruffing.

Rangers scored an early goal and added a second in a scrappy first half. Our players staged a fine recovery in the second half, however, and in spite of a compulsory respite following a recurrence of Doug Howe's knee injury, we scored the three goals needed to snatch both points.

The two goals that put us level came within a spell of three or four minutes. First Konrad Powley scored from a pass by Roger Gibbins, and the latter then equalised after Martin Robinson had flicked on a cross by Noel Brotherton.

A few minutes from the end Gibbins jumped for a high ball, and Powley finished off the ensuing scramble by running it into the net. Team: Cranstone; Smith, I., Stead, Kegel, Cegielski, Powley, Brotherton, Bacon, Gibbins, Robinson and Howe (sub. D. Gillett).

DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

DAILY DRAW. The results of the draw run by the Spurs Development Society No. 1 for the week ended 15th September, 1973 (Week No. 59) were as follows:
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OFFICIAL PROGRAMME
Vol. 66 MONDAY, 24th SEPTEMBER, 1973 No. 9

OUR VISITORS TONIGHT
WEALDSTONE

THIS evening we turn our attention to the London Challenge Cup, and it is our pleasure to extend a warm welcome to Wealdstone, our visitors in the first round of the competition.

Wealdstone, who compete in the First Division South of the Southern League, are one of the clubs who were called upon to play in the Preliminary Round. In that round they were at home to Barnet, also Southern League, and their 4-1 victory in that match a fortnight ago qualified them for this evening's first round tie.

The participation in the Challenge Cup of clubs from outside the Football League has become a feature of the competition in recent years. Five of the eight ties in this season's first round are between clubs in the Football League and opponents from outside.

Orient are the current holders of the Challenge Cup, but it was by only a 2-1 margin that they beat Enfield in the Final last May. And the strength of the challenge from outside the League is underlined by the fact that Orient's victims in the semi-final were Dagoban.

HARD BLOW
In fact, we sustained a hard blow

to our own pride in losing in the Semi-final to Enfield last season. We were to meet our Enfield neighbours on this ground, but it was agreed to play the match at Enfield Stadium.

The tie resulted in a 1-1 draw, and in the replay, also played at Enfield, we were beaten 3-2. In the earlier rounds last season we recorded home wins over Brentford (2-1) and Queen's Park Rangers (2-0). The game against Brentford was won in extra time.

We look forward to a good game this evening, and naturally hope we were beaten 3-2. We feel it is time we added another Challenge Cup triumph to our record. The last time the trophy was won by Spurs in its season 1970-71. We then defeated Wimbledon on this ground by the only goal of the match, scored by Roy Woolcott.

WELCOME, TERRY
We welcome Terry Dyson, outside-left in our League and F.A. Cup-winning "double" team of 1961, back to White Hart Lane this evening as a member of the Wealdstone team. Other members of the team with Football League experience are Eric

I didn't go to the game (presumably as it was a schoolnight, although I was 16) and it was only in hindsight that I realised what an epic occasion it was. The Tottenham public weren't enamoured by the London Challenge Cup, clearly, as only 2,000 were in the echoey confines of White Hart Lane as the teams trotted out on that Monday night almost 50 years ago. But the game did mean a lot to two of the Wealdstone players: **TERRY DYSON**, who had starred on the wing as Tottenham had won

the League & Cup double in 1961 - and was seeing out his career with some success at the Stones, then in his late 30s; and of course **GEORGE DUCK**, the Stones' goal machine who had been at Tottenham as a youngster before "a crisis of confidence", as he calls it, caused the teenage George to turn his back on a career with Spurs.

George would end his 73-74 season with an astonishing 64 goals to his name. But remarkably he says he remembers "hardly anything" of the game back **CONTD OVERPAGE...**

Above: The Tottenham programme that memorable night

REWIND CONTINUED

at the Lane... which says a lot, I feel, for his state of mind after his too-early departure from the club. Those who are versed in The George Duck Story - which has graced these pages in the past - will recall that George, who was born and raised in Tottenham just a few hundred yards from the ground, was a precocious young talent but not blessed with a lot of confidence. Although Spurs chased him to sign schoolboy forms, he decided that he wasn't good enough and quit the game at 16 - only to resurface firstly at Millwall and then at today's National League opponents Southend.

