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Written in Stone

THE MEAT IN OUR SANDWICH

A big Wealdstone welcome to the Vale this afternoon as we try to stall this run of six National League defeats out of seven.

Tuesday's 0-1 reverse against struggling Aldershot was sooooo frustrating as we failed to break down the well-organised visitors and were undone by a breakaway goal from Tehvon Campbell - new boss Tommy Widdrington made it four games unbeaten since his appointment and they have rediscovered how to win games. Let's hope it's catching!

It was a crucial three points for the Shots with Torquay (five straight wins) looking likely to overhaul and dump them in the bottom four... but their 1-0 win at the Vale plus the Seagulls defeat at Chesterfield mean Torquay are now favourites to join Yeovil, Scunthorpe and Maidstone in regional football next season.

We need a win or two from our last three games to avoid finishing disappointingly close to that drop zone.

Today's visit of Dorking is the meat in the three-home-games in a week sandwich, and should be a very tasty occasion apart from the footballing side.

Marc White's team still need a few points for safety and will be keen to repeat the 3-1 defeat they inflicted on us back in October.

Some 40-50 former Stones players will be in attendance, and will form part of the presentation evening after the game in the clubhouse. It all kicks off around 5.15pm in the main hall, with the awards commencing around 6pm.

You'll be surprised by some of the old faces... all fans are welcome so please come along for a great evening!

After that we welcome Solihull

Moors on April 25, and finish the season at Southend United on April 29 with a 5.30pm kick off. Let's hope for a re-run of the fabulous 1-0 win at Roots Hall last Easter.

Up the Stones

Tim

IT'S A WRAP

That's it, another season of programmes done (Solihull will use the original issue for the game). As always I need to thank Tim Parkes, Martin Read and Martin Lacey for their the never-ending work and support over the season. Thanks also to Sudhir Rawal, Jon Taffel, Roger Slater, Peter Worby & Stuart Maynard who have provided (mostly) timely contributions. Thanks finally to you for continuing to support a physical programme, we look forward to seeing you all next season.

Mark

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JACK WILKINSON, JOHN WILLARD, JIM MINEHANE, DAN HELEN, VAL SHEARER,
ERIC FLETCHER, DEREK BALDERSTONE, CHARLIE WALKER AND ROY COUCH.**

Despite passing years, we continue to keep alive the memory of dear friends and supporters who have passed away. All the above mentioned are remembered by today's ball sponsors, all of whom we have stood with on the terraces over passed seasons. We grieved their passing but they are not forgotten, they are especially remembered today.

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From the Gaffer

BY STUART MAYNARD

Thanks to you all

It's incredible how fast this season has gone. Getting beaten 3-0 at home in the last game of pre season feels like yesterday. To think of the season we've had since then, is simply amazing. We've topped the table for a period, we've spent large periods in the playoffs or around them, and we've taken some huge scalps in the likes of Oldham Football Club whilst playing some high level football.

When we came into this club 4 seasons ago, to think we'd be at this point so quickly, would have been simply a farfetched dream. To have done it in the manor in which we have, dominating possession and scoring some incredible team goals, makes us so proud as a management team. At the start of this season, if you told us we'd lose Josh Umerah and Rhys Browne, yet get better, we'd have all laughed. But together we have achieved it when others would have found excuses. That's testament to how well all the staff, players, fans, board and the whole club have done and we owe them all a huge amount. Not even for one moment this season have we had to worry about relegation, which will be the envy of many huge clubs in this league that are spending astronomical amounts in comparison.

The back end of the season hasn't quite panned out as we'd have liked, but there's many reasons why. If you had said at the start of the season, that a part time team, would be in and out the playoffs up until the final 9 games of the season but come up a bit short eventually, you'd say that's understandable and expected. That's exactly what's happened,

but in a weird way, coming up short of getting in the playoffs is an incredible achievement for everybody at the club. These players are going to work all day, finishing at 5pm, driving over an hour to training to start at 6.30pm, then training intensely, going home to sleep and then getting back up for work at 6.30am. I don't care who you are, that as a human being is draining and eventually takes its toll. Then you factor in the travelling that gets done for away games, and really, we should be saluting these players for what they've achieved for the football club.

This season, we've come up short solely on quality at times in relation to how much we've dominated games, but we can stomach that as Wealdstone Football Club. We can't afford to pay the money that needs to be spent to attract game defining players to our football club. We're a club that has to manufacture it, which is the hardest thing to do in football, and we managed to do it with Josh Umerah and Rhys Browne, and its what we will keep trying to do with this group. We turned Brownie from a winger, into one of the most sought after centre forwards in the league. That inevitable meant that the time came where the club couldn't keep hold of him or Josh any longer. So falling short on quality, in this league, is always going to happen the whole time we are where we are financially. That's why as a management team, is so important to strive for consistently good performances. Good performances enable a group that lack a little bit of clinicalness, to have more bites of the cherry. If we stopped performing well, we'd go from creating 7 or 8 opportunities a game, to 2 or 3, which means

we're giving players less chances to convert. So when you hear us say, even after losses, that performances are so important, that's why. We can't ever guarantee the outcome of a game, no manager can, but if we can tactically set up better than other management teams, it'll always give our players the platform and foundations to overachieve.

Our goal at the start of the season, was to stay in the division. If that was by one point or one goal, it would be another incredible achievement, so to be sat here at the end of the season, even mentioning the playoffs, means we've over achieved more than any other team in this league, and probably every other league up to the Premier League. The brutal reality is that on what we pay, the contact time we have, and the facilities the players have access to, means that the disparity between us and the next closest teams like Aldershot, Dorking or Maidenhead, is monumental. We've had to play teams like Notts County and Chesterfield, without a training session. In no other league would you find that sort of gap. So to say we've come up short of quality, is probably incorrect, as we've surpassed our objectives by a long way, but it shows the standards we set ourselves and how hungry we are to achieve and get better.

The biggest thing we now need to do as a club is manage expectations. Next season, we will still have pretty much the same model and resources that we did when we entered this league, so our expectations need to align with that. We as a management team will always try to keep that in sync via fans forums or interviews, but if you as fans can police that, the whole club stays aligned and together. We've all seen the huge teams, with ten times the resources we have, end up relegated or totally out of business. We're no exception to that, so we must make sure that the expectation of stay up by one point again, is still the general consensus. If we do that, the club remains positive, even in the tough times and allows us to keep trying to overachieve and bring success to this football club. Gradually, if the club continue the good work they're doing off the pitch, which there's lots of, we'll be able to start to bridge the gap and in turn, increase expectations.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to the



fans. In our time here, the level of understanding and the appreciation of the football we've played has gone to a level that we'll be eternally grateful for. Boreham Wood away was a brilliant example of that. It would have been easy to let the emotions of losing a game of football show, but instead the fans clapped the players because they appreciated a team that even on a bad run, was giving everything for the football club. Things like that show how far we've all come and make our challenge of lifting the players again as a management team that bit easier.

The impact you've made on this league on our travels shows you the passion and the love you all have for this club. You've out-sung some of the biggest teams in the leagues and you've lifted the players when they've needed you most. You've shown a level of class that is hard to find at other clubs and a shining example of that was at Notts County away. We will always be so grateful for all of you whether you follow us round the country, or whether you support us in other ways. The Oldham and Gateshead away days stand out the most for us, and to share the celebrations with you guys will always be special. Hopefully in exchange for your time, money and support, you've seen a team that have mirrored your efforts out on the pitch.

We've got a lot to be proud of at this football club, and I'm sure we will have many more special memories to share.

Thank you to all the fans, the staff, the players, the board, the volunteers and everyone else at the football club. The journey continues..

Stuart



BY RORY FITZGERALD



From the Boardroom



Chairman's Update

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to the players, officials, and supporters of Dorking Wanderers in what is the battle of the two part time teams in the National League.

Today is our designated "Club Day" on our final Saturday home fixture, and we will be welcoming over 50 former players and officials to enjoy the occasion which will include post-match the traditional end of season celebration in The Vale as the end of season awards take place.

Unfortunately, we enter the final weeks of the season at the wrong end of the form table incredibly frustrated by several postponed games here at the Vale that have disrupted Stuart's preparations and stopped the group from gaining any kind of momentum.

However, we mustn't let short term frustration stop us celebrating what has been an incredibly successful season for Wealdstone FC both on and off the pitch. Success on the pitch means this will be the fifth year in a row we have seen year on year improvements in our final league position indeed this will be our highest overall league finish since the Mid 1980s, player availability is becoming a problem as we lose players on International duty, Captain Jack Cook received a National League player of the month award and Sam Howes was selected for England C.

Whilst the top of the table battle between Wrexham and Notts County has been gripping we must not forget that at the start of the season Wealdstone were many pundits' favourites for the drop so to be fighting for the top 10 shows what an incredible job Stuart, Matt, the playing squad, and support staff have done. To see 4 full time outfits, including Scunthorpe who have suffered the dreaded double drop from EFL2 to the NLN, in the relegation places really underlines the competitive nature of this league and shows what a season we have had.

Attendances remain around 15% up compared with the same fixtures last season and it was fantastic to break the attendance record twice this season memorably when Wrexham visited in November and again in March when we hosted Barnet in front of the BT cameras when we had over 3000 in the ground. This will be the 7th season in a row attendances have grown year on year

and its amazing to consider that we are now averaging around three times the attendances the club was achieving in the last decade or so at the our historical home of Lower Mead back in the 1980s.

Our tenure at the Vale is secured for the next three years after a lease extension was signed in March. Another short-term lease wasn't the outcome we wanted as this prevents us from accessing both FA grants and from investing our own funds in improving the facilities but the alternative to not signing would have been to lose our place in the National League. However, conversations continue with the landlords and they have at least shown a level of commitment to Grosvenor Vale by investing in the return of cricket to the site. Boris Johnson remains involved, and we have further meetings diarised with the landlords and the former PM to keep moving the conversations forward. As I said in January so many things we want to do as a club remain on hold until the long term certainty on our home is resolved.

Our community efforts have gone from strength to strength where we have given away over 1500 free tickets to local school children as part of our "tickets for schools initiative", we have welcomed displaced Ukrainian families to the Vale, given 100s of tickets to members of the armed forces through the "Ticket for Troops" initiative and welcomed multiple groups from nearby RAF Northholt. We have a huge waiting list of children looking to get on the pitch to be Mascots and we have recently introduced Ball Boys/Girls onto the pitch. We have a growing partnership with Hillingdon Council and we were delighted to welcome so many youngsters over Easter to the Vale as part of the councils HAF programme, combining football, hot meals and healthy eating education. Many of those children will be coming for the first time to the Solihull game and I hope we give them a warm welcome. As a club Wealdstone FC is making a real impact in the local community and that's without mentioning the independent Wealdstone Youth which is without doubt one of the most successful junior outfits in and around London.

