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By Mark Hyde

Written in Stone



BANK HOLIDAY FOOTBALL, WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?

**Welcome back to Grosvenor vale for our
third home game of the season.**

I will not be alone in hoping we can keep our winning streak at home going and we continue to collect vital points early in the campaign.

It is always difficult to write programme notes without knowing the outcome of our weekend game but whatever the result at the EBB Stadium on Saturday I know the Management and players will be focused on this afternoons game against Dagenham who always prove to be very strong opposition.

There was a common theme around the new added time rule introduced this season running through the articles in the AFC Fylde programme and I guess not many of the crowd that afternoon were unhappy with it when we grabbed a 99th minute winner. The reaction to the inevitability of the reverse happening to us remains to be seen though.

One possibly sticky scenario of the late finishes to games could play out for the hardy supporters who, should the train strikes allow, travel to Hartlepool away on Saturday.

Most are booked onto a return service to London that could prove very tight should the officials be more than a little generous in their view of wasted time! The sight of some rather out of breath fans at Hartlepool Station is a real possibility.

Today's programme has articles from Stuart looking at our start to the season as well as the goals he and the management team have set the

players and once again from Max Kretzschmar giving his view from the playing side of the dressing room.

One piece of news emerging from the club over the last week comes from Club President Paul Rumens, who after 15 years has decided to step down from selling the Match, Ball and Kit sponsorships packages as he looks to focus more of his time and energy on our ongoing Stadium project

and bringing much needed investment that is so vital to our long term future.

Over the last 4 years alone, the sponsorship initiatives have provided over £180k!

Paul would like to thank all the amazing businesses and individuals that have supported the club via sponsorships over his period managing them and looks forward to their continued investment via

**The sight of
some rather out
of breath fans at
Hartlepool
station is a real
possibility**

Nick Symmons and Richard Hopwood who will be taking over from him.

Full details and contact information can be found on the relevant sponsorship pages within this issue.

Finally we have a repeat of the Supporters Club's call to arms.

One of the vital services offered by the WFCSC over the years is that of cheap, easily accessible travel to away games for supporters young and old. This initiative has always seen us as fans supporting the team in numbers that are the envy of many 'bigger clubs'. As you may well know Dave Reader has stepped back (almost) from the running of this service and it is vital that one or more people step up to help going forward. If you can spare a little time please speak to any member of the WFCSC committee who can be found in or around the club shop or ground.

Mark

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WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2023/2024

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The Vale Bar & Banqueting Sarah Gowdy
Events Officer/Liaison Officer James Klarfeld

MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Programme Editor Mark Hyde
Production Martin Read,
Tim Parks, Martin Lacey
Printing People for Print Ltd.
www.peopleforprint.co.uk
wfcprogramme@gmail.com

MATCH DAY OPERATION

Match Day Operations Manager Richard Hopwood
Safety Officer Amar Zaman
Boardroom & Hospitality Carol Carter, Lori Gale-Rumens,
Sarah Woolley, Lynn Evans

COMMERCIAL/ MARKETING

IT Consultant Neil Rands
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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
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 - 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

STUART MAYNARD

From the Manager



Good afternoon and a warm welcome to Ben Strevens' Dagenham team.

It's been a good start for us so far this season and we're really happy with how it's going.

Retaining 15 of the players from last season has really helped as they are accustomed to what we want and how we want to play, which is a key part of the success we've had so far.

We have played some excellent football and in reality should really have more points on the board than we do have already, but we can't complain with where we are and hopefully we can pick up more points today against Dagenham.

Dagenham have had a tricky start but I've got no doubt Ben's team will gradually start picking up more and more points. He's a really good manager and knows the level inside out, so it's only a matter of time before it clicks and they put a lot of points on the board.

This will be a really tough game and whoever comes out on top, will have had to have earned it.

As a club all we can do is focus on ourselves though and our target is to get to 50 points as quickly as possible and then see where it takes us.

