

HOW THEY LINE-UP TODAY



WEALDSTONE

Royal Blue/White/White



GATESHEAD

white & black

- G Dante-Astor BAPTISTE 1**
- Jack COOK 2**
- Lewis KINSELLA 3**
- Ashley CHARLES 4**
- Miguel FRECKLETON 5**
- Mason BARRETT 6**
- Tarryn ALLARAKHIA 7**
- Nathan FERGUSON 8**
- Olufela OLOMOLA 9**
- Corie ANDREWS 10**
- David SESAY 11**
- Giovanni McGREGOR 12**
- G Sam HOWES 13**
- Micah OBIERO 14**
- Elijah HEARN 15**
- Kai WILSON-BRAITHEWAITE 16**
- Dominic HUTCHINSON 17**
- Alex DYER 18**
- Malachi NAPA 19**
- Simeon AKINOLA 20**
- Brooklyn ILUNGA 21**
- Max KRETZSCHMAR 22**
- Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23**
- Charlie BARKER 24**
- Sam HABERGHAM 28**
- Tecane SHROWDER 29**
- G Eric NEGRARU 30**

- 1 Dan LANGLEY**
- 2 Robbie TINKLER**
- 3 Ethan PYE**
- 4 Dan JARVIS**
- 5 Kenton RICHARDSON**
- 6 Louis STOREY**
- 7 Tom ALLEN**
- 8 Owen BAILEY**
- 9 Paul BLACKETT**
- 10 Grey OLLEY**
- 11 Adam CAMPBELL**
- 12 Dan WARD**
- 14 Eliot FORBES**
- 15 Aaron MARTIN**
- 17 Conor PANI**
- 18 Ryan WOMBWELL**
- 19 Will HARRIS**
- 22 Eddie THOMAS**
- 23 Lewis LEECH**
- 24 Mike WILLIAMSON**
- 25 Kyle ERRINGTON**
- 27 Lewis KNIGHT**
- 31 James MONTGOMERY**
- 32 Carl MAGNAY**

RESULT: WEALDSTONE **GATESHEAD**

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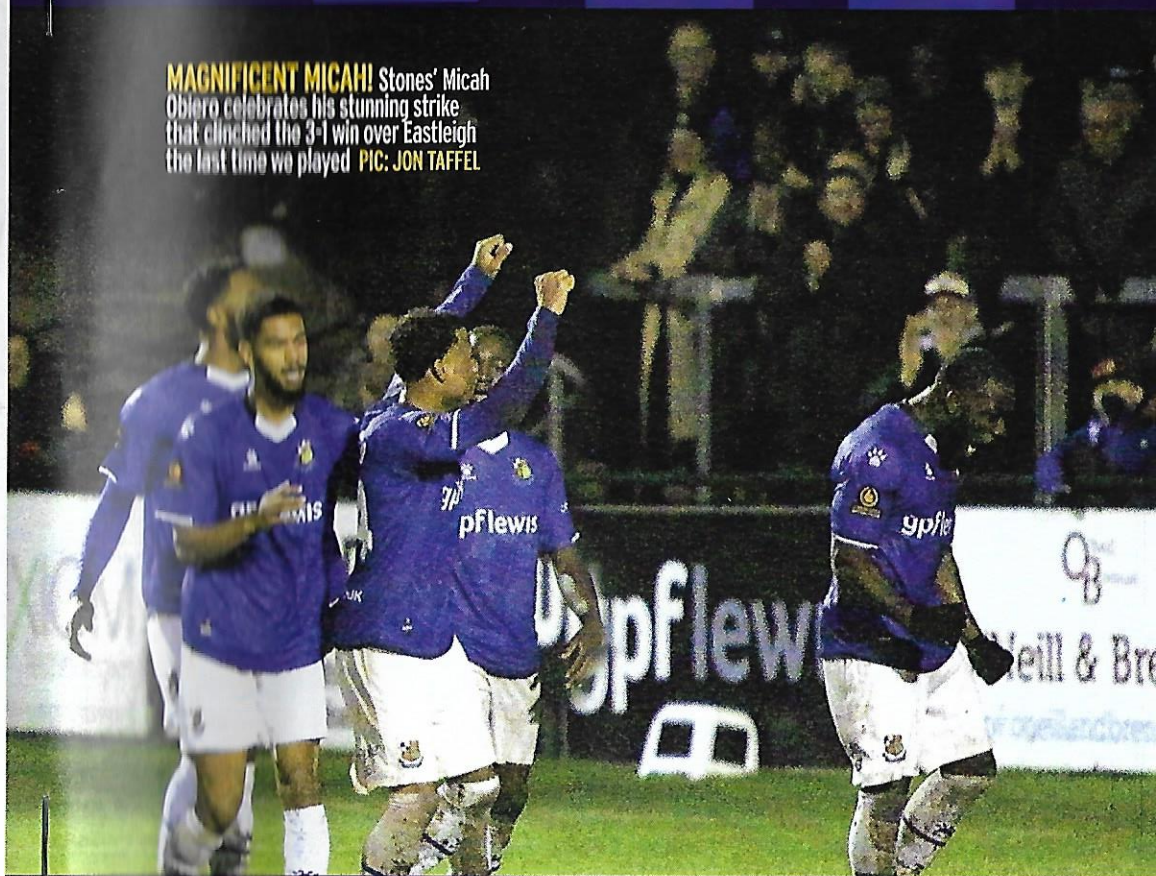
SEASON 2022-23

PROGRAMME £3



WEALDSTONE FC

MAGNIFICENT MICAH! Stones' Micah Obiero celebrates his stunning strike that clinched the 3-1 win over Eastleigh the last time we played. **PIC: JON TAFFEL**



V GATESHEAD

SATURDAY JANUARY 28, 2023, KO 3PM



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Written in Stone

Good evening and a warm (hopefully) Wealdstone welcome to Gateshead and their players and supporters.

This recent icy spell has been very frustrating for the club although at least the club hasn't travelled to suffer a last-minute postponement... the game at Halifax was called off at 7 on the Friday evening but even if the team weren't there, the fans were! At least 25 hardy Stones souls had pre-booked a weekend away, or at least a non-refundable day trip so they carried on regardless... and what a great couple of days it was, drinking in the culture and history of that charming town. Now we've just got to go and do it all again on February 28!

The recent chesterfield and Oldham home games were also postponed of course, and the rearranged dates can be found on the centre pages of this programme. Unfortunately we have got a couple of 'double bookings' when we are playing a National League match on the same evening as a Middlesex Charity and Middlesex Cup fixture... so step forward the academy lads! The Northwood and Brentford B games will be the ones affected - and Beckham Junior (Brooklyn) is expected to feature for the Bees that evening. Could prompt a decent crowd even

though that's the night the 1st XI are playing at Halifax.

Gateshead had a tough start to the season despite playing some enterprising football - typified by our game at the International Stadium at the end of August when it's fair to say the Heed bossed proceedings only for Rhys Browne to win the points with his terrific solo goal.

Since then they've climbed the table and are currently five games unbeaten with their last defeat at Notts County in mid-December... they've drawn at Barnet and York in the league, won the return with York and then knocked Gloucester and Oldham out of the trophy.

Today is a clash of two in-form sides as it's been just one defeat in nine National League games for the Stones, with the Barnet setback and the surprise Trophy exit at Chelmsford city the only low points.

After today we face Dagenham at home and then the long-anticipated trip Wrexham in a fortnight... so get your name down for the supporters coach today!

These are exciting times to be a Stones fan so get behind the lads again this afternoon as we seek to register our first national league 'double' of the season.

Tim

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Personal message from Rob Millington of Beaumont Properties

I am so proud to sponsor today's match, for two reasons. Firstly, I was invited to watch Wealdstone for the first time only three seasons ago. I was immediately struck by the high level of enthusiasm and commitment displayed by everyone I met within the club - it was infectious! Secondly, my uncle was an avid Gateshead supporter and when my parents visited the area he would take me to see the "Tynesiders". I still remember boarding a bus to watch them play Wrexham just after Christmas 1957, when Gateshead were still in the Football League. Those experiences sowed the seed for my love of live football, which has never left me.

Rob

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WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2022/2023

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MAJOR HONOURS SINCE 1950

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2013 / 2014 Isthmian League Premier Division
2019 / 2020 National League South

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1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

LEAGUE CUPS

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MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

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

NON TITLE-WINNING PROMOTIONS

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

**The legal name of Wealdstone
Football Club is Wealdstone
Football Club (2000) Ltd
(Registered Number 03953962).
Shares in excess of 10% are
held by Peter Marsden Property
Finance Ltd & Wealdstone FC
Supporters Club**

GROUND REGULATIONS

People are only allowed entry to The Vale on match days subject to the following rules and regulations:

- 1) The club reserves the right to eject from the ground any person who is considered to have committed any of the following acts:
 - Entering the ground through any means other than through the turnstiles or entrances
 - Entering the field of play before, during or after a game without prior authorisation
 - Being drunk, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs • Using violence of any nature
 - Carrying items which may be considered a danger to others, including cans, bottles, or glasses containing alcoholic beverages
 - Throwing any article onto the field of play • Climbing floodlight pylons, fences, stands or any structure or building
 - Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others • Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulla stand
- 2) No spectator ball games.
- 3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.
- 4) Vehicles parked on the Grosvenor Vale site are at the owners' risk.
- 5) Wealdstone Football Club supports the FA's campaign on pyrotechnics (e.g. flares and smoke bombs). Any misuse of such items in and around the Ground will result in those responsible being asked to leave the ground and, in line with football authority guidance, may result in a report to the Police, potential prosecution and a ban from the Club of up to three years.
- 6) No Smoking or Vaping inside the ground.

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From the

Boardroom



Chairman's Update

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to the players, staff and supporters of Gateshead for their first visit to Grosvenor Vale for this crucial National League encounter.

I hope you all had a fantastic festive period and the season now just over the halfway mark an exciting run in is guaranteed with Wealdstone sitting on the fringes of the play-off places.

On the pitch I am delighted with the standard of football we have achieved at times. After a fantastic start to the season results stalled as injuries and suspensions hit the squad. However, with the quality in this squad I knew a turning point wasn't far away, and the midweek journey to Altrincham in early November proved to be that point.

There is a real feel-good factor around the Vale, attendances are up around 20% compared with the previous fixtures last season and it was fantastic to break the attendance record when Wrexham visited in November. All fans should have the 25th March in the diary as we host Barnet, with no Premier and Championship football that weekend it has been designated "National Non League day" and we expect to get over 3000 in the ground and set a new record.

I was delighted to present Jack Cook with the National League player of the month award for November on Boxing day. This is a huge personal achievement for our captain, who combines retaining us with his full-time job. Congratulations Jack.

A fully fit squad and a reduced fixture list in December gave us the opportunity to loan out Napa and Sesay, three key members of the playing squad who were in need of pitch time. December also saw the departure of Jordy Mongoy to South Shields after a successful loan spell up the North East. Although we were keen to keep Jordy, ultimately, he had been unable to establish himself in the starting eleven and the overall offer to the club, was too good to turn down. We wish him the best in the next chapter of his football career. The discussions with our landlords on the lease continue and we hope to make a formal

announcement shortly. Grosvenor Vale is now very much the home of Wealdstone FC and we feel as a board that our long term future is here. The catchment area is huge and yet we remain relatively unknown to many football fans in this part of West London. This is something that local MP and former PM Boris Johnson recognises, and we were delighted that having listened to our arguments he agreed to step in and support us in our discussions with our landlord. Whilst we were aware that the involvement of Boris could be divisive to supporters, we felt that we had to do everything we could to secure the long-term future of the club and the support of our local MP in discussions with a landlord who has multiple investments across the constituency could only be helpful. So many things we want to do as a club remain on hold until the long-term certainty on our home is resolved.

We are now starting to see real benefits from the investment in our academy system. We have two sites now in operation at Harefield Academy and Brunel University with over 70 boys under the watchful eye of Cameron Mawer our head of academy. It's been great to see the boys from the academy start to break into the 1st team playing squad and we have aggressive plans to grow the academy from this really strong foundation.

As a club we fully support the motivation behind the streaming of National League games, all clubs should benefit from the greater awareness of football at our level, especially abroad, and giving fans unable to travel midweek to games the opportunity to still watch their team should be viewed as a positive. Implementation costs have also been kept to a minimum as the National League solution leans on the existing technology clubs use to satisfy the BT contract. We would encourage fans who can't make games be it home or away to make use of the streaming service and as long as you register as a Wealdstone fan the club will receive the majority of the streaming fee you pay.

The Vale Social Club remains an incredibly important source of income for the club with every £ spent in the club going directly into Wealdstone FC. A lot of time and effort has gone into improving the quality of beer on sale and prices remain competitive against local alternatives so make it a part of your match day experience. It was great to see the club so busy for the World cup and a special thanks to the supporter's club who ran barbeques in sub-zero temperatures to keep customers fed during the England games. Our ultimate ambition is that the Vale becomes the best sports bar in West London and a real destination for football fans from all over the area. Indeed, it is the intention to show eligible Wealdstone away games in the Vale for supporters unable to make the trip to support the team with first up being our visit to Yeovil on Tuesday 24th Jan.