The Wealdstone FC academy, which offers football and education opportunities for 16- to 23-year-olds, has doubled in size this year. The academy is now operating out of two fantastic sites at Harefield Academy and Brunel

University. Next year it will be even bigger and early indications suggest we will have around 150 boys signed up for the various programmes on offer. It will not be long before some of these boys start to break into the 1st team. Our Academy at Brunel University will also be offering degree courses for the first time in September which means that children who start with the fantastic Wealdstone Juniors soccer school at 4+ could stay with us right through to completing their degree in their early twenties!

Interest in Wealdstone FC is steadily growing in the media and within the local business community and this year we achieved a record level of corporate sponsorship including record levels of matchday corporate hospitality revenue as we invested in improving the facilities to enable us to offer more spaces and a more premium service.

I feel the matchday experience in The Vale Social Club has improved this season especially in the quality of the beer served. The club remains an incredibly important source of income for the club and thanks largely to the efforts of Bar Manager Sarah Gowdy and her fantastic team revenues have almost recovered back up to pre covid levels.

With so many positive things happening in and around the club it is sometimes difficult to comprehend that we remain a part time football club playing in a full-time league. Operating on a part time budget in financial year 2021/22 the club reported an operating loss of c£80k and it is likely that we will report a similar if not slightly greater loss for 2022/23 as improved gate receipts and commercial income gets swallowed up by the growing costs of keeping the ageing Grosvenor Vale fit for the National League. As has been recently reported we pay little, or no agent and transfer fees and as a board we support Stuarts playing budget with every penny we raise along with additional contributions from directors and supporters where there are simply not enough pennies in the bank.

To be able to maximise the playing budget we are entirely dependent on volunteers and local sponsors who carry out much of the activities required at either cost price or in some instances at a loss and for this we are incredibly grateful. To all who have contributed

to this record breaking season I thank you and I would like to make special mentions to Adam and his amazing team at The Turf Doctor for their tireless work on the pitch, all the media team (including the commentators on the streaming platform and those who contribute to the matchday programme), all the matchday volunteers who do such an effective job of getting everyone into the ground quickly and safely, Fingers our rather unique Club Secretary and finally Richard our GM who somehow pulls everything you've just read about above together into a coherent plan. Our Independent Supporters Club are working harder than ever to raise funds for Stuart and the playing Budget and I thank all that are involved in fund raising with a special mention to those on matchday selling 50 / 50 draw tickets and to James Klarfeld and all those that support him in organising music nights and other events such as arranging the use of The Vale for other clubs playing at Wembley.

So on to next season where planning for the 23/24 season is already well underway. The team will look fantastic in our brand-new home and 3rd kits which are to be released shortly. A couple of weeks ago we were delighted to announce that season ticket prices for the 2023/24 season were to be frozen at 2022/23 levels. Our season tickets remain terrific value and works out at c£12 per game for an adult season ticket and £8 for a concession. As a football club we are not immune to the rising cost of living and as a result we have announced that the price of individual match tickets will be rising next season by a few pounds across most categories.

We have also relaunched the Wealdstone FC membership programme which gives supporters the chance to purchase shares in the club as well as purchase a season ticket. Various levels of membership are available depending on the level of investment you would like to put into the club. More details of both the season ticket offers and the Membership programme are available in the match programme, online or look out for the flyer that has been distributed at recent home games.

Finally, if you are interested in getting more actively involved for the 23/24 season then please reach out to any of the directors or Richard our General Manager.

Enjoy the game and I wish you all a happy summer break and I look forward to seeing you back at The Vale for the start of the 2023/24 season.

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB 2023-24 >>>

Season tickets for 2023-4 are on sale NOW.. with prices **FROZEN!**

Support the Stones and save yourself money with an Early Bird Season Ticket for matches at The Vale next season. Season ticket prices are unchanged from 2022-23 but hurry...the terrific offer ends on June 2nd.

With matchday admission prices set to rise, why not invest in a great-value season ticket for just £275 (adult), £185 (concession), £100 ('Next Generation' 19-23 year-olds), £50 (17-18

year-olds) and just £10 for under-16s. That will be a saving of 30%, 33%, 57%, 69% and 94% across those categories on matchday prices! Supporters now have the option to select Google Pay or Apple Pay or spread the cost over three instalments and there is now the option to hold the season ticket electronically rather than have a physical card.

To purchase your season ticket go to www.wealdstonefc.tkctks.com

	2023/24 Season Tickets		Season ticket cost per game		Individual match tickets	
	Early Bird	Standard	Early Bird	Standard	Online	Pay on the Gate
Adult £	275	325	11.96	14.13	18	20
Concession £	185	225	8.04	9.78	13	15
Next Gen £	100	150	4.35	6.52	11	13
16-18 £	50	80	2.17	3.48	7	8
Under 16* £	10	10	0.43	0.43	7	8

* £10 season ticket will be donated to the Wealdstone FC Charitable Foundation



Wealdstone FC Membership 2023/24

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB – OWN YOUR CLUB

The Wealdstone FC membership programme gives supporters the opportunity to not only support the team on the pitch but financially support the club through the purchase of shares in Wealdstone FC.

There are four levels of membership **Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze**, all with benefits that reflect YOUR involvement with the club.

Platinum	Gold	Silver	Bronze
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Adult Season Ticket # £700 Wealdstone Shares # League Home Programmes # 4 Home Pre-season Tickets # 4 Friend for a Fiver Tickets # 10% WFC/WFCSC Event Ticket Discount # Club Shop Discount (5% Replica Kit : 20% Accessories) # 20% Discount Hall Hire (when available) # On Field Parking (when available) # 2023-4 Team Photograph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Adult Season Ticket # £200 Wealdstone Shares # League Home Programmes # 2 Home Pre-season Tickets # 2 Friend for a Fiver Tickets # Club Shop Discount (5% Replica Kit : 20% Accessories) # 20% Discount Hall Hire # 2023-4 Team Photograph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Adult Season Ticket # £100 Wealdstone Shares # League Home Programmes # 2 Friend for a Fiver Tickets # Club Shop Discount (5% Replica Kit : 20% Accessories) # 20% Discount Hall Hire # 2023-4 Team Photograph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Adult Season Ticket # £50 Wealdstone Shares # 1 Friend for a Fiver Tickets # Club Shop Discount (5% Replica Kit : 20% Accessories) # 20% Discount Hall Hire # 2023-4 Team Photograph
£1000 : Concessions £925	£500 : Concessions £425	£400 : Concessions £325	£300 : Concessions £225
All Members will also be entered into Christmas and Easter Prize Draws to win a signed Home or Away Shirt			
Tick box to select <input type="checkbox"/>	Tick box to select <input type="checkbox"/>	Tick box to select <input type="checkbox"/>	Tick box to select <input type="checkbox"/>

For more information or to join up simply go on-line www.wealdstonefc.com/membership or email the your name and contact details to memberships@wealdstonefc.com. Alternatively post your details to The General Manager, Wealdstone FC, Grosvenor Vale, Ruislip, HA4 6JQ.

Payments can be made in one lump sum or in staged payments (online purchases) or by standing order of five equal payments to the following Wealdstone FC (2000) Limited Sort code 09-06-66 Acc 43154786 Ref WFC Membership.

Join up and be part of the Wealdstone FC story next season as we take on all-comers in front of record crowds here at Grosvenor Vale.

BY SUDHIR RAWAL



The Elmslie

Stones have defied gravity yet again, crowds increasing while reputation is growing. Definitely a successful year!



Alex, Luca, River, Jay and the Yoof crew



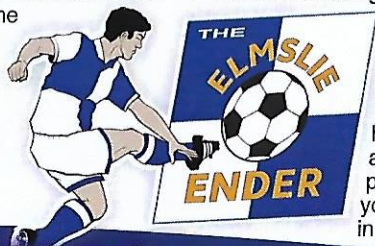
The Peter Smallwood gang on tour

As we reach the dying embers of the season, it is always worthwhile reflecting on the campaign that has just gone by. As supporters, we would have been ecstatic with 20th and confirmation of another season in the top tier of non-league football.

As I write after the Solihull postponement, we are twelfth having sustained a run that took us to the very edges of the play offs. We have slipped back a tad, having had heady thoughts of sneaking into the play-offs - but we should still finish higher than we did last season, continuing the progress made year on year.

The management team would have had their own points tally which in all likelihood may have had a six in front of it. Whether we get there or not will depend on if we can stem our late season run when wins have suddenly become far more difficult.

Has the fact that we were more or less safe at the start of March seen the intensity in our performances dissipate? Or the fact that baby blues has affected our defence where



The 'Elmslie Ender' was among the first wave of football club magazines when it replaced 'Long Ball Down the Middle' as the Wealdstone fanzine in the mid-1980s. LBDTM's forerunner 'Wealdstone Whispers' was famously the THE very first football fanzine in Britain when it was published in 1971

we make at least one major clanger per game? Regardless of that, the season as a whole has been a wonderful success. I think that there isn't necessarily a standout player this season shows how well the squad have done as a whole. A team game rather than individual success.

At the start of the season, we were firm favourites to go down. Not only to slip through the trap door, but to be rock bottom. We haven't even been close to the relegation zone, let alone been part of the conversation for the second year on the spin and great credit goes to the management team and the playing squad for that.

So, what have been then highlights. For me, some of our football at times has been fantastic. Sambastones has on occasions lit up the National League - the evening when we played former Premier League Oldham Athletic off the park at Boundary Park, scoring a stunning goal in the process, will live long in many people's memories. Our home support is growing, best average gates since we turned professional, with an ever-growing youth, cementing the brilliant work in the community that the club has

Ender



More flags than fans? I don't think so! This was the Canal House pub packed out with Stones at Notts away

done so well. Twice this season we have broken the record crowd at the Vale, including our first 3,000+ league gate since 1975. Our away support, whilst not as big as last season on average, continues to get rave reviews from the Belts in particular.

We once again took more away fans to the Cuckoos than we averaged at home in our double year! Big followings went to Woking, Notts County, Wrexham and York among others, and another huge away support will travel to Southend on the last day of the season.

Last minute winners, away from home in particular, are difficult to beat for the sheer jubilation and we had not one but two. York was utterly brilliant, whilst Torquay was just a matter of time, both former Belts undone deservedly so.

Notts as a day out was just fabulous. Another sun-kissed Easter Friday, same as Southend last season, pubs aplenty, so many Stones around the town, the Canal House taken over. Shame the result wasn't what we would have wanted, but it was a fitting day for the home club on a day filled with sadness on the passing of their CEO. Our fans fully paid their part in honouring his memory.

What didn't go so well? Our abject record in cup matches, especially the two FA competitions, for starters. Not sure

WEALDSTONE
2022-23

the management team have won a proper cup game under their tenure. Our record in the Middlesex Senior Cup: shocking. I remember the time we won it in 1985! I know it's a tinpot, but a cup and we can be choosy with our record in the national competition. Two defeats to the Cuckoos, especially the away game where over 800 Stones turned up but the team didn't. And sadly, one of our young female supporters being assaulted, with the perpetrator not brought to book.

