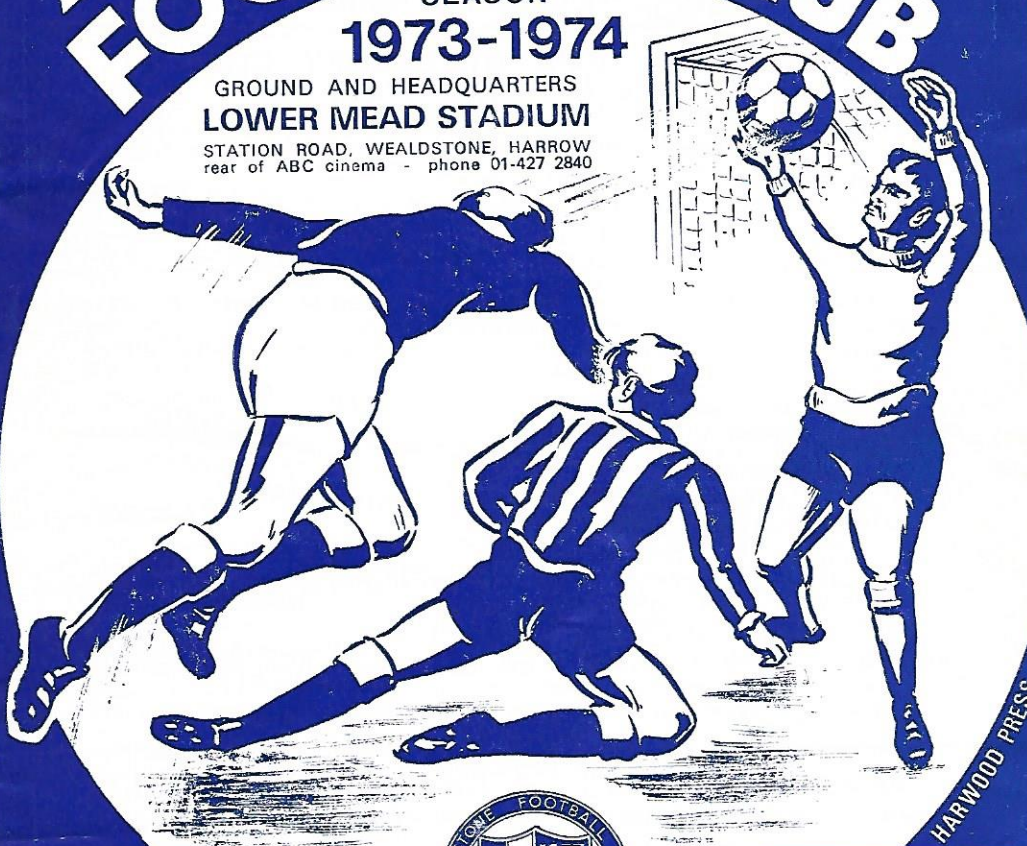


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Southern League

WEALDSTONE v. METROPOLITAN POLICE

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 5p.

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We Must Stop the Rot at Home!

One point from our last two home league matches is not promotion form and we must get a grip on the situation if we are to maintain our challenge. It is proving a good thing that we have games in hand, but we cannot afford to drop any more points at home, and two today are imperative. Many of our supporters thought we were unlucky not to win handsomely against Waterlooville last Saturday, and we certainly did have more than our share of bad luck. However, full marks to the Hampshire side who defended extremely well, especially goalkeeper Dambrell who was well-nigh unbeatable. Undeniably, however, we put far too many balls straight into his capable hands, instead of in the six yard box, thus forcing him to commit himself.

There was no score at the interval, and Waterlooville took the lead five minutes after the re-start, George Duck eventually getting our equaliser midway through the half. One could not help feeling for John Watson, whose back pass gave Waterlooville an absolute gift goal, for John played well, as he invariably does. The galling fact is that apart from this, the visitors never looked likely to score, even though they played some attractive football.

It now becomes obvious that our trip to Minehead, who had a magnificent 2-1 away win at league leaders Basingstoke on Saturday, on December 22nd will be a tough one indeed, and a point there will be a real achievement. Gravesend too, need watching, and a win over them when they visit us on Boxing Day (2.15) is a must. A game which has so much at stake should at least ensure a wonderful gate. As a glance at the current league table shows, there are several clubs now well in the running.

Our team last Saturday was: R. Mackenzie, E. Presland, J. Watson, E. Burgess, J. McCormick, C. Kinnear, P. Fairclough, T. Dyson, W. Byrne, G. Duck, and J. Henderson with A. Brown sub. Kinnear is now settling down well at midfield, which is our problem department.

It is a pleasure to welcome the Metropolitan Police to Lower Mead Stadium today, for they always provide sporting and interesting opposition. Somehow, they always seem to be one of those sides who play better than their position indicates.

Our squad had a light training session this morning on the grounds of Hamilton Brush Co. (London) Ltd. to whom go our grateful thanks for their co-operation, which is always forthcoming. This coming week we are hopeful that negotiations to use the Territorial Army Drill Hall have proved successful, for keeping the squad fit is becoming a problem. With Jim Godfrey now recovered from a burst blood vessel, all our squad of 14 are fit.

Although the party was not due to land at Gatwick Airport from Gibraltar until nearly midnight on Thursday, we hope to include elsewhere in this issue news of Wealdstone's trip to the Rock.