For a ground that is now 75 years old the stadium continues to creek and throw up its challenges on an almost daily basis. During an horrendous December, mainly as a result of the drop in temperatures, we had 18 (eighteen) burst water pipes, flooding in the Captains lounge, Medical room and Managers office, floodlight failures, electrical problems during the Maidenhead game, the pitch water pump failed and needed replacing and as im sure you have noticed we have lost a power unit in the scoreboard. However, im determined we keep improving the facilities and recent enhancements include the completion of the disabled enclosure, the introduction of DDs Diner and significant changes have now been made to the clubs matchday corporate offering. The Gordon Bartlett Suite has been refurbished and is now the permanent home for Directors and Directors guests while the Boardroom

in the Vale Social Club is now for the sole use of opposition directors and our growing number of matchday sponsors.

Our vision is for the forecourt to Grosvenor Vale to become a pedestrianised fan zone with kids free to run around and play without the fear of being run over. As a result, we are implementing much more rigid access controls to the site. Parking is limited to 55 cars all of which are allocated in advance to playing staff, officials and those charged with matchday operations for example doctors, media and club staff and I kindly request that all those that

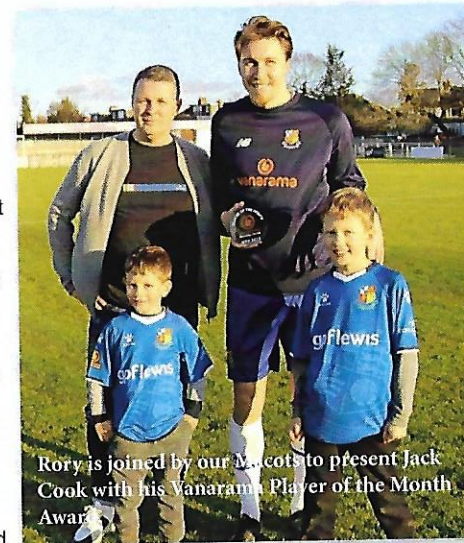
have not been allocated a parking space avoid pulling up to the entrance. The car park will be closed to all traffic 30 minutes before kick-off, so the entire site is pedestrianised when the majority of fans are coming in.

I will finish as I always do by reminding all our fans that what we have here at Wealdstone FC is unique, we are a part time football club playing in a full-time league entirely dependent on volunteers to keep the club going. There are many ways to get involved and support your club whether it's to give two hours of your time before kick-off, join the media team, use the bar before and after games, purchase a programme,

watch the live stream of our away matches in the Vale or attend one of the music events that take place. Without volunteers the club simply could not function so if you are interested in playing a more active role in the club then please reach out to any of the directors or Richard our General Manager.

I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2023.

Rory



Rory is joined by our Mascots to present Jack Cook with his Vanarama Player of the Month Award



Josh Umerah told me to sign for Wealdstone. He knows I'll be much happier here'

Corie Andrews

CORIE Andrews is looking forward to a fresh start with the Stones. Really looking forward to it!

"I didn't have the best time at Torquay" admitted the 25-year-old striker when caught up with him the day after his surprise signing a fortnight ago. "But I had a torn meniscus in my knee and they insisted I played - despite the pain - for six weeks until it was finally diagnosed. In fact the last time I played was in the 1-1 draw at Wealdstone - in the end I could barely walk. After I'd seen the club doctor I had a minor operation to shave off some of the cartilage on the side of my knee.

"I had to be subbed off after an hour of that. But to be honest I watched the attractive football Wealdstone were playing and could visualise myself in that team."

Corie revealed that our former striker Josh Umerah messaged him last week, on the day he signed, to congratulate him - and said he should be signed last summer!

"Josh and I are similar in that he wasn't appreciated at Torquay and turned his career around with a good season at Wealdstone" said Corie. "I was



Starring for the Shots: Corie hit nine goals in his short loan spell at Aldershot. Below: unveiled by Wealdstone

in talks with Stuart (Maynard) in the summer but Torquay looked the better bet. Josh recommended Wealdstone and now I can see why... I had my first training session yesterday with the lads and it was a 'blow'.... really interesting and had me thinking all the time. They pass the ball so well and I felt like my brain needed to adapt!

"But I felt sharp and will be good to go in time for the Gateshead game... I can't wait to get out there and show the fans what I can do".

Do you feel you have something to prove after

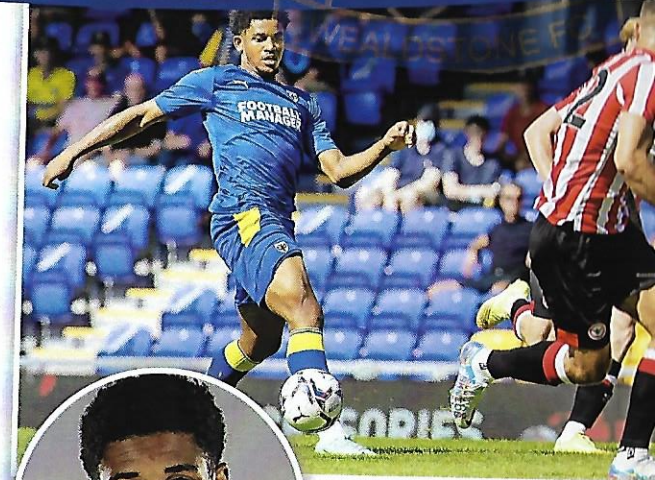
the disappointing time at Torquay? I asked him.

"No, I don't feel I have to prove anything as I know my strengths and what I can do... but I'll have something to prove to Torquay when we face them in the league later this season!"

Corie is well remembered by Stones fans for his two-goal display for Aldershot in the 2-2 draw at the Vale early last season. After starting as a youngster at Crystal Palace - he was with the club for 10 years until the age of 20, and released when his three-year pro deal expired - the disenchanting striker gave up football for a year before restarting with Whyteleafe in the Ryman League.

"I then went to Kingstonian and some of the football we played was similar to Wealdstone" he said. "I scored lots of goals for them and was signed for AFC Wimbledon".

He didn't make an EFL start for the Dons but made people sit up and take notice with nine goals in 20 games on loan at Aldershot. Then it was on to Colchester in League Two on another loan - before Wimbledon sold him on to Torquay last summer.



Above: Corie in action for AFC Wimbledon and (left) in Torquay yellow

bed flat but it was a bit isolating. "We trained every day apart from

Wednesdays and Sundays and it was good to be occupied... Now I'm spending a lot of time at the gym to stay up to speed but it's good to be back in London".

Corie knows a few of the players already - Gio McGregor and Jaydn Mundle-Smith from his time at Palace, and Lewis Kinsella from Aldershot - but was impressed by the standard at his first training session.

"I didn't know Alex Dyer but he's a real leader. Then Jack Cook of course... there are good players all over the pitch".

Corie reckons his major strengths are willingness to play on the shoulders of defenders, looking for the pass in behind, plus an ability to take on players. "I just love shooting! And my speed means I can get away from defenders".

I spotted an online article by 4-4-2 magazine that named Corie as No.19 in a list of the fastest players in world football.

"I was behind Mbappe but I'll take that" he laughed. "Thing is, doesn't matter if you're as fast as Usain Bolt, you've got to have the technique too".



He should have listened to Josh!

"I'm from Brixton in South London, now living in Clapham but I missed my family and my girlfriend... It is so far away! To be fair to Torquay, they put me up in a one-

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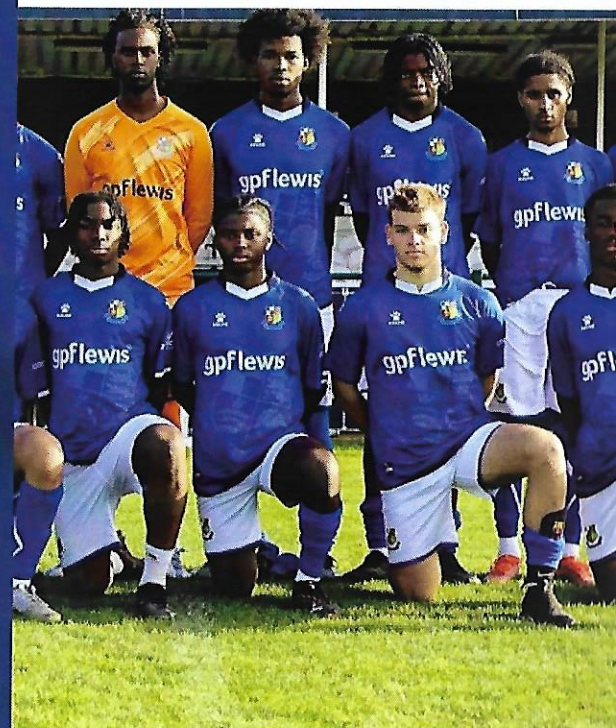
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Interested? The next trial takes place on Tuesday 14th February at 11am at Harefield Academy

THE WEALDSTONE FC ACADEMY

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The academy is now recruiting 16-23 year olds in preparation for the September 2023 intake.

BY MARTIN LACEY



The Elmslie Ender

WEALDSTONE FC
2022-23

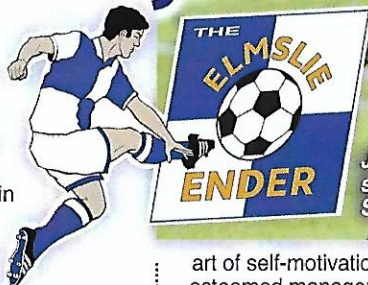
Jermaine Beckford, and the part I almost played in his stellar career 17 years ago

You will be aware - of course you will - that we once had a player called Jermaine Beckford. What you won't be aware of is the major part I didn't play in his transfer.

Jermaine Beckford, I should explain the very young, made his Wealdstone debut in 2002. To be honest, his career was a bit of a slow burner. During his four years in blue and white we were also variously blessed with the talents of Marvin Morgan, the hugely-rated Ben Alexander, and later Richard Jolly, and initially Beckford was behind the first two of those names in the queue for a starting shirt.

His role was generally to come on as sub, run about a bit, get booked and score a goal, which he did, sometimes. For all his obvious skill and athleticism there were lingering doubts about his attitude and commitment, reputedly a slightly ambivalent attitude to training, not to mention the occasion when he turned up for an away match only to realise he was fifty miles away in the wrong town entirely.

Anyway, at the start of the 2005-06 season something clicked. Either Beckford discovered the



Jermaine wallops in a spectacular goal against Slough in 2006

art of self-motivation or, I prefer to think, our esteemed manager Mr. Bartlett took him to one side and said, "Look, you can go far, but it's now or never."

Either way, all of a sudden Beckford was on fire and by the autumn it was obvious the Isthmian League Premier Division couldn't hold him for long, and speculation turned to where he might go and how much for. His predecessor in the shirt, Marvin Morgan, had very disappointingly moved on to Yeading (although that was indeed a step up at the time) and we all really hoped Jermaine would go further and higher.

Now, to take a diversion, for the last twenty years I have worked out regularly at the Sheffield University gym, which of course won't be a surprise to those of you who regularly comment on my youthful countenance and sculpted physique, when you've mislaid your glasses. Back in the era we're talking about, Sheffield Wednesday used to use the same gym for rehab sessions with their injured players, so it



Picture: Adam Williams

wasn't unusual for me to find myself on the next rowing machine to Kevin Pressman or Derek Geary. If I saw a player I recognised I'd always give them a friendly nod, and they would nod back, thinking, "Who the hell's that?!"

I did, however, strike up a bit of a changing room relationship with one of their coaches, who I will choose not to name. Nothing deep, just platitudes and "How did the match go?" But no doubt, at

some point, the fact that I support Wealdstone slipped out.

It occurred to me that Sheffield Wednesday and Jermaine Beckford might not be a bad match, so one day I approached our then chairman, Howard Kraiss, behind the Cemetery End goal at Northwood, and asked if it would be OK to mention his availability, to which Howard gave his blessing. I also asked, "How much do we want for him? £25,000?" To which Howard laughed and said, "Nobody pays £25,000 for an unproven non-league player these days."

So next time I saw the coach I said, "I know where there's a promising young striker who has the potential to make it at Championship level; first offer of £25,000 will get him," (since I thought we ought to go high). And his ears pricked up, and I gave him the name. Job done, I thought. Except next time I saw him he asked, "What was the name of that striker you mentioned?" and then a couple of weeks later, same again. The guy clearly had a memory like a sieve and, I suppose, he might have written the name down but then again, where do you put a pen when you've just come out of the shower in the changing

room?

Eventually, and possibly wholly out of embarrassment, he told me he had passed the name on to Wednesday's London scout though he wasn't sure if he'd actually been to watch him.

