Samme 2023-24 43 official match **HOW THEY LINE-UP TODAY** WEALDSTONE FO AFC FYLDE YELLOW/YELLOW/YELLOW **gpflewis** WEALDSTONE ROYAL BLUE/WHITE/WHITE **MATCH OFFICIALS** I Chris NEAL G INSIDE: G Dante-Astor BAPTISTE REFEREE 2 Savannah SMITH Stephen lack COOK © 2 meet the 3 Luke CONLAN Parkinson Charlie BARKER 3 **ASSISTANTS** 4 Harry DAVIS Ashley CHARLES 4 Stones' Alex Bradley & 5 Emeka OBI Alex DYER 5 new loan

Mason BARRETT 6 Tarryn ALLARAKHIA 7

Nathan FERGUSON 8 Olufela OLOMOLA 9

Max KRETZSCHMAR 10 Corie ANDREWS II

Giovanni McGREGOR 12 G led WARD 13

Micah OBIERO 14 Luke DREHER 16

Dominic HUTCHINSON 17

Charlie CLAYDEN 19 Sam BOWEN 22

laydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23

Sean ADARKWA 27 Tahvon CAMPBELL 29

loe CULLIS 36

6 Alex WHITMORE

7 Joe ROWLEY

8 Danny PHILLISKIRK

9 Luke CHARMAN

10 Nick HAUGHTON

II Gold OMOTAYO

16 Kieran GLYNN

17 Connor BARRETT

18 Owen EVANS

19 Jon USTABASI 20 Tom WALKER

23 Danny WHITEHEAD

24 Will HATFIELD

25 Theo RICHARDSON

27 Siyabonga LIGENDZA

33 Pierce BIRD

34 Taelor KANE

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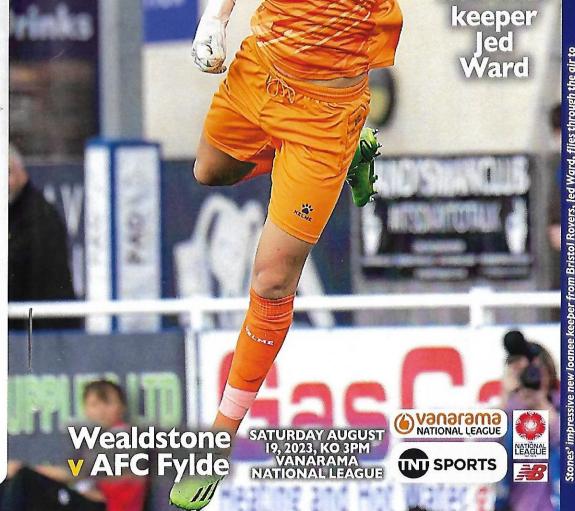
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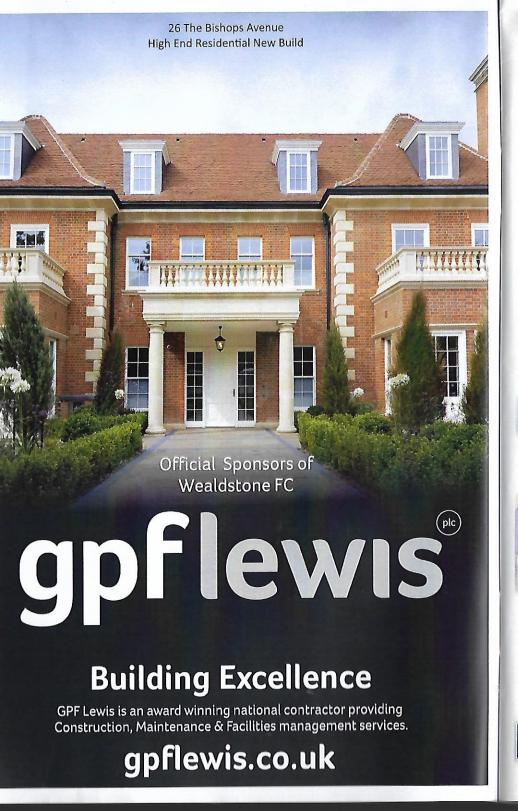
Mike and Val Weston

NEXT HOME GAMES

v Dagenham & Redbridge (National League) Bank Holiday Monday August 28th, KO 3pm

v Ebbsfleet Utd (National League) Saturday September 9th. KÓ 3pm







By Mark Hyde

Written in Stone

Three games in and what have we learnt?

Well I guess if nothing else it is already apparent that we are more than equipped to have another successful season at this level and that once again we will be very pleasing on the eye.

The above will obviously come as a huge shock to those partaking in the annual 'Teams like Wealdstone' festival on Money can buy social media which proved as you a squad but

popular as ever, as did the 'predict the end of season table' game.

not a team. The beauty of the prediction frenzy is that in the majority the keyboard experts will insert their team firmly in the playoffs and the rest based on some weird calculation involving ex football league status and money spent. Wealdstone almost without fail appear in the bottom four every year.

There is also a spin off to this format ... the 'predict this weeks scores' and as you will probably guess Wealdstone are never predicted a win.

As Wealdstone fans we understand that things are not quite as simple as the prediction fans would have it, and as I pointed out to a very distressed York fan after the opening game ... Money can buy you a

squad but not a team. On the subject of money and with this being an

early season programme it would be remiss of me not to try and persuade you to part with just a few more of your hard earned pounds to help the management team in their endeavors.

We have a large range of Matchday and Ball sponsorship packages available to suit all pockets, as well as our ever-popular Kit Sponsorship that allows you to show your support for your favourite player.

Full details of all these packages, which can be customised to your individual requirements can be found in the pages of this very issue.

Mark

NEW SIGNING - #22 Sam Bowen

Wealdstone are delighted to announce the signing of Sam Bowen on loan from EFL League Two side Newport County.

At 22-years old, Bowen has four championship appearances to his name for Cardiff City, the club he began his career at before making the move to Newport in 2022.

Bowen, son of former Wales international Jason, has featured 12 times for Wales at youth level, twice for the U17s, seven times for the U19s and three times for the U2Is.



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LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

2019 / 2020 National League South

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
- I ntering the field of play before, during or after a game without prior authorisation theing 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

Academy Manager Brunel University London Dale Welsh

- Hrowing 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
- No spectator ball games.
- 1) 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.
- 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.

Smoking or Vaping inside the ground

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Britain's longest-running fanzine column (and it shows it)

It's usually beastly down in Eastleigh ...so let's be happy

BY SUDHIR RAWAL If you had said we would have

got a point at Eastleigh at five to three, I would have bitten your hand off. Our record on the south coast is poor.

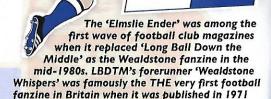
We haven't won there since 2004 and more importantly lost in each of our last three games in the National League at the

Silverlake, scoring just a solitary goal. So, our first point there wasn't so bad and post-match interviews talked about "respecting the point", yet there was more than a feeling that we left two further

points behind on our return to HA4.

Strangely, during the game, I thought it was a fair point for each club, neither side had done enough to win the game on initial viewing. Eastleigh were pretty one dimensional and their stand-out player was the niggly number 8, Jake Taylor, at the heart of everything they did, master of the dark arts, a playor you would love on your side but hate when he's against you. That such a player was a standout for them, says much about their play. They started well, probably dominated the opening phase, but Wealdstone came more of the game and started to dominate possession. We were certainly ahead on possession throughout the game and standing next to former Stones' assistant manager, Leo Morris, you got a very different perspective on our style of football. He mentioned how Manchester City in the Community Shield had over one thousand touches of the ball but lost. I appreciate and totally understand the way we play, and love the style of football, but it did feel we were trying to score the perfect goal and taking on a shot more often, especially with the many interchanges we had on the edge of their box, might have proved more fruitful.





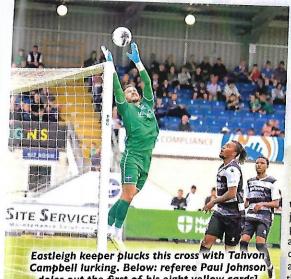
Eastleigh's goalkeeper Joe McDonnell was man of the match, with some crucial saves in the second half particularly in the last minute from Oberio.

I thought despite all of the money spent by the Spitfires, they looked a very functional side but lacked flair, playing the much longer ball to their big lumps of forwards, especially in the second half when McCullen was joined by Quigley. The crowd was announced at 2,030, which with every visit to the Silverlake, seemed like far more people than are actually in stadium. The atmosphere, which is never particularly great at Southampton's second team, was very subdued with the Saints at home, with many of their pesky younger fans not there. We started the season against big spending York City at the Vale. A salient point from the match was that Minstermen spent more in transfer fees during the summer than our entire playing budget for the

A reported £250k was spent on Dipo Akinyemi from Ayr United and he looked a handful, though whilst he gave York the lead in the first half, he did leave his shooting boots at home as he missed a couple of very decent chances.

The match was described as being one of two halves, York dominating the first forty-five and we the second, yet whilst the Minstermen started and

finished the first half well, we definitely had periods of possession and weren't necessarily second best in that opening period, yet York the lead in fortuitous circumstances. JMS was



doles out the first of his eight yellow cards]

PICTURES: MIKE RENNY

beaten down our left, the ball in deflected into the patch of Akinyemi who did finished well. Having gone a goal down, rather like Bromley last season, I thought that might be it, but the introduction of Max Kretzschmar and Corrie Andrews totally changed the game. We were now on the front foot and York seemed to fade badly as Stones took control.