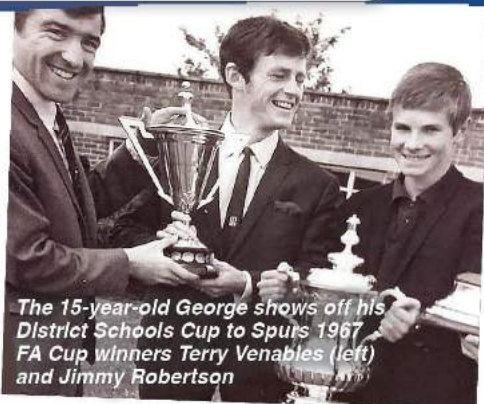
"Going to Southend was the worst thing that happened to me in football - I fell in with the wrong crowd and wasn't really given a chance by the manager there" says George (still looking fit today, below right).

"Funnily enough, though, I had one of my best days there last year with Wealdstone. For the game on Good Friday I was invited along by the Southend ex-players' secretary, Andy Leader, along with my fellow Stones ambassadors Hughie Lindsay and John Morton, and they really spoiled us!

"Of course the day was perfect when Rhys Browne scored that winning goal!"

Former West Ham star of the 60s and 70s Brian Dear (known as 'Stag') is Southend's principle ambassador and no doubt he'll be out for revenge today!

George declares that his salvation at that difficult time in



The 15-year-old George shows off his District Schools Cup to Spurs 1967 FA Cup winners Terry Venables (left) and Jimmy Robertson

his late teens was Stones manager Sid Prosser. "I had quit the game after Southend released me and was set to start work as a window cleaner - but this fella kept ringing my mum and saying he wanted to talk to me. When he said he was manager of Wealdstone I was underwhelmed... all I knew about Wealdstone was that they were an amateur club on the other side of London.

"But Sid kept on at me and my mum said 'well he's thinks you're worth persevering with, so why not give it a try?' - and you know what? My first train-



ing session, my first look at the ground, my first time in the bar at Lower Mead had me convinced that I was going to love it there. And I did!

"I had that affinity with the fans and the other players and the seven years at Wealdstone were the best times of my life".

But back to 1973. It was four years since turning his back on Tottenham so surely there was a real tug on the heartstrings when he went into the changing rooms at White Hart Lane?

"Oh yes, I remember going into the stadium and thinking wow, here we go, I'm playing at the Lane but I had played there in the past - not for Spurs but for Millwall against Spurs in the London Challenge Cup a few years earlier. I scored the opener but we lost by eight goals!"

According to the match report (right) the game was memorable for the rousing reception for former Lane favourite Terry Dyson, whose every touch was cheered. And it was Dyson who came closest to netting a Wealdstone consolation with a thunderous 25-yarder that Spurs keeper Barry Daines managed to claw over the crossbar.

As the report says, though, the difference between the two teams (despite Spurs fielding eight players who had played in the 1st XI) was the goalkeepers. Tottenham's Barry Daines was a First Division keeper while the Stones fielded ex-Brentford pro

Above right: The Harrow Observer match report of the London Challenge Cup tie at Tottenham in September 1973

Dyson goes back to warm welcome

Wealdstone better than score-line suggests

Tottenham Hotspur 4, Wealdstone 0

WEALDSTONE put up a much better show in this London Challenge Cup game at White Hart Lane on Monday than the score suggests, and the winning margin flattered Spurs, who included five men with first team experience.

Inexplicably, for a match of such importance, Wealdstone did not field their strongest side inasmuch as manager Sid Prosser brought in Brodie in goal for McKenzie and again persevered with the out-of-form Fairclough to the exclusion of Brown. With due respect for Brodie, his form suggests he is now well past his best and unfortunately he must take the responsibility for the first two goals.

In fact, the difference between the two teams was largely the difference between the goalkeepers. Daines, who is expected to play against Derby on Saturday, was magnificent and the game was probably swung in Spurs favour on this vital factor.

Mr. Prosser's view was that Brodie must be kept in match practice but it was evident that Brodie's two mistakes had a telling effect on the rest of the team.

Fulton was declared unfit and Presland returned to right-back with Watson on the left, Burgess being substitute. Stones back four played well, with Kinnear outstanding, but neither Byrne nor Duck had the happiest of matches. Henderson made a welcome return after suspension and was easily the best forward, but missed a glorious chance of putting Wealdstone ahead after six minutes when he broke through but allowed Daines to rush out and smother the ball.

In the middle of the field Dyson, whose every touch of the ball was greeted with cheers by a sporting crowd of some 2,000, touched some telling crosses, and one memorable shot late in the game which was superbly tipped over by Daines.