A few days later Beckford signed for Leeds for £70,000. To say he was mortified would be an understatement. Inevitably he asked me to keep him posted if I spotted any other talents lurking under the radar in the Isthmian League.

My response to this ought to have been, "You didn't bother so why should I?" But I'm ashamed to say that at some point I may have mentioned that we had another talent straight out of the same mould, but this time we'd be wanting £100,000 at least, a massively talented young player we had high hopes for. I neglected to mention that his star had severely waned by this point, and while he could still demonstrate the odd turn of skill, he did look like he was a bit too fond of the burgers. Needless to say the transfer didn't happen! In fact, after a nine year stop-start career at the Stones Ben Alexander (pictured below) signed for Oxhey Jets for, I imagine, less than £100,000.

Incidentally, Allen Batsford once told me he'd scouted Beckford for Charlton and told them not to bother, so Sheffield Wednesday weren't the only ones who missed out.

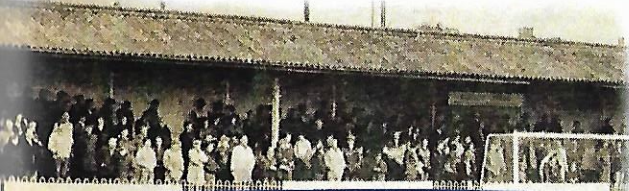


Finally, avid readers of this substitute Elmslie Ender column will recall that in my notes for our home match with Wrexham I mentioned that Ryan Reynolds (and the other one) have spent big on a real live dragon as club mascot. I know a lot of you were excited by this news and were looking forward to seeing the magnificent beast when we visit North Wales next month. Unfortunately the

updates are disappointing: the dragon has still not been delivered.

The vendor says there have been problems with the 'endangered species license'. Ryan and Thingy are seriously less than amused. Political correctness gone mad! You just don't have these problems in Hollywood. No, where they live if you can afford a dragon you can bloody well have a dragon, and no bleeding heart David Attenborough type is going to tell you otherwise.

I'm writing this just after Wrexham were knocked out of the Trophy (we're also not involved, obv's) so we will get to see the dragon after all. Just one more reason to get on the Supporters' coach on Feb 11!

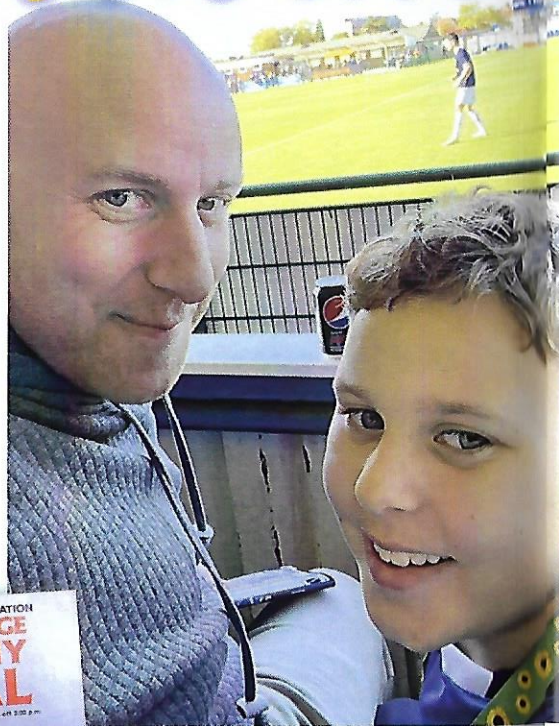


The late lamented Elmslie End at our old Lower Mead ground in Harrow.. hence the eponymous 'Elmslie Ender' magazine which has prompted this article. EE was among the first-ever football magazines in the 1980s, following on from the Stones' 'Long Ball Down The Middle' mag of the 1970s

SUPPORTER PROFILE: MATTHEW SZURGOT

The Fan in the Stand

'A couple of Stones players come into school to work with the Year 3s every Friday and the kids absolutely love it. So exciting!

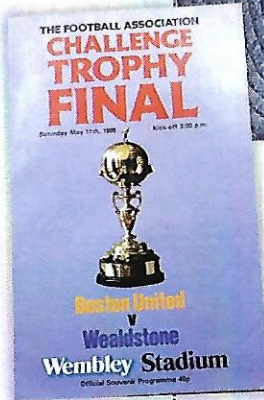


Your name and age? Matt Szurgot, 39 and my son Noah, 9
Whereabouts do you live? Uxbridge

Have you always lived in that area? I grew up just down the road in Yiewsley so I've always lived locally.

Where do you work? Deputy Headteacher at Bishop Winnington Ingram Primary School in Ruislip

Does this give you a connection to the football club? How valuable is this to your students? We have set up a connection this year. I had tried to arrange a visit from the players last year but then COVID hit the team so it had to be cancelled. I then met Nick Symmons after one of the games and together we arranged for a couple of the players to come in every Friday to work with our Year 3 class.



The kids absolutely love the players coming in. We have a lot of children who play for the Wealdstone youth teams so to see the players in school is exciting for them. Both David (Sesay) and Fela (Olufela Olomola) are so great with the kids and they look forward to it each week.

When was your first Stones game?

It was the home game against Barnet last season. My brother-in-law, Steve

Ollie, had moved in just around the corner recent to this - and my uncle was a Stones fan in his youth and was visiting from Devon - so we decided to throw our support behind the team and now we go as much as we can. Noah has just started coming this season and he has loved all the games.

What were your first impressions of the club? It's just a big family. The players stop for a chat after the game, the directors are all approachable and the bar staff pour a great pint!

Who introduced you to the Stones? A very important person! My uncle, John Nicolle, as mentioned earlier is a big Wealdstone fan and used to go and watch them all the time at the original Lower Mead ground in his youth before he moved from Harrow to Sidmouth, Devon. He was at Wembley when The Stones won the FA Trophy in the 1984/85 season when they did the double and was there when they won the Amateur Cup Final in 1966. We decided to take him to the Barnet game last year and as I said we've been to as many games as possible since. John has managed to come up again this season, unfortunately that was for the Notts Co game! I think he would be a good choice for another Fan in the Stand!

What was the first football match you ever saw live? Or on TV? The first game I have memories of on TV was the Italia 90 semi-final and my first football match was Spurs v West Brom but can't remember the year!

Do you follow any other team? Although it may get me some stick we are also Spurs fans which has taught me a lot about coping with disappointment!

What's the most memorable game you've EVER seen? Spurs v Ajax in 2019. Lucas Moura hat-trick. The third goal coming in the 96th minute which sent Spurs into the final on away goals. Obviously the final was another one of those lessons in disappointment I mentioned!

And the best Wealdstone game? Had to be the first game. 1-0 home win against Barnet in a record crowd (before that game against Wrexham



Matt's first game and it's glory for Rhys Browne as he grabs the only goal v Barnet

at the end of 2022).
was a great feeling.

What level of football do you prefer? I prefer community atmosphere at all the lower levels. I feel a part of the club not just a fan of the club. I know people by first name and everyone has to say hello.

How big a part of your life is the game? It's a big part. On home games or a close away game the Saturday is handed over to the football. And when it's a further away game the Saturday is handed over to Soccer Saturday to watch the updates come in!

How do you fit watching football in with your family/working days? Noah has a twin Sister Sophia, and she has dance classes on Saturdays so luckily that gives Noah and I the time to go to the games.

Did the Stones' flying start surprise you this season? Not completely. I think we have been playing some better football this season than last season and just been unlucky on a few occasions when that last pass hasn't been able to open up the defence.

How does the Vale compare to other football grounds you've visited? It's the home of the Stones so it's up there with the best!

What do you think if the bars and catering? And the overall match day experience? The atmosphere is great, nice beers on tap and plenty of screens to catch with other games. I had a burger after the match. The burgers are fantastic. Noah's favourite! They are massive!

And finally.. where do you think the Stones will be in five years?

We are building year on year and look like we can beat last year's National League record of 16th. If we can continue this and get established in the National League, then hopefully we can start knocking on the door of the playoff places.

Above: Matt and his son Noah at the Vale, and the programme for the famous win at Wembley in 1985

Opposition in focus



GATESHEAD FC

HOME GROUND - GATESHEAD INTERNATIONAL STADIUM
CAPACITY - 11,800
MANAGER - MIKE WILLIAMSON
2021/22 - 1ST NATIONAL LEAGUE

THE TYNESIDERS

The original Gateshead AFC was formed in 1930 when neighbours South Shields – members of the Football League's old Third Division North – moved to Gateshead because of financial difficulties.

The newly formed "Tynesiders" almost capitalised immediately on their good fortune when only Lincoln City's superior goal average denied them promotion to the second division in just their second season of League football. However, it was to be the FA Cup that was to provide the club with its finest hour when cup fever gripped the Tyneside town in 1953. After accounting for Liverpool in the Third Round, Gateshead progressed to the quarter-final only for their Wembley aspirations to be denied by a single Nat Lofthouse goal for eventual finalists Bolton Wanderers. A sell-out Redheugh Park crowd of 17,692 had witnessed the spectacle, but within five years the North Easterners were founder members of the newly formed Fourth Division after they missed the cut for the Third Division by just one point.

Despite an average placing of ninth in 21 Third Division North campaigns – interrupted by the Second World War – two years after the introduction of the Fourth Division came Gateshead's shock dismissal from the Football League. The club had applied for re-election only once before in a relatively successful 30-year period, but were unceremoniously cast aside in favour of the more geographically favourable Peterborough United in 1960. Gateshead had finished third-bottom with both Oldham Athletic and Hartlepool United below them, but polled only 18 votes and were unjustly voted out of the League. An unsuccessful bid to join the Scottish Football League was followed by a brief spell in the Northern Counties League and then six years in North Regional League.

In 1968, Gateshead became founder members of the Northern Premier League, but their stay in the new

competition lasted only two years. Their place was, ironically, taken by another demoted Football League outfit, Bradford Park Avenue, and Gateshead were forced to replace their own reserve side in the Wearside League.

Finishing as runners-up, the Tynesiders then had two seasons in the Midland League until – in 1973, seven leagues and 43 years after its inception – Gateshead AFC ceased to exist.

A new club called Gateshead Town played the following season in the local Northern Combination League but, astonishingly, history was soon to repeat itself. South Shields, then members of the Northern Premier League, sold their Simonside headquarters and moved to a new home at Gateshead Stadium.

Renamed Gateshead United, the club soon became a force in the Northern Premier League. However, in 1977 – after only three years of operation – came the shock announcement that United were to disband. It looked like the end of senior football in the town until another phoenix, this time in the form of the current Gateshead FC, rose from the ashes in 1977. Replacing Gateshead United in the Northern Premier League for the 1977-78 season, the new club won the title in 1983 with a record 100 points and 114 goals. After two years in the Conference, the Tynesiders returned to the Northern Premier League and were crowned champions for the second time in 1986. Their second spell in the Conference lasted just one season, though they were quick to bounce back, and reclaimed their place at the top table of non-league football in 1990.

A productive period ended in 1998 when the club was relegated back to the Northern Premier League after eight consecutive seasons of Conference football.

The Heed's very existence was then threatened early in the new millennium when long-time sponsors Cameron Hall Developments pulled out.

Relegation to the Northern Premier League First Division followed but, after one season, Gateshead were back in the top-tier of the NPL following the introduction of a geographically split First Division. The future for a club with a proud, if somewhat chequered, past took a turn for the better when wealthy Gateshead-born businessman, Graham Wood, took over in 2006.

Gateshead finished third in the renamed UniBond Premier Division in 2008 & seeing off Buxton in the play-off final. Back-to-back promotions were achieved when the rejuvenated Tynesiders claimed the runners-up spot in the Conference North and then overcame AFC Telford United in the Conference North play-off final:

Gateshead marked the 50th anniversary of their harsh expulsion from the Football League by again becoming a full-time professional club in 2010.

The 2013 campaign, however, saw chronic pitch problems at the International Stadium, which resulted in half of the club's home games being staged away from Tyneside. The following year, however, Gateshead recorded their highest placing in English football since their Football League days and made it to Wembley for the first time in their history. The Heed finished third. Hopes of reclaiming their League status were quashed, however, as Gary Mills' side were edged out by Cambridge United.

After ending the 2014 season in tenth-place, Mills departed for Conference rivals Wrexham before Wood's total shareholding was acquired by Consett-based business duo Richard and Julie Bennett. Former Sunderland manager Malcolm Crosby was sworn in to replace Mills, but – despite a promising start – the 61-year-old was sacked after less than six months in the role. Crosby's replacement was ex-FC Halifax Town boss Neil Aspin, himself born and bred in the Tyneside town. Under Aspin, the Heed finished ninth in the renamed Vanarama National League, while they also made another appearance in the quarter-finals of the FA Trophy.