Again, like the opening game of last season, Stones needed a penalty to get back into the game and then it was a matter of time before we scored our winner, which came from IMS from what seemed an acute angle, after a majestic reverse pass from Kretzschmar. The well-travelled and former Premier League David Stockdale in the York goal may have expected a cross but was found wanting as Mundle-Smith's shot flashed past him to give us the three points.

Much has been said about the new laws in the game which adds minutes onto the injury time and the bookings for throwing the ball away, asking for cards, time wasting and not respecting the officials etc. Against York, we had seven and ten minutes added on as additional time, but this has reduced down to three and five at Eastleigh. I don't mind

referees being stricter, but we also know that within a few weeks, the officials will go back to what they used to do. Consistency will be key.





Time wasting. We all hate it, don't we?

Actually, no we don't or, no we didn't. Time wasting in football can be a laudable, practised, skilled and much admired art. Be honest, who doesn't like seeing your team run the ball into the corner, or wind up the opposition by taking just a little too long about a throw in or free kick, preferably right in front of their apopleptic manager, or see a player being substituted suddenly develop a limp and have to walk off very slowly and gingerly, or hoof the ball half way to Northolt Airport when we're 1-0 up with five min-

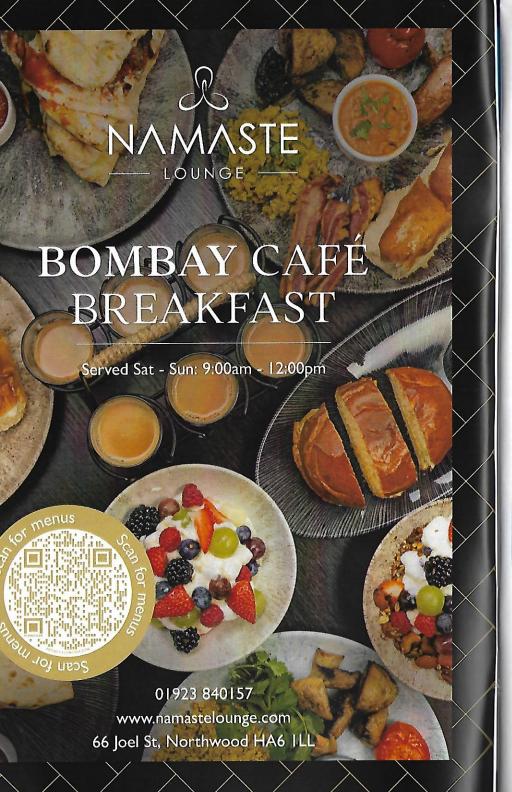
Sadly the killjoys who pose as 'the authorities' have decided this needs to stop. You've probably noticed: football matches are getting longer.

Apart from anything else this is a real pain for those of us who sometimes have to make a quick exit to get a specific train (see previous columns). Anyone remember when matches used to end at 4.40? Without having done any scientific analysis, I reckon five years ago the average amount of stoppage time at the end of a match was about three minutes, this season, eight or ten? How long before it's 15 minutes? Twenty minutes? And we know where this is going, don't we?

Sooner or later some bright spark, possibly in the Wrexham boardroom, will suggest stopping the clock whenever the ball's not in play. "Well, it works in the NFL".

Next thing you know coaches will be able to call a time out' to dispense wisdom and energy drinks. Or maybe Sky Sports, as a condition of adding an extra zero to the next rights deal, will stipulate there has to be two time outs in each half so they can sell some extra advertising. And with our matches now live streamed too that will be seen as an excellent opportunity to generate some extra revenue and revive the art of those super-low budget local cinema ads which will be instantly familiar to anyone over the age of fifty, OK, over the age of sixty. You know... "After the match

come to the Diamond of Madras for the best curry in Ruislip. Eight out of ten customers say they didn't get salmonella after their visit." (Note to Ed: can you check there's not actually a Diamond of Madras restaurant in Ruislip?) Meanwhile those of us at the Vale could be entertained by some cheerleaders or a display of doggy gymnastics provided by RAF Northolt, frantically followed by our groundsman with a pooper scooper. You heard it here first!



MAX KRETZSCHMAR

Taking it to the M₃ A₁

It's the fourth column from our erudite striker/midfielder Max Kretzschmar today and he explains how competitition in all positions will be a key part in a successful season for the Stones...

Hello again Stones fans and welcome back to the Vale today.

At the time of writing (before I hate it when the trip to last season's playoff I'm fouled and semi-finalists Bromley on Tuesday) we have four points from two games.... and Bromley away is always a tricky fixture and a good gauge of where you are as a team. Normally they are well organised, strong from set pieces and have players with plenty of National League experience. It will be a good test for us under the lights on the 3G

The Vale was rocking during and after the second half against York City wasn't it!

The atmosphere behind the goal seems to attract pressure and suck goals into the net. As players we love it and appreciate you all. Keep it up.,, I know you will. I've been keen to tell today's a big boost: the boys that we may not dominate every game from minute one to minute ninety (maybe 100!) this season. Of course we want to and expect to

(as we are often told by the coaching staff, more specifically Matty) but there's no doubt in my mind that there will be times where we are going to have to endure spells of pressure, especially away from home.

The beginning of the second half against York City was a good example of this. Having just been substituted on at half time, it felt like a baptism of fire for me. Running left and right, covering spaces and tracking City midfielders.

It felt like I'd been dropped straight in at the deep end.

But we weathered the storm and reaped the rewards down the slope in the second half with two goals which gave us the victory. I believe if we can defend better during those tricky spells and show character and mental fortitude in those tough moments, we will pick up points where we failed to do

Alex Dyer and I chatted after the following game last Saturday against Eastleigh.

We felt like not only was it a typical 'Wealdstone performance' but a typical 'away performance' too. We had what felt like complete control of large parts of the game. I think it stemmed from what we were like out of possession. We were aggressive and pressed high all game and as a result the ball was

> handed back to us rather cheaply allowing us to find rhythm in our passing game.

led's distribution and calmness in the face of onrushing forwards was a beautiful if not heart-stopping sight for you fans at times! His excellent technique and temperament will no doubt add to our philosophy of playing out from the back and through the thirds this season.

On another day we would've returned home with all three points from Eastleigh. But a point on the road is not to be sniffed at in this league.

Fylde will be another test for us today. Freshly promoted from the National League North it can be advantageous to keep riding that wave of positivity. So we will have to be wary. The return of Nathan

Ferguson today after suspension will be a big boost to us - I love Fergy and I don't think you guys know how good he actually is. Sometimes I don't think he does but I like to tell him!

> We are now looking at strong, healthy competition in multiple positions which we maybe didn't have last season. Corey (left) has been an excellent example I believe of how to perform as a substitute. The gaffer has been clear and consistent with his message to the squad in that everyone will be required and relied on at some stage this season.

It's up to us players to nail down a spot and keep it. Corey has been effective in both games so far running in behind and roughing up defenders. There are goals to come for him I'm sure.

I hope you enjoy the game today and I hope we can record another home victory too! Come on you Stones! Max



how good he is!

it's not even a





>>> youtube.com/@maxtalksfootball

Getting to know the Stones

Ten minutes with...

JED WARD



By Tim Parks

Our new goalkeeping loan star Jed Ward was parachuted in from Bristol Rovers on the day of the penultimate home friendly with Wycombe - and he immediately won the fans over with an assured display.

Three weeks later he's gone on play a major role

in the opening-day defeat of York City and the the draw with Eastleigh... and the 20-year-old says he couldn't have been made to feel more welcome.

"Some dressings rooms can be a bit reserved, but as soon as I arrived at Wealdstone everyone has been amazingly warm and friendly" said the experience if you're Bristolian when I caught up with him after the York game.

"I found my way here on the

Satnay, I must admit I didn't know where the ground was, and sat down with the Gaffer and Matty and they spelled out how we play the game and how suited I'd be to the club.

"These days you have to be good with your feet

possession, not just catching and diving".

It's the classic Catch

22 situation... you're

not getting games?

told you're not

So what did you know about Wealdstone when the loan was arranged?

"Well I quickly went on You Tube and looked at looks like a great decision - I've enjoyed every mo-

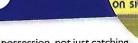
> in Bradley Stoke, just north of Bristol and was scouted at the age of eight. He was given the choice of playing in goal or outfield and made his fatal choice!

He says he has no real though his brother Loui plays for Cribbs FC (newly promotdivision) as a defender.

Jed is currently No3 in the pecking order at League One Bristol Rovers behind on-loan Brentford keeper Matthew Cox and the experienced James Belshaw. But he is suffering the classic 'Catch 22' situation.

"I think I'm rated as a keeper but seen as not being

Rovers manager Joey Barton The Gas had just been relegated from League One and he was handed the keeper's shirt for the away game at Blackpool. Press reports are full of praise for the teenager as he kept the Seasiders at bay until a late winner sealed a 1-0 defeat for



highlights of the games, and the goalkeeping coach at Rovers told me what a good footballing side Wealdstone are. I was very keen to get out on loan and it

ment so far".

He was born and brought up

experienced enough sporting history in his family aled to the Southern League SW

experienced enough... yet how do you become ex-

perienced if you're not getting games?" he asked.

It's a familiar scenario for young goalkeepers as they fight for recognition at their clubs - and loan deals are certainly one cure for that frustra-

threw led his first chance in May 2021 season when he was just 17: Rovers.