The league has got stronger again this year and staying in this division will always be a huge achievement for a club like ours. We won't know exactly where any club is until around 10-15 games into the season. As a management team we know what we want from the squad and will focus on ourselves and keep trying to pick points up at a steady rate. If we can do that, we could be looking at our 5th season at this level which is extraordinary considering what we're up against.

I hope you enjoy the game and hopefully we can add to our points tally this afternoon.

Stuart



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Taking it to the

M₃ A₁ X₈

Max brings us up to date on the season so far and the importance of a strong depth of squad



Happy bank holiday Stones fans! Wealdstone vs Dagenham & Redbridge the final game of what has been a busy August with six games all crammed into twenty three days. After a long pre-season, the fixtures have come thick and fast and it's been important to start well.

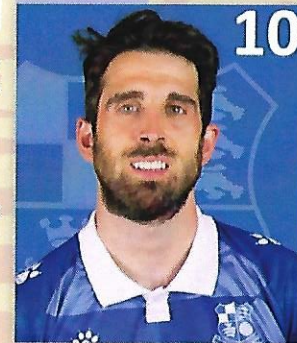
As I write (on 22nd August) with training tonight at 7pm, there's been a sense in the changing room

that perhaps we could've, maybe should've had two, possibly four more points at a push. Now as players and fans alike, we all love to comb over the ifs, buts and maybes and it can be easy to get lost and swept away from the facts and the absolutes. One could argue that the performances at Eastleigh and Bromley deserved more points but to sit 5th in the table after those away games is a great platform to hopefully springboard off!

I'll cruelly brush over the Bromley performance rather quickly which it simply doesn't deserve! Sitting on the bench and watching us for those first sixty minutes was a pleasure and privilege. I can't think of a player who was below an 8/10. We should've won comfortably plain and simple.

Fylde at home was a barnstormer wasn't it? It's probably best to start chronologically...five goals in all, one 65 yard screamer, one red card, one hammer foot (Nathan Ferguson) and a 99th minute bicycle kick winner courtesy of Tahv. I'm exhausted just writing that sentence! It was a game that epitomised us as a team warts and all. Technically and tactically astute

with copious amounts patience, we grew and grew into the game second half and after the red card I believed it was inevitable that we'd get an equaliser minimum. I urge you guys in the stands to stay patient too. We play a controlled, methodical brand of football which is polar opposite to what so many of you have watched at the Vale your whole lives.



"Fylde at home was a barnstormer wasn't it?"

Fast, energetic and physical with the desire to dominate your 1v1 duels. Neither is right. Neither is wrong. But we need you to back us all the way even if that's with short corners and playing backwards! (I joke).

To conclude, I think we sit in a similar position in the table as we did last season at this stage. I think the squad is in a much better place psychologically though. It was a bit euphoric last season up at Gateshead. The fans deserved that day out but as players we dipped slightly. It will be important to use the strong squad depth we have here this season over these next two games. With less than 48 hours between the final whistle at Aldershot and the starting whistle today recovery will be paramount. I have no doubt both the medical and strength and condition teams led by

Michael Owen and Rachel Hill respectively will be huge for us not only this weekend but for the rest of the season too.

Let's hope we can make them and you the fans proud!

Come on you Stones!

Max

YouTube [youtube.com/@maxtalksfootball](https://www.youtube.com/@maxtalksfootball)

Britain's longest-running fanzine column (and it shows it) Last minute winners, it doesn't get better than that, does it?



©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

happened against Bromley when Cheek hit the bar, with the way he plays the sweeper keeper role. It's the ying to the yang of having a goalie that sweeps up behind his defence and you have to admire the quality of the strike from Houghton that led to the goal. We seemed to be huffing and puffing and not getting anywhere until the sending off. It was stupid, two bookings in the space of minutes in areas where there was no need. Whilst the sending off helped, Fylde's tactics thereafter certainly assisted



BY SUDHIR RAWAL

Tav Campbell's overhead kick in the 99th minute sparked wild celebrations on the terraces and the pitch and was a just ending for the preceding thirty minutes or so. The game saw Fylde start well but once Stones scored, we were in the ascendancy but couldn't get the second goal that would have killed off the game. The Coasters scored from a set piece when the giant Gold Omotayo had a free header, from a very soft freekick decision, when until then Jed Ward hadn't had too much to deal with.