An encouraging start to the 2017/18 campaign saw

Aspin's Gateshead keep five clean sheets in their opening seven matches and occupy a play-off place before gradually sliding down the table with just one win in nine. With the Heed sitting in 15th position in the National League, manager Neil Aspin opted to join his former side Port Vale in League Two, bringing assistant manager Lee Nogan along with him. Under 19s head coach Micky Cummins took charge on a caretaker basis before former Newcastle United, Villa and Everton star Steve Watson was named Aspin's successor. The highlight of the 2017/18 season was undoubtedly their remarkable FA Trophy run which saw them see off National League opposition every round en route to the semi-final.

The Tynesiders missed out on a second Wembley trip when they were beaten by Bromley over two legs but still equalled their best ever finish in the competition.

In April 2018, owners Richard and Julie Bennett confirmed their intention to sell the club after three years in charge. They agreed a deal with an overseas consortium the following month but that later collapsed. Gateshead remained up for sale until just over a week before the start of the 2018/19 National League season when Hong Kong based businessman Dr Ranjan Varghese completed his takeover of the club with Michael Williams taking over as operating director. Gateshead were taken over once more in the summer of 2019, this time by a fan-led consortium with Neil Pinkerton and Trevor Clark installed as co-owners. That wouldn't prove enough to save the club's National League status however, with the Heed demoted to the National League North for the first time in 10 years as a result of the prior season's financial situation.

Mike Williamson and Ian Watson returned to the club as player/manager & prior to the COVID-19 pandemic that ground football to a halt, we found ourselves two points outside of the play-offs with games in hand on those above us following an 11 game unbeaten run.

The 2021/22 season proved a historic one for Williamson's men, who defied 20/1 odds to become Vanarama National League North champions and return to the National League three years after the demotion.

Opposition in focus

GATESHEAD FC



MIKE WILLIAMSON



KENTON RICHARDSON

2. ROBBIE TINKLER - DEFENCE

Tinkler re-joined the club for a third time in June 2021 following two spells during the 2017/18 and 2018/19 seasons, making a total of 65 appearances and scoring two goals. The defender spent the 2019/20 season with National League side Aldershot Town, before linking up with former Gateshead manager Steve Watson at York City the following season.

3. ETHAN PYE - DEFENCE

The defender joined on a season-long loan from League Two side Stockport County in July 2022. Pye made three appearances for the 2021/22 National League champions during the first half of the season before joining National League North side Spennymoor Town on loan in January 2022.

4. DAN JARVIS - MIDFIELD

Jarvis joined the club on a one-year deal in July 2022. The 24-year-old began his career in Stoke City's academy system and progressed through to the club's U23 side, before joining Wrexham in January 2020. Jarvis made 53 appearances and scored three goals during his time at the Racecourse Ground, before departing for Tyneside ahead of 2022/23 National League season.

5. KENTON RICHARDSON - DEFENCE

Richardson joined the club following his release from Championship side Sunderland, having spent the majority of the 2021/22 season on loan with Spennymoor Town. He has also made 33 National League appearances with Hartlepool United and Notts County, in addition to playing 11 games in League Two for the former.

6. LOUIS STOREY - DEFENCE

Storey arrived on a one-year deal from Hebburn Town in 2021 and combines playing duties with a coaching role. The defender captained the Hebburn Town squad during a hugely successful season for The Hornets, who lifted the 2019/20 Buildbase FA Vase in May. He spent time with Newcastle United's academy in his youth and made 72 appearances for South Shields prior to joining Hebburn in 2018.

8. OWEN BAILEY - MIDFIELD

Bailey joined the club on a one-year deal following a successful trial period in July 2021. The defender most recently appeared for Newcastle United U23s during the 2020/21 season and captained The Magpies' second-string to the 2019 Premier League 2 Division Two play-off final and Premier

League Cup final. Bailey was a key member of The Heed's midfield during the 2021/22 National League North title-winning season.

9. DANNY ELLIOTT - FORWARD

Elliott joined in December on loan until the end of the season from fellow Vanarama National League side Boreham Wood, whom he joined in the summer. Elliott spent a hugely successful 2021/22 campaign with National League North play-off finalists Boston United, scoring 31 goals in all competitions as well as being named The Pilgrims' Fans' Player and Players' Player of the Season.

10. GREG OLLEY (C) - MIDFIELD

Olley was one of a number of players to re-sign for the ill-fated 2020/21 season, and would sign on for the club once again for the 2021/22 campaign. Olley was named club captain in July 2021 and is the club's longest-serving current player with over a century of appearances in black and white. His first season as captain saw him score eight goals and record 28 assists in all competitions as Gateshead lifted the Vanarama National League North title, and Olley was also named in the division's Team of the Season.

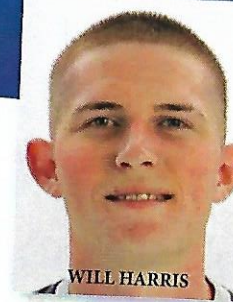
11. ADAM CAMPBELL - FORWARD

Campbell originally joined the club on loan from Newcastle United in January 2015, scoring three goals in eight National League appearances. He has made over 100 appearances in the Football League with Notts County, Morecambe & Carlisle United and spent two seasons at Darlington where he scored 22 goals in 60 appearances.

12. DAN WARD - MIDFIELD

Ward spent the first half of the 2019/20 with local rivals Spennymoor Town after departing Middlesbrough in 2019, making 16 appearances before returning to full-time

THE PLAYERS TO WATCH



WILL HARRIS



JAMES MONTGOMERY

football with Irish Premier Division outfit St. Patrick's Athletic. The midfielder went on to make seven appearances for St Pats before the season was curtailed, and he joined Gateshead ahead of the 2020/21 season, going on to make nine appearances.

14. ELLIOT FORBES - DEFENCE

Academy graduate Forbes signed his first professional contract at the club in the summer of 2018 after impressing for the club's under-19 side and while on loan at Newcastle Benfield. Forbes returned to The Heed ahead of the 2019/20 season for his second season in professional football and made the successful transition from midfield to become a key part of Mike Williamson's defence.

15. AARON MARTIN - FORWARD

Martin earned a move to Harrogate in March 2020 after an impressive season in the Vanarama National League North with Guiseley which saw him score 16 goals in 20 games. His debut season in the Football League returned six goals and six assists in 37 appearances for The Sulphurites as they finished 17th following promotion from the National League. The Sheffield-born striker spent a brief period on loan with Halifax Town towards the end of the 2021/22 season, scoring one goal in four appearances.

19. WILL HARRIS - FORWARD

The South Shields-born striker joined following a two-year spell with Sunderland, capped by a standout season for the club's U23s in 2021/22 in which he scored 10 goals in nine appearances. He made his senior debut for The Black Cats in October 2021, starting a Papa John's Trophy fixture against Lincoln City, and went on to make six appearances in all competitions with three substitute appearances in League One.

20. LIRAK HASANI - MIDFIELD

Hasani joined Gateshead for the second time in August 2022, signing a one-year deal with an optional extension, following a pre-season trial

LAST MEETINGS

Sat 27th August 2022- (A) W 1-0

Sat 28th March 1987 - (H) D 2-2

period. The midfielder first joined the club on loan from Doncaster Rovers in January 2021.

21. ROB ELLIOT - GOALKEEPER

The former Newcastle United goalkeeper is registered as a member of the first team playing squad, and assists the first team coaching staff.

24. MIKE WILLIAMSON - PLAYER MANAGER

John Rooney signed for Latic. Williamson guided the club to a Vanarama National League North play-off semi-final in his first season in charge and had The Heed in place during the ill-fated 2020/21 season, two points away from the play-off places. He led Gateshead to the Vanarama National League North title in his third season as manager after being ranked as 20/1 outsiders in pre-season ending the 2021/22 season with 94 points and 99 goals scored.

27. LEWIS KNIGHT - FORWARD

Knight signed a two-year deal after arriving at Notts County for a nominal fee in June 2022.

31. JAMES MONTGOMERY - GOALKEEPER

Montgomery appeared seven times during the 2020/21 campaign before joining Southend United and Chester following the Vanarama National League North season being rendered null and void.

32. CARL MAGNAY - DEFENCE

Magnay joined for the remainder of the 2021 season in January 2022 after departing Spennymoor Town following two-and-a-half years at The Brewery Field. The defender originally joined in January 2012, making 77 appearances and scoring four goals for The Heed before joining Grimsby Town in July 2011.

42. KAMIL CONTEH - MIDFIELD

Conteh joined the club on loan from EFL Championship side Middlesbrough in September 2022 until January 2, 2023. The midfielder joined Watford in 2018, going to make his first team debut in January 2022.

77. QUÉVIN CASTRO - FORWARD

Castro joined the club on loan for the remainder of the 2022/23 season in January 2023. The 21-year-old made four starts across 14 appearances for The Magpies before opting against a loan extension at Meadow Lane in search of regular football.

BY MARTIN READ



World of Ball

"Jan-u-a-ry! Sick and tired, you've been hanging on me" - brief notes on the first month of the year

One for pop-pickers of a certain age, that headline. But with four postponed matches in a row giving Jack Frost more of a workout than Jack Cook, perhaps it's time to Pilot you through some of Wealdstone's most important and weather-hit Januarys throughout the ages. Gloves and scarves firmly fitted, here we g-g-go...

1962/1963

One of the rare seasons- indeed, possibly the only one outside of war time - in which the weather was so bad that we didn't play a single game in the year's first month. In fact, it took until halfway through February until the first competitive match since our Boxing Day defeat over at Hayes could be played. We finished third in the Athenian League that year, behind champions Enfield and runners-up Barnet. In an odd way, I really miss Enfield...

2011/2012

The exact opposite phenomenon - we managed to get a full eight fixtures into a crowded January schedule, losing just the one of them (Lowestoft Town). This was the season that we got to the semi-finals of the FA Trophy for the first time since we won the competition in 1985; our January win over Barrow here at The Vale proved a critical win as we built our Trophy campaign.

1984/1985

Given the first ever double that we ended the season with, you might have expected this season's January to have been fruitful? Not so much. We started on New Year's Day with defeat at home to Barnet before travelling to Scarborough and securing a point. We then travelled to Harlow in

Essex for a grey, drab 1-1 draw (I'm guessing; I wasn't there, but it was Harlow) before bringing them back to our place on the pneultimate day of the month and tonking them 5-0 to advance. Imagine it, we could so easily have gone out of the FA Trophy that year away in Harlow. But instead...

2019/2020

Certainly the most pivotal January of recent years. We won five out of seven fixtures in 2020. Little were we to know when we travelled down to Havant & Waterlooville on Saturday 18th that just five weeks later the entire season would suddenly be over. Back then, this was set up to be an us-versus-them title battle. Could we rise to the occasion? Having conceded early it seemed unlikely - but two goals from Moses Emanuel - and two more from Michee Efete and Danny Green - saw us to a glorious 4-2 win on the road. Speaking of the little we knew, who could possibly have foreseen that just seven days later we'd be entertaining our other title rivals, Bath City, and beating them so soundly - 7-0, no less - that in the space of just eight days even the most curmudgeonly of us would have not considered the prospect of our finally returning to the National League Premier. It's what happened, of course - but the circumstances were far from ideal. But as Januarys go, well, they don't get much better.

A last word this week for our former marketing manager Ian Crossley, whose death on Boxing Day was announced by the club recently. From this supporters perspective, and as someone who watched the man doing his thing from



the Vicarage Road terraces, it's worth putting on record that here was a man who very clearly put his heart and soul into what, in hindsight, was the frankly impossible battle to drum up a fresh and distinct fanbase to sustain our presence in Watford. Others with more direct links to him and a wider awareness of his work have eulogised his role, through the development of the Blue Ribbon lottery, in keeping the club alive during our darkest times.

I remember one particular marketing initiative, a half time penalty shoot-out at a home



match against Dover, cringing as our poor sod marketing manager failed to get anyone to steady at half time for the 'privilege' of popping a past Big Dennis Byatt in goal, despite the cheeryest of exhortations over the PA. Other initiatives included the corralling of a host of local school children shipped in for the match, their pre-pubescent drooping and crying, and the blaring out of the Capital Gold Sport radio for some reason seemed to be blaring out during the interval. The Stones didn't lack for the waning some high-pitched vocal support on that afternoon although a professed hatred of Dover by ones tender in age - and so far from the Wealdstone former Harrow home - was a bit disconcerting to a member wondering whether these kids would do again of their own volition, and marvelling at the amount of effort that had gone into making it work.

The picture of him here bottom left (shamelessly stolen from astonclinton36 on the StonesNet forum for which many thanks) surely says it all; a typical cheery, exuberant Ian Crossley pushing the Blue Ribbon scheme while all around him lies a 90 per cent empty stand.

As has been mentioned elsewhere, without the amazing efforts of such individuals throughout the ages this club simply wouldn't still exist. That Ian Crossley's tenure covers the very earliest days of our seventeen year nomadic state shouldn't reduce his efforts any the less impressive.

Anyway, Januarys eh? Grim, grey and from week, gone. Here's to a return to regular on-field action in February.