Bristol went straight back up in 2021-22 and Jed, still waiting his big chance, was sent out on loan to Swindon Spermarine, then Prescot Cables and then Hungerford in the NL South

"Prescot in Lancashire was a strange one the gaffer has a mate who is manager there and his goalkeeper was suspended for three games, so I was sent ip to help out"

He played 20 games as Hungerford fought against relegation but his season was interrupted by a broken hand suffered on the Rovers trainig ground.

"I came back for Hungerford on Boxing Day and played right through until March - when Rovers recalled me for the last month or so with the club safe in midtable. The gaffer loey Barton put me in the team for the trip to Port Vale - we lost 2-0 but I was pleased with my performance and was hoping to keep the jersey for the last few games... but the club then brought in Ellery Balcombe on loan from Brent-

You can sense Jed's frustration but he remains focussed on the 'little goals, leading to big goals' that will undoubtedly one day lead to him claiming the No.1 spot at an EFL club.

Ouick-fire....

Greatest moment in your career so far?

My League One debut vs Blackpool

Best save you've ever made?

Top corner, top hand save against Chelsea 23s in the Papa Johns trophy.

Biggest influence on your career?

One of my academy goalkeeper coaches

Favourite meal?

Homemade pizza

Favourite restaurant? Pasture (steakhouse in Bristol)

If you had two weeks to travel abroad on holiday, where would you go? Dubai Who did you support growing up? Liverpool

How fervently? Not passionately at all, just family support them

Who would you aspire to be like as a player? Ederson, Man City

Do you have a pre match ritual? No What was the last film you saw? Guardians of the galaxy 3

If you had a walk-out song at the Vale what would it be? Freestyle, Lil Baby





OP OF THE EAGUE FOR AN LEASING





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All you need to know about... AFC FYLDE

The opposition in focus

AFC Fylde was formed in 1988 as a nerger between Kirkham Town and Vosham. The club then adopted the ame of a previous club that had layed in the West Lancashire League years before World War I irkham and Wesham FC.

1988/89 saw Kirkham and Vesham's first season in the West anca League as the club took irkham Town's place in Division Ing. Unfortunately, they finished ottom of the league in 1989/90 and

uffered relegation to Division Two. Kirkham and Vesham would regain promotion three seasons later in no 1992/93 season. After the 1994/95 season, the club as again relegated but bounced back

ntantly in the 1995/96 season.

After the West Lancashire League ntructure, Kirkham and Wesham nished fourth in successive seasons. etween 1997 and 1999 before going n to become a dominating force in in Premier Division for several years. Between 1999/00 and 2006/07,

irkham and Wesham were crowned hampions seven times out of eight, nishing runners up in the only league

at they failed to win. Between January 2003 and ctober 2004, the club achieved a record of 21 ndefeated months. Throughout those years, Kirkham Mesham also achieved consecutive victories of the ancashire Amateur Shield Cup, as well as the Northern ounties Cup in 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07 as the ancashire FA representatives.

Kirkham and Wesham joined the Iorth West Counties League in a 2007/08 season following

ieir 2006/07 West incashire League ampionship win.

heir first match w a 5-0 home in against AFC arwen.

egendary anager Mick Her also won the lanager of the

lonth award in ecember 2007 after an

sdefeated month. This first season was an



COASTERS

We welcome AFC Fylde to

Grosvenor Vale this

afternoon for what will be

the very first meeting

between the two clubs

incredibly successful one. The club would go on to win the Division Two Knockout trophy with a I-0 win over Bootle before securing automatic promotion by defeating Castleton Gabriels two days later. However, the biggest achievement would come on the 11th of May when Kirkham and Wesham went on to win the FA Vase by defeating Lowestoft Town 2-1 in the final at Wembley Stadium in front of around 3,500 Kirkham and

Wesham supporters. In a game where the club was one goal down throughout most of the game, Matt Walwyn's two goals in the final six minutes secured the win in his II minutes on the pitch.

> 2008/09 saw the club change their name to AFC Fylde, signalling a new beginning for one of the fastest rising clubs in English football. The club won the Premier Division of the NWCFL in their first attempt, earning promotion to the Northern Premier League Division One North. 2010/11 saw Mick Fuller move into an administrative role, with Kelham O'Hanlon being brought in to manage the club. 2011/12

saw another key change for the Coasters with the arrival of Dave Challinor and Colin Woodthorpe. The Coasters were 16 points from the top of the table, but in the end, Fylde claimed the title after a 1-0 win to Salford, earning promotion to the Premier Division of the NPL. The Coasters would go on to earn promotion to the

Conference North via play-offs in the 2013/14 season after beating Ashton United on

Fylde's first season in the Conference North almost saw back-to-back promotions after finishing runners-up with 85 points but losing to Guiseley 3-1 on aggregate in the play-off semifinals. The Coasters would finally earn 2022-2023 CHAMP promotion to the National League in the

2016/17 season after winning the National League North.



Their first National League season in 2017/18 saw the Coasters reach the Second Round of the FA Cup for the first time, where a historical draw to Wigan was achieved before a 3-2 loss in the replay in a very close encounter. AFC Fylde achieved the play-offs in 2017/18, losing to Boreham Wood in the Quarter-Finals, and again in 2018/19, where they lost 3-0 to a strong Salford side at Wembley.

A week later, another great achievement was conquered when Fylde defeated Leyton Orient at Wembley to win the FA Trophy, becoming the first club to win both the FA Vase and the FA Trophy. The Coasters made a brilliant start to the 2020/21 National League North season, sitting top of the league on PPG (points per game).

Fylde headed into the new 2021/22 campaign hoping for an undisrupted season and looking to seal promotion back to the National League, and after an unbalanced season that saw Jim Bentley lose his job, the Coasters had to settle for the play-offs. After finishing in third place, that meant they would skip the eliminator and head straight into the semi-final, but that proved a step too far as they were beaten by Boston United, who stopped all hope of promotion at the first real opportunity.

Following the play-off disappointment, a strong start to the 2022/23 National League North season gave everyone around the Club new hope that this year would be theirs. Just two defeats in 11 games put the Coasters in a great position before Head Coach Adam

Murray was appointed in October 2023. From then, with very few bumps in the road, Fylde grew from strength to strength under the guidance of the former Besiktas Assistant Manager, which saw them in a hugely entertaining title battle with King's Lynn Town.

Once victory was secured away at King's Lynn in March 2023, thanks to Joe Rowley's cute finish into the bottom corner, it looked like it would be smooth sailing from then on in, though the Linnets continued to push Fylde all the way, who built up a handy tally of games in hand, one of which would come against Curzon Ashton, a side who were on a good unbeaten run themselves. After grabbing a 2-0 win at the Tameside Stadium, the Coasters needed just one more win on the final day of the season against Bradford (Park Avenue), and after Nick Haughton and Joe Rowley scored the all-important goals, it meant the Coasters were crowned the 2022/23 National League North Champions, sending them back to the National League for the 2023/24 campaign for the first time in three seasons.

THE COASTERS

HOME GROUND MILL FARM CAPACITY - 6,000 MANAGER - ADAM MURRAY 2022/23 - 1ST NATIONAL LEAGUE NTH

OPPOSITION IN FOCUS - AFC FYLDE

I. CHRIS NEAL - GOALKEEPER

An experienced goalkeeper who has been Fylde's regular starting goalkeeper this season. Neal started his career at Preston North End and has gone on to have successful spells in the Football League with Shrewsbury Town, Port Vale, Fleetwood Town and even Salford City after their promotion to League Two. He's also featured on loan for Tamworth, Shrewsbury Town, Morecambe, Doncaster Rovers and Bury.

1. LUKE CONLAN - DEFENCE

he Northern Irish left-back joined the Coasters from Morecambe in September 2020. Originally a product of the Burnley youth academy, Conlan has spent time at St. Mirren and Morecambe on loan before joining the Shrimps permanently in 2016. Conlan is capped at youth level internationally for Northern Ireland and signed a new one-year deal at the start of the

4. HARRY DAVIS - DEFENCE

Davis joined the Club from Scunthorpe United. The experienced centre-half has spent most of his career in the Football League, playing for the likes of Crewe Alexandra and Morecambe, and it was at Crewe where he began his career at the age of seven. He spent time in Scotland at St Mirren and has had previous spells at Grimsby Town and Morecambe.

I. EMEKA OBI - DEFENCE

A towering 6'5" defender joined the Coasters on non-contract terms following his release from Wigan Athletic. He earned a contract with Fylde before the 2021/22 season after an impressive trial period and recently signed new terms. Emeka shot onto the footballing scene at the age of 15 when he made his first team debut in the Checkatrade Trophy for Bury IC before moving to Premier League outfit Liverpoo for a six-figure fee. Since then, he has turned out for the Laucs, making nine Championship appearances before former manager Jim Bentley snapped up the talented youngster.

6. ALEX WHITMORE (C) - DEFENCE

Whitmore is in his fourth season as a Coaster, having joined before the 2019/20 season from Grimsby Town. He is a tall, commanding central defender and has established himself as one of Fylde's key players. Whitmore is also the 2022/23 AFC Fylde captain.

7. JOE ROWLEY - MIDFIELD

Joe is another player who joined in the summer of 2022 from Chesterfield. The 23-year-old gives Fylde another option behind the striker or up top, with Rowley able to take on both roles.