A goal would have been a fitting reward to this great former Spurs player. Godfrey, too, improved, showing some intelligent touches, but an unfortunate lack of pace, while Fairclough seems now destined for a lengthy rest. The hard-running Brown could, one felt, have been played to better effect.

Spurs went in 2-0 at the interval through Margerrison and McGeehan, yet Wealdstone had much of the play. Presland having a glorious free kick saved at full length.

Dillon scored a third early in the second half after a rare lapse by Kinnear, and McGeehan virtually walked in a fourth. Brodie safely held a cunning lob under the bar from Dillon, but Wealdstone attacked hard for the last 15 minutes and a magnificent save from Daines thwarted another Presland effort.

Byrne flashed a header narrowly wide but found Peck rather too good for him, especially in the air, and then came a vintage Dyson effort from fully 25 yards. The ball was thundering just under the bar when Daines literally hurled across the goal chest-high to palm the ball over.

To sum up, Wealdstone per-

formed very creditably against a team of young, full-time professionals and with better goal-keeping, and a bit more flair and bite up front could have forced a replay.

Wealdstone: Brodie; Presland, Watson, Kinnear,

McCormick; Godfrey, Fairclough, Byrne; Henderson, Duck, Dyson, Sub: Burgess.

Spurs: Daines; Kinnear, Gibbins, Naylor, Osgood; Peck, Neighbour, Margerrison; McGrath, Dillon, Jones, Sub: Clapton.

Below: A couple of typical George Duck goals in 1977...against Atherstone and in the FA Cup tie with Maidstone



George (left) dives full length to head the opening goal against Maidstone in the FA Cup 4th Qual Rd tie in November 1977

Charles (Chick) Brodie who, at 36, was way past his best.

Brodie was best known for having his career effectively ended in the late 60s when a large, stray dog ran onto the field when he was playing for Brentford at Colchester and collided with the keeper as he went to collect the ball. The game was featured on ITV's *The Big Match* show and was the cause of much mirth... but it wasn't funny for Brodie, who suffered a serious knee ligament injury (see pictures on the previous page).

He made a comeback of sorts in the Southern League, and was in goal for Margate in January 1973 (just nine months before the game at White Hart Lane) when coincidentally Tottenham were the visitors to Hartsdown Park for an FA Cup 3rd round tie. He had a backache that afternoon as the Div One side won 6-0... maybe a portent for the Stones game later that year when he was at fault for at least two of the goals. He was only at Lower Mead for a handful of games.

Chris McGrath, who went on to play a handful of top-flight games for Spurs, got two of the goals with Mike Dillon and John Margerrison netting the others. 'Marge' of course went on to have a fine career at Fulham and then turned out for the Stones in 1982-83.

Joe Kinnear of course was a Spurs first team regular in the 60s and 70s, while Terry Naylor, Keith Osgood, Jimmy Neighbour and Chris Jones all lit up the Lane in the ensuing seasons.

REWIND CONTINUED

20 years ago: Terrible trip to Tilbury is good reason to never visit the twilight zone again

Tuesday September 24 2002, Ryman league Division One North: Tilbury 2 Wealdstone 0

If you wanted a yardstick to measure just how far the Stones have come in the last 20 years, this trip to the dismal East London land of container ships and dockyards exactly two decades ago is as good as any.

Not that many of us will remember it. Just 124 people were in the ground - half of them from Wealdstone - to see the Stones slip to an unexpected defeat.

In those days we were groundsharing at Edgware's White Lion ground and some money had actually been spent on re-laying the pitch that summer. I seem to remember the cost was shared between the Stones and the Wares, and we certainly got value by staging an astonishing 19 pre season friendlies (nearly all of them at the WLG) between July 6 and August 17! And we only lost one of them, away at Hendon.

Our manager Gordon Bartlett was a great believer in preparation and we went into the season with a very decent squad ... and leading up to this Tilbury game we had six wins, one draw and a defeat from the first eight games. The pitch was helping our brand of slick, precise football.

What made this trip to face the Dockers even slightly memorable was the farce of a referee!

We may complain these days about National League officials but at least they have the eyes of the country trained on them - back in the Ryman Div One North at the turn of the century refs could make terrible decisions with impunity. And they did!

The rutted home pitch was making things difficult and despite have 80% of possession, Stones only called on home keeper Bell to make one save.