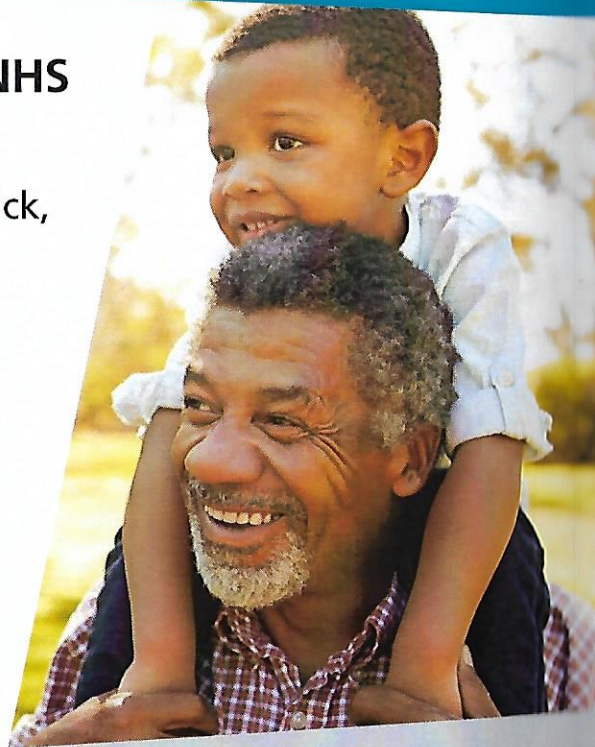
Top right: Pilot - performers of one of English pop music's most appalling ear worms. (It's magic, you know). Right: the indefatigable Ian Crossley bringing the Blue Ribbon lottery to life

Are you 55-74, live in Hillingdon and smoke or used to smoke?

You could get a free NHS Lung Health Check.

Lung health checks are quick, simple, and a good way of spotting lung-related problems early on.

Please contact us for more information and to check if you are eligible.



Please scan the QR code, visit the website at: lunghealthchecks-westlondon.nhs.uk or call 020 7351 8607.



The Vale Social Club, Ruislip ..The iconic home of Wealdstone FC



With wide screen TVs in all three bars and the largest projector screen in Ruislip the Vale is the ideal venue to watch live sport.

- Wealdstone FC away matches to be streamed - Yeovil away Tuesday 24th Jan, table bookings required in advance.
- Sky TV, BT Sports on the big screens.
- Pool table.
- Competitively priced beers.
- Every £ spend in the club contributes to Wealdstone FC.



...3 Functions rooms for hire

The perfect place for hosting a celebration or business meeting with the main hall holding up to 250.



..Thursday & Friday nights are music nights

With the popular Tropic of Ruislip hosting a variety of bands.

- Fri 20th Jan The Alter Eagles
 - Sun 22nd Jan Franck Ash Band
 - Fri 27th Jan The Bohemians
 - Fri 3rd Jan Who's Who
 - Sun 5th Feb Long Road Home
 - Fri 10th Feb Fleetwood Bac
 - Fri 17th Feb Absolute Bowie
 - Fri 24th Feb Totally Blondie
 - Sat 25th Feb The Trojan Beats
- Every Thursday is Rock 'n' Roll night.



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WEALDSTONE FC MATCH SPONSORS 2022/2023

A great way to celebrate an occasion or advertise your organisation's support of Wealdstone, packages start for fans with a donation of just £495 (for 4 people), and for businesses at £595 + VAT for 4 people.

As match day sponsor you will enjoy:

- Match tickets for 4 people (inc. prime main stand seats if required)
- A fantastic advertising package, including publicity

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.














• Naming and presenting the 'Man of the Match' award
 • A souvenir memento of your day.
 Your match sponsors and their guests are all entertained in surroundings befitting such a special occasion be it a birthday, anniversary or any other special event!
 We will work with you to ensure you and your guests get to enjoy a truly memorable experience.

If you or your organisation are interested in sponsoring here at The Vale, please email Club President, Paul Rummeniege (paulrumens59@gmail.com) or call **07710 929692** to

Please note that we can accommodate multiple match sponsors. We can tailor the experience to whatever your requirements are. We can cater for as many as 10, 20 or 30 people in your group.

	QUEENS PARK RANGERS Wednesday, 20th July Pre-Season Friendly	Robert Barrett	
	BROMLEY Saturday, 6th August Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	
	FC HALIFAX TOWN Saturday, 20th August Vanarama National League	Ruislip Windows & Doors	
	YEOVIL TOWN Monday, 29th August Vanarama National League	Russell Grant, Patron of Wealdstone FC & Middlesex Heritage	Wealdstone FC Supporters Club
	WOKING Sunday, 4th September Vanarama National League	Keith Walklate	
	TORQUAY UNITED Saturday, 17th September Vanarama National League	Raine & Kevin Robb	
	SOUTHEND UNITED Saturday, 24th September Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	
	BOREHAM WOOD Saturday, 8th October Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	Steve Ford's 50th
	NOTTS COUNTY Tuesday, 25th October Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Richard Finch
	WREXHAM Saturday, 12th November Vanarama National League	Keith Davies	Optera Ltd
	SCUNTHORPE UNITED Saturday, 26th November Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Michael Nutt Sunde I.L
	EASTLEIGH Saturday, 7th January Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	

	GATESHEAD Saturday, 28th January Vanarama National League	Beaumont Properties Limited	
	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Saturday, 4th February Vanarama National League	Coach Forever Ltd	Lower Mead 4
	YORK CITY Saturday, 18th February Vanarama National League	Oldfield Construction Ltd	Your name or business here
	ALTRINCHAM Saturday, 4th March Vanarama National League	Raine & Kevin Robb	Your name or business here
	MAIDSTONE UNITED Tuesday, 7th March Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
	BARNET Saturday, 25th March Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	Richard Walker
	ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday, 1st April Vanarama National League	DMS Landscapes	In Memory of John O'Connor
	SOLIHULL MOORS Tuesday 10th April Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Your name or business here
	DORKING WANDERERS Saturday, 22nd April Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Your name or business here
	CHESTERFIELD Rearranged date to be advised Vanarama National League	Ruislip Windows & Doors	
	OLDHAM ATHLETIC Rearranged date to be advised Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Bugler Group

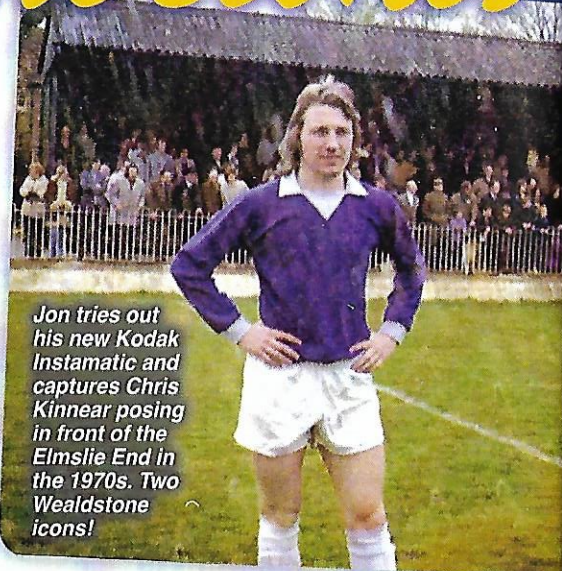
BY JON TAFFEL



The Stones

Okay, it's really kicking off as Jon gets stuck into kebabs, kits and ...Kretzschmar!

I'm writing this the day after our win over Eastleigh, so the first K to come into my mind is Max **KRETZSCHMAR** having scored our 2nd goal from the spot in a fantastic win. The signing of Kretzschmar in the summer was seen as a bit of a coup for us, a regular high performer in the Woking side and undoubtedly a thorn in our sides when both there and at Hampton. Most notable was of course our play off match at the Kingfield at the end of the 2018-19 season, where Woking turned round a 2-0 deficit to snatch a 3-2 win at the death. From our very



Jon tries out his new Kodak Instamatic and captures Chris Kinnear posing in front of the Elmslie End in the 1970s. Two Wealdstone icons!

own club match report, "Everything positive for Woking in the second half was courtesy of Kretzschmar," he delivered the corner for Woking's first and then it was he himself who scored the late equaliser.

We've probably yet to see the best from Max due to injuries and illness limiting his appearances, however I've really enjoyed watching him in a Stones shirt. Some of the flicks and assists have been top drawer, and his experience in drawing fouls is as joyous for us to see as it must be irritating for the opposition - not dissimilar from what Ross Lafayette used to do so well. Even off the pitch however he can be seen and heard motivating his teammates, kicking every ball as he does.

More importantly given my love of all things alphabet related, Kretzschmar contains an impressive tally of six successive consonants! I can't immediately think of any Stone that comes remotely close to this. It's way more impressive than Eleftheriou with his six vowels last season, they weren't even in succession. A lesser-known K and lesser-known Stone of six vowel alphabetical interest is Arvydas **KACINKEVICIUS**. I have abso-



Max Kretzschmar gets upset when kitman Brett makes fun of the number of consonants in his name

Alphabet



lutely no recollection of this player, but the record books show that he made 1 'other' appearance in 2011, having joined us from Lithuanian side FK Alytis Alytus. The Isthmian League was a step too far for Kacinkevicius, he left us and joined Kentish Town which is a good thing as I really wouldn't have wanted to caption his photos too often.

Growing up as good Jewish lad, I was brought up only to eat **KOSHER** meat, this in essence meant that I only ever ate meat at home or at relatives' houses. I didn't really feel I was missing out despite the rave reviews for

the ham rolls served up at the Lower Mead tea hut, I had to stick with the cheese and onion variety - not all bad news. This all changed however on a freezing cold February evening in 1975 when I found myself at Craven Cottage for an FA Cup 4th round 2nd replay between Fulham and Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest. I was so cold and hungry I felt that I had no option but to part with my money and invest in a hamburger. These were things of mystery to me, I had absolutely no idea what to expect. Suffice to say I didn't enjoy the experience one bit, I suspect that there was very little meat content in whatever it was I was served with, it was certainly not a patch on what is served at the Vale nowadays. For the record, the match ended 1-1, 2nd Division Fulham with Bobby Moore in their line-up incredibly won the 3rd replay (they'd already won after two replays in

the 3rd round) on their road to reaching the final

This leads on nicely to one of the great experiences known to man, the late-night **KEBAB**. Having ditched my Kosher principles, my first introduction to the Kebab was at the sacred Stavros establishment in North Harrow courtesy of fellow fan Duncan Towell. Much in the way that my first ever curry at the Bina in Northwood High Street shaped my life (and bod) in years to come, this was a very good experience. North Harrow was a car ride away, so as an Eastcote lad Manor Kebabs would quickly become a regular haunt and it remains there serving delicious healthy food to this day. Stones fans can often be seen eating Kebabs when they are not even hungry for reasons unknown.

Every shot a winner on **KODAK** film' proclaimed the advert in our programme in our Lower Mead days. Kodak was a major employer in Harrow and most people knew someone who worked there. For my part I had a summer job in their South Ruislip office in the summer of 1979. Conveniently working nights so I didn't miss football this was one of my more lucrative roles, not least because I was only there six weeks but received a pay increase backdated eight months. My boss told me to keep it quiet, took me a further eight months in my first proper job to earn as much again! Two of us had a summer job in the computer department that year, the other is currently serving a life

Welcome to Craven Cottage
FULHAM v NOTTINGHAM FOREST
FA Cup 4th Round - Second Replay
Wednesday 5 February 1975 Kick-off 7.30 pm
Official Matchday Magazine 5p



sentence for murder in the US!

More importantly, my Kodak Pocket Instamatic was my very first camera. Received as a Bar Mitzvah present I believe in December 1973, this enabled me to take my very first snaps at Lower Mead during that great 1973-74 promotion season. Being 'K' week I've chosen Chris Kinnear in front of our beloved Elmslie Stand, a shocking photo taken directly into the sun!

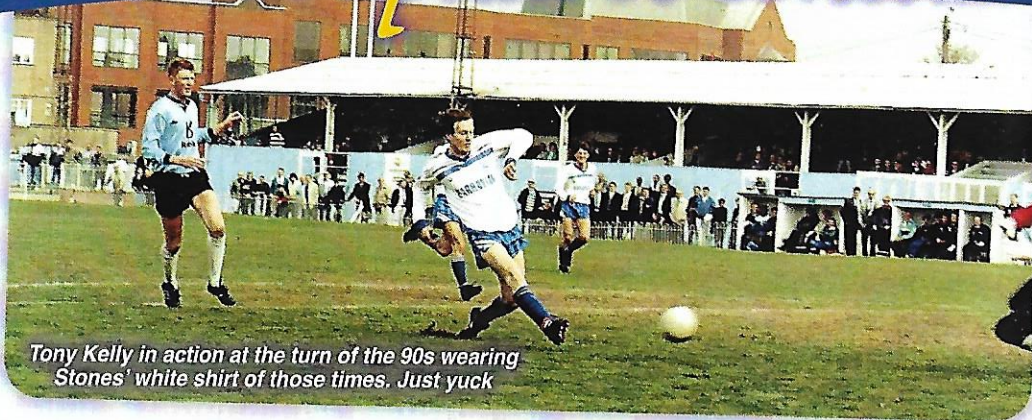
The **KIT** we wear is often a bone of contention amongst some supporters, and colour choice has certainly caused consternation from time to

**EVERY SHOT A WINNER
on Kodak FILM**

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

The Kodak ad in the Stones programme. See what they did there?