8. DANNY PHILLISKIRK- MIDFIELD

The midfielder is a familiar face and fan favourite amongst the Fylde supporters due to his importance since joining from neighbours Blackpool FC before the 2018/19 season. He scored a memorable winner for the Coasters in the 2018/19 play-off semi-final at Solihull Moors to set up a final against Salford City, and he was a key part of Fylde's FA Trophy-winning squad.

9. LUKE CHARMAN - FORWARD

Luke arrives at Mill Farm on a two-year deal, bolstering an already potent Coasters attack even further. A player with a real eye for goal, the 24-year-old began his career at Newcastle United, signing for the Magpies when he was fifteen before securing a two-year scholarship when he was sixteen.

In July 2020, Charman signed for fellow National League side Darlington FC. Last season, he scored 12 goals in 16 appearances, which earned him a move to League Two side Rochdale AFC in the January transfer window. Following Luke's short spell with the Greater Manchester side, the Coasters have moved to secure his signature for the remainder of

10. NICK HAUGHTON - MIDFIELD

the National League North season and beyond.

The Creative midfielder has been an important player for Fylde this season and was the Coasters' top goal scorer last season. Haughton was also the FA Trophy final's Man of the Match in 2019 and quickly became an integral player. He penned a new contract at the end of the 20/21 season and will play a huge part in the Coasters' promotion. Haughton currently leads Fylde's goalscoring charts.

II. GOLD OMOTAYO - FORWARD

After a very successful 2022/23 season in front of goal, the Coasters moved to snap Gold up on a two-year contract. The 6ft4 forward is an exciting addition to the ranks at Mill Farm, with the Swissborn man arriving after scoring 22 goals in 41 National League North games for King's Lynn in 22/23. Beginning his career as a goalkeeper in the youth setup at FC Zurich, Omotayo quickly hit the ground running as Striker when he moved to England to sign for Whitehawk in 2017/18 before impressing and turning professional with Bury a year later. From there, Gold featured for the likes of Maidstone United, Yeovil Town, FC Halifax Town, Gloucester City and Wrexham before joining King's Lynn in 2021. Off the back of a superb season for the Norfolkbased club, Gold earned himself a place in the 22/23 National League North Team of the Year.

16. KIERAN GLYNN - MIDFIELD

Glynn, who originates from Manchester, arrived at Mill Farm from Scarborough Athletic following the expiry of his contract ahead of the 2023/24 campaign.

The 25-year-old steps up to the National League with the Coasters from the North division, where he made 42 appearances in the 2022/23 season, assisting on nine occasions and scoring twice. Following a good spell at FC United of Manchester earlier in his career, Glynn was snapped up by Salford City before enjoying loan spells with Chorley, Woking, Southport and Scarborough. With Kieran making a lasting impression at the Flamingo Land Stadium, he signed permanently for Boro in 2020 before making the move North to the Fylde Coast.

17. CONNOR BARRETT - DEFENCE

At just 21 years old, Connor is no stranger to the National League North after joining Fylde in the summer following the expiry of his Kettering Town contract. He is a strong, powerful wing-back, who enjoyed a youth career at Burnley.

18. OWEN EVANS - DEFENCE

he versatile left-sided player arrives at Mill Farm on a one-year deal with the option of an extra year being held in the Club's favour. Owen, an explosive, young addition to the Coasters ranks, spent several years with Swansea City and graduated from their academy, where he featured for the U18s, From Swansea to Salford, Evans joined the Ammies' U21s side in 2019 before a switch to Merthyr Town after two years at the Peninsula Stadium. After one season back home in Wales with Merthyr, Gloucester sealed the signature of the 22-year-old and utilised him in 43 National League North fixtures, including one meeting against the Coasters at Mill Farm in March.

19. JON USTABASI - MIDFIELD

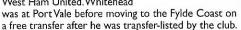
Ustaba□i joined the Coasters in the summer of 2023 as a free agent following the expiry of his contract with Chorley FC. The 29-year-old arrives at Mill Farm having enjoyed one of his best seasons in English football, with the wide man notching I5 goals in the National League North for the Magpies throughout 22/23, including one against the Coasters on Boxing Day. A pacey, exciting, attacking player, Ustaba□i spent several years in Turkey, the birthplace of his father, starting with Denizlispor U21s. Jonathan was also on the books of Bursasport and FC Schkupi, to name a few, before making a return to England to sign for Stalybridge Celtic, where he spent two seasons ahead of a loan and then a permanent move to Chorley.

20. TOM WALKER - MIDFIELD

he wide midfielder is back at Mill Farm for the third time after previously departing for Harrogate Town in 2020 following the Coasters' relegation to the Vanarama National League North. The former Bolton man had loan spells at Stockport County and Altrincham before arriving back at Fylde in 2021/22.

23. DANNY WHITEHEAD-MIDFIELD

Danny is a highly-experienced midfielder at just 28 years of age and has had spells at many well-established clubs including Salford City, Wigan Athletic & West Ham United, Whitehead



24. WILL HATFIELD - MIDFIELD

Hatfield joined AFC Fylde in March from Darlington FC for an undisclosed fee and has been ever-present under James Rowe. A player with real leadership qualities after captaining Darlington during his time there, he signed a deal at Mill Farm until June 2024. He has also had spells at Leeds United, Accrington Stanley and Guiseley.

25. THEO RICHARDSON - GOALKEEPER

Theo is a new signing at Mill Farm ahead of the 2023/24 National League campaign and signed a two-year contract. The shot-stopper is a former Manchester United youth product who was signed by Jose Mourinho after impressing whilst on trial with the Red Devils in 2017. After working his way through the 18s to the U23s, Theo joined Grantham Town before brief spells at Cleethorpes and King's Lynn Town. From King's Lynn, Richardson signed for Buxton FC in 2021 – a place where he produced some top-drawer performances between the sticks.

27. SIYABONGA LIGENDZA - FORWARD

Known as Siya, he joined the Club from Cardiff City, where he began his career at the age of eight years old, working his way through the Academy system. The Leicester-born forward signed a professional contract with the Welsh club in 2021 before netting 40 goals for the development squads at the Cardiff City Stadium over two-and-a-half years. Someone with both Welsh and South African citizenship, Siya was named on the preliminary shortlist for South Africa's 2021 Olympic Games squad in Tokyo.

33. PIERCE BIRD - DEFENCE

A ball-playing defender who is comfortable on the ball in all situations and isn't afraid to make a tackle. He arrived at Mill Farm in the summer as part of the new-look Coasters side...

34. TAELOR O'KANE - MIDFIELD

He makes the step up to first-team football after joining the Club as a 15-year-old before signing onto the Academy programme on a full-time basis.

MANAGER, ADAM MURRAY



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AFC Fylde's greatest seasons

CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS selects ten post-war AFC Fylde 'Classic Campaigns'.

2007/08

Kirkham & Wesham won the FA Vase at the first attempt in 2007/08. Mick Fuller's side defeated Worsbrough Bridge 3-0, Brodsworth MW 4-3, Parkgate 5-0, West Auckland Town 3-0, Newcastle Benfield 5-2, Studley 3-0, Crowborough Athletic 2-0, Coventry Sphinx I-0 and Needham Market 4-2 en route to the final. Two late goals from teenage substitute Matt Walwyn secured a dramatic 2-1 victory over Lowestoft Town watched by 19,537 at Wembley Stadium. Kirkham & Wesham began life in the North West Counties League First Division with a 5-0 win at home to Darwen and secured promotion as runners-up when they defeated Castleton Gabriels 3-1.

2008/09

The newly-named AFC Fylde won the North West Counties League Premier Division title at the first attempt in 2008/09. The Coasters won 33 of their 42 North West Counties League games and scored 122 goals, slamming six past Abbey Hey, Ashton Athletic and Runcorn Linnets as well as five past Formby, New Mills and Winsford United. Mick Fuller's side remained unbeaten at home and gained a record 104 points, pipping New Mills to the title on goal difference as they won promotion to the First Division (North) of the Northern Premier League. AFC Fylde lost their grip on the FA Vase after losing 2-1 at home to Needham Market in a fourth round replay.

2011/12

AFC Fylde stormed to the Northern Premier League First Division (North) title in 2011/12. Ex-Republic of Ireland international goalkeeper Kelham

O'Hanlon was dismissed as manager in November 2011 after a poor run of results and replaced by Dave Challinor. The Coasters were 16 points off the top when he arrived at the club but quickly surged up the table. They trounced Harrogate Railway Athletic 7-0, Clitheroe 6-2 and Ossett Town 5-0, clinching the tutle with a 1-0 win over Salford City at Kellamergh Park. AFC Fylde

won 31 of their 42 Northern Premier

League games and gained 99 points, finishing seven ahead of runners-up Curzon Ashton.

2012/13

AFC Fylde qualified for the Northern Premier League Premier Division play-offs in 2012/13. The Coasters lost only two of their opening 14 Northern Premier League games and reached the FA Cup first round proper, losing 4-1 to Accrington Stanley in front of 1,213 at Kellamergh Park. They won 4-0 against Kendal Town and Marine in consecutive matches over Christmas, then slammed five goals against Blyth Spartans and Eastwood Town. Michael Barnes, Adam Farrell and James Dean scored 45 goals between them as AFC Fylde qualified for the play-offs in fifth position. They lost 3-1 on penalties to Hednesford Town after a 3-3 draw in the semi-final.