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Gibraltar Trip A Great Success

I am writing these notes flying at 35,000 feet over the Bay of Biscay at 11 p.m. on Thursday night and can report that Wealdstone's short tour to Gibraltar was an outstanding success. The party landed at Gatwick shortly before midnight and arrived back at Lower Mead at 1.30 a.m.

But first to the football. That too was a great triumph for we beat the Gibraltar F.A. National XI 4-1, in the new National Stadium leading by three goals at half-time scored by Bill Byrne, Ray Fulton and Vince Summers. It was exhibition stuff in the second half and after Gibraltar had made it 3-1 Mick Ryan got the fourth and Wealdstone then treated the crowd to a fine display of precision passing and possession football, John Watson especially delighting the crowd with a repertoire of skills he would never dare attempt in the Southern League! Perhaps the best goal was Fulton's. Ray played midfield, and scored with a mighty volley from 20 yards which never left the hard sandy pitch.

Socially, too, the trip was magnificent. Before the match both teams were presented to Mr. Horace Zammitt, the Minister of Information and Sport in the Gibraltar Government, and on Wednesday evening the Minister, with the Gibraltar F.A. gave a reception to Wealdstone in the ancient City Hall. The Minister presented every member of the Wealdstone Party with a beautiful tie, with a plaque to skipper Eric Burgess, and said Wealdstone would always be welcome in Gibraltar.

On Wednesday morning a full coach tour of the Rock was arranged, where the Barbary Apes were a great attraction, together with the famous galleries and 35 miles of tunnels carved in the Rock.

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1. R. Mackenzie
2. E. Presland
3. J. Watson
4. E. Burgess
5. J. McCormick
6. C. Kinnear
7. P. Fairclough
8. T. Dyson
9. G. Duck
10. ~~A. Brown~~ *SHISTON*
11. J. Henderson
12. ~~R. Fulton~~ *BROWN*

Referee :

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HARROW 18 PLUS

The party stayed at the luxury Caleta Palace Hotel right on the beach, and the weather was warm enough for bathing.

There was a nice gesture on the plane coming home when the players presented Harry Benjamin, who organised the trip, with a box of cigars. John Watson, the comedian at Wealdstone, **did** talk his way onto the flight deck of the jet going out, but it is **not** true that he 'had a drive'.

As some of our players could not make the trip, we took several guest players, and we played the following team: M. Coffey, John Baker, John Watson, Chris Kinnear, Eric Burgess, Alick Brown, Ray Fulton, Mick Ryan, Vince Summers, Bill Byrne, John Henderson.

COLIN POPE

Supporters Club Notes

Good afternoon everybody and a warm welcome to the Supporters of Metropolitan Police—we hope they have a pleasant stay in Harrow and we wish them hearty seasonal greetings.

Last week we gained a point from the highly placed Waterlooville but in doing so slipped a little so today we urge you to help the lads 100% vocally as they try to cut down the leeway on the leaders.

Next Saturday 22nd December the Stones are away to Minehead in the League and the usual Supporters Club coach service will operate leaving Lower Mead at 8.10 a.m. SHARP. Bookings at Office or phone 422 0799.

The clubs silk scarves are now back in stock and would make an ideal Christmas present and are very good value at 50p.



Now then you Stones fans, get those lungs going and let's hear it,

UP THE STONES

Phillip J. Tricker (Publicity Officer)

Not Considered

Bill Byrne has been suspended for one week for a breach of club discipline, and was not considered for today's match, but will be available for selection for next Saturday's trip to Minehead.

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Forthcoming Fixtures

Saturday Dec. 15. Southern League: Wealdstone v Met. Police 2.15 p.m.
Saturday Dec. 22. Southern League: Minehead v Wealdstone 2.15 p.m.
Wednesday Dec. 26. Southern League: Wealdstone v Gravesend & Northfleet 2.15 p.m.
Saturday Dec. 29. Southern League: Wealdstone v Hastings Utd 2.15 p.m.
Saturday Jan. 5. Southern League: Wealdstone v Bognor Regis.
Jan. 1. (New Year's Day) Southern League: Wealdstone v. Ashford Town
kick-off 2.15 p.m.
NOTE : The kick-off against Met. Police is at 2 p.m.; all other matches 2.15.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE — FIRST DIVISION SOUTH Up to Saturday 15th December 1973

Basingstoke Town	16	7	5	4	28	18	19
Minehead	15	7	5	3	24	16	19
Waterlooville	16	7	5	4	19	16	19
Gravesend & Northfleet	13	7	4	2	26	18	18
Hastings United	17	6	5	6	13	11	17
Poola Town	15	7	2	6	25	17	16
Wealdstone	12	7	2	3	19	16	16
Bognor Regis Town	13	6	3	4	20	19	15
Bath City	14	6	2	6	17	18	14
Crawley Town	15	4	5	6	19	28	13
Ramsgate	11	5	2	4	22	16	12
Trowbridge Town	11	5	2	4	18	17	12
Ashford Town	14	4	4	6	20	20	12
Canterbury City	14	4	4	6	14	14	12
Andover	14	5	2	7	18	22	12
Biddeford	10	3	5	2	18	17	11
Metropolitan Police	14	4	3	7	15	25	11
Dorchester Town	14	4	2	8	12	19	10
Salisbury	14	4	1	9	13	23	9
Bexley United	12	3	1	8	9	19	7

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The Floodlight Pylons are dangerous to children, due to high voltage used, and accidents may be caused by climbing them. Spectators are asked to assist the club by not allowing children to indulge in this dangerous practice.

THE CLUB RESERVES THE RIGHT OF ADMISSION

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