Stones Alphabet contd...



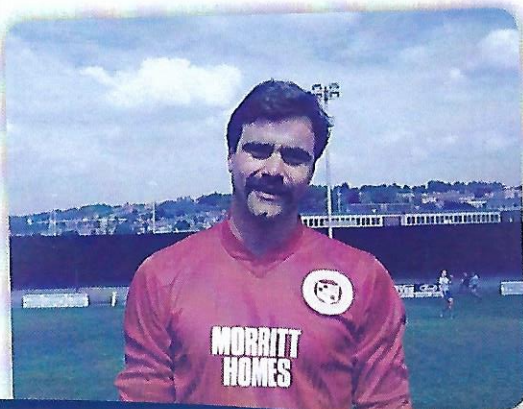
Tony Kelly in action at the turn of the 90s wearing Stones' white shirt of those times. Just yuck

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

time. I started watching the Stones in the late 60's, so playing in blue shirts and white shorts is fine by me. The blue and white quarters I enjoyed too, it was the drastic changes that annoyed me. Firstly, Morrith arrived and decided that we should ditch white and play in blue and yellow stripes - and worse was our change strip of the abominable all red. Then in our final throes at Lower Mead we adopted the white shirt. We might as well have called ourselves Enfield.

So we're back with blue and white, the only problem that most of the older spectators have is in finding a shirt that fits. I've lost count of the number of replica shirts that I have purchased and never worn, thinking that one day I might grow into them. On top of that, I hope that the Kelme pink never finds it's way onto the shirt itself. I'm on notice from the missus that if I'm seen wearing that colour then I'm on borrowed time.

The **KITMAN'S** role is to ensure that all things player equipment wise is spick and span, so we've struck gold with the new man in the role this season. Filling the



Stones' skipper Paul Bowgett wears red at Wycombe. Is this is the most unpleasant picture we've ever published?

boots of Tony was never going to be easy but Brett has proved a popular choice all around. His military background (when did they ditch the height requirement?) ensures that nothing goes unchecked and he has added post-match dancing and water collection to this key role.

Finally today, K is for **KICK OFF**, and on the back of the matches against Chelmsford and Eastleigh I'd like to remind the team that the match starts at the same time for both teams, and not a minute later for us. Thankfully the early setback against Eastleigh didn't cost us, but the Trophy defeat definitely hurts - we had a great chance to win this competition. Undoubtedly the goal at Chelmsford should have been ruled out offside - clearly the linesman (I refuse to call them referees' assistants) had also forgotten to switch on.

KICKING OFF is also a term that can apply when players or supporters lose control of a situation, nowadays we see more handbags than full scale kicking off as we may have witnessed in the 70s in games against Wimbledon for example.

Enjoy the game, and hopefully when I write 'L' it will not be about a Loss.

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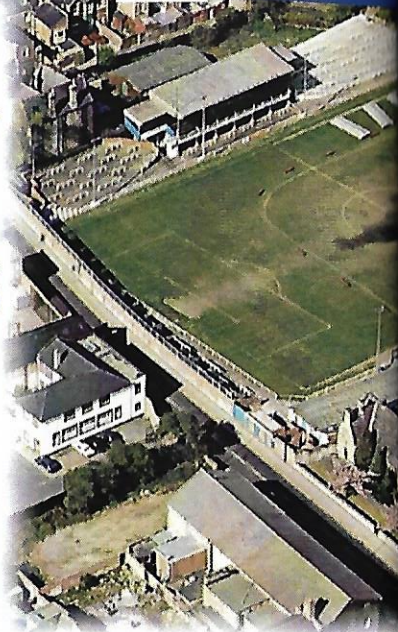
Search 'Premier League Stadium Fund' to find out more.

THE STONES REWIND >>>>



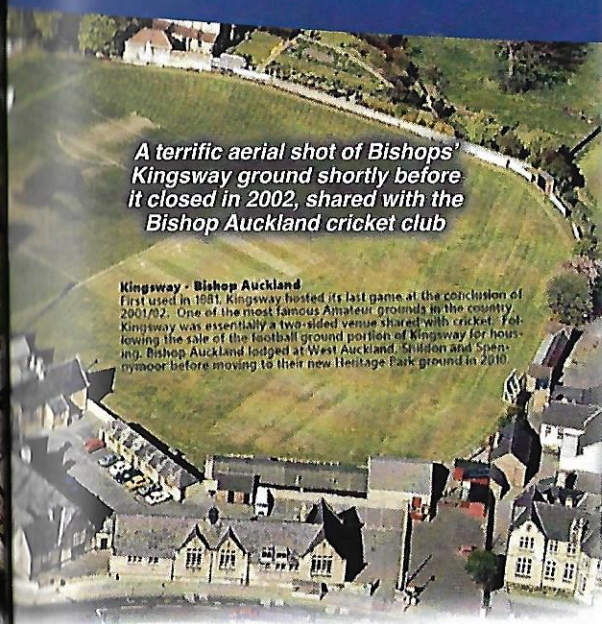
BY TIM PARKS

It's Gateshead today, but a longest-ever trip to Blyth Spartans was on the cards for a few glorious days before Christmas



A terrific aerial shot of Bishops' Kingsway ground shortly before it closed in 2002, shared with the Bishop Auckland cricket club

Kingsway - Bishop Auckland
First used in 1881 Kingsway hosted its last game at the conclusion of 2001/02. One of the most famous Amateur grounds in the country Kingsway was essentially a two-sided venue shared with cricket. Following the sale of the football ground portion of Kingsway for housing, Bishop Auckland lodged at West Auckland, Shilton and Spennymoor before moving to their new Heritage Park ground in 2010.



Ball 26: Blyth Spartans or York City Will play ... ball 63: Chelmsford City or Wealdstone.

Well, just for a day or two the carrot of the Stones' furthest-ever trip to play a competitive game in these shores was dangled like vegetable confectionery in a donkey sanctuary.

Blyth Spartans eh? The whiff of North Eastern legend. Way up in the far corner, beyond Gateshead and Newcastle even, the green-clad Spartans had stolen our thunder a little back in 1978 when the Stones made the FA Cup 3rd round (for the first and only time).

Blyth made it all the way to the 5th round and were only denied a place in the last eight by a wrongly-awarded corner after they'd led Wrexham 1-0

going into injury time at the Racecourse ground. Over 50,000 saw Blyth edged out 2-1 in the replay at St James Park.

But of course it wasn't to be. The Spartans are now no more than a pretty ordinary National League North side and York won the postponed tie 5-0 on a Tuesday night to set up their last-32 match against our conquerors Chelmsford.

Had both Spartans and the Stones gone through to set up a historic 590-mile round trip to Northumberland, I was going to regale you of our last cup adventure to the North East: 1964-65 season, when Dave Underwood's Wealdstone had the unenviable task of progressing to the Amateur Cup's last 16 after being drawn at the Mighty Bishop Auckland.

What the hell, we're play-

ing Gateshead today which is still pretty relevant, so here goes.....

Saturday January 23 1964, FA Amateur Cup 2nd round Bishop Auckland 2 Wealdstone 4

These were exciting times to be a Stones fan....

Much like nigh-on 60 years later the team had been promoted to the top level of the non League game (and would finish eighth out of 20 in its first Isthmian League season) and was recognised as one of the finest footballing teams in the country at that level. We had three England amateur internationals in centre back Johnny Ashworth and midfielders Charlie Townsend and Hughie Lindsay, and had hopes of a good run in the high profile Amateur Cup despite never

having progressed past the last-16 stage. And yet now we faced the legendary 'Bishops'.

The Durham side had won the Amateur Cup ten times (three successive years v Hendon in 55, Corinthian Casuals in 56 and Wycombe Wanderers in 57, drawing 100,000 crowds to Wembley stadium) and although they were having a comparatively lean season in the Northern League this was a formidable trip.

As you can see from the article in the clubs handbook the following summer (next page), it took almost nine hours overnight for the supporters coach to negotiate the snow-covered A1, arriving at Bishops' Kingsway ground at 7.45 in the morning! Three inches of snow had to be cleared from the sloping pitch of the iconic stadium - effectively a two sided ground thanks to the

adjoining cricket club - and by kick off time around 100 Stones fans were amongst the 1,700 crowd on a freezing afternoon.

Stones' Internationals were in dominant mood however and many of the crowd were leaving before the end when they were 4-1 down, in stark contrast to the 1950s when 13,000 crowds were the norm at Kingsway, packed into its high terraces while hundreds more perched on chairs and benches at the 'cricket' side of the ground.

Ashworth won the crucial toss, kicking with the slope for an early advantage and it was the tall centre back who put the London visitors ahead. Ashworth died at the end of 2021 and when his widow Anne turned up to watch a game in his honour she was very much taken with our current captain and centre back Jack Cook.... And, do you

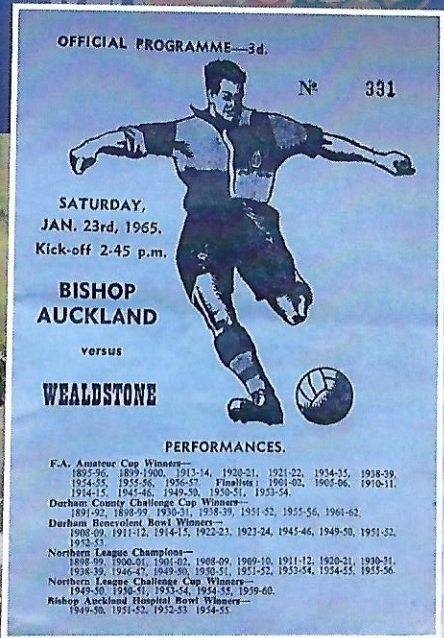
know, Cookie is very much the reincarnation of our 1960s star defender both in playing style (cultured, dominant and adept at bringing the ball out of defence) and also in personality (polite, articulate and well paid in a job outside football).

Big John was pursued by many Football League clubs but he was better paid in his professional life while picking up 'expenses' with the Stones.

That side's other internationals Charlie and Hughie can both be seen regularly at the Vale in the roles as club ambassadors - despite their octogenarian status- and will happily chat about 1960s football until the cows come home!

Charlie said: "I mainly remember that game for the fact that my wife Margaret's family are from the north east- around

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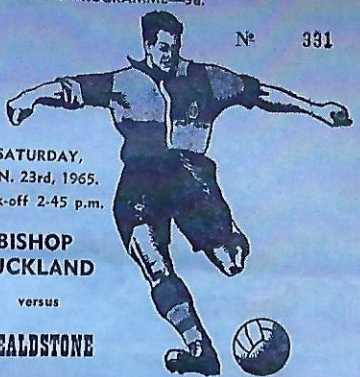
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME—3d.
N° 391

SATURDAY,
JAN. 23rd, 1965.
Kick-off 2.45 p.m.

**BISHOP
AUCKLAND**

versus

WEALDSTONE



PERFORMANCES.

- F.A. Amateur Cup Winners—1892-96, 1899-1900, 1903-14, 1920-21, 1931-32, 1934-35, 1938-39, 1945-56, 1955-56, 1956-57
- Finalists: 1901-02, 1907-06, 1910-11, 1914-15, 1941-46, 1949-50, 1950-51, 1953-54
- Durham County Challenge Cup Winners—1891-92, 1898-99, 1930-31, 1938-39, 1951-52, 1955-56, 1961-62
- Durham Benevolent Bowl Winners—1900-09, 1911-12, 1914-15, 1922-23, 1923-24, 1941-46, 1949-50, 1951-52, 1952-53
- Northern League Champions—1906-07, 1901-02, 1908-09, 1909-10, 1911-12, 1920-21, 1930-31, 1938-39, 1946-47, 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52, 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56
- Northern League Challenge Cup Winners—1949-50, 1950-51, 1953-54, 1954-55, 1959-60
- Bishop Auckland Hospital Bowl Winners—1946-50, 1951-52, 1952-53, 1954-55

REWIND CONTINUED

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE...

the Whitley Bay Area although her dad and uncles were brought up in Bishop Auckland - and there were quite a few of them in the ground, so I was expected to play well!

"But I remember it was a bit bleak with lots of snow piled up around the pitch, and we were expecting a really tough game with their reputation"

"In the end it was quite easy, which maybe didn't help when we played Alvechurch in the next round - and the less said about that one the better". The Stones were dreaming of Wembley but were rudely interrupted by the fired-up Worcester Village side who took us apart 4-1 with No.9 John Mason netting all four.