2013/14

AFC Fylde won promotion to the Conference North in 2013/14. The Coasters lost just one of their opening 13 matches, hammering Worksop 6-1 and Droylsden 5-0 in consecutive games. Brad Barnes scored five goals in their 10-0 win in the return match at Droylsden and Dave Challinor's side dropped only six points in a 17 match unbeaten run. Matt Blinkhorn was top scorer with 17 goals as they qualified for the Northern Premier League Premier Division play-offs in fifth place. AFC Fylde beat Worksop 3-1 in the semi-finals, then Ashton 4-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the final. They also won the League Cup and Lancashire FA Challenge Trophy.

2014/15

AFC Fylde finished Conference North runners-up in 2014/15. Dave Challinor's side began with a 4-0 win over Brackley but gained just one point from their next three games before surging to the top with nine straight wins. The Coasters also reached the FA Cup first round proper, losing 2-0 at Plymouth Argyle, then regained pole position with eight successive

2007/08 FA Vase hero Matt Walwyn



wins. AFC Fylde finished two points behind champions Barrow despite losing just once in their final 14 games. They lost 3-1 on aggregate to Guiseley in the play-off semi-final. Trio Ben Hinchcliffe, Josh Langley and Brad Barnes were selected for the Conference North 'Team of the Season'.

2015/16

AFC Fylde reached the Conference North play-off final in 2015/16. The Coasters started with a 3-0 defeat at eventual champions Solihull Moors but lost just one of their next 14 Conference North games including a 5-0 win over Stalybridge Celtic. Dave Challinor's side also reached the FA Cup first round proper, losing 3-1 at Millwall. They won 22 of their 42 Conference North games and qualified for the play-offs in third place with 75 points. Sam Finley's spectacular 'Goal of the Season' clinched AFC Fylde's 2-1 aggregate win over Harrogate Town in the play-off semi-final but the Coasters lost 2-1 to North Ferriby United after extra-time in the final.

2016/17

AFC Fylde won the Conference North title in 2016/17. Dave Challinor's side won 11 times in a 15 match unbeaten start. The run ended with a 1-0 defeat at Tamworth but they bounced back with a 5-0 victory over Stalybridge, then hammered Boston United 9-2. The Coasters' solitary home defeat was 2-0 against Chorley watched by a record 3,858 crowd on Boxing Day. They crashed to a 5-0 defeat at Salford in early February but lost just one of their final 14 games, with Danny Rowe breaking the club goalscoring record with his winner at

Halifax. AFC Fylde scored 109 goals as they gained 88 points, finishing six ahead of runners-up Kidderminster

2017/18

AFC Fylde qualified for the Conference National play-offs in 2017/18. Dave Challinor's newly-promoted side lost just one of their opening seven matches. They beat Wrexham and Kidderminster Harriers en route to the FA Cup second round proper, drawing 1-1 at home to League One leaders Wigan Athletic before losing 3-2 in the replay. The Coasters won five times in a six match unbeaten run after Christmas, hammering promotion winners Tranmere Rovers 5-2 and Macclesfield Town 6-0. Leading marksman Danny Rowe grabbed a hat-trick in a 7-1 win over Aldershot and AFC Fylde qualified for the play-offs in seventh place, losing 2-1 to Boreham Wood.

2018/19

AFC Fylde won the FA Trophy and were Conference National play-off finalists in 2018/19. Dave Challinor's side lost just one of their opening 18 Conference games including a 6-0 victory at Maidenhead United. The Coasters also slammed six goals past Havant & Waterlooville and Danny Rowe was top scorer with 27 goals as they qualified for the play-offs in fifth place. They beat Harrogate and Solihull Moors but lost 3-0 to Salford City in the Wembley final. AFC Fylde defeated Stratford, Biggleswade, Ramsbottom, Barnet and Stockport County en route to the FA Trophy final, with Rowe scoring to clinch a 1-0 win over Leyton Orient at Wembley

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5 YORK CITY

12 Enstielgh

19 AFC FYLDE

28 DAGENHAM

BERTEMBER

26 Aldershot Town

15 Bremley

FIRST TEAM RESULTS 2023/2024

Comp | Score | (Total) (Away) | Lge | Goal scorers

TBD

1,805 680

VNL 0-0 2,030 172 8

VNL

VNL

VNL

VNL

1-1

6 Kretzchmar (P), Mundle-Smith

Dante BAPTISTE Charlie BARKER Jack COOK

Tarryn ALLARAKHİA Ashley CHARLES Mason BARRETT Alex DYER

Nathan FERGUSON

700

Max KRETZSCHMAR Olufela OLOMOLA Corie ANDREWS 999

Giovanni MCCGREGOR

Micah OBIERO 8

Charles **CLAYDEN**

Sam BOWEN

Dom **HUTCHINSON**

Luke DREHER

Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH Sean ADARKWA

Tahvon CAMPBELL Eric NEGRARU

Joseph CULLIS

29 29 29

KEY

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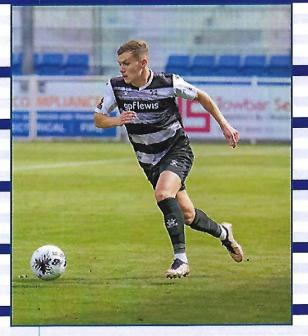
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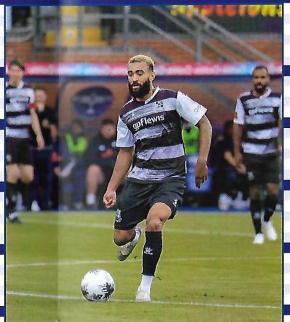
PLAYERS IN FILLED-IN CIRCLES STARTED THE MATCH PLAYERS IN OUTLINED CIRCLES CAME ON AS SUBSTITUTES PLAYERS IN GREEN INDICATE FIRST SUBSTITUTION PLAYERS IN PINK INDICATE SECOND SUBSTITUTION PLAYERS IN BROWN INDICATE THIRD SUBSTITUTION

2 Hartlepool United VNL 9 EBBSFLEET UNITED VNL **16 ALTRINCHAM** VNL 19 Darking Wanderers VNL 23 Chesterfield VNL 26 WOKING VNL **30 OLDHAM ATHLETIC** VNL OCTOBER 3 Gateshead VNL 7 Kidderminster Harriers VNL 14 TBD FAC4Q 21 BOREHAM WOOD VNL 24 OXFORD CITY VNL 28 Selikuli Meers VNL NOVEMBER II ROCHDALE VNL 18 FC Halifax Town VNL **21 Southend United** VNL 25 BARNET VNL DECEMBER **Z ALDERSHOT TOWN** VNL 9 TBD FAT30 16 Dagenham & Redbridge VNI 23 HARTLEPOOL UNITED VAL 26 Maldenhead United JANUARY I MAIDENHEAD UNITED VNL 6 Ebbsfleet United VNL 20 Rechdale VNL 23 SOUTHEND UNITED VNL **27 FC HALIFAX TOWN** VNI REBRUARY 3 Barnet VNL 10 Altrincham VNL 17 GATESHEAD VNL 20 DORKING WANDERERS VNL

VNI

VNL







PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

H D 0-0

H L 0-5

H

L 0-1

10th July 15th July 18th July

Farnborough **Wycombe Wanderers**

22nd July 25th July 29th July

Milton Keynes Dons **Billericay Town Charlton Athletic**

AFC Wimbledon

3-2 Campbell, Allarakhia, Mundle-Smith 2-1 **Dver. MacGregor** Olomola, Campbell, Trialist C 2s 4-2

29 Southend United TO HE ARRANGED

24 Weking

9 EASTLEIGH

12 BROMLEY

16 AFC Fylde

29 Oxford City

23 KIDDERMINSTER

APHIL I SOLIHULL MOORS

6 Bereham Wood

13 CHESTERFIELD

20 Oldham Athletic

MARCH 2 Yerk City Martin Read's original take on this beautiful game

the world of ball

A lament of football's latest rules tweak? It's about time

Every now and then I have the need to plan my quick getaway at the end of a match. Could be the local train timetable affords an opportunity to get home quickly, for example. Or there might just be enough of the trading day left to get to a particular shop before it closes up.

Whichever, having at least some sensible idea of then the final whistle will sound in a league fixture as never been controversial.

Well, as we have already experienced this seaon, there's been controversy aplenty following If A's latest spiffing wheeze. Referees micro-man-

ging the time accrued for stopages during matches - and then dding it on in humungous and otentially game-changing slabs has become the season's bigst talking point thus far.

Regular footballing life has ifted on its axis. The moving of ports Report from its tradition-5 00pm start on BBC Radio ve Live to some uncertain time ereafter has been treated as end of days. The commenceent of teas and / or dinners up id down the country has been rown into utter chaos.

OK, perhaps it's not been that dramatic. But I'll ager this fancy new way of punishing any kind of i pitch delay is unlikely to herald the kind of 'bewoural change' the authorities would like to see i the pitch. For a start, Team A can't be sure Team will be doing its bit. One side might be the reason r the majority of the delays yet still go on to be

the one that nabs a 112th minute winner. Where's the justice there?

What's worse is that the cartoon-like variations in the amount of excessive added time take something of the seriousness out of the occasion, giving professional football the sheen of the sort of kick-around you and your mates might have indulged in after school. You know, games in the middle of summer where

you all agreed to keep going until five but then Colin's mum hadn't called him in for dinner like she said she was going to and anyway that last supposedly winning goal was rubbish as it actually came off Andrew's jumper so we're all playing on until quarter past no YOU shut up.