In the home game, we should have put the game to bed in the first half, but didn't and then the sloppiness that has infected our play since March kicked in. Whilst crowds are getting bigger and bigger, the atmosphere at home is patchy, best and pretty poor at worse. When we were in the lower leagues, the Vale was a hostile place to come with much less than half the crowds we get now.

So, what does the future bring. We have a fantastic management team and we need to match their ambitions in progressing on year, moving away from being the only full-time team with the smallest budget in the league to either a hybrid or full-time model, but doing it in a sustainable way.

Whether that is here at the Vale or elsewhere, we don't know, but if it is away from here, then it appears to be only one site that would still tap the market that we have sown so well. We should be looking to continue to expand our support and target average crowds of 2,000. But there is much to be pleased about at the progress they are making. Some will say it isn't quick enough, but it is steady and sustained and the board should be commended for that. A great year!

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NEWS

IMPORTANT UPDATE WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB (2000) LIMITED GENERAL MEETING

Due to the rearrangement of Wealdstone FC's National League fixture at home to Solihull Moors, the date of the Wealdstone Football Club (2000) Limited General Meeting has been changed to Wednesday 3 May 2023 at 6.30 pm. Please note that the meeting will now be conducted via Zoom. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Notice is hereby given that a General Meeting of Wealdstone FC (2000) Limited ("the Company") will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 3 May at 6.30 pm for the following purposes:

1. To receive and consider the Report of the Directors and the accounts of the Company for the period ended 31 May 2022.
2. To consider the following Ordinary Resolution:

RESOLUTION

Subject always to the requirements of the Company's Articles of Association, that the Directors shall have the power to allot such shares as they think fit until the date of the next General Meeting. By order of the Board. Andrew Lane, Company Secretary, Dated 18 April 2023

Note

Please note that the meeting will be held via Zoom. Joining details below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83364318074?pwd=WWxDYzNjQW1qd2kxMFNraE9mekV2dz09>

MASCOTS

DEXTER HAZELDINE

Today's first mascot is 11 year old Dexter Hazeldine, grandson of long-term Stones fan Don Cross (and son of his daughter Kylie and her partner Ryan) . He has been attending Wealdstone games since he was a baby. Living in Dunstable means he is unable to make as many games as he would like. Dexter currently goes to Hadrian Academy - off to to Manshead Academy in September - and is an avid F1 and golf fan.



His most memorable Wealdstone match was the 4-3 away win at Weymouth in August 2019, where he celebrated the last minute away win with a swim in the sea (whilst singing We Are The Stones at the top of his voice) and a fish and chip supper.

GEORGE & JACK DAVISON



Today's other mascots are 12 year old George Davison and his 7-year-old brother Jack - the grandsons of another veteran Stones fan, Tim Parks. The boys live in Takeley, near Bishops stortford with mum Charlotte, dad Jamie and sisters Daisy and Emily... and George had a proud record of seeing Wealdstone win the first four games he attended including the unlikely 1-0 success at Southend last Easter. They blotted their copybook when they attended the 6-1 defeat by Notts County last year! Both play for Dunmow Rovers and are having trials with Ipswich Town.

WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2022/2023

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PERSONNEL

Club President Paul Rumens
Chairman Rory Fitzgerald
Vice Chairman Dominic Whyley
Financial Director Dominic Whyley
Director Nick Symmons, Todd Johnson
Engagement and Community Director Darren Linden
Associate Directors Paul Rumens, Paul Fruin, Peter Worby, Quentin Fox, Keith Davies
General Manager Richard Hopwood
Club Secretary & Welfare Officer Paul Fruin (07790 038095)
Company Secretary Andrew Lane
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Academy Coach Kenny Mutsanya, David Vine
Club Doctor Monil Karia
Sports Therapist Michael Owen
Strengthening & Conditioning Rachel Hill
Performance Analysts Yusef Ahmed, James West

MAJOR HONOURS SINCE 1950

LEAGUE TITLES

1951 / 1952 Athenian League
1973 / 1974 Southern League Division One South
1981 / 1982 Southern League Southern Division
1981 / 1982 Southern League Championship
1984 / 1985 National League Premier (Gola League)
1996 / 1997 Isthmian League Division Three
2013 / 2014 Isthmian League Premier Division
2019 / 2020 National League South

NATIONAL CUPS

1965 / 1966 FA Amateur Cup
1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

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

NON TITLE-WINNING PROMOTIONS

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

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.

Wealdstone FC Board of Directors

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SUPPORTER PROFILE: GORDON THOMSON

The Fan in the Stand

A fascinating tale of following the Stones from Havant to Grimsby...well it makes a break from painting and concreting!

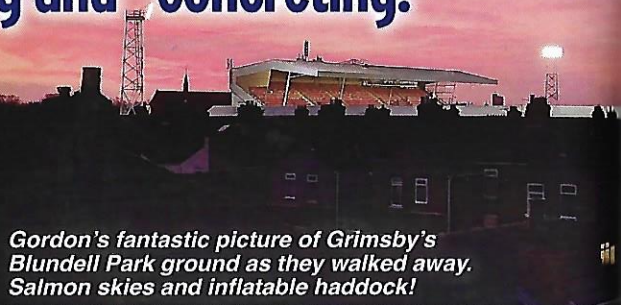
This edition of FIS sees our 'victim' Gordon Thomson go a little off piste... but we're allowing him some licence as he has donated so much time and energy to the upkeep of the Vale! He even won the 'Supporter of the Year' award a few years ago as testament to his dedication with paintbrush and concrete shovel, even if he is a relative 'newbie' to the Stones. This is his unusual story...

I am an aged new kid to the Vale. Living in the Northolt area, it was only after some 20 years of driving past that I realised that there was a football ground in Ruislip Manor and of course logically that Wealdstone FC played there!

My good friend Phil White and I ventured into those threatening suburbs to watch our first game. It was a Trophy Replay against Dartford in 2011/12 and the Stones won 1-0. An auspicious start.

I was born in 1947 in Knockholt, Kent, the end of Transport for London territory, my parents having moved down from Scotland during the war. My immediate family is my sister in law, two cousins and two nieces and their families. My younger niece's younger daughter plays football. She is always guaranteed to be selected as her dad is the team manager. My elder niece's younger son plays for a Thetford Town team. Stuart, you had better get up there quick!

After 5 years at Manchester University I started work in



Gordon's fantastic picture of Grimsby's Blundell Park ground as they walked away. Salmon skies and inflatable haddock!

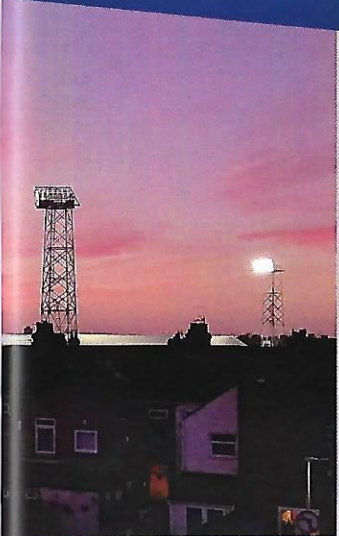
1972 only to be made redundant in 1974 by the incoming Labour Government. As Chair of the local Union Branch it was quite ironic to be leading the picketing of the offices of Michael Foot, the Employment Minister, for improved redundancy terms. Then a lifetime career in pay research for the local Government National Employers Organisation which negotiated the wages of all local government workers- there were a lot more then than now!

Back in the 60s and 70s I used follow Chelsea but gradually lost interest because of ownership and financial issues in particular and the direction that Division One was going generally.

I have watched some Seagulls flying on the South coast and saw Cheltenham, newly promoted from the Conference play their first League game against Rochdale. To complete the circle I am now likely to be going



Above: a proud moment as Gordon is handed the Supporter of the Year award by Nick Dugard



later this year to Rochdale to see their first Conference game. I have great respect for the faithful fans of relegated League teams who have continued to support them in great numbers, including of course the Oldham fans who saw their club play in the Premiership!

It makes me think that non-league is a misnomer... shouldn't it be Ex-League?

Talking of the EFL, no I wouldn't like to see Wealdstone promoted but I would like to see us in the playoffs. The nature of the Club would change entirely. No disrespect to the ex-League teams in the Conference but they are different in terms of money and usually type of ownership; how many of them have a Supporters Club which is a major shareholder? How many of them have supporters' working parties, raffle draws, music nights and barbecues for fans visiting Wembley? This is not to say that they don't have community projects.

The Vale has a unique character created with the very individual skills of many Supporters over many years. I think the school of architecture is known as 'eclectic' which means that (deliberately) nothing is uniform. Look closely at the different mixes of concrete under your feet (Heinz would be

proud of the 57 varieties of the many shades of blue and the imperfect white lines. Should Wealdstone ever leave the Vale past and current fans should remember that it was the efforts of many over the past years who made the Vale the home of Wealdstone FC.

Part of the nature of the Club reflects its time nature, particularly off the pitch. There are certain 'part-time' (misnomer) officials who ensure that the club not only survives but functions and improves. They are of course the ones who make the least noise. There are also the unsung volunteers who do so much on many days. Similarly, there is the enormous effort of contribution of all those involved in the youth set up putting out some 40+ teams a week. Another side I was not aware of is the Community Work. Football in Schools (thanks too to some of the players) and the Old Peoples' dancing.

The character of the Club is also reflected in its generosity. I wasn't at the famous Cup win at Southport- seems to be the most memorable away trip for many- but one of the Southport players was seriously injured. The supporters raised over £1,400 to assist in his recovery. Similarly the Vale more recently an Altrincham player lost a leg. Again, some £1400 was raised to help the player get back on his feet. Amazing!

And then there's the clubhouse. The place on many Saturdays where Premiership team supporters meet.



Gordon (right) and his friend Phil White pictured at the magnificent Three Pigeons pub. The game was called off the day before but they were the last men standing at the

supporters meet Arsenal, Chelsea, sea, Spurs at West Ham fan say hello through gritted glistening teeth. Some try to hide their smiles others their cheeks may. Brentford Fulham supporters just smile war each other- for season at least.

This piece

CONTINUE OVERPAGE

Fan in the Stand contd

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

doesn't cover matters more appropriate for the AGM and other places. I am aware of issues, shortcomings and failures. I would just mention one thing. When will the Pill Box (club merchandise shop) outside the clubhouse be moved alongside the Gun Turret to become another listed structure?!

The season. Amazing achievement on such a small budget (and with part-time players) to stay in the League with so many points. Scouting, recruitment, selection....skill and endeavour. All the management team and players deserve huge credit and congratulations. I will not name favourite players as over the seasons there have been too many players even to think about. Bit like Premiership Managers this season. I would however congratulate the loanees over the last couple of seasons who have contributed so much.