The second half saw Fylde take the lead with an audacious shot from inside their own box with Ward off his line. As was said on Stonescast, Ward is always going to be prone to this, it nearly



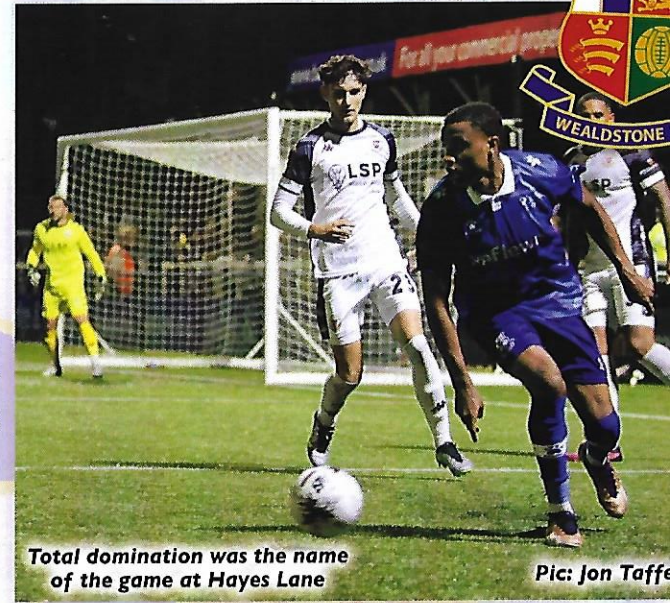
Fylde's away following of 20 was more of a talking point than their red card in the bar.

Pic: Jon Taffel

more. They withdrew the big lump Omotayo up front and pretty much gave up on any outlet ball to take away the pressure. This led to wave after wave of attack but our passing, maybe due to the dry pitch, wasn't slick enough and we hit against the wall. The game was going away from us until Nathan Ferguson unleashed one of his specials from outside the box to equalise with four minutes to go. The Coasters had been wasting time throughout the second half, none more so when their keeper went down injured, the physio chatted away on her mic, treated his left leg and when he Lazarus like recovered was seen limping on his right! The referee was having none of it and added on ten minutes of additional time. Barker had a header just over, Cook had a header pawed away, shots flashed past the post and over the bar, until Campbell's acrobatics sealed the win. I saw a social media post from a Rochdale fan clamouring for his recall!

The game before saw Wealdstone's most dominant performance during the Maynard/Saunders era at Bromley. Against a big bruising side, we played them off the park. Our passing was marvellous and our play beautiful to watch. The only missing ingredient was the lack of goals. Had we won by four or five, nobody could have had any complaints, for seventy-five minutes it was probably the best we have played in years. Campbell should have had a hat-trick, Olomola and Obiero should have had a goal apiece too. Olomola, in my opinion, had his best game in a blue shirt playing in an attacking midfield role and deservedly won our man of the match award on the official X feed. Ultimately if you don't take your chances, the opposition are likely to get an opportunity and Bromley managed to equalise and gain an undeserved point. From our first four games, we should have had twelve points which would have had us top of the table. One day soon we are going to give a team a right hiding.

Once again, early season crowds have sparked debate. Home support for both games so far have



Total domination was the name of the game at Hayes Lane

Pic: Jon Taffel

been around the same, just the away support hugely different, 680 from York and 20 from Fylde. Up the road, Barnet for the visit of Woking only had 1,500. London teams in particular seem to suffer badly from lower crowds in the holiday season and in our case, for the opening two games, home support has been higher compared to the first two matches of last season, though rather