"We had our revenge the next season though!" said Charlie. Sure enough, the following spring Stones had reached the semi-final for the first time and found themselves facing Alvechurch - again - at Stamford Bridge. This time Ashworth made the dangerous Mason look like a toddler on reigns as Stones dominated the game to win 1-0 and reach the promised land just four miles down the road: Wembley!

Hughlie Lindsay has a fascinating recollection of the Bishop Auckland game. He says: My main memory was rushing out to buy a pair of flat sole boots after seeing the state of the pitch... the lines were cleared but there was 3ins of snow right across the surface. I can't remember much, but I found a sports shop in the high street and this pair of

ridged-soled boots were on display and I took a chance... they were like magic boots to me! The other players were wearing rubber or long studs but I was able to skim across the snow.

"I had those boots for about 15 years as there were so few times I could wear them! There was some doubt about the game going ahead but we played on diabolical pitches in those days. And the fact there were so many Wealdstone fans already there probably swayed the referee's decision.

"The worst pitch I played on was for Wealdstone at Hendon on Boxing Day one year: it had frozen overnight and had been played on the previous day so was rutted and dangerous... but thousands had turned out to watch and the ref said "We're going to play this but I don't want to see any tackling!"

"As local rivals the games were always robust but we respected each other that day and it was a terrible game... it finished 0-0."

I asked Hughie if he could remember the team staying overnight on the way to Bishop Auckland?

"I think we stayed on Friday night in Darlington on the way" he said. "That was a regular stopover and when I played cup games in the North East for Kingstonian we often used to stay Saturday night too in the Ferryboat Inn. Up all night drinking and celebrating... those trips were great for team bonding and camaraderie".

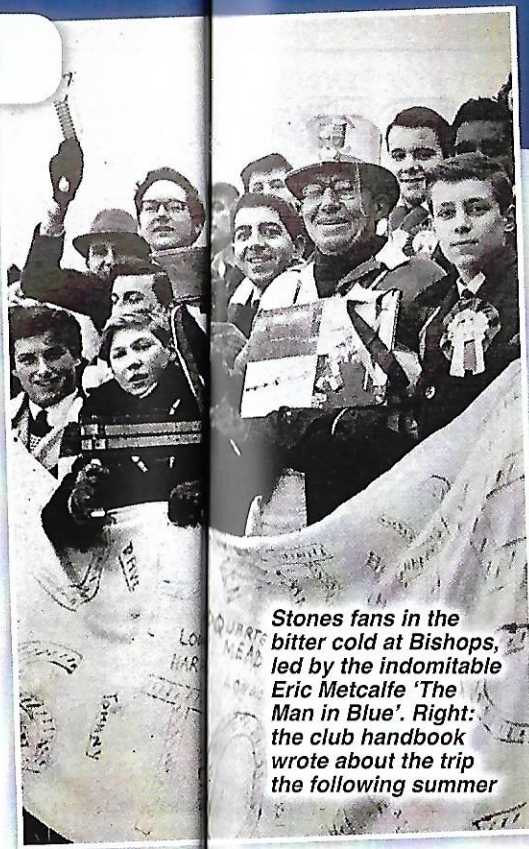
Just as an addendum to Bishop Auckland, it's worth mentioning the fantastic "The Farther Corner" book by Harry Pearson that revisits the NE football institutions he wrote so beautifully about in his

Urgency

That was after 38 minutes' play and as the interval approached Wealdstone appeared to appreciate with increasing urgency that a one-goal lead might be inadequate with the slope to conquer in the second half. But try as they would they could not score again, Kirkbride, Siddie, and

Sharp reply

Then came the first goal. Wyatt forced a corner which Lindsay lifted high over the goalmouth and when Bremer



Stones fans in the bitter cold at Bishops, led by the indomitable Eric Metcalfe 'The Man in Blue'. Right: the club handbook wrote about the trip the following summer

celebrated 1990s 'The Far Corner' tome.

It's really about the personalities and social history of the North East, and he talks in some depth about the Bishops team of the 1950s and particularly their 1954 Amateur Cup final clash with local rivals Crook Town.

"Bishop Auckland were the Real Madrid of amateur football: their best players were household names across England and there was even a subbuteo team in their colours!" he wrote.

"Compared to these galacticos Crook's players seemed modest and

CONTD OVERPAGE...

Left: The Harrow Observer report on the triumph up North



OUR TRIP TO BISHOP AUCKLAND

Fifty members, Chairman and Secretary of the Supporters' Club left Wealdstone at ten minutes past eleven on Friday, January, bound for the frozen north to do battle with the Bishops in the second round of the Amateur Cup. It had been raining for most of the week and it was quite on the cards the game would be postponed but we kept our fingers crossed. Coat collars turned up and hoped that our journey would not be in vain.

We turned right as we left Lower Mead, which is South and someone called out, "are we playing at Redhill?" We turned left and left again and soon hit the A1 on this highway until, after a couple of short stops we reached Darlington at 5 minutes past 6 on Saturday morning, having taken six hours 55 minutes to do the 240 miles. By the time we reached Darlington we were looking for the usual first port of call but the local council did not cater for early callers, their times of departure being set to suit their own convenience. However after slipping on the icy roads we found what we wanted and eventually rejoined the coach for the short journey into Bishop Auckland.

Arriving at this famous football town at 7.45 a.m. we went direct for the ground, which we found open, and the ground was busy sweeping the lines clear of the additional snow that had fallen overnight. We were all ready and willing to set to there and to clear the pitch of the 3in. of snow covering, but without the permission we naturally couldn't do anything.

After we had our breakfast we had a look round the town then on to our hosts for the day, the Bishop Auckland Working Men's Club, which was just across the road from the football ground. A game of cards, a little drink and for some a snooze in front of the fire and it was time to go out to the snow covered street to the coach bringing the players and officials from Darlington. They had been staying overnight. We had been joined by many more supporters who had made the journey by train and so it was a welcome sight as one looked round the ground to see many Wealdstone faces. As someone said you would think we had slipped over to Hendon instead of the 250 miles to Bishop Auckland.

The result of the match we all knew—a magnificent victory for the Stones—and how thrilled was the Man in Blue and his merry men when Ashworth led his men over to say thank you before they left the field.

We returned to the Working Men's Club for the evening to enjoy true northern hospitality. A Bingo session, Floor Show and the warmth of the club house and its members. We had been made so welcome that we were reluctant to leave. However, at 10 p.m. we boarded the coach for the A.1. and London. It snowed, hailed, wind and rain all the way back, but no one cared, we had not travelled in vain—we were through to the next round of the Amateur Cup. We had had a wonderful weekend thanks to the coach drivers, the players of Bishop Auckland and the boys in blue.

J.C.B.

Amateur Cup

INTERNATIONALS GET WEALDSTONE'S FIRST THREE GOALS

Bishop Auckland 2, Wealdstone 4

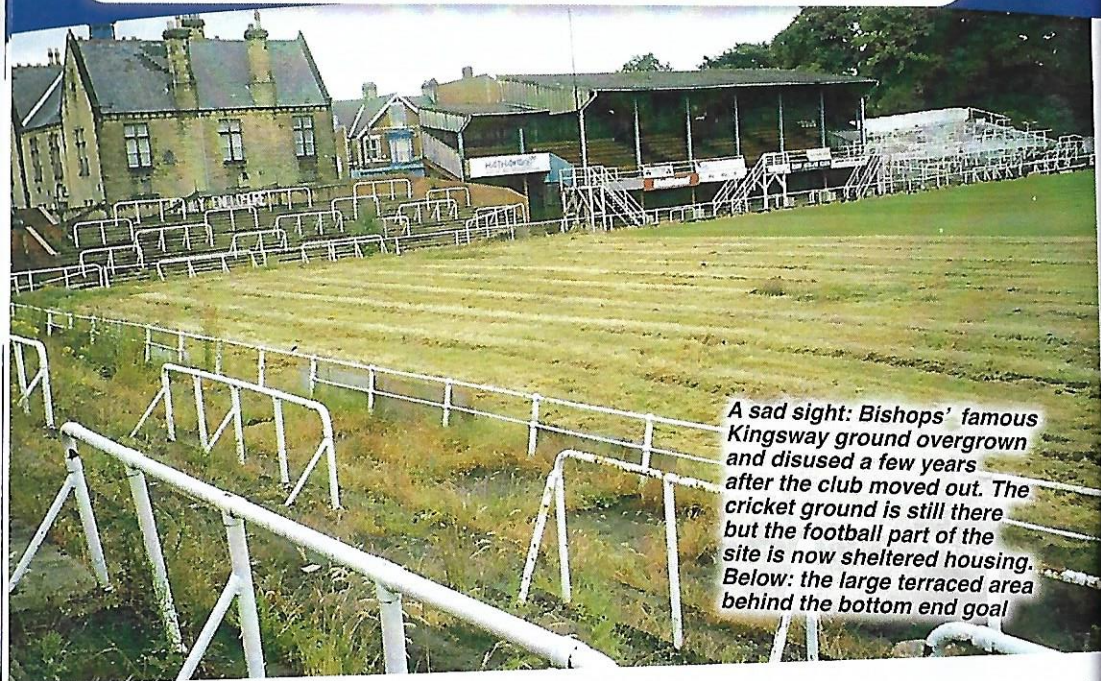
CONQUERING a treacherous, snowbound pitch as well as opponents richly steeped in Amateur Cup tradition, Wealdstone played with increasing skill and unquenchable spirit to beat Bishop Auckland, ten times the holders, in the second round on Saturday.

First to score after 17 minutes they shrugged aside the rebuff of a shock equaliser two minutes later, snatched back the lead and pressed with increasing momentum but little luck until the interval; held all their youthful opponents' efforts to pull the game out of the fire in the second half; and were almost coasting home 4-1 when the home side had the last word with only seconds left for play.

They left the field in triumph but not without a salute to the occasion and Wealdstone gradually began to take command though Bishops might have slipped into the lead when Hetherington hesitated from a fine position and his shot was easily parried by Fowler, who soon afterwards brought off a magnificent flying save from Stott.

Then came the first goal. Wyatt forced a corner which Lindsay lifted high over the goalmouth and when Bremer

REWIND CONTINUED



A sad sight: Bishops' famous Kingsway ground overgrown and disused a few years after the club moved out. The cricket ground is still there but the football part of the site is now sheltered housing. Below: the large terraced area behind the bottom end goal

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE...

homespun, and the game had an extra edge thanks to the bitter rivalry caused by the 1928 investigation into illegal payments in the amateur Northern League. It ended with 341 players suspended and Crook Town - nailed on champions - being turfed out of the league altogether. The club that had secretly brought the matter to the attention of the league? Bishop Auckland.

"Such was the interest in this 1954 final that supporters from the two Durham towns travelled down to London on 20 special trains and 250 coaches. Wembley was a 100,000 sell-out. But there was tragedy for Bishops when half back Jimmy Nimmins slid in for a tackle and broke his leg - and in the days before substitutes it was a major blow. Amazingly, Bishops took the lead; Crook levelled and then



lost a man of their own. Play pulsed from one end to the other and the game ended 2-2... so it was on to a midweek replay at the more convenient St James Park, where a 56,008 crowd saw Crook lead 2-0 before Bishops again equalised late on. With league fixtures piling up, the second replay was shoehorned into Middlesbrough's Ayresome Park three days later at 6pm, where another full house (36,727) somehow got off work early to witness a heroic 1-0 win for Crook.

"Joe Harvey (the later-to-become Everton manager) and his team returned to the mining village on a special train where 15,000 people and a silver band greeted them despite the fact it was nearly midnight.... But there was to be no late night party for the Crook players. They had to be up early for work the next day, and in the evening there was a Northern League fixture at West Auckland to play".

APPEARANCES



2022/2023

CORRECT AS AT 1/1/2023	VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE			FA CUP			FA TROPHY			MIDDLESEX CHARITY CUP			TOTALS			WEALDSTONE CAREERS	
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	A	S	
Akinola, Simeon	1	5	1		1	1				1			2	6	2	2	6
Allarakhia, Tarryn	23	1	3	1									24	1	3	41	2
Baptiste, Dante										1				1		1	1
Barker, Charlie	6	1											6	1		9	1
Barrett, Mason	11	1		1						1			12	2		12	2
Brown, Kyle											1			1		1	1
Browne, Rhys *	10	3	7										10	3	7	30	13
Charles, Ashley	19	1	1	1									20	1		83	16
Cook, Jack	23	3	1	1									24	3		66	
Dyer, Alex	9	6	1	1									10	6	1	180	32
Elerewe, Ayodeji *	13			1									14			14	
Ferguson, Nathan	17	2	2							1			18	2	2	35	2
Freckleton, Miguel	7	1											7	1		7	
Habergham, Sam	17	2	1	1						1			19	2	1	19	2
Hearn, Eli											1			1		3	
Howes, Sam	24			1									25			32	
Hutchinson, Dominic	11	4		1						1			13	4		13	4
Kinsella, Lewis	8	4											8	4		8	4
Kretzschmar, Max	12	3	2										12	3	2	12	3
Matthews, Sam *	1	2											1	2		1	2
McGregor, Giovanni	9	2		1						1			11	2		11	2
Mongoy, Jordy *		3												3		3	
Mundie-Smith, Jaydn	6	6		1						1	1		8	6	1	32	13
Napa, Malachi	2	7								1			3	7		3	7
Obiero, Micah	8	3	2										8	3	2	8	3
Olomola, Olufela	19	1	6	1		2							20	1	8	20	1
Sesay, David	8	6			1					1			9	7		19	10
Shrowder, Tecane										1			1			2	2
Wilson-Braithwaite, Makai											1		1		1	1	1



WE'VE MET BEFORE >>>>>



BY TIM PARKS

Nearly 40 years ago: Stones kick off the new season at Gateshead in garish yellow & blue stripes!