A major part of the enjoyment of Non League, and Wealdstone in particular, is the away trips. Just to think that I would never otherwise have gone to East Thurrock or Concord! But also, I wouldn't have ever visited properly the likes of Truro, Weymouth and surprisingly Dover. But three ex League venues stand out. Chesterfield with its crooked spire, pubs and cricket ground. Halifax with its magnificent Romanesque Piece Hall and the outstanding Three Pigeons pub near the ground (beer, architecture and landlord).

At the last re-arranged mid week game it was only Wealdstone fans who were left 'standing' after midnight.

That's the essence of away games; the familiar faces, camaraderie and the SINGING. The spirit of Churchill's famous phrase about the Battle of Britain comes to mind. The Fewer the Louder. The singing at the last home game against Barnet was not the most melodic, harmonious or the lyrics the most sophisticated.

Perhaps the most memorable though, and surprisingly, trip was to Grimsby - again I would

never have gone there but for WFC. We lost but were in a perfect position to see Jamie Mascoll's shot from the touch line loop into the goal (will it... won't it... will it...yes it will!) Our former star Mich Efete also scored- for Grimsby.

Then as we exited the ground, and walking to Cleethorpes along the sea wall saw Blundell Park magnificently 'lit' up...a glorious sight. A1 fish and chips; pubs; and the last train back to Grimsby Dock to visit a micro brewery. The friendly staff were surprised that we had got off at the Dock and not got an Uber from the town. Well, I will admit it was a bit scary getting off the train in the silent and virtually dark docklands. But hey ho there were two of us. Then, just like in *The Third Man*, an outline of a thin figure appears out of the shadows. 'Can I help you Gentlemen?' 'Yes, we are looking for Docks Beers Brewery'. 'Oh, that's across the road. Is there anything else I can do for you gentlemen?' 'No thank you' and we quickened our pace to the Brewery!

And the most memorable game for atmosphere: Away to Havant and Waterlooville when Moses Emmanuel missed a sitter. They went and equalised and you thought that was it... but then he popped up again to score the winner. The fans went wild.

I believe that past players and staff are being invited to today's game to celebrate our achievement of staying in the National Conference for a third year. That says everything about the Club. May there be many more similar celebrations, although no doubt some would prefer to be celebrating promotion to the League.

But as we gently mock opposition teams who have been relegated from the League 'non League, and you know you are', I will simply say 'I know I am non-league'.

And another chant, 'you are going down' would never be my favourite as it might be us one day - but hopefully not too soon. Whoever is going down may it not be 'out'. We are proudly non-league.



The 'Holywell Part II' stand goes up at The Vale. Built by fans and erected by fans. A lasting testament to the WFC spirit



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Groundtel
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Opposition in focus



WANDERERS

Dorking Wanderers Football Club is a professional football club based in Dorking, Surrey, England. Affiliated to the Surrey County Football Association, they are currently members of the National League, the fifth tier of English football, and play at Meadowbank.

The club was formed in 1999 and initially played in the Crawley & District League. After their first season in the Crawley League they switched to Division Four of the West Sussex League, winning the division at the first attempt. In 2001–02 the club finished as Division Three runners-up, earning a third consecutive promotion. After winning Division Two in 2003–04 they were promoted to Division One, and a third-place finish in Division One in 2005–06 saw them promoted to the Premier Division.

In 2006–07 Wanderers won the West Sussex League's Premier Division, clinching the title with a victory on the last day of the season. As a result, the club were promoted to Division Three of the Sussex County League. They went on to win Division Three in 2010–11, earning promotion to Division Two. A third-place finish in Division Two the following season was enough to see them promoted to Division One. However, the league initially denied them entry to the division as their ground was not deemed to meet the necessary requirements. However the club appealed against this decision to the Football Association, who overruled the decision after an independent ground



grading visit confirmed that the ground reached the mandatory standards for Division One football. Although the team initially struggled in Division One, finishing third-from-bottom in 2012–13, they finished second in 2014–15, earning promotion to Division One South of the Isthmian League.

In Wanderers' first season in the Isthmian League they finished as runners-up in Division One South, qualifying for the promotion play-offs, going on to lose 2–1 to Faversham Town in the semi-finals. The following season saw them finish second again; in the play-offs they beat Hastings United on penalties in the semi-final after a 1–1 draw, and then won again on penalties against Corinthian-Casuals in the final following a 0–0 draw, earning promotion to the Premier Division. In 2018–19 the club won the Premier Division by a margin of 22 points, earning promotion to the National League South for their first time in history.

Following the curtailment of the 2019–20 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they

were placed seventh in the league table (decided on a points-per-game basis), qualifying for the promotion play-offs. After beating Bath City 2–1 in the quarter-finals, the club lost 3–2 to Weymouth in the semi-finals. The 2020–21 season was made null and void following a vote by member clubs of the National League, Dorking were sitting top of the league at the point the season was ended.

In the 2021–22 season Wanderers won their first Surrey Senior Cup Final, beating Kingstonian 5–4 on penalties after a 1–1 draw. In the 2021–22 season Dorking finished second in the league, going on to defeat Ebbsfleet United 3–2 in the play-off final, earning promotion to the National League for the first time in the club's history.

The club initially played at Big Field Brockham, before moving to the Westhumble Playing Fields on London Road in 2007. The ground had a small seated stand and covered standing on one side of the pitch, with the remainder being uncovered; Floodlights were installed in 2012. In July 2018 the club relocated to a refurbished Meadowbank

DORKING WANDERERS

HOME GROUND - MEADOWBANK
CAPACITY - 3,000 (522 SEATED)
MANAGER - MARC WHITE
2021/22 - 2ND NATIONAL LEAGUE

ground, which had previously been home of Dorking F.C. prior to their disbanding. Their first match at Meadowbank was a friendly match against Sutton United on 17 July 2018.

Meadowbank had become the home ground of Dorking F.C. in 1953. A 200-seat stand was built on one side of the pitch around 1956, a covered standing area built on the other. A second covered standing area was installed behind the goal, with the other end left open. However, the club were forced to leave the ground in 2013 as it was shut down for failing to meet health and safety requirements. Prior to Dorking Wanderers moving to the ground, it was upgraded to include a 300-seat stand, two covered standing areas and a 3G pitch as it was converted to a community sports facility at a cost of £5m. The Surrey Football Association also moved their headquarters to Meadowbank when it reopened.

In February 2020 the club announced that planning permission had been granted to upgrade Meadowbank Stadium to a Grade B status. In July 2020, the stadium passed the Grade B assessment. By September 2020 work had been completed on a new seated stand and a new covered terrace both at the east end of the stadium, taking Meadowbank's official capacity to 3,000.

HONOURS

Isthmian League
Premier Division champions 2018–19

Southern Combination
Division Three champions 2010–11

West Sussex League
Premier Division champions 2006–07
Division Two North champions 2003–04
Division Four North champions 2000–01

Surrey Senior Cup
Winners 2021–22[8]

OUR RECORD AGAINST DORKING WANDERERS

P4 W2 D1 L1 F7 A8 GD -1

Opposition in focus

DORKING WANDERERS

2. ISAAC PHILPOTT - DEFENCE

Having grown up in Dorking, Isaac signed in 2018 from Welsh Premier League team Cardiff Metropolitan. Now in his 4th season, Isaac was ever present throughout the 2019/20 campaign. Isaac also had a spell at Sutton United

3. BOBBY-JOE TAYLOR - MIDFIELD

Bobby joined us in 2021. He made his full football league debut for Cambridge United in 2014. Bobby-Joe has also represented England C twice and played for Bromley FC and Dover Athletic.

4. SAMI EL-ABD - DEFENCE

Sami is now starting his 4th season with the club. He joined The Wanderers from Bognor Regis at the start of the 2018-2019 campaign and was our captain throughout that title winning season. Formally with Whitehawk, Chelmsford and Hayes & Yeading.

5. ED HARRIS - DEFENCE

Formerly with QPR, AFC Wimbledon and Dover Athletic, Ed joined us at the start of 2019-20 season from Havant & Waterlooville where he was part of their National League South promotion winning team.

6. NIALL MCMANUS - MIDFIELD

Niall is starting his 4th season with the club having joined us from Leatherhead in 2018. A former Carshalton, Millwall and Hayes & Yeading player.

7. JIMMY MUITT - MIDFIELD

Jimmy signed for us at the beginning of the 2019/20 season from Bognor Regis with a reputation as a prolific goal scorer at his former clubs Brighton, Lewes and Bognor Regis.

8. MATT BRIGGS - MIDFIELD

In his 7th season with us at Meadowbank, Matt was born and raised in Tyneside and is a graduate of the famous Wallsend Boys Club and Blackburn FC.

9. RYAN SEAGER - FORWARD

Having risen through the ranks at the Southampton academy, Ryan made an appearance for the first team in 2015. After loan spells with clubs including Crewe Alexandra and MK Dons Ryan signed permanently for his home town side Yeovil Town, in 2019. The following summer he made the switch to Hungerford Town.

10. ALFIE RUTHERFORD - FORWARD

One of four new signings ahead of the 20/21 season. Signed from Havant & Waterlooville. Despite being



only 23, Alfie has a wealth of Step 2 experience, having played in the National League with Havant and Waterlooville, for two seasons. He has also played for Bognor Regis Town

11. JAMES MCSHANE - FORWARD

In his 6th season with the club, he has played for several Scottish League teams (including Clyde) and more locally for Chipstead, Egham and Molesey.

12. CALLUM KENNEDY - DEFENCE

Callum signed for us in 2020. Ex professional, having made over 250 appearances for several league teams including Swindon, Scunthorpe, AFC Wimbledon and Orient, Callum joined us from Billericay.

14. JORDAN CHEADLE - DEFENCE

Jordan has enjoyed time with Kingstonians, Walton and Carshalton Athletic from who he joined us in 2021.

15. ADAM MEKKI - MIDFIELD

After coming through the youth ranks at Reading FC Adam signed for Aldershot Town in 2009. He would remain with 'The Shots' for four years. He moved on to have spells with Barnet and Dover Athletic, before switching to Tranmere Rovers in 2015, Adam then signed for Bromley the following year, Released by Bromley Ebbsfleet secured his signature:

16. NICKY WHEELER - MIDFIELD

Nicky joined us in 2020 but injury kept him sidelined until the end of last season where Nicky performed well in the play-off. Having started at Charlton, Nicky went on to play for Tonbridge Angels, Dagenham, Billericay, and Woking.