I've conjured up three lunatic proposals that just so happen to be less lunatic than those enacted by FIFA et al this summer. So buckle up everyone, and let's have a play with football's time regulations. Rules? Where we're going, we won't need rules...



A coach requests a substitution. At his or her convenience, the referee blows the whistle and simultaneously starts a stopwatch. The amount of time it then takes from that whistle to the player exiting the field of play is the same amount of time the sub has to wait before stepping on to the pitch once the ref has blown again to resume play, (The fourth official would police this.)

Accordingly, the longer a subbed player takes to meander off the pitch the more his team mates will be forced to carry on with ten men / women. Result? Legitimate substitutions would see exiting players running over to the touch line in order to be substituted the very instant the ref indicates it and there'd be much less dicking about with tactical substitutions aimed at putting off teams ahead of set-pieces.



Time wasted is assigned to each side as the match goes on, including any old nonsense when an injury is feigned to play out time. The side wasting the most time in a match incurs a time wasting point. If it's a league fixture, the side incurring the time wasting point has it added to their tally for the season. League sides tied on actual points are then separated first by fewest time wastage points, rather than goal difference. And if it's a cup fixture, the biggest time wasters automatically forfeit the choice of ends and first penalty taker should the match result in a penalty shoot-out. The re-

sult? A clear incentive to get on with the game.



If a player goes down, get them off the pitch straight away. Seriously, get the stretcher party on to the pitch immediately, whatever, the extent of the injury, and carry on with the game with a temporary sub taking the field as soon as the stretcher clears the touchline. All this would take

is a raised arm from the ref to indicate he wants the stretcher party on, with the stop in play a red card for any injured player suddenly suggesting they're not injured. That would sort any time thieving chancers from the genuinely injured, too. Sure, it would mean two or three players warmed up and ready to go from minute one, but why not?

"Come on determined by the refonly – and FIFA, there's so much more you could do here to get the kind of response you want to see"

Dramatic flourish difference

A player goes down "injured". There is much writhing, rolling and wailing. A representative from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA) is watching over Zoom / in the VAR studio to rank the theatrics out of ten. The team with fewest dramatic flare points wins the same benefits outlined in 'time wastage difference' above. OK, OK, so that one is probably a little less serious than the others. But come on FIFA, there's so much more you could do here to get the kind of response you want to see. Even the most basic of modern technology would allow the time on the ref's watch to be displayed live to everyone in the ground, teams included, as the



Above: surely it's time to get serious about time wasting rules. Left: "Is it over yet? Did we win? What day is this?"

game goes on. At least then you could begin phoning ahead if a late finish is on the cards.

It could also be seen as strange in this twenty third year of the 21st century that football hasn't yet gone in for referees stopping and starting the game with each stoppage displayed for all to see. And yes, we are indeed back to things that football could take from how rugby does things.

> It's reasonable to assume that, like VAR and other initiatives in recent years, the interpretation of FIFA's added time directive will settle into something less jarring in the months ahead. But until then now is the time to be talking about time.

One final note to Nicola Brown, whose photo of our celebrating

players has adorned my phone's home screen ever since. Happy to present here the best taken screen shots for phone wallpapers as the 2023/24 season progresses. It's an art, taking portrait shots that can act as phone home screens, there's a lot to consider when framing the image, including space for clocks, widgets etc. Anyway, let's see how we go. For now - come on you Stones!

@Wealdipedia

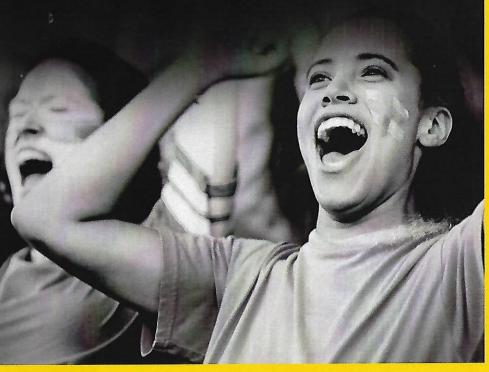






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It happened 50 years ago

part five: stones 2 minehead |

This season we are reliving the extraordinary campaign of fifty years ago... which ended with the Stones' very first promotion in its long history and our first league title in 22 years.

I was just a spotty teenager in those days, living a rather less informed life than the media-saturated youngsters today... our only form of communication was the local paper (the Harrow Observer) and the match programme... and I loved them both! Which is probably why I became a print journalist and still have an unhealthy obsession with our printed matchday prog.

This weekend 50 years ago had me just as excited as the current season, as the Stones had won 2-1 on the first day (see the parallels?) and were now facing the dangerous Minehead side in our first home game. There was the small matter of a 4-2 friendly defeat to the amateurs of Leytonstone in midweek but happily that wasn't replicated on our trip to Eastleigh last Saturday.

The Stones' first Southern League Div One South game was a trip to Hampshire to face Salisbury City on August 11th on their notoriously-sloping pitch. "Close to 150 fans made the trip" according to the Minehead editorial and although that doesn't sound

1973-1974

WEALDSTONE V. MINEHEAD

many today, the supporters club were running three or four coaches to every away game by the end of the season as the Stones homed in on the league title.

So was I at Salisbury? Er, I'm afraid not as the habit of travelling to away games for this 15 year-old didn't kick in until a few months later later, Instead, I was reduced to scouring the small print of the Sunday Express's 'Non-League football re-

sults' and praying



that the smudge on 'Salisbury | Wealdstone 2' was not concealing a zero in the away goals column... it was not until the midweek Harrow Observer dropped onto our doormat on Tuesday morning that the result was officially confirmed, A bit different to the live stream or constant Twitter updates that keep us informed about every moment at every level of football these days.

Our big No.9 Bill Byrne had scored the first goal at Salisbury, with the winner half-volleyed in with some panache by John Barnes on his Stones debut. No, not THAT John Barnes... this one was a former West Ham youngster who arrived on the recommendation of our East London contingent (Willie Watson and Ray Fulton). Unfortunately Barnes played just three games before getting crocked. And he never pulled on the blue shirt again.

But back to Minehead. The Somerset side had a smattering of very good ex-pros from Bristol and Exeter and in fact finished as runners-up in the Southern League Prem just three years later, after winning promotion. Then came the plummet and they are now playing in the Somerset Senior League or suchlike.

They certainly gave us a good run for our money on this sunny afternoon 50 years ago - and when their giant centre-back Bob Boyd blammed in a 25-yard freekick for I-I it seemed we'd end up frustrated. But then (and it's amazing how you remember things a half century later when now you forget where you've just left your glasses) Bill Byrne turned in a Watson cross and the referee disallowed the goal for a penalty kick! How outraged were we! Happily, George Duck stepped up and drilled in the first of his 19 spot-kick goals that season and we'd won. Happy days:)

In this cross from Terry Dyson In the first half of the Minehead game with George Duck (No.10) also lurking. We like to eulogise about our old Lower Mead ground but our current groundsman Adam Rowland would be horrified by the scrubby turf and long grass around the goalposts!

Below: Our new capture from Crystal Palace, the 36-year-old John McCormick (No.5) shows his aerial power



Two more for George Duck

Barometer is set fair as 'Stones win again

By Phil Sugden

WeakIstone 2, Minchead 1

THE LOWER MEAD barometer is set fair, it could be said after Wealdstone chall up their second successive Southern League victory against Minchead, those tou protagonists from Somerset, on Saturday.

It could be argued that 'Stones' might have won more convincingly; that they creat a lot more chances than they appeared likely to accept on the day, and that would

I do not think for one moment that this side has shown anything like its tr potential so far. There is still occasional hesitancy in defence, odd lapses of concentration tion in the middle and certainly the Duck-Byrne partnership is not yet at its very best

tion with his inswinging corners.
As Minehead's agile goal-

keeper Ian Barnes commented after the game: "Terry's insw-

Brodie's none too happy debut

afely and coming off his line

well. He will be a difficult one

to displace for he appears to be

gaining in confidence with

One suspected there were

subtle changes in the back four-

play and it may be that manag-

er Sid Prosser has decided on a

policy of adopting tactics to

suit the play of John McCor-

mick, rather than asking the

former Palace player to fit in

In any event, no complaints,

Apart from a couple of lapses

Fairclough, Watson and Dy-son were all energetic and often

produced thoughtful, construc-tive football in midfield, al-

though of course a change must

be made in this department for

the next couple of matches as

Watson is under suspension for

two league games from Mon-

have yet to show all their poten-

tial but these are early days and

ROUSING START

rousing start, threatening to

sweep the opposition off the

rec-kick went through three

sets of legs before being cleared.

Dyson, swept aside all de-fenders in a sweet run and his

pin-point cross was hooked just

over by Byrne. Minutes later a

shrewd cross by Duck saw

Wealdstone made their usual

Clausen was forced to

Byrne and the resultant

As I have said, the front men

the defence was solid enough

every match.

with existing style.

ngers get everybody on edge'

But anyone who hastenew, surerA brokened watched this rebuilt Dyson was brought toto has games so far played this season, must be purring himself to a near standstill and like a contented cat in an- causing considerable consterna-

ticipation. There is so much ability evident that one can only believe that any time now, in any game to come in the very near Roy McKenzie returned to Wealdstone's goal after Chic future, some unfortunate side will meet 'Stones in full cry and when that happens someone is likely to be on the receiving end of an almight hidthe previous Tuesday, and gave a sound performance, handling

Minehead, of course, were in the promotion race for much of last season and on the form displayed in this game they will be thereabouts again this cam-

They are a tough, give no quarter outfit - and by that I do not mean they are overhard. Robust, yes. In fact they often tackled in this came with biting ferocity, but the majority of their work was scrupulously

like most other people. would rather see a rugged but well timed tackle from the front than a sneaky effort from the back which at best can only result in a free-kick.