Once again, early season crowds have sparked debate

strangely there was almost a dearth of our "youth" on Saturday. As I mentioned earlier, Stonescast is back and the third 'Cast of the season will be recorded this week, with the dream team of Adam Hills, Tim Park, Jeremy Albert and Mark McManus in the hot seat, just in time for the trip to Hartlepool this weekend. Of course, travel is likely

to be a nightmare with another spate of train strikes halting many people's travel plans. Last season, our trip to Scunthorpe was badly hit by train strikes and an additional coach was laid on by the Supporters' Club. Unfortunately, due to the prohibitive cost of coaches this far north, the SC haven't organised travel at all and, in any case, most of travelling fans were booked on trains on Friday and Saturday. RMT and ASLEF have made that more difficult but many of us are on Grand Central train on Saturday morning and they are not striking, so hopefully we will still have a decent following in Monkey Hanger land.

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Getting to know the Stones by Tim Parks

Ten minutes with...



TAHVON CAMPBELL

FIRST up, this was more like 20 minutes as Tahvon was on a bit of a high after scoring his first National League goal for the Stones!

I spoke to the 26-year-old striker the day after the Bromley game (a fortnight ago) and he was buzzing to get his first competitive goal of the season and to come through pain-free. Tahvon, on a season-long loan with the Stones from Rochdale, found his career with the Lancashire club disrupted by a broken foot early in 2022 - and he still feels wary after the injury was misdiagnosed.

"I woke up this morning feeling good, even after playing on Bromley's astro pitch last night. In fact I'm getting better and stronger every game, building up my confidence and I barely feel a twinge anymore."

The injury occurred soon after he'd been signed by Rochdale in League Two on the back of a 13-goals-in-20 games start to the 2012-2022 season.

"I broke my foot soon after joining them and had it in a protective boot for 12 weeks... then when I came back to play I broke it again!" he says. "It was a

The second season was a bit of a write-off but I was desperate to know how the foot was recovering so I went out on loan at Aldershot, half fit, for the last couple of months at the end of last season."

He only managed to play nine games but contributed three goals to The Shots' fight against relegation... and one of them was the only goal at The Vale last April as we

Our new loan striker on scoring with unexpected shots, why Stonesball suits his own footballing philosophy.. and why he wants the pens!

went down 1-0.

"They are a good club, Aldershot, and I was happy to help keep them up. They came in for me in the summer - in fact a few clubs did - but there was only one choice for me once I'd spoken to my friend Max (Kretzschmar) and to the Gaffer and Matty.

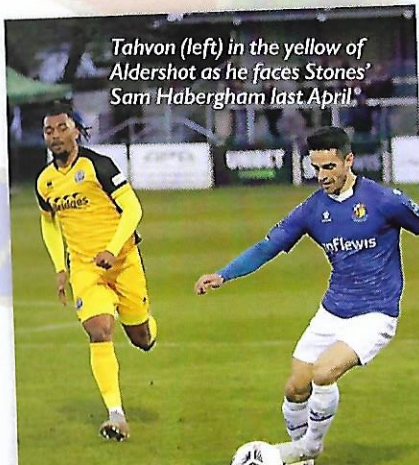
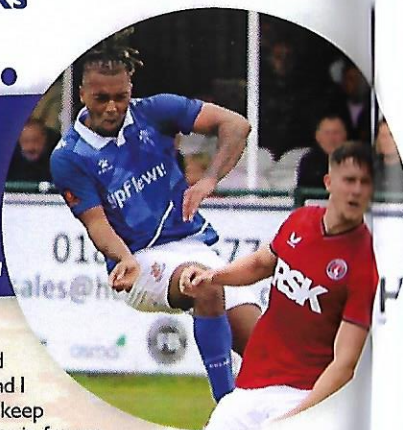
"They have a possession philosophy that suits my game - an exciting philosophy. I couldn't believe how good we were at Bromley last night, dominating the game and really we should have won it."

Having taken the lead through an inspired shot on the swivel from Tahvon after just four minutes, Stones had the chances to go three or four goals ahead before Bromley equalised.

"I was pleased with my goal - I like to shoot when it's least expected because that's when you can catch defenders and goalkeepers out - but I was disappointed not to get a second goal when one-on-one with their keeper Grant Smith. I spoke to him afterwards and he admitted that he gambled I would shoot across him - and so he stuck his leg out to save".