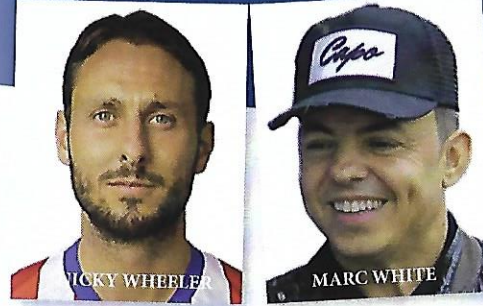
17. JOSH TAYLOR - MIDFIELD

Josh joined us from Havant & Waterlooville in 202. After spending 4 years in the USA on a scholarship, Josh was at Sutton United for two

THE PLAYERS TO WATCH

LAST MEETINGS

Sat 22nd Oct 2022 - (A) L 1-3
Sat 22nd Feb 2020 (H) W 3-1



seasons before moving to The Hawks.

18. LUKE MOORE - MIDFIELD The former AFC Wimbledon man is now in his 5th season with The Wanderers having previously played league football with 168 appearances for AFC Wimbledon as well as receiving a call up to the England C team.

20. DAN GALLAGHER - MIDFIELD Dan joined The Wanderers in 2019. Having been at AFC Wimbledon since he was 10 years old, Dan represented the first team there during the 14/15 season before moving to Kingstonian and Leatherhead

21. DAN LINCOLN - GOALKEEPER Dan joined the Wanderers ranks in December 21 after 3 years and 100 appearances for Bognor Regis and more recently with Hampton and Hayes & Yeading. Dan is also a professional cricketer having recently made his first class debut for Kent.

22. BARRY FULLER (C) - DEFENCE Barry signed in 2020 from Gillingham where he made a total of 195 appearances either side of playing 205 games for AFC Wimbledon.

24. HARRY OTTAWAY - FORWARD

Ottaway, 33, is an experienced striker who's previous clubs include Sutton, Dover and (more recently) Carshalton.

25. AARON KUHL - MIDFIELD Aaron came through the academy at Reading FC, & going on to make several first team appearances., Aaron's time at Reading also included loan spells at Dundee United and Boreham Wood, and during these years he also represented England at U19 and U20 level. In 2019 Aaron moved across the

county to Slough Town.

27. TONY CRAIG - DEFENCE

Tony came through the ranks at Millwall FC, making his first team debut in 2003. In the period of his career away from The Den, Tony would remain in the Capital to play for the likes of Crystal Palace, Leyton Orient and Brentford. After his final spell with Millwall in 2018, Tony went on to play for Bristol Rovers and Crawley Town.

28. ALFIE EGAN - MIDFIELD

Alfie made 21 appearances for AFC Wimbledon & gaining further experience with loan spells at Sutton United, East Thurrock United and Kingstonian, before joining Ebbsfleet before joining National League side Boreham Wood.

30. SEB BOWERMAN - MIDFIELD

Seb made the short move across Berkshire from Binfield to Bracknell Town in 2016 before joining us in September 2022.

32. GIUSEPPE SOLE - FORWARD Signed joining The Wanderers in November 2016, Gezz has scored some fantastic goals and has become renowned as a dead-ball specialist. A legend at his home club of Woking, he scored 111 goals

in 352 appearances for the club. He also played for the Cardinals and like Luke, also had the honour of playing for the England C team. Gezz played for Newport County

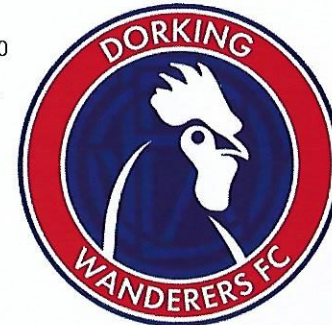
33. JOE COOK - DEFENCE

Joe joined The Wanderers on a season-long loan deal having joined Chesterfield back in the summer from Bognor Regis.

37. GEORGE FRANCOIS - MIDFIELD George, began his career at Tottenham Hotspur before moving on to Norwich City at 16. George

loan spells with Barnet and then Hibernian, before joining AFC Wimbledon in 2013. George signed for Crawley Town in 2018,

MANAGER MARC WHITE



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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 Weald- stone 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	Peter Jones
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		
ALTRINCHAM Saturday, 4th March Vanarama National League	Raine & Kevin Robb		
MAIDSTONE UNITED Tuesday, 7th March Vanarama National League	Recycle DNC Ltd		
CHESTERFIELD Tuesday, 14th March Vanarama National League	Ruislip Windows & Doors		
BARNET Saturday, 25th March Vanarama National League	Turf Doctor	In Memory of Darren Hooker	Fenton Civil Engineering
OLDHAM ATHLETIC Tuesday, 28th March Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Bugler Group	
SOLIHULL MOORS Tuesday 10th April Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East		
ALDERSHOT TOWN Tuesday, 18th April Vanarama National League	DMS Landscapes	In Memory of John O'Connor	Harrow Windows
DORKING WANDERERS Saturday, 22nd April Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	People for Print	



1ST TEAM RESULTS SEASON 2022/2023

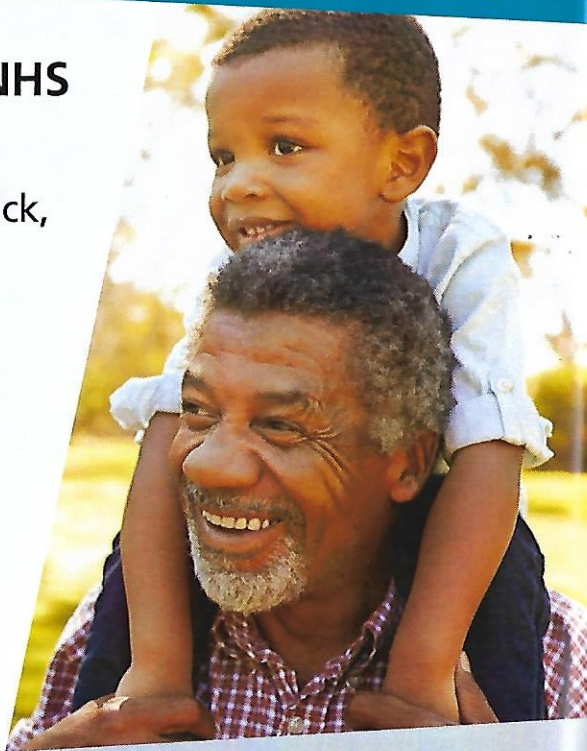
Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers	Sam HOWES	Jack COOK	Rhys BROWNE	Ashley CHARLES	Alex DYER	Dom HUTCHINSON	Tarryn ALLARAKHIA	Max KRETZSCHMAR	Lewis KINSELLA	Giovanni MCCREGOR	Malachi NAPA	Jordy MONGYO	LEON MUNDLE-SMITH	David SESAY	Nathan FERGUSON	Elijah HEARN	Tecane SHROWDER	Olufela OLOMOLA	Mason BARRETT	Eric NEGRARU	Deje ELEREWE	Sam HABERGHAM	Dante-Astor BAPTISTE	Simeon AKINOLA	Micah OBIERO	Sam MATTHEWS	Charlie BARKER	Miguel FRECKLETON	Brooklyn ILUNGA	Kyle BROWN	Makai WILSON BRAITHWAITE	Corrie ANDREWS	Tarrelle WHITTAKER	Sonny Blu LO-VERTON	Joel TAYLOR	Charles CLAYDEN	Lewis SIMPER							
6 BROMLEY	VNL	3-2	1,090	162	5	Olomola, Browne (2)	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
13 Eastleigh	VNL	0-1	1,814	189	12		(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
16 Oldham Athletic	VNL	2-1	6,869	152	4	Browne, Allarakhia	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
20 FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL	1-0	1,197	72	2	Browne	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
27 Gateshead	VNL	1-0	1,104	135	1	Browne	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
29 YEovil TOWN	VNL	0-0	1,714	251	2		(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
SEPTEMBER																																																	
4 WOKING	VNL	1-1	1,638	269	6	Kretzschmar (Pen)	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
13 Maidstone United	VNL	1-1	1,799	110	6	Cook	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
17 TORQUAY UNITED	VNL	1-1	1,366	208	6	Browne	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
24 SOUTHEND UNITED	VNL	0-1	2,391	910	7		(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
OCTOBER																																																	
1 Aldershot Town	VNL	2-1	1,702	175	7	Browne (2)	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
4 Solihull Moors	VNL	1-2	1,326	115	8	Olomola	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
8 BOREHAM WOOD	VNL	1-2	1,386	124	8	Akinola	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
15 Boreham Wood	FAC4	3-5	1,011	315	9	Olomola (2), Akinola	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
22 Dorking Wanderers	VNL	1-3	1,416	228	12	Allarakhia	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
25 NOTTS COUNTY	VNL	1-6	1,710	513	12	Obiero	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
29 Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL	1-4	1,503	147	13	Habergham	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
NOVEMBER																																																	
1 Altrincham	VNL	1-0	1,262	80	13	Olmola	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
12 WREXHAM	VNL	0-0	2,817	1,100	14		(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
19 York City	VNL	2-1	4,770	260	13	Freckleton, Cook	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
26 SCUNTHORPE UNITED	VNL	3-1	1,460	129	13	Kretzschmar, Obiero, Olomola	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
30 Scunthorpe & Kingsbury	MSC	2-1	73	TBA	13	Mundle-Smith	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
DECEMBER																																																	
3 Barnet	VNL	0-2	2,494	836	12		(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
10 Bromley	VNL	3-3	1,674	100	12	Olmola, Allarakhia, Dyer	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
26 MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VNL	3-2	1,474	56	8	Ferguson (2), Olomola	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
JANUARY																																																	
1 Maidenhead United	VNL	0-0	1,635	250	8		(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
4 Chelmsford City	FAT3	1-2	535	TBA	8	Ferguson	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
7 EASTLEIGH	VNL	3-1	1,240	77	7	Ferguson, Obiero, Kretzschmar	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
28 GATESHEAD	VNL	1-2	1,302	72	10	Kretzschmar	(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)			
31 Yeovil Town	VNL	0-0	1,996	54	11		(13)	(2)	(10)	(4)	(17)	(7)	(18)	(3)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)										

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Mya Graham,
UCFB graduate, Assistant Producer at talkSPORT



I really enjoyed my time at GIS where I gained valuable analysis knowledge and additional coaching experience. This is definitely the place to go if working in football is your long term aim.

Dene Field
GIS graduate, First Team Analyst and Coaching Assistant at **Watford FC Women**



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BY MARTIN READ



World of Ball

Can there ever be such a thing as 'too much' football? It feels like we'll be answering that question soon enough

As we come to the end of what's been a pretty wonderful season for England's most highly placed semi-professional football club (I mean, come on, where IS the national recognition of this feat?) it's time to once again welcome the short respite that the summer allows for us to recharge our batteries and, as they say, 'go again'. Feels more than a bit weird to be saying that in the middle of April, but of course these days even a 46 game season needs to be scheduled to end early in order that we can fit in the play-offs.

So that's what this column is about, really: the growth not just in number of games, but ways of watching said games, and the question to be answered – are we headed towards 'peak' football?

As of this season pretty much all top level non-league has been fashioned into 24 club divisions, and thus 46 matches per season. In the professional game, only the Premier League has fewer than 24 clubs. So there's 'mission creep' in terms of total matches in a season, for a start.