The West Country side have nade only a few changes from ast season and their greatest acquisition is certainly former Bristol Rovers striker Bobbie

LATE CHANGE

veteran of some 400 Footworried on a few occasions.

Wealdstone were forced to make a late change when John Henderson ghost into an un marked position and head in

After 11 minutes 'Stones ent ahead as Henderson and admirable Fulton set up the hance and Duck appeared from nowhere to go low and send the ball perfectly placed and powerfully past Barnes.

Dyson went close with a special and then McCormick, who and raced upfield, hooked a orner into Barnes' hands.

Minchead missed a chance then Jones broke quickly from nidfield and the Somerset side had three men up with only Kinnear back. Jenkins held on too long and Fulton was back ike a greyhound to clear the

minutes before the break Minchead got on terms. Once more Bobby Jones raced clear but this time he was chopped down and centre half Boyd moved up to hit the free kick fiercely into the net. No hance there for McKenzie.

Wealdstone were quickly at them in the second half and aft er Byrne had neatly sent Henderson away, the winger crossed perfectly for Duck to ead over bar.

Minchead replaced Risdale with Downs and the game became a stern, relentless battle. nainly in midfield.

SUPERB SAVE

Barnes twice saved superbly when first Duck and then Byrne soared to Dyson crosses, but the winning goal ultimately came from the penalty spot aft er 70 minutes.

Watson, out on the right and running into the box, was fouled and although Byrne flicked the cross in, referee Hazzard had blown for a penal ty and Duck made no mistake

with a power drive. So two more well-earned points for 'Stones and all the igns that there could be many

Presland. Fulton. McCormick: Fairclough, Whi son. Dyson: Byrne. Duck. Han

Henderson. Byrne and Duck did more than enough to raise hopes of better things to come.

League games and the serer of 101 goals for the Bristol he is a true professional. Wearing the number six shirt he sometimes looked almost inno-cuous in midfield until he burst into attack with devastatspeed. He will confuse Wealdstone's back-four

Barnes reported unfit and Terry

On this day six years ago: defeat to Chelmsford is the final game for Stones legend Gordon Bartlett

ON THIS DAY by Tim Parks

August 19, 2017 (Vanarama Nat League the South) Chelmsford City H Lost 0-2

THERE were mumblings of discontent as the 908 crowd streamed out of the Vale on this afternoon aby years ago.... the big, obdurate Chelmsford side (who went on to reach the play-offs) had taken the points and Stones' boss Gordon Bartlett was putting a brave face on it.

But the veteran manager, celebrating his 22nd year in charge of the club, kept a very low profile after the game and tellingly, his usual effusive programme notes were compiled by coach Steve Newing.

Within a day or two the news was out: Wealdstone and GB had parted company.

Were we, as fans, surprised? Gordon had been at the helm longer than Arsene Wenger at Arsenal. To say he was part of the furniture would be unfair to your favourite old sofa. Had he stayed on too long?

His long time assistant, Leo Morris, had bailed out some years earlier and has often said that the modern day game had soured his relationship with the

players. He felt he was just too old and maybe GB was, deep down, feeling the same. Certainly if you speak to Gordon now he is pleased that his time in football was terminated!

Bur as I ruminated in these pages the week after his departure, was the trigger pulled too soon by the relatively new chairman Peter blanden?

The Stones had an opening day win over Concord (2-1) to their name but then lost a game we totally dominated at St Albans. A handball by Saints defender Tom Bender on the goalline stopped us leading 2-1:

He was sent off but Elliott Benyon missed the penalty and Saints' ten men broke away to grab a winner!

Wealdstone looked a very good side for an hour but it all turned on that defeat. We then drew a game we should have won at Gloucester; lost 1-0 at home to 1 lavant & Waterlooville despite having 70% possession and 80% of the goal attempts; and were then denied two penalties while conceding a soft one in the defeat by Chelmsford,

Stones were 18th in the table and Marsen moved quickly to send GB on his way and usher in the highly-regarded Bobby Wilkinson from Hungerford.

Gordon Bartlett as we

like to remember him:

celebrating a famous

FA Trophy win at

Southport

In the first interview with the new boss (pictured below) asked him if Gordon Bartlett had just been very unlucky in that run of games. "The stats don't lie' he said bluntly. 'Wealdstone have won 17 league games at home in the last three years - when I was at Hungerford we went whole seasons without losing at home. The fact is that you have to earn the right to play beautiful football. It has to be a bit ugly at times.

'I work so hard to win games! It's all about reacting

to who you're playing and knowing how to get the points... people labelled Hungerford a 'long ball side' and 'no frills' but we had some great flair players there - the difference is that you have to earn that right to play the pretty football, you can't just go out and play pretty football and expect to win.

"When teams have played Wealdstone recently they set up to let you play football, but it's not hurting them, it's not turning their back four."

What happened next?

There were more mutterings as the 'Marmite' figure only drew his first three games and then saw Stones lost 5-I at Weston Super Mare. Arguably, HIS career was saved by a Danny Green freekick that sparked a 3-0 home win over Bognor, followed by a 4-I win over Poole that pulled us away from 20th place. We missed out on the play-offs but a run to the semi-finals of the FA Trophy made it a season to remember.... for the good and the bad.



ON THIS DAY by Gordon McKay

August 19, 2006 (Southern League Prem) Mangotsfield Town A Lost 1-3

THE summer had seen us transferred to the Southern League for what turned out to be only one season, but it gave us the chance to wave goodbye to the M25 for a bit and of course an opportunity to play new teams and some we hadn't come across for many years.

Consequently fans were fairly upbeat at this prospect and the squad was given a bit of an overhaul by Gordon Bartlett as it was believed we would need more physicality in that league. Players such as Chris O'Leary, Kevin Swift, the Bamford brothers and a returning Fergus Moore were recruited and would form the basis of our side alongside emerging talent like Graeme Montgomery, Carl Martin and Dean Papali.

Our opening game at Mangotsfield showed exactly where we were. Well beaten 3-1 - albeit controversially - and any optimism fans might have had quickly evaporated. We had certainly signed stronger characters who liked a tackle but unfortunately a real lack of athleticism had left us exposed particularly at the back. Our cause was not helped on this sun-baked afternoon down in Avon when new goalkeeper Les Carroll was dismissed in the 2nd half after an ill advised charge to the edge of his area, fending off a forward's

Above: promising teenager Graeme Montgomery (yellow shirt) is pictured at Mangotsfield just before the goal that gave us fleeting hope

challenge which the referee saw as violent play. A penalty was awarded, which was stroked past stand-in keeper Gavin Bamford. We also conceded another penalty to seal the 3-1 defeat after Monty had pulled one back.

What happened next? Well, we endured a long hard season with the inevitable high turnover of players. Relegation seemed nailed on as we entered the home straight, but one last throw of the dice brought in Watford youngsters Theo Robinson and Jonjo O'Toole... and we managed to just wriggle out of it. This was in the middle of our tenure at Northwood and these were not happy times. The prospect of our new ground at PEPF seemed to be slipping away from us, we had no money and even more importantly very little income. Spats between fans and players were not uncommon as frustration set in and the future looked very bleak.

However, as they say where there is life there is hope and this was never truer for us as within a year the opportunity to take over Ruislip Manor arose and a whole exciting new chapter in our history began.

From the Stade Français to Cossham Street, Mangotsfield



One of our more bizarre signings that summer was former New Zealand international skipper Chris Zoricich... who had played against France in the Confederations Cup just three years earlier. Left: Zorro is pictured swapping pennants with France skipper Marcel Desailly. Right: He answers questions in a Stones programme interview about why he had signed. The real answer was: He was over the hill!

So isn't it a bit of a comedown to be playing against local league stars at places like Mangotsfield?

"No, not really. I must admit that I was close to packing in the game last season before I joined Wealdstone... I'd turned out for St Albans, Boreham Wood, Harlow and Heybridge and wondered where I was heading. I played at Woof for Andy Leese when he was there, and bumper into him again when the Stones played Heybridge. He asked me to help out, an old head among the kids, that sort of thing, and I was happy to come over.

"But it was hard going last year. We had a lot of youngsters in the side, and while you can talk them through it for a few games there comes a point when they have to start doing it themselves



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Mya Graham,

UCFB graduate, Assistant Producer at talkSPORT



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Pre Season Update

Pics: Jon Taffel & Mike Renny

MATCH REPORTS

YORK CITY (H)

Grosvenor Vale Saturday August 5th 2023
Wealdstone 2 - I York City Attendance - 1,805

With the rain pouring down, the Stones began the season how they finished the last, spraying the ball around in typical Stuart Maynard fashion, looking to break down their opponents.

Their first chance of the game came in the 10th minute when Tahyon Campbell saw his effort well-blocked by a York defender.

With both teams looking to find the opener, York looked the more likely of the two sides in the first half and saw two strong chances fall to Daniel Pybus around the 30-minute mark.

