

# HOW THEY LINE-UP TODAY

WEALDSTONE ALL-STARS  WATFORD ALL-STARS

Royal Blue/White  Yellow & Black

<b>G</b> Alfie Bonfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Hammond	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alan Massey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Josh Urquhart	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joerome Okimo	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jake Sheppard	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scott McGubbin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glenn Wilson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Danny Green	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connor Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lee Chappell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sam Corcoran	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matt Lench	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elliott Godfrey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ricky Wellard	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kurtney Brooks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jonny Wright	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wright Wright	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eliot Benyon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Fitchett	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peter Dean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scott McGleish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greg Ngoyi	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stevie Price	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

**REFEREE** Steve Rea **ASSISTANTS** To be announced

## NEXT AT THE VALE

**Tuesday August 10 (Friendly)** Wealdstone v

Watford Under-23s, kick-off 7.45pm

**Saturday August 14 (Friendly)** Wealdstone v

Hungerford Town, kick-off 3pm

**Saturday August 21 (Vanarama National League)**

Wealdstone v Woking, kick-off 3pm

**Monday August 30 (Vanarama National League)**

Wealdstone v Southend United, kick-off 3pm

**Tickets** wealdstone-fc.com

Main club sponsor:

**gpflewis** 



# WALES, WALES No.1!

## Jonathan North testimonial



**PENALTY KING** Northy is chaired from the Vale pitch at the end of the FA Cup eclipse of Bognor in 2015, when he saved TWO penalties to ensure a 2-1 win

**PICTURE:**  
ALAN  
PALMER



**INSIDE  
NORTHY  
IN 2010  
THE BIG  
INTERVIEW**

# WEALDSTONE ALL-STARS v WATFORD ALL-STARS

**SUNDAY AUGUST 8 2021, 3PM PROGRAMME £2**

BY JONATHAN NORTH

# Unforgettable memories of ten special years: I truly wish it had been even longer



Well, a testimonial. Who'd have thought it? What a way to make a man feel old!

I'm trying to imagine what 19-year-old me would have written if he were told then that he was going to spend the very best part of ten years as a Wealdstone player. One thing I do know is they'd be very different to what I'm going to write now...!

When I first turned up at the Vale for pre-season training in the summer of 2010, I wasn't entirely sure what I was letting myself in for. Released by Watford, the plan was very much to get straight back into professional football as soon as possible. That summer I'd spent some time on trial at a few clubs, but nothing had quite worked out. Bizarrely, nobody seemed to want to take a punt on a keeper who barely reached 6ft when stood on tiptoes with studs on!

Anyway, a quick call from Gordon Bartlett (the then manager) and I was on my way to Wealdstone to "keep myself ticking over until something else came up." Turns out I'm still waiting...!

Oddly I still remember my first training session well. Far from Watford's pristine pitches of London Colney, we trained on the somewhat less pristine pitches outside the ground at the Vale. GB was obviously GB while it was my first meeting with the likes of Micky, Gilly, LFM and Jason; all people who would be a massive part of the journey over

the years to come. It would also be by my first encounter with a certain Lee Chappell... eyes well and truly opened!

I'll also never forget my first league game, away at Hastings United. I'd only joined a few weeks before and was feeling pretty cocksure of myself. A decent couple of friendlies, long hair in an Alice band, gold Nike vapours and the arrogance of youth. We swiftly went on to lose 2-0 in front of what I'd soon learn was a typically vociferous away following and it was anything but the walk in the park I thought it'd be. I sat next to Brooksy on the journey home and all he could say to me was "Bruvvvvvvv."

Anyone who knows Brooksy will be able to well imagine his face as he said that... and also know that that was pretty much the extent of his vocabulary.

Away from the game though, the coach journey home is also stand out moment for me. Forget the protein shakes and pasta I'd been used to, this time it was a stop off at the nearest shop for recovery-aiding alcoholic beverages and whatever else the whip around could afford. I could get used to this, I thought, as the professional dream already began to fade.

But this is very much indicative of my early days at the club. Initially signing with a short-term view and desperate to progress; Wealdstone swiftly offered me a different perspective on football and probably one I hadn't realised I'd needed. I was lucky that that changing room when I joined was one of the best I've been in with some real football people and real Wealdstone people. Chapps, Massey, Chrissy O'Leary, Wes, Cronin, Brooksy to name a few. Football was more enjoyable than ever, training was more enjoyable than ever, journeys home from games was more enjoyable than ever. It's fair to say the Wealdstone bug had begun to hatch.

But when I look back, the special memories are really alongside the people who were on the journey with me. I've been so lucky



The glorious Trophy win at Cambridge United!

## Northy's finest hour



It's Bognor at home, 0-0, in the FA Cup 4th qualifying round, November 2015, and Stones concede a penalty. But Northy guesses right (left) and saves Jason Prior's spot kick. Boggy fans are open mouthed!



An hour later, Stones are 1-0 up (Hudson-Odoi) but we concede another penalty. Northy tries to break Prior's concentration...