Then there are the play-offs, which for most organised football leagues have become the true 'knock-out' matches of our time. But it's not as if actual cup games have been eliminated to accommodate them. The FA Cup feels as if it's been relegated to some old-fashioned quirky 'other' competition, but it's still there, as are the various league and county cups.

So then, already that's more league matches and potentially more knock-out matches at club level. What of international level? Well, we now watch a 24 rather than 16 team Euros, and have done since 2016. And in 2026, we've just had it confirmed that the World Cup in the US, Mexico and Canada will comprise a whopping 104 matches instead of the 64 we've been used to since 1998. Forty more games!

Then there's what's available to us on screen. Back in the 1970s, the best you could hope for was

two hour-long magazine programmes, Match of the Day on the BBC and The Big Match on ITV. At least with the latter you could be sure of seeing some of your local clubs by virtue of independent television's local network affiliations. Big European games were exotic fare, medium-wave quality commentary over grainy, slightly out of alignment colour. The very idea of high definition was once the most dramatic technological change of the day. I recall in Tottenham Court Road staring in awe at an impossibly large 40 inch TV showing the all-new 'high definition' football. Look, I thought, you can even make out the names on the shirts.

Today? Well, you can watch whatever you fancy, really. All those elongated European club tournaments, all the internationals, all the international leagues and tournaments too; and all of it presented in high definition, right down to our level and beyond. Hell, we can even stream our own matches, even the 3:00pm kick offs, rather than go to all the fuss and bother of actually walking through a turnstile.

Double trouble

There is also that other revolution in football currently changing the landscape: the women's game. Gender parity within the sport means that this branch of football on its way to becoming, within the decade, just as routinely broadcast as the men's game, with a marked effect down and across the pyramid. And so - where is it all going to go? There's clearly an appetite, refreshingly so, with England set to go the World Cup in Australia this summer as one of the favourites. Even four years ago, that would have seemed an extraordinary thing to be talking about. And already, the women's Premier League and FA Cup games are broadcast live



on TV, with audiences growing appreciably. Currently, it seems that most women's teams do not share their male counterparts' stadiums, but how sustainable is this with crowds growing at such a pace and in need of accommodation? And if clubs do end up hosting both men and women's matches at their main stadiums, what will this mean to the debate over the use of plastic pitches? As for broadcast, let's take gender parity in football to its logical conclusion: not 46 but 92 league matches a season. Double the Cup games, double the internationals, double everything ... phew!

The game's a bit special

With so much football so much of the time, what we can easily lose is that sense of occasion; the 'otherness' of a big game being a bit special, for whatever the reason. When it's football followed by football and yet more football, can the matches meant to stand out from the others really do so? Toby used to make full-scale enamel badges for the visit of a single league club, for crying out loud (AFC Wimbledon, 2005/06). And then there were the badges for those big FA Cup games against Rotherham, Colchester et al. But today, in just three short seasons we at Wealdstone have gone from marvelling over being a live televised game against some or other BELT to having our matches broadcast live on a Saturday 3:00pm as a matter of course. Truly bonkers.

Where once a big match was just that, now we can keep a live stream of a match on in the background on your phone because it's dinner

time and it's rude to both speak with your mouth full and see Spurs succumbing to Sporting Lisbon in the second, third or even fourth tier of European club football.

As common as running water

Football is thriving. Premier League clubs are falling over themselves to expand their stadium capacities, but it goes much deeper down the pyramid than that. I mean, we had more than this season for the visit of Barnet, while in general non-league clubs of all stripes are reporting some extraordinary crowd figures. It's an extraordinary time for the sport, however and wherever you sume' it. And yet it can also feel as if we're heading for some kind of absolute maximum level of football in just a few years' time.

The sport feels as if it is going through something similar to what the music industry went through in the early 2000s, when it moved from one-off theatrical access to a new realm of constant direct always-on subscription. In some ways, professional football matches have become like your favourite music acts too; far easier to access from the comfort of your home, but far more expensive at the level to watch in person.

For now, football is bountiful and in rude health with more and more people accessing more and more matches. This is good to know as we head off into a summer break which, with the Women's World Cup, will have an international tournament just as all summers will have from hereon in, in any way, here's hoping that we don't reach saturation level any time soon. The best of summer break to you all, see you here again for 2023 / 2024.

Top right: truly we are living in a World of Ball

BY JON TAFFEL



The Stones

It's T and sympathy for our man of letters as the Stones alphabet nods off long before we get to Zzzzzzzzzzzzz

Tis for Toilet rolls. I'm not sure when the act of throwing **TOILET** rolls on to football pitches started, but this was certainly a big thing as I was growing up in the seventies. There was an art to throwing a Toilet roll: do it correctly and the roll would unwind as it flew through the air, ideally landing with the tissue ending up draped over goal posts and goal nets. This act would usually follow a goal being scored, meaning that an already grumpy goalkeeper would have to clear up said paper from the goalmouth before play could continue.

Toilet roll throwing can be seen on old match replays on TV, but this was certainly not confined to big matches. I can confirm that I am guilty of throwing a couple of loo rolls on the pitch at Lower Mead although these were poor efforts - the rolls didn't fully unwind and the cleaning up exercise was very straightforward.

The good thing about Toilet rolls is that I'm not aware anyone was ever hurt by them. Compare that with eggs which made a one-off appearance at Lower Mead for the visit of Harrow Borough in the early eighties.

Given that the distance between the Elmslie End and the target, Borough keeper Les Currell was fairly small, and that eggs were more lobbed than thrown (not by me I hasten to add), there was actually no hurt involved other than pride. For sure there was a practical matter here in



The toilets at our old Lower Mead ground were a particular horror: Any visitors would know that lack of loo rolls was the least of their problems

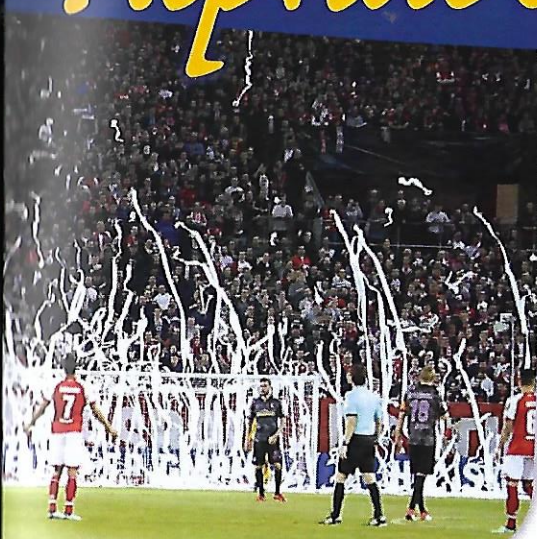
that the nutrients contained in eggs are good for keeping hair thick and healthy. Nonetheless throwing eggs was not something that could ever be condoned, oh no.

Another practical use of Toilet rolls at football matches is of course for the purpose for which it is intended. Facilities generally are better nowadays than they once were, but most people tend to avoid No 2's at football. Historically facilities were sub-standard and unclean, but worse for those in need, Toilet roll was very often in short supply - presumably stolen for the purpose outlined above.

Moving on to the late seventies, the 1978 World Cup in Argentina to something a bit different on the paper greeting front, the Ticker tape welcome. This was quite spectacular to view and rather made toilet roll spectacles appear rather amateurish. Streams of paper would rain down from all over the stadiums to greet the Argentinian football team, certainly creating a lot more mess than toilet rolls. I remember a small band of visiting supporters to the Vale creating a dreadful mess with their version of a Ticker Tape welcome and asking them to clear it ... which they did!



Alphabet



German fans at Mainz have turned loo-roll tossing into a Bundesliga art form

The letter T is also for **TREIJTEL**, Eddy **TREIJTEL**. Now you might think I'm a bit obsessed with Eddy had we not suffered some recent postponements and you were reading these articles in chronological order. However with the Solihull waterlogging disaster, my first planned mention of Eddy is now this coming Tuesday! In that article, he is spelt as **TREYTEL**, that's all I had to work with when I penned it courtesy of my 1971/72 Soccer Stars album. However, further research shows me that he should have been spelt Eddy Treijtel and that he has a massive claim to fame. Eduard Willem Treijtel played 322 times for Feyenoord, then 170 times

for AZ67, as well as representing Netherlands five times and being a non-playing member of 1974 World Cup squad. This however is not his main claim to fame: On 15th November he took down a gull with a goal kick during the Rotterdam derby. Supposedly, the now stuffed gull sits proudly in the Feyenoord museum. However this is subject to a dispute as opposition Sparta fans claim that the gull in question couldn't have been the gull hit by the ball as it was the wrong time of year for the species. They claim to have the 'real' stuffed gull in their museum. I don't know what to believe but I'm keen to visit the respective museums to find out more.

Twitter, I enjoy it. There, I've said it. Despite all the rubbish and bile that's spouted there (see R), for me it has become an addiction. An unhealthy one arguably in that I spend too much time on it, but good in that there is so much content that is genuinely informative and entertaining. As a football fan it is a great medium to find out what is going on around other clubs, listen to interviews and insights as well as engage in friendly banter. Sometimes that can spill over and become a bit unnecessary, but on the whole the positives outweigh the negatives. I wish I would spend less time on it, but there's always the chance of missing out on some crucially point less statistic or nugget of comedy gold. I clearly need to set myself a target for Twitter activity reduction as there are plenty of better things to waste my time on (until Barnet lose in the play offs anyway).

T is for **TRAINS**, my preferred form of transport to away games. Train, beer, football as a slogan sums up a perfect day for me, or at least it did until I took on photo duties. I'm carrying enough excess baggage anyway without the added bulk of all my camera equipment. Our recent trip to Nottingham, what a great day it was despite the result. The **TRAIN** to and from Nottingham was the easy bit, getting to and from St Pancras a different matter due to



Goalkeeper Eddie Treijtel could easily have been a matinee idol, but instead he is famous for having brought down a seagull (above, in the museum) with a goalkick... though the claim is contested by rival

CONTINUE
OVERPAGE

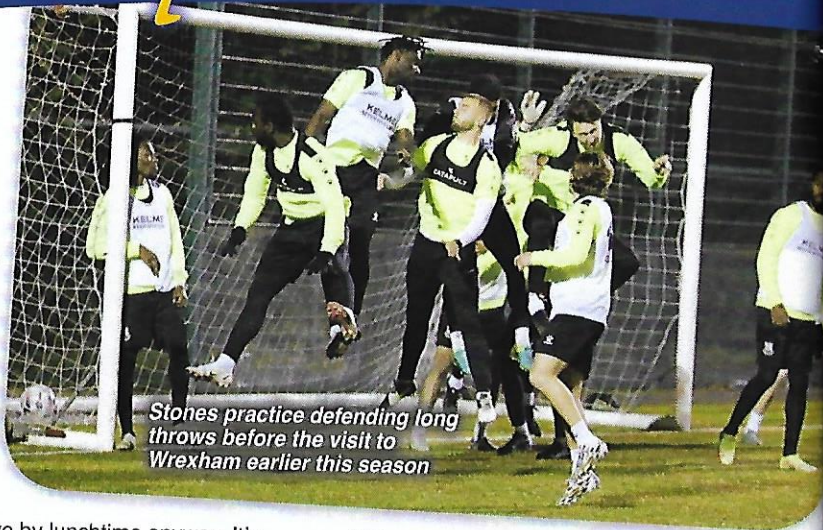
Stones Alphabet contd...