The first chance saw the ball floated into the path of Pybus, but his first-time volley fell straight into the hands of Jed Ward. Just three minutes later, the 25-year-old saw a well-hit effort deflect just wide of the Wealdstone goal.

The visitors flurry of chances finally found the back of the net in the 39th minute when Lennell John Lewis' scuffed effort fell straight to into the path of Akinyemi, who placed a smart finish into the bottom corner to give the Minstermen the lead on his first start.

The second-half saw a fired-up Wealdstone side pushing for an equaliser as the sun began to shine on Grosvenor Vale.

A glimmer of hope came for the Stones in the

60th minute when a handball inside the York penalty area saw the referee point to spot and give Wealdstone a chance to level the score.

Stepping up to take the penalty, substitute
Kretzschmar took his time and smashed the ball
into the top-right corner to level up the scores and
add to the four penalties he converted last season.

With momentum on their side, the Stones pressed on in search for winner and almost found it when Obiero was played through, but his powerful effort rose over David Stockdale's goal.

Once again, an inspired substitution from Maynard saw Andrews make an instant impact after a loose pass from York saw him played in on goal but brought down by Howe, resulting in a red card for the defender.

WEALDSTONE:

Ward, Barker, Cook (c), Mundle-Smith, Clayden, Charles, Dyer, Obiero, Allarakhia (Kretzschmar 45), Olomola (Adarkwa 90), Campbell (Andrews 74).

Subs not used: Baptiste, McGregor.

Report by Will Beaman



EASTLEIGH (A)

Silverlake Stadium Saturday August 12th 2023 Eastleigh 0 - 0 Wealdstone Attendance - 2,030



Wealdstone picked up a point and clean sheet on the first game on the road of 2023/24 in a 0-0 draw at Eastleigh's Silverlake Stadium.

The Stones will feel the most deserving of all three points with Spitfires goalkeeper Joe McDonnell winning man of the match with stops denying Micah Obiero and a potential own goal the most notable.

Stuart Maynard made one change to the side that begun the season against York City last week, with Max Kretzschmar rewarded for his off the bench performance, starting.

With the hosts enjoying the majority of possession in the opening stages it was Wealdstone who fashioned the first chance of the game when Charles Clayden's cross was met by a looping Ashley Charles header, the midfielder picked out the top corner but the pace was lacking enough to allow McDonnell to collect.

Alex Dyer was next to test the keeper, firing an effort with his weaker foot off the palms of the keeper after a well-worked short corner routine with Charles.

Jed Ward was given his first real test on half hour when Lee Hodson fired through a crowd of bodies but the keeper reacted well to push the effort away from danger.

Five minutes into the second half the Stones had

a huge chance to open the scoring. Claydenwhipped a low cross in to Tahvon Campbell who managed to control despite it being just behind the forward, that teed up Obiero to shoot from close range but he hit it straight at the Eastleigh keeper.

McDonnell earned his man of the match award with his next save. Charles fizzed in a low corner which was directed at his own goal by Solomon Nwabuokei from close range but the keeper made a point-blank reaction save to tip wide.

Eastleigh's best chance of the game came on 77 minutes. Enzio Boldewijn's cross was met by Paul McCallum who poked an effort round Charlie Barker but just wide of the post.

The Stones had two chances to earn a late stoppage time win. Obiero saw his low strike tipped round the post by McDonnell in the first minute of added time and then Clayden saw his free kick fizz off the top of the wall and just wide in the final kick of the game.

WEALDSTONE:

Ward, Cook (c), Barker, Mundle-Smith, Clayden, Charles (Bowen 85), Dyer, Kretzschmar, Obiero, Olomola (Allarakhia 73), Campbell (Andrews 73).

Subs not used: Barrett, Adarkwa.

Report by Chris Woods



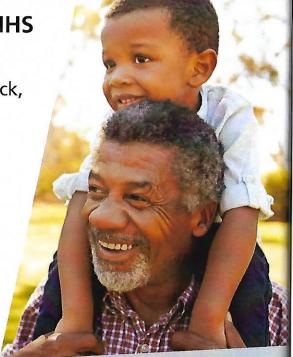
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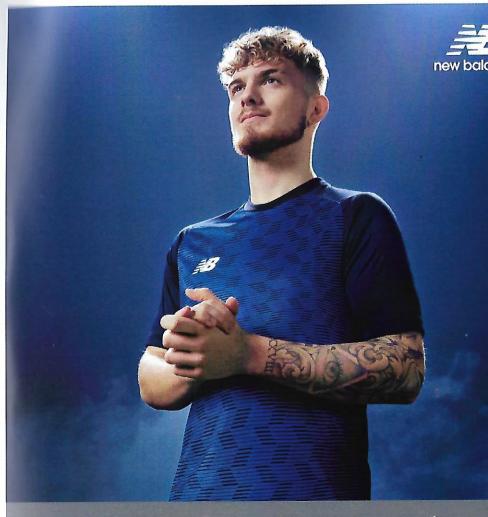
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(4)	AFC FYLDE Saturday 19th August Vanarama National League	Mike & Val Weston										
5.1.5	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Monday 28th August Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available									
	EBBSFLEET UNITED Schurdsy 9th September Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available									
10	ALTRINCHAM Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available									
	WOKING Tuesday 26th September Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available									
2	OLDHAM ATHLETIC Vanorama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available									
	BOREHAM WOOD Salurday 21st October Vanurama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available									
	OXFORD CITY Tuesday 24th October	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available									



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(b)	ROCHDALE Saturday 11th November Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
S N	BARNET Saturday 26th November Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
	ALDERSHOT TOWN Solurday 2nd November Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
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	MAIDENHEAD UNITED Wooday 1st January Vanarama National League	Steve, Megan &	Rebecca Wood
The control of the co	SOUTHEND UNITED Theasday 23rd January Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
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SURLEY STATES	GATESHEAD Saturday 17th February Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
(F)	DORKING WANDERERS Tuesday 20 th February Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
	EASTLEIGH Saturday 9th March Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
	BROMLEY Tuesday 12th March Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
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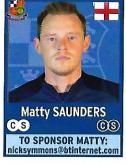
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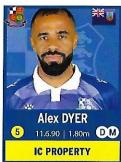














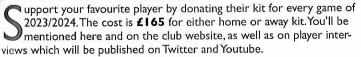












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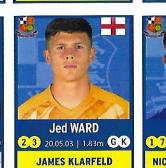




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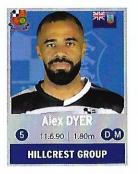
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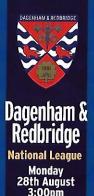
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National League Saturday 9th September 3:00pm



Altrincham

National League Saturday 16 September 3:00pm

EFL or Premier of the armed forces



For all Vanarama **National League** fixtures:

£15 admission for League season ticket holders and members

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	Chesterfield	3	3	0	0	10	6	1	1	0	0	4	3	2	2	0	0	6	3	4	9			
2	Barnet	3	2	1	0	8	5	1	1	0	0	3	2	2	1	1	0	5	3	3	7			
3	Southend United	3	2	0	1	7	2	1	1	0	0	4	0	2	1	0	1	3	2	5	6			
4	Hartlepool United	3	2	0	1	7	5	2	2	0	0	5	2	1	0	0	1	2	3	2	6			
5	Ebbsfleet United	3	2	0	1	4	2	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	6			
6	Halifax Town	3	2	0	1	4	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	2	3	1	6			
7	Altrincham	3	1	2	0	6	5	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	5	4	1	5			
8	Wealdstone	3	1	2	0	3	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	2	0	1	1	1	5			
9	Boreham Wood	2	1	1	0	4	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	4			
10	Gateshead	3	1	1	1	7	6	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	1	0	1	5	4	- 1	4			
11	Solihull Moors	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	4			
12	Maidenhead United	3	1	1	1	5	5	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	4			
13	Woking	3	1	1	1	5	5	2	1	0	1	5	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	+0	4			
14	Kidderminster Harriers	3	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	2	+0	4			
15	Fylde	3	1	1	1	6	7	2	1	0	1	4	5	1	0	1	0	2	2	-1	4			
16	Eastleigh	3	0	3	0	4	4	2	0	2	0	3	3	1	0	1	0	1	1	+0	3		0-0	
17	Oldham Athletic	3	1	0	2	6	7	2	1	0	1	6	3	1	0	0	1	0	4	-1	3			
18	Rochdale	3	1	0	2	3	4	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	3	3	-1	3			
19	Dorking Wanderers	3	1	0	2	5	7	2	1	0	1	2	3	1	0	0	1	3	4	-2	3			
20	Aldershot Town	3	1	0	2	6	9	1	1	0	0	5	2	2	0	0	2	ī	7	-3	3			
21	York City	3	0	1	2	3	5	2	0	1	1	2	3	1	0	0	1	i	2	-2	1	2-1		
22	The second secon	3	0	1	2	3	7	2	0	0	2	2	6	1	0	1	0	i	ī	-4	1			
23	Bromley	3	0	1	2	1	5	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	0	0	i	ò	2	-4	1		1-1	
24	Oxford City	3	0	o	3	3	8	2	ŏ	Ö	2	i	3		0	0	i	2	5	-5	Ö		UU	
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Follow Stones on the road:



Aldershot Town

National League Saturday 26th August

TheShots.co.uk



National League Saturday 2nd September

HartlepoolUnited.co.uk



Dorking Wanderers

National League Tuesday 19th September

DorkingWanderers.com

osmo7

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.