Personally, the capture of Tahvon on loan surprised me as I knew what a goal-scoring talent he possesses - having seen him play for Woking two years ago when he had that golden spell alongside Max Kretzschmar.

It seems the combination of 'Stonesball' and the persuasion of Kretz were deciding factors in convincing the Brummie that his immediate future lay at The



Tahvon (left) in the yellow of Aldershot as he faces Stones' Sam Habergham last April.

Vale. "I still have the ambition to play further up the EFL, and I know I will score goals as a result of the football we play. I know the Stones weren't far away from the play-offs last season and I'm hoping my goals will make the difference" he says

Tahvon admits that his goalscoring stats aren't impressive when you weigh up the first half dozen years of his professional career. He was at West Bromwich Albion from the age of 8 to 22 but never came close to a breakthrough in their then-Premier League setup... and then set off on a series of loan moves with a handful of goals for Kidderminster, Yeovil, Solihull Moors and Forest Green Rovers.

League Two FGR became a permanent move in 2018, followed by a two-year deal at Cheltenham. It was at this time he set up home in Gloucester with his girlfriend Lauren.

"I wasn't prolific because I wasn't really playing as a striker in those days" he explains. "I was being used as a winger or midfielder - it was only when I went to Woking on loan that the Gaffer wanted me to play more down the middle as a central striker and the goals flowed".

He still has fond memories of his first goal in the Football League though: a sensational 25-yard strike for Yeovil in a 2-1 beating of West Country rivals Torquay in January 2016. "That was a wonder goal" he laughs. "I would have preferred a tap-in for my first goal to show that I was a predatory striker!"

So would you now prefer to play as a lone striker or as one of a pair? I asked him.

"Me and the Gaffer have been talking about

that" said Tahvon. "Personally I'd rather play up front with someone like Corrie as it takes the weight off your shoulders; otherwise it's one against three defenders and I think we'd create more problems for defenders that way. But we tried to get Fela, Ashley and Sam (Bowen) right up alongside the striker as often as possible at Bromley and we also looked dangerous playing that way.

"But my main ambition is to get the penalties off Max! He's just too good though: He never misses!"

Quick-fire....

Best goal you've ever scored? It was for Yeovil - my first senior goal against Crawley Town, curling into the top corner and special because it was a nice way to get my first goal.

Biggest influence on your career? My parents, for giving me everything I needed and taking me to training.

Best game you've ever seen? (live or on telly) I only watch Arsenal play but can hardly get to games - but Arsenal vs Aston Villa last season was a good watch on television

Who do you try to emulate as a player? I just try to enjoy and play to my strengths but if I did emulate anyone would try to be the Brazilian Ronaldo.

When and where were you happiest as a player, so far? Happiest at Woking as it was the first time I was given a run of games, playing every week scoring goals

Favourite meal? Pad Thai

Favourite restaurant? Wagamama

What would you have as your stadium run-out music? Blade brown - 12 Summers

Any pre match superstitions? Just a lot of caffeine if that is a superstitious thing!

If you had a romantic two week break where would you go? I'd like to go to Santorini, in Greece

What was the last film/ stage play you saw?

Operation Fortune at the cinema - a decent action movie

And last book you read? I'm currently reading Think and Grow Rich

What's your favourite tv series at the moment? It's Lincoln Lawyer on Netflix.



Fromer Stones loanee George Langston grabs a piece of the new kit (worn by Tahvon) at Eastleigh in the 0-0 draw
PIC: MIKE RENNY





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All you need to know about... Dagenham & Redbridge

The opposition in focus

Despite only being in existence for 31 years, Dagenham & Redbridge Football Club have had their fair share of highs and lows their highest being promotion to League One following a 3-2 play off final victory over Rotherham United at Wembley Stadium.



The Club came about following a series of mergers which saw Leytonstone, Ilford and Walthamstow Avenue form Redbridge Forest who in turn merged with Dagenham FC in 1992 to form the current Club. All four had proud histories as amateur clubs in the past but due to dwindling attendances, had fallen on hard times.