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

engineering works. By the time I crawled in through my front door some fifteen hours after I'd left, I was positively creaking and desperate to unload my 9.5k of photographic gear. My worry now is next weekend and our trip to Southend. The late kick off is concerning, beer intake will have to be carefully managed given that

we are bound to arrive by lunchtime anyway. It's the end of the season and I need to capture the fans the team, the management in full (hopefully) celebratory swing.

Tis for Training. All managers have their own favourite phrases for interviews, and on numerous occasions after an inexplicably poor performance, the legendary Gordon Bartlett would trot out the 'we were good in training' line. This did cause amusement at times and perhaps would have been a good title for his book, but that



Stones practice defending long throws before the visit to Wrexham earlier this season

would have been unfair and seriously undermined his outstanding achievements for us. Earlier this season I was asked to attend TRAINING to take some pictures of new signing Miguel Freckleton, so I took the opportunity to watch the bulk of the session. I have to say I was mightily impressed. This was just prior to our 0-0 draw with Wrexham and the intensity and speed of footwork I found quite mesmerising at times, as well as seeing first hand how much of what we see on a Saturday was on show. Given the

time available, the amount of it given to specific threats Wrexham might pose was fairly limited. This principally focussed on the Tozer throw to Hayden, rendered a bit irrelevant given Hayden was ruled out through injury, but we were not to know that.

So that's my lot for this series, you'll just have to wonder what may have been included under U (underdog story?), V, W, Y and Z. Maybe next season.....Thanks for reading!



Earlier in the feature we mentioned eggs being thrown: This was the game when the yolk was on Harrow Boro keeper Les Currell... skippers Paul Bowgett and Harry Manoe show the simmering tension even before kick-off

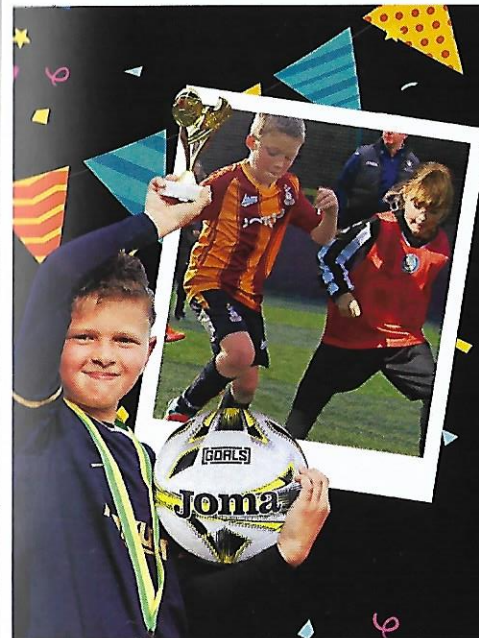
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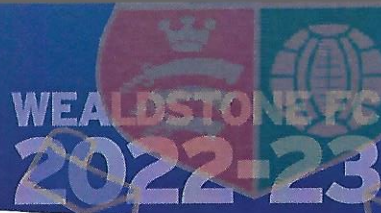
Interested? The next trial takes place on Tuesday 14th February at 11am at Harefield Academy

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

ON THIS DAY >>>>>>> REWIND



BY TIM PARKS



38 years ago: Who'd believe it.. on our way to the Conference title and a groundshare with Fulham!

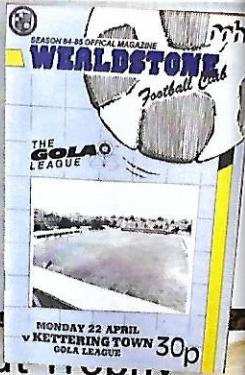
Monday April 22 1985, Gola League: Wealdstone 1

Kettering Town 0
THIS scrappy Monday night win at Lower Mead 38 years ago was the catalyst for the Stones winning the non-League double.... in my opinion.

Brian Hall's side had forced itself to the top of the table after the sensational five-wins-in-eight-days episode a month earlier (Weymouth W3-2, Altrincham W2-1, Gateshead W2-1, Runcorn W1-0, Scarborough W1-0) but, despite then beating Enfield over two legs to reach the Trophy Final, Stones had stuttered and stumbled into a run of two draws and two defeats. Not title-winning form.

We were desperate for victory to hold off the challenge of Nuneaton and Altrincham - and the own goal from Kettering's Nigel Thrower that settled this game was hugely important. The roar of relief from the Elmslie End was testament to that fact.

Two weeks later, after draws with Frickley and Dagenham and a terrific 3-0 win at Kiddermin-



Players told to forget about trophy 'Stones go top

Wealdstone 1, Kettering 0
WEALDSTONE moved back to the top of the Gola League with a one goal victory over Kettering on Monday night.

And although it took a Nigel Thrower own goal after 14 minutes to put Stones back on top, manager Brian Hall said: "We are top of the table and I don't care how we got there."

He is now hoping that his side will go to Wembley for the FA Trophy final as Gola League champions, writes **William Bull**.

Hall has had a "heart to heart" with his players and told them to put Wembley out of their minds and concentrate on the title.

"I had what I would call an honest talk with the players," he said. "Wembley had been getting to the players but our meeting has flushed that out of their system."

"The Trophy is a bonus. The league is the business, it is what we are all about."

With just five games left, Wealdstone will never have a better chance of lifting the title. Top, and with games in hand, they do not have to worry about what their challengers do.

Stones simply have to do their job properly and the title is theirs. "I would like to have the cham-



Brian Hall — heart to heart with his players.

ampionship sewn up long before we go to Wembley," says Hall.

And it is easy to see why. If the championship race goes to the last match at Barnet, Hall would have a weakened squad to pick from with several players serving pre-Wembley suspensions.

With the Kettering match brought forward to Monday and the Barnet match, originally scheduled for last night (Thursday), put off until May 6, any suspensions would be served before the Trophy final.

Robin Wainwright assured himself of a Wembley date on Monday night when he was put in the referee's note book for an innocuous looking challenge.

Paul Bowgett made absolutely

sure he won't miss out on the Wembley trip, too. Already facing a ban, he picked up some extra disciplinary points for needlessly having a go at Kettering 'keeper Godwin.

Hall's only doubt for the Trophy final now is Dennis Byatt. On the brink of a suspension he now has to either steer clear of trouble, or get sent off against Dagenham on Saturday.

In the first half of Monday's match, most of the action was concentrated in the Kettering penalty area.

Brian Greenaway was just wide with a long range effort after just nine minutes, with Stones taking the lead five minutes later.

Alan Cordice's through ball saw Mark Graves and Thrower chasing the ball, with the hapless Kettering defender lobbing his own 'keeper as he attempted a back pass.

Kettering opened the second half with a brief flurry, Bob Iles twice being forced to fine save by Jenas. Former Watford player Ian Bolton was sent off 12 minutes from time for a nasty foul which launched Cordice into touch.

There were second half bookings for Kettering's Fee and Billy Jeffrey and Wealdstone's Steve Perkins and Greenaway.

Wealdstone: Iles, Perkins, Davies, Byatt, Bowgett, Wainwright, Greenaway, Holmes, A Cor, Iles, Graves, Donnellan, Subs: N Cordice, Johnson.

ster, we beat Kettering again at Rockingham Road with an absolute belter from Andy Graham and the Conference title was ours!

Wealdstone: Bob Iles, Steve Perkins, Roy Davies, Dennis Byatt, Paul Bowgett, Robin Wainwright, Brian Greenaway, Lee Holmes, Alan Cordice, Mark Graves, Gary Donnellan, Subs: Neil Cordice, Nigel Johnson

THE Stones' programme for the Kettering game is a personal favourite as it pays tribute (right) to the Sunday morning footballers of SFC Wealdstone (the supporters' football team that played between 1978 to 2005) who fulfilled the Capital League match at Dagers a week or so earlier. Of the eight SFC players who wore the blue shirts with distinction that night, Jon Taffell, Don Cross, Gordon McKay, Tim Parks and Martin Allen still see every Stones game while Paul Williams and Neale Harvey make it to The Vale when they can. Amazing fans!

SFC Wealdstone did us proud

DUE to the welter of excitement this past 10 days or so, I feel not nearly enough attention focused on the recent Morritt Homes Capital League match when we went down so

Dagenham, 3-2. I intend to set the matter right now, for I don't suppose many people are acquainted with facts. Wealdstone, for that match fielded six players from SFC Wealdstone FC, the S team, plus Paul Cotter in goal, Lee Holmes, Hughie Dow and two trialists. They went 2-0 the interval and in the second half, with Holmes and one of the trialists off, we had EIC players. Incredibly they pulled back to 2-2 and the Dagers winner looked palpably Altogether a tremendous achievement against a Dagenham side which included seven regulars and a sprinkling from their successful reserve team side.

The SFC Wealdstone players were Paul Williams, Jon Taffell, Don Cross, Gordon McKay, O'Brien (Capt), Neale Harvey, Tim Parks and Martin Allen.

This sets the record straight and gives deserved credit for a fabulous display by a Sunday morning footballers against a team of semi-professionals.

Incidentally, SFC Wealdstone, who top the Marathon Sunday League's Div 4 have now and lost but one of their 15 games, scoring 70 goals and conceding only 11! Leading scorers Parks (29), O'Brien (27), Harvey (26), and McKay (20), while Parks and Trevor Davies appeared in all 35 games this season.

Tremendous, lads, and good luck...

COLIN I

Funny-shaped balls at Lower Mead.

A week before the aforementioned Kettering game in April 1985, Lower Mead staged its first ever rugby league match when Fulham RFC hired the ground for its Second Division game against Whitehaven (the Cumbrian town Jonny Wright hailed from).

Fulham RFC had been in existence for four years, since the Football Club chairman Ernie Clay decided to add an extra income stream at Craven Cottage - and their first season saw gates of around 10,000 as the club won immediate promotion to the top flight.

But they came straight back down and problems stacked up - the pitch at the Cottage had disintegrated in the wet winter following the collapse of the main drain to the River Thames under the Miller Stand and despite winning the Division Two Championship

in 1982-83, a second immediate relegation in 1983-84 coupled with continuing financial losses saw Fulham pull the plug at the end of their fourth season. Most of the players had moved on as free agents and a new team began life at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.