...and is booked to the amusement of Northy and the delight of the Boggy fans as they await the equaliser...



...but it works as Wales' No.1 plunges to his left again to deny the prolific No.9. Tom Hamblin later heads a second goal and Stones are through to the First Round!

## STONE 2021-22

to play with some brilliant players and some brilliant people. Mates, not just team-mates. Mad how a journey home from Truro at 3am on a wet Tuesday night when you have to be up for work three hours later can be something you look forward to!

For me, that's what today's all about. Seeing some old faces, bringing people together, sharing stories and remembering the good times. There are too many to list but truly some of my best memories have been associated with this club. On the pitch, but also off it. In changing rooms, coaches, clubhouses across the country, Christmas parties (Amsterdam... but that's one for a few beers), Magaluf (but that's one for a few more beers) and countless more.

It's fair to say I joined Wealdstone a little lost and unsure of my next steps. During my time here, countless life milestones took place in my life away from the club, both good and bad. But Wealdstone was always a constant (as was Fingers wearing three quarter length trousers/shorts). There are too many people to thank. There are too many people to mention. There are too many people who made my time so special.

But if you're reading this, then from the bottom of my heart; thank you.

So, to go back to my question at the start. 19-year-old me probably would have said something along the lines of "Ten years?! What the hell went wrong!?"

Thirty-year-old me, however: "Ten years?! I wish it could have been longer!"

I'm truly honoured to be given a testimonial. It might sound like a throwaway comment, but I can assure you it's not. The club is only going in one direction and I'm so pleased to have been able to play a small part in that journey. Let's enjoy today and I look forward to saying hello and seeing you at the bar later.

For the lads I've played with, they'll know how rare this is.... but the first round's on me! UTS!

**Northy**

Northy first arrives at The Vale... summer of 2010

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

INTRODUCING OUR SUMMER CAPTURES...

# THE NEW BOYS

## JONATHAN NORTH



**Date of Birth:** 18/02/1991  
**Place of Birth:** Walthamstow  
**Where you now live** (just the area): Essex  
**Position:** Goalkeeper  
**Ever played outfield?** Yeah, as a youngster I played central midfield but was judged not good enough so stuck in goal!  
**When did you start to play just as a goalkeeper?:** From about the age of 10  
**Marital Status:** Single  
**Former Clubs, including loan spells:** Watford, Oxford United (loan)  
**How did you come to join Wealdstone ?** I was looking around for clubs when I got a phone call from Alec Chamberlain telling me to give Gordon a ring and it went from there  
**What do you see as your major attributes as a keeper?** erm my reflexes and shot stopping probab ly  
**What are your ultimate ambitions in the game?** To play at the highest level I can  
**How does the club compare to others you've played for?** I've been very impressed as its a great set up with good people so in many ways its very similar  
**What was your most memorable game last season?** Probably the final reserve game of last season at Watford when we beat Northampton to win the league  
**Most memorable so far this season?** Tooting and Mitcham at home as it was a great response and result coming from the week before

### THE LAST..

**Goal scored ?** Ha erm never scored in a game but a constant goal scorer in training  
**Car you bought?** A renault Clio  
**Film you saw?** Toy Story 3  
**Book you read?** The girl with the dragon tattoo  
**Trophy won?** A league title for my sunday

Jonathan North has been pretty overworked this season.. and this game at Margate was no exception

league team when i was about 10!  
**Time you were sent off?** Never even been booked  
**Time you paid to watch a game?** Leyton Orient v Charlton a couple of weeks ago.. supporting my local team!  
**Time you had a takeaway?** Probably after last weeks game  
**Holiday you had, and where?** To Newquay during the summer break for a bit of surfing

### IN YOUR OPINION..

**Who's the best player in top flight football in your position?** I'd have to say its between Joe Hart and Pepe Reina. Both very very decent  
**Do you watch much televised football?** I'll watch the big games but not as much as i used to i have to admit  
**Are you a Play Station or (X box ) fanatic?** Neither.... Its the Wii all the way for me!

**What's the best holiday you ever had?** Er, Sharm el sheikh in Egypt was ledge so I'll say that  
**What's the best playing surface you've ever played on?** We played at St Marys, Southampton, a couple of years back and that was pretty perfect  
**Who are the jokers in the Stones changing room?** There's a few to be fair! Chris O'Leary's always got a bit