The first season of Dagenham & Redbridge FC saw them finish third behind Wycombe Wanderers in the GM Vauxhall Conference and reach the 1st Round proper of the FA Cup, where they were defeated 5-4 in a thrilling game against Leyton Orient.

Unfortunately after this things began to go downhill for the club especially off the pitch when a Trustee of the Club illegally removing half a million pounds which he was later convicted of. Money was now tight and the 1995/6 season saw the Daggers finish bottom of the GM Vauxhall Conference and suffer relegation to the Isthmian League.

To ensure the Club didn't continue a downward trend Ted Hardy was appointed to stabilise it and against all odds took the team to Wembley in the FA Trophy final unfortunately losing 0-1 in extra time to Woking having played for an hour with only 10 men.

League finishes of fourth, fourth and third meant that Ted had achieved the target of stability and on 1st March 1999 he announced his resignation.



Played for Both -
Current Hanwell Town boss
Chris Moore

The Daggers installed Garry Hill into the hot seat and in his first season they returned to the Conference having romped to the Isthmian League title recording 20 victories and a draw from their 21 home league games and an outstanding 101 points. The success story continued into the 2000/01 season as the Club achieved third place. The 2001/2 season saw the Conference championship turned

into a two-horse race with Boston United and the Daggers heartbreakingly missing out on promotion to the Football League on goal difference. The disappointment was made even worse when the Lincolnshire side were found guilty of illegal payments

to players but the points deduction was carried into the following season. The following season saw the Club miss out on promotion to the football league for the second season running again by the closest of margins.

Garry Hill departed at the end of the following season and the Club turned

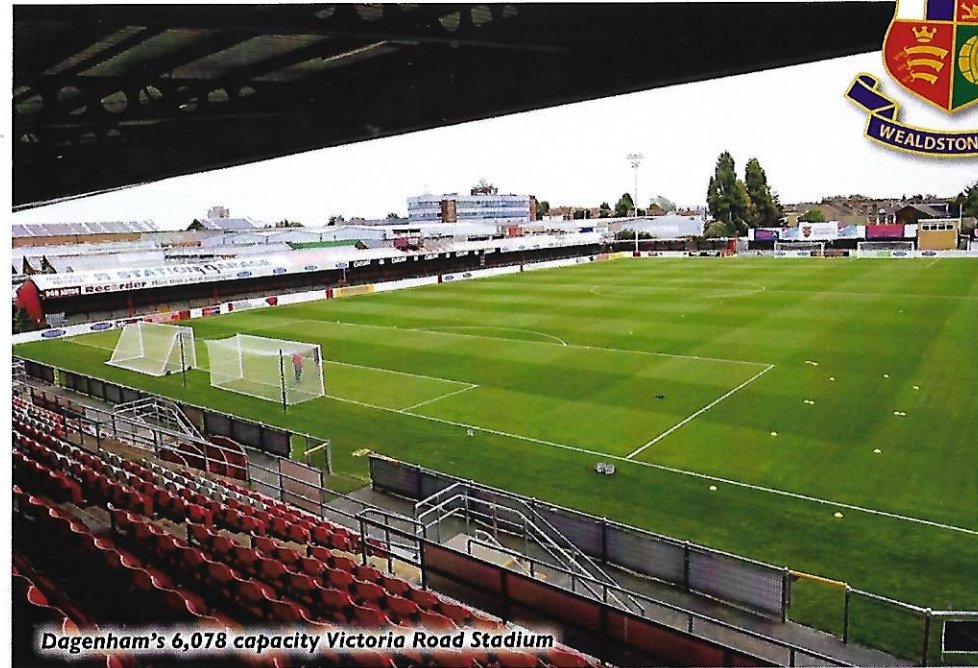
to John Still for a second spell in charge. At the end of October the Club were ten points behind hot favourites Oxford United and a play-off place was seen as the best they could hope for, instead they kept up the pressure on the leaders and on the last day of 2006 they took top spot in the League, a position they wouldn't relinquish. On 7th April 2007, a 2-1

home win over Aldershot Town gave them the Championship and with it a place in the Football League they had been so close to achieving in the past.