Apart from Lower Mead, Fulham also played at Hendon,

CONTINUED OVERPAGE>>

Page 72 OBSERVER Friday, April 19, 1985



The rather bizarre view from the Elmslie End as rugby posts appear on the Lower Mead pitch

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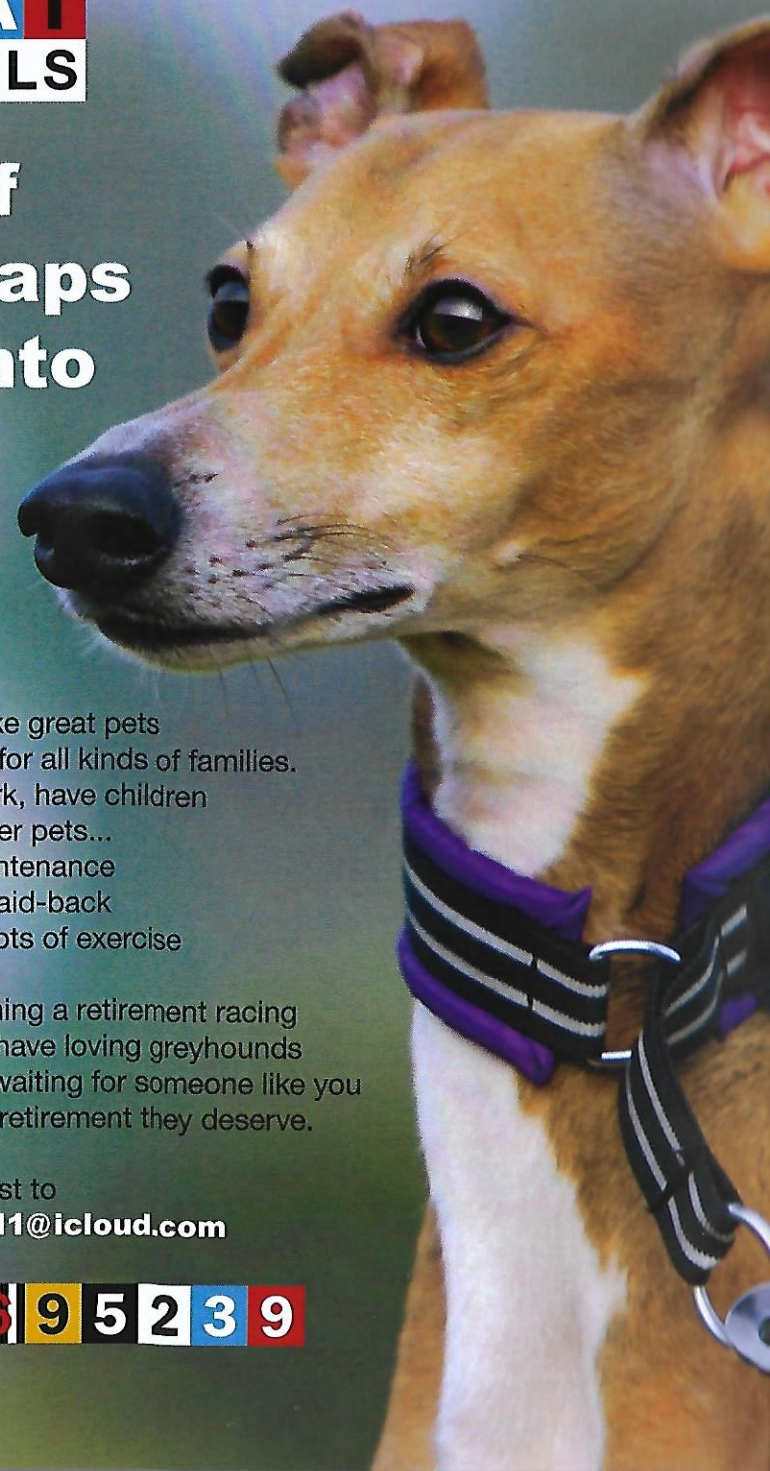
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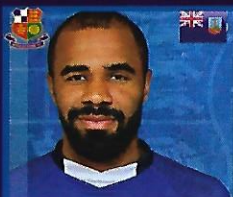
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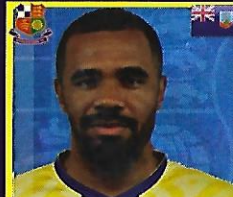
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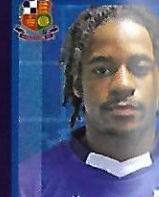
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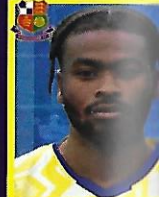
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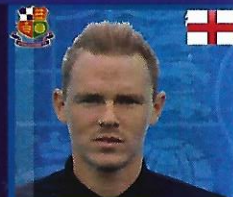
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23 17.12.99 | 1.83m LB

@STONESCAS85



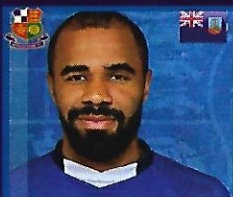
Malachi N
19 26.5.99 | 1.6m

GARY SMITH




Jack COOK
2 16.9.99 | 1.85m CB

IN MEMORY OF JJ & CJ




Alex DYER
18 11.6.90 | 1.80m DM

HILLCREST GROUP




Olufela OLOMOLA
9 5.9.97 | 1.7m CF

LUCA, JAY, ALEX & RIO



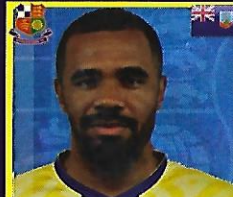
Ashley CHARLES
4 15.9.99 | 1.75m RM

JIM SORRELL




Ashley CHARLES
15.9.99 | 1.75m RM

PAUL COOKE



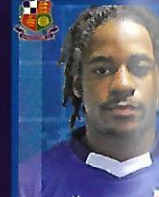
Alex DYER
18 11.6.90 | 1.80m DM

HILLCREST GROUP



Jack COOK
2 16.9.99 | 1.85m CB

SUDHIR, AKHIL, NIKHIL, SARIN AND KAMRAN RAWAL




Tarrelle WHITE
27 23.11.02

CHELSEA GRASSROOTS SOCIETY



Lewis KINSELLA
3 2.9.94 | 1.75m LB

KEVIN MCSWEENEY




David SESAY
11 18.9.98 | 1.84m RB

WEALDSTONE FC TRUST




Max KRETZSCHMAR
22 12.10.93 | 1.74m CM

JAMES KLARFELD




Nathan FERGUSON
8 12.10.95 | 1.78m CM

STUART KANE




Nathan FERGUSON
12.10.95 | 1.78m CM

JIM KANE



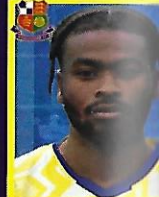
Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH
23 17.12.99 | 1.83m LB

SARAH GOWDY



Dom HUTCHINSON
17 17.11.01 LB

TECTRA TECHNOLOGIES LTD



Malachi N
19 26.5.99 | 1.6m

GARY SMITH

Next at The Vale



Solihull Moors

National League
Tuesday 25th April 7:45pm

See you all at The Vale for Season 2023/2024!

For details of our very special Early Bird season ticket offers go to:
<https://wealdstonefc.ktckts.com/brand/season>

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 @18/4/23

	ALL						HOME					AWAY					RESULTS					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	(H)	(A)
1 Wrexham	44	33	8	3	112	41	22	21	1	0	71	18	22	12	7	3	41	23	71	107	0-0	1-3
2 Notts County	44	31	10	3	111	39	22	17	4	1	53	11	22	14	6	2	58	28	72	103	1-6	
3 Chesterfield	44	24	9	11	77	50	22	14	2	6	44	27	22	10	7	5	33	23	27	81	1-4	1-1
4 Woking	43	22	10	11	68	46	21	10	7	4	36	22	22	12	3	7	32	24	22	76	1-1	1-1
5 Barnet	44	21	10	13	74	64	22	12	5	5	35	28	22	9	5	8	39	36	10	73	0-2	0-2
6 Boreham Wood	43	18	15	10	50	35	21	8	8	5	21	17	22	10	7	5	29	18	15	69	1-2	0-1
7 Bromley	44	17	16	11	65	52	22	8	10	4	33	23	22	9	6	7	32	29	13	67	3-2	3-3
8 Eastleigh	44	19	8	17	55	56	22	14	4	4	33	22	22	5	4	13	22	34	-1	65	3-1	0-1
9 Southend United	44	18	9	17	52	43	22	11	4	7	30	18	22	7	5	10	22	25	9	63	0-1	
10 Dagenham & Redbridge	44	17	8	19	59	72	22	10	4	8	33	34	22	7	4	11	26	38	-13	59	1-0	1-4
11 Solihull Moors	43	15	12	16	62	62	22	9	7	6	36	26	21	6	5	10	26	36	0	57		1-2
12 Oldham Athletic	44	15	12	17	59	63	22	11	5	6	36	29	22	4	7	11	23	34	-4	57	2-2	2-1
13 Halifax Town	43	15	11	17	47	47	22	11	5	6	32	22	21	4	6	11	15	25	+0	56	1-0	0-5
14 Wealdstone	43	15	11	17	51	68	21	9	5	7	30	30	22	6	6	10	21	38	-17	56	--	--
15 Altrincham	44	14	12	18	65	79	22	10	4	8	33	29	22	4	8	10	32	50	-14	54	4-0	1-0
16 Gateshead	43	13	15	15	60	60	22	6	9	7	30	29	21	7	6	8	30	31	+0	53	1-2	1-0
17 Dorking Wanderers	44	15	8	21	63	88	22	11	4	7	38	41	22	4	4	14	25	47	-25	53		1-3
18 Aldershot Town	44	14	9	21	61	73	22	6	5	11	30	35	22	8	4	10	31	38	-12	51	0-1	2-1
19 York City	44	13	10	21	52	60	22	7	6	9	25	30	22	6	4	12	27	30	-8	49	3-1	2-1
20 Maidenhead United	44	13	10	21	46	61	22	8	7	7	26	25	22	5	3	14	20	36	-15	49	3-2	0-0
21 Torquay United	44	12	10	22	55	77	22	6	6	10	35	40	22	6	4	12	20	37	-22	46	1-1	2-1
22 Yeovil Town	44	7	19	18	35	56	22	6	8	8	18	22	22	1	11	10	17	34	-21	40	0-0	0-0
23 Scunthorpe United	44	8	10	26	47	82	22	7	3	12	32	40	22	1	7	14	15	42	-35	34	3-1	1-4
24 Maidstone United	44	5	10	29	43	95	22	3	8	11	22	39	22	2	2	18	21	56	-52	25	2-1	1-1



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

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Stones on the road



Southend United

National League

Saturday 29th April 3:00pm

SouthendUnited.co.uk
@SUFCRootsHall



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

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