### TIME ADDED ON...

**Best player you've ever played with?** I've played with Aaron Ramsey a couple of times for Wales and he was always in a different class  
**Best save you've ever made?** (with description) Ha, erm a tough one. probably when i was on loan at Oxford last season I was getting some stick from the opposition fans all game and then made a ledge double save to in the final minute to win us the game - so was pretty happy with that one!  
**Biggest influence on your career?** Richard Lee when he was at Watford he helped me loads because we both apparently had the same problem.. not blessed with massive height!  
**Best stadium you've ever played in (including Grosvenor Vale)?** Stamford Bridge probably just steals in front of the Vale there  
**Worst moment in football ?** Being released



last season  
**Best moment in football?** Playing for Wales v England in the victory shield a couple of years back  
**Loudest manager you've ever played for?** Sean Dyche at Watford.... would give you a head ache!  
**Who's your travelling partner?** Louis Lavers will usually keep me company on the coach  
**Which three words describe you?** Friendly and easy-going  
**Which newspapers do you read?** I cant say im a massive newspaper reader to be honest  
**Which radio stations do you listen to?** Radio 1  
**What's on your i-pod at the moment?** All sorts! Swedish house mafa right down to The Saturdays  
**How does non-League football vary from any experience of the pro game?** Not training every day is the biggest difference.. but the desire to win games and achieve things is exactly the same  
**Do you have any relatives who have played the game?** No  
**Which five people would you LEAST like to invite round for dinner? AND FINALLY..**  
**Who's your best mate in football?** Probably ex-Wealdstone loanee Billy Gibson

This is a bit mean... You did know you've invited Kurtney to play today?!

NEXT ISSUE: STEP FORWARD DEAN SMITH

BY SEAN CRONIN

# Brilliant memories of playing and partying alongside Northy, and proving myself the No.1 keeper

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Vale. After enduring the last 18 months of lockdowns and with football behind closed doors I'm sure you're all looking forward to getting back and watching some live football, even if today is played at a near walking pace by slightly overweight, greying, middle aged blokes.

At the time of writing this I'm unable to attend. Which I'm gutted about, because It's sure to be a great occasion on and off the pitch and a chance to catch up with old teammates and share memories and a few pints.

Northy has been a fantastic servant to Wealdstone Football Club, I'm sure he had countless offers to leave over the years but he remained loyal throughout his time at Wealdstone. It's a shame his time at the club ended the way it did - but nevertheless, today is a fitting tribute to an absolute Wealdstone legend, and the second-best Welshman to have donned the gloves for the Stones!

It's just as well that Northy was offered his testimonial outside of ski season as we all know he was fond of spending many a Saturday during the season on the slopes... Not only is he a half decent GK and semi-pro skier he's also an absolute bandit on the golf course! Wes and Petty will vouch for that!

We all know what a fantastic keeper Northy is, and at times he pulled off saves that were borderline world class, the one at Bromley that Alan Palmer posts on social media about 5 times a day for instance.

But just imagine how good he could have been if he wasn't 4ft 8"! Nevertheless I owe countless amounts of clean sheet bonuses to Northy so thanks mate.

I also think it only fitting that Northy be allowed to change in the referee's room today for old times sake. Many a team night out would end up with the boys back at the Vale and sleeping in the referee's room! One such night on the walk back from the tube to the ground the boys each had to "borrow" an item from someone's garden! Can't remember who but someone ended up with a for sale sign! So if you live between the ground and the station and you've had items go missing from your garden over the years then please see Northy for their whereabouts after the game. Ohhh and we won't mention what Chris Moore did on the halfway line after a night out :)

Talking of nights out, there was the end of season tour to Magaluf after winning the league! Now the saying is 'what goes on tour stays on tour' but there's a few photos knocking about of Northy's 'over exuberant' celebrations after Arsenal scored in the FA Cup final... I'm sure if you ask him nicely he won't mind sharing them with you.....

My memories of playing with Northy mainly consist of us struggling to get out of our half because he couldn't reach the half way line with his goal kicks!! you'd think with a metal rod in his leg he'd be able boom the ball!

Then there's the infamous day at Brackley. I think Northy had a migraine or was he skiing again? I can't quite remember. But the phone call came in to Gordon about Northy's unavailability but no dramas as we had a pukka reserve keeper (don't recall his name) on the coach. Halfway to Brackley this reserve keeper questioned whether it was an FA Trophy game because, if it was, then he'd played in the previous round for another



*Is it right that this is Northy's testimonial programme, but it's full of Sir Cronin proving that HE is Wales' best gloveman? Above, Sean takes the skintight jersey at Canvey after JN's minor injury and (right) the fans mob the players (and stand-in keeper Sean) after the famous Trophy win at Brackley*

club! I remember stopping at the services and Gordon calling myself, Deano and I think it was Massey over saying one of us would have to go in goal. The rest as they say is history and the day Northy was bumped down to Wales #2 GK. Although, I was disappointed not to keep my place in goal the following game after my clean sheet!

**Then there was that ill fated night at Canvey, where Northy broke his leg.**

As soon as it happened I recall Massey getting to him first and Northy in the agony he was in grabbing a hold of the first thing he

could, unfortunately for Alan that happened to be his nuts!! It's just as well the ambulance took an age to turn up that night as it give me just about enough time to fit into Northy's skin-tight medium boy's GK jersey! (see photo above)

Northy was a fantastic goal keeper for the Stones but I'm sure all the boys would agree, more importantly he was a fantastic teammate and is a top bloke!

Enjoy your day Northy and apologies for not being able to make it, I look forward to catching up with you for a beer down in God's Country. **Sean**



Come on Northy! You gotta hold the easy ones...

Another routine save by our keeper in the 1-1 at Bromley

Pic: Alan Palmer