A number of shots from Mickey Swaysland, Marvin Morgan, Dave Ryan, Charlie Mapes et al flew just wide or just over. Tilbury defended in numbers, creating almost nothing but a lapse in defence saw Tilbury score with their first attack, on 59 minutes.

The ball was played over the Stones defence,

Matt Carvell failed to clear and Okita scored from ten yards. One minute later the strange decisions began!

Another break saw Tilbury press forward. As the ball ran through the box, keeper Andy Carter collected under pressure - the ref waved play on and then as Carter was about to clear the ball, he stopped the game and ran over to a frantically-waving assistant. A brief discussion resulted in a penalty and a booking for the goalie.

Carter saved Jones' shot low down but the whole atmosphere had changed - and in the 80th minute, with Stones mounting pressure to equalise they were hit on the break-away. A ball into our box was cleared but as play moved upfield, yet again the assistant flagged wildly and again the referee stopped the game to 'visit' his assistant. Again a penalty was awarded - and this time defender Robin Tucker was sent off as the assistant had apparently seen a punch thrown. Every player on the pitch was mystified.

This time Jones made no mistake and lowly Tilbury had gained a valuable victory. We returned back West around the M25 totally perplexed!

Wealdstone: Andy Carter, Danny White, Tyrone Hercules (Rob Courtnage 75), Robin Tucker, Matt Carvell, Billy Amarteifio, Charlie Mapes (Jermaine Beckford 63), Jason Shaw, Mick Swaysland, Marvin Morgan, Dave Ryan (Danny Tilbury 75). Subs not used: David Godfrey, James Fisher

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Stones bounced back from the Tilbury Trauma with successive four-goal home wins over Oxford City, Hertford and Great Waking, and we were in the top three over Christmas. The Ryman Prem was beckoning! But despite signing Richard Jolly from Hayes in February 2003 the season turned soon after we had beaten Tilbury 4-2 in the return game at the WLG. One win in 16 games saw the side plummet down to table to eventually finish 9th in the 24-team table. However, The following season saw Stones promoted via the play-offs and that wonderful night at Dulwich!

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*All above subject to current COVID restrictions.

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	FC HALIFAX TOWN Saturday, 20th August Vanarama National League	Toby Jackson (Lapels)	
	YEOVIL TOWN Monday, 29th August Vanarama National League	Duncan & Sandra Towell In memory of Arthur Rogers	Sardi's Law Firm
	WOKING Sunday, 4th September Vanarama National League	Mike & Val Weston	
	TORQUAY UNITED Saturday, 17th September Vanarama National League	Stuart Kane	
	SOUTHEND UNITED Saturday, 24th September Vanarama National League	In Memory of Kat Kelly	
	BOREHAM WOOD Saturday, 8th October Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
	NOTTS COUNTY Tuesday, 25th October Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here



 CHESTERFIELD Tuesday, 8th November 2022 Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
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 MAIDENHEAD UNITED Monday, 26th December Vanarama National League	In Memory of Roy Couch	Mike Pullin & Graham Clark
 EASTLEIGH Saturday, 7th January Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
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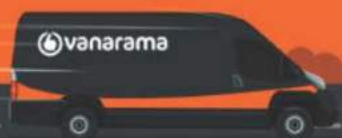
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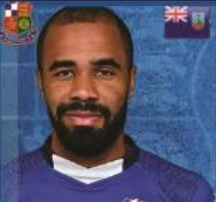
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CS = Coaching Staff
GK = Goalkeeper
CB = Centre Back
RB = Right Back
LB = Left Back
DM = Defensive Midfield
RM = Right Midfield
LW = Left Winger
RW = Right Winger
CF = Centre Forward



Sam HOWES

13 10.11.97 | 1.90m GK

TONY & PETER DREW



Elijah HEARN

15 18.9.98 | 1.84m RB

MIKE & VAL WESTON



Dom HUTCHINSON

17 17.11.01 | LW

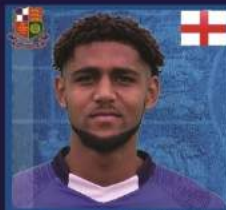
LEW SHEPPARD



Malachi NAPA

19 26.5.99 | 1.65m AM

GARY SMITH



Mason BARRETT

24.9.99 | 1.9m CB

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Sam HABERGHAM

28 29.2.92 | 1.83m LB

BARRY & NAOMI
BENVENISTE



Tecane SHROWDER

29 29.2.92 | 1.83m CM

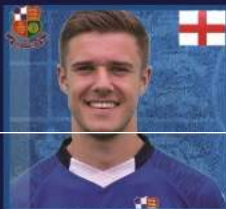
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Eric NEGRARU