Gateshead sticks in my mind as being a club we always beat - and indeed we've not lost a single game in seven previous meetings- plus that glorious opening day of the season almost 40 years when the Stones trotted out in yellow and blue pyjamas.

Well, maybe not jim-jams exactly, but the effect was pretty similar. We rubbed our eyes in disbelief!

August 20 1983: The season kicked off a little later in those days and it was a genuine shock for

the 150 or so Wealdstone fans to see our heroes emerge from the tunnel at the Heed's international stadium in that lairy outfit.

With the athletics track separating us from the players, the Stones were in the far distance and we presumed they were wearing some garish tracksuit tops. But pretty soon it became apparent that this was the new strip for the 83-84 season.

In Jon Taffel's *Stones Alphabet* for the Oldham programme (the letter K) he spent a lot of time mulling over the worst Wealdstone kits of all time - and the red shirts won the prize for 'most distasteful' with the white 'Enfield' shirts of the early 90s coming a close second.

It was no secret that our manager Allen Batsford was a devotee of blue and yellow, from his days as Wimbledon boss, but this was a real knock-your-socks-off moment. No big Twitter or Instagram build up in those days. No canvassing of supporters or online voting.

Just a wham-bam here-you-go debut for the Yellow & Blue that would become a backdrop to the club's most memorable moments in history...

So nobody's complaining now, nor indeed four years ago when we kicked off the 2019-20 season in bold years blue/yellow stripes and won the National League South!

It's worth lingering a moment over that first game, four decades ago. It was the Stones' second season back in the Alliance Premier League (the fore-runner of the Conference, now the National League) and we were a powerful force. Batsford and Brian Hall, his assistant, had steered us to third place in the first season and it was to be November until we suffered our first defeat. A record of 13 wins and four draws in the next 17 games after this opener at Gateshead was amazing considering that we kicked off the season without stalwarts Robin Wainwright,



WEALDSTONE FC
2022-23

A point for starters

Gateshead 1, Wealdstone 1
MAKESHIFT Wealdstone, missing for team regulars, battled bravely at Gateshead to earn a point at the International Stadium on Saturday.

'Stones were without the injured Stevins, Neil Cordice and Robin Wainwright the suspended Dennis Byatt.

General manager Allen Batsford was than happy with the point as 'Stones their Alliance Premier League programme

"We have had terrible problems putting together a side and to come away from home get a draw can't be bad," he said after the match.

'Stones survived early Gateshead pressure to take a fifth minute lead. A 30 yard free kick Stuart Pearce was fumbled on the slipper face by keeper Dodds and the ball bounced to Gary Donallan who had the easiest of slot home.

Gateshead continued to pressurize but had to wait until midway through the second half before they pulled back the goal skipper Terry Hibbitt, the former Newcastle United player, scoring from a 22 yard free

Wealdstone: Iles, Waddock (Wajtes 83), Pearce, Morris, Donallan, Barwick, A. Cordice, Graves, Johnson.

Dennis Byatt, Neil Cordice and Steve Perkins... and were even without boss Batsford who went into hospital three days later for a heart bypass operation!

We had signed ex-Arsenal Cup winner David Price but his debut was so quiet that, if you squint carefully at the team in the Harrow Observer match report (above right) he isn't even listed as playing! But it was central defenders we were missing, so Stones had to go to Wimbledon on the scrounge for loans the day before the game and came back with centre-back Mark Morris, who was excellent at Gateshead alongside skipper Paul Bowgett.

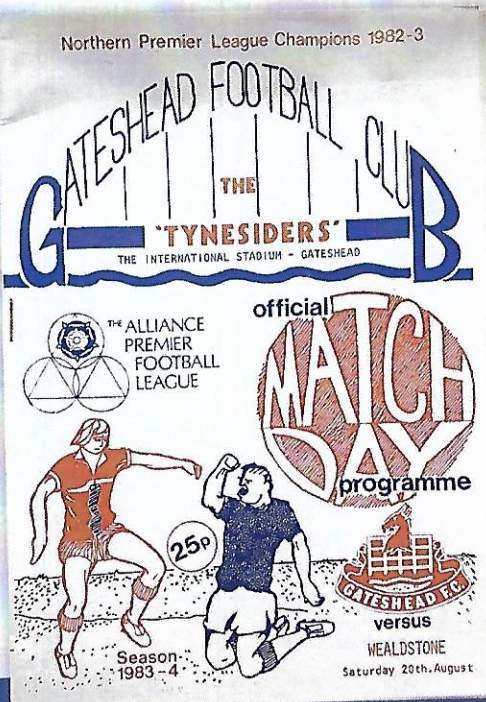
The home side had won the Northern Premier League (and promotion) by a street the previous season and were a dangerous proposition. But we weren't to know quite what a formidable outfit the Stones were going to be... the reshuffled side coped admirably with everything The Heed could throw at us with former Division One misfielder

Terry Hibbitt their main man.

Stuart Pearce was growing into the left-back that top-flight Coventry were to sign just a couple of months later, and the midfield (despite the struggling Price) was rock solid with Gary Donnellan, Fred Barwick and Nigel Johnson carrying on their good form of the 1982-3 season. Mark Graves and Alan Cordice were a reliable front pairing and it was no surprise when this side started purring in September with the squad back up to strength. Gateshead finished 16th out of 22 teams.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Well, Allen Batsford returned from his convalescence in a new role as General Manager to find out that the club could no longer afford to pay for him and team boss Brian Hall... so Batsford had to bite the bullet. It reflected poorly on the club as a whole, although the team rallied to finish fourth in the table. Then, in 1984-1985, with Hall solely at the helm, came the title!



Interesting cover! The Gateshead programme that day in August 1983 was a charming, hand-drawn rustic affair

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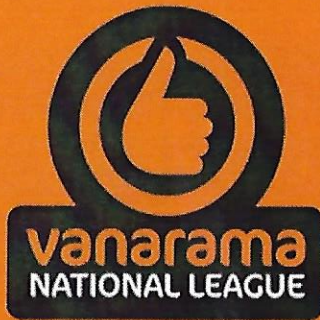
*All above subject to current COVID restrictions.

 BROMLEY Saturday, 6th August Vanarama National League	Alan Couch	
 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	Nick Woolford	
 NOTTS COUNTY Tuesday, 25th October Vanarama National League	The Rawden Family	
 WREXHAM Saturday, 12th November Vanarama National League	In Memory of Kat Kelly	Jim Kane



 SCUNTHORPE UNITED Saturday, 26th November Vanarama National League	Tony Platt	
 MAIDENHEAD UNITED Monday, 26th December Vanarama National League	In Memory of Roy Couch	Mike Pullin & Graham Clark
 EASTLEIGH Saturday, 7th January Vanarama National League	In Memory of Roger Rumens	
 GATESHEAD Saturday, 28th January Vanarama National League	Graham Clark & Mike Pullin	
 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Saturday, 4th February Vanarama National League	Stuart Kane	Your name or business here
 YORK CITY Saturday, 18th February Vanarama National League	In Memory of Kat Kelly	Your name or business here
 BRENTFORD B Tuesday, 28th February Middlesex Senior Cup Quarter Final	Russell Grant	
 ALTRINCHAM Saturday, 4th March Vanarama National League	Toby Jackson (Lapels Badges)	Your name or business here
 MAIDSTONE UNITED Tuesday, 7th March Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 BARNET Saturday, 25th March Vanarama National League	Alan Couch	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	Mick Fishman	Your name or business here
 DORKING WANDERERS Saturday, 22nd April Vanarama National League	In Memory of Fans No Longer With Us	Your name or business here
 CHESTERFIELD Date to be advised Vanarama National League	Glencar Construction	Tony Paulley
 OLDHAM ATHLETIC Date to be advised Vanarama National League	Luca, Alex Gordan, Alex Kilroy, River, Rio, Mathias and Jay	

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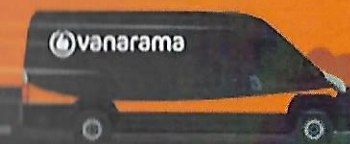
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Next at The Vale



Dagenham & Redbridge

National League

Saturday
4th February
3:00pm



York City

National League

Saturday
18th February
3:00pm



Brentford 'B'

Middlesex Senior Cup

Tuesday
28th February
7:45pm

For all Vanarama National League fixtures: £12 admission for EFL or Premier League season ticket holders and members of the armed forces

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE PREMIER TABLE @23/1/23

	ALL					HOME					AWAY					GD	PTS	RESULTS			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D			L	F	A	(H)
1 Notts County	27	18	8	1	69	25	13	9	4	0	27	6	14	9	4	1	42	19	44	62	1-6
2 Wrexham	26	19	5	2	67	23	12	12	0	0	44	10	14	7	5	2	23	13	44	62	0-0
3 Woking	26	16	4	6	47	25	13	8	2	3	26	14	13	8	2	3	21	11	22	52	1-1
4 Chesterfield	23	15	4	4	49	27	12	10	0	2	28	13	11	5	4	2	21	14	22	49	
5 Barnet	24	12	5	7	44	41	13	8	2	3	20	17	11	4	3	4	24	24	3	41	0-2
6 Southend United	25	10	8	7	33	21	13	6	4	3	18	9	12	4	4	4	15	12	12	38	0-1
7 Bromley	26	10	8	8	39	34	14	6	6	2	22	14	12	4	2	6	17	20	5	38	3-2 3-3
8 Dagenham & Redbridge	24	11	5	8	39	38	13	7	3	3	26	20	11	4	2	5	13	18	1	38	1-4
9 Wealdstone	25	10	7	8	32	36	12	5	4	3	17	17	13	5	3	5	15	19	-4	37	-- --
10 Altrincham	26	9	9	8	40	47	13	7	3	3	21	16	13	2	6	5	19	31	-7	36	1-0
11 Eastleigh	26	10	5	11	32	33	13	9	2	2	21	10	13	1	3	9	11	23	-1	35	3-1 0-1
12 Boreham Wood	24	8	9	7	28	25	11	3	5	3	13	13	13	5	4	4	15	12	3	33	1-2
13 Solihull Moors	25	9	6	10	37	36	13	5	4	4	22	16	12	4	2	6	15	20	+1	33	1-2
14 York City	26	8	8	10	32	30	13	4	4	5	15	17	13	4	4	5	17	13	+2	32	2-1
15 Halifax Town	25	9	5	11	24	32	12	7	2	3	15	13	13	2	3	8	9	19	-8	32	1-0
16 Aldershot Town	27	9	3	15	36	47	13	4	1	8	17	22	14	5	2	7	19	25	-11	30	2-1
17 Dorking Wanderers	27	8	6	13	44	64	14	6	3	5	25	30	13	2	3	8	19	34	-20	30	1-3
18 Maidenhead United	27	8	5	14	29	40	13	5	4	4	15	14	14	3	1	10	14	26	-11	29	3-2 0-0
19 Yeovil Town	25	5	12	8	21	26	13	5	5	3	13	10	12	0	7	5	8	16	-5	27	0-0
20 Oldham Athletic	24	6	6	12	30	40	11	5	2	4	19	19	13	1	4	8	11	21	-10	24	2-1
21 Gateshead	25	4	10	11	31	41	12	2	6	4	17	19	13	2	4	7	14	22	-10	22	1-0
22 Torquay United	26	5	7	14	29	49	13	2	6	5	22	27	13	3	1	9	7	22	-20	22	1-1
23 Maidstone United	28	5	6	17	33	62	14	3	5	6	16	22	14	2	1	11	17	40	-29	21	1-1
24 Scunthorpe United	27	4	7	16	32	55	14	4	2	8	21	29	13	0	5	8	11	26	-23	19	3-1



Yeovil Town

National League

Tuesday 31st
January
7:45pm

YTFC.net
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Wrexham

National League

Saturday
11th February
3:00pm

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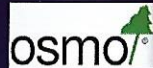


Northwood

Middlesex Charity Cup

Tuesday
21st February
7:45pm

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