29 GK

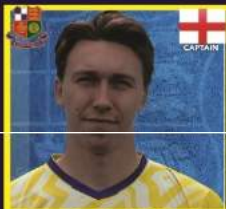
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Matt YOUNG

14 6.2.03 | 1.71m CM

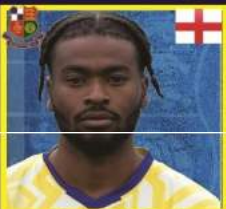
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Jack COOK

2 16.9.99 | 1.85m CB

SUDHIR, AKHIL, NIKHIL,
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RAY CORNER



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JIM KANE



Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH

23 17.12.99 | 1.83m LB

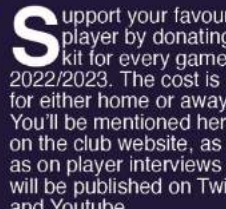
SARAH GOWDY



Dom HUTCHINSON

17 17.11.01 | LW

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National League

Tuesday
25th October
7:45pm



Chesterfield

National League

Tuesday
8th November
7:45pm

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VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE PREMIER TABLE @20/9/22

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

Stones on the road



Aldershot Town

National League

Saturday
1st October
3:00pm

TheShots.co.uk
@OfficialShots



Solihull Moors

National League

Tuesday
4th October
7:45pm

solihullmoorsfc.co.uk
@SolihullMoors



Dorking Wanderers

National League

Saturday
22nd October
3:00pm

DorkingWanderers.com
@DorkingWDRS



Wealdstone FC's first team travel is sponsored by Osmo, specialists in the supply of wood finishes

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



Official Sponsors of
Wealdstone FC

gpflewis^{plc}

Maintaining Excellence

GPF Lewis is an award winning national contractor providing
Construction, Maintenance & Facilities management services.

gpflewis.co.uk



HOW THEY LINE-UP TODAY

WEALDSTONE

Royal Blue/White/White



SOUTHEND UNITED

Yellow/Yellow/Yellow



- G Dante-Astor BAPTISTE 1**
- Jack COOK 2**
- Lewis KINSELLA 3**
- Ashley CHARLES 4**
- Ayodeji ELEREWE 5**
- Mason BARRETT 6**
- Tarryn ALLARAKHIA 7**
- Nathan FERGUSON 8**
- Olufela OLOMOLA 9**
- Stephan Rhys BROWNE 10**
- David SESAY 11**
- G Sam HOWES 13**
- Elijah HEARN 15**
- Dominic HUTCHINSON 17**
- Alex DYER 18**
- Malachi NAPA 19**
- Jordy MONGOY 21**
- Max KRETZSCHMAR 22**
- Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23**
- Sam HABERGHAM 28**
- Tecane SHROWDER 29**
- G Eric NEGRARU 31**

- 1 Steve ARNOLD G**
- 2 Gus SCOTT-MORRIS**
- 3 Nathan RALPH**
- 4 Louis LOMAS**
- 5 Shaun HOBSON**
- 6 Ollie KENSDALE**
- 7 Jack BRIDGE**
- 8 Noor HUSIN**
- 9 Rhys MURPHY**
- 10 Dan MOONEY**
- 11 Callum POWELL**
- 12 Tom CLIFFORD**
- 14 Jack WOOD**
- 15 Marcus DACKERS**
- 16 Harry TAYLOR**
- 17 Cavaghn MILEY**
- 18 Wesley FONGUCK**
- 19 Chris WREH**
- 20 Aaron COSGRAVE**
- 21 Jon BENTON**
- 22 Kacper TOPATA**
- 23 Harry CARDWELL**
- 24 Jason DEMETRIOU**
- 25 Louie ARROWSMITH**
- 26 Tommy DAVIS**
- 27 Jaden CROWHURST**
- 28 Oli COKER**
- 29 Luke REEVE**
- 30 Collin ANDENG-NDI G**
- 39 Jake HYDE**

REFEREE Scott Tallis **ASSISTANTS**
 Jacob Lehane and Harley Mckittrick
FOURTH OFFICIAL Shaun Farrer
OBSERVER Graham Horwood

RESULT: WEALDSTONE **SOUTHEND UNITED**

MATCH SPONSOR Rolfe-East
MATCHBALL DONOR In memory of Kat Kelly

Main club sponsor: **gp flewis** ^{plc}