The 2009/10 season saw the Club reach the end of season play off's by virtue of a seventh place finish. In the semi-final first leg they broke all previous play-off records with

THE DAGGERS

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MANAGER - BEN STREVENS
2022/23 - 10TH NATIONAL LEAGUE



Dagenham's 6,078 capacity Victoria Road Stadium

a six goal rout of Morecambe and despite losing the second leg 1-2, went through to the final at Wembley 7-2 on aggregate. 32,054 attended the final on 20th May and saw goals from Paul Benson, Danny Green give the Daggers the lead on two occasions only for the Millers to equalise on both occasions. Barbados international Jon Nurse struck the winner after 69 minutes as the Essex side continued their amazing climb through the football pyramid.

The size of the task facing the squad in League One was evident & despite all the odds the club went in to the last day of the season with fate in their own hands but with over 1,000 Daggers making the trip to London Road Peterborough ran out easy winner to condemn the Daggers to relegation.

Wayne Burnett signed a two-year contract as manager in May 2013 and in his first full season in charge led the team to a ninth place finish in League Two, playing a more attractive style of football in the process however a poor start to the 2015/16 led to his departure and the return to management of John Still.

The Daggers' 2016/17 season was an eventful season both on and off the pitch for Dagenham & Redbridge, with the Essex side almost returning to the Football League at the first time of asking only narrowly missing out in the promotion Semi-final to Forest Green Rovers. Daggers captain Scott Doe reached 300 appearances for the Club in March as

well as the Daggers finishing fourth after being hit with a number of first team injuries.

In 2019/20 The Daggers embarked on their 4th successive season in the National League, looking to build on the solid foundations that have been put in place by the club's investors, Trinity Sports Holdings. Peter Taylor departed the club after a run of poor form at the start of 2020. Daryl McMahon joined as Manager in early January, with Terry Harris and Steve Gritt his joint-Assistant Managers, and Dave Jupp arriving as Strength and Conditioning and First Team Coach.

Thanks to wins over Eastleigh, Solihull, Barnet and a massive 5-0 win away to Wealdstone, the east London side eventually finished 12th in the league. In the 2020/21 season, the Daggers also reached the second round of the FA Cup having beaten EFL side Grimsby 3-1.

In 2022/23 Dagenham finished in 10th position just 3 points ahead of Wealdstone

LAST SEASON

SAT 29TH OCT 2022 (A) L 1-4
SAT 4TH FEB 2023 (H) W 1-0

ALL TIME

P 16 W3 D2 L9 F15 A36





OPPOSITION IN FOCUS

Dagenham & Redbridge

1. ELLIOT JUSTHAM - GOALKEEPER

The Daggers captain joined us after being released by Luton at the end of the 2015/16 season.

The goalkeeper previously played for Waltham Forest, Leyton, Redbridge, Brentwood Town, East Thurrock United and Luton Town. He made his Football League debut for the Hatters at AFC Wimbledon in February 2014. He kept his place for the remainder of that season having been a regular on the bench during Town's Conference title campaign the season prior.

2. JOSH HARE - DEFENCE

The 27-year-old, who is a right back by trade, is capable of playing as a wing back, a right sided midfielder and even a makeshift centre half when called upon. Josh originally began his career as a part of the Gillingham youth set up and would go on to make three appearances for the Gills during his tenure. He joined Eastbourne Borough in a loan deal in 2014 and would eventually sign for the club in July 2016 following the expiration of his contract, spending a year at the National League South club before moving to then-National League side Maidstone United. Hare's original stint at Eastleigh came following his time at Maidstone, before impressing enough to warrant a move to then-League One side Bristol Rovers, where he would make 39 appearances in the third tier of English football, before returning to Eastleigh.

3. ELLIOT JOHNSON - DEFENCE

Before signing for the Daggers at the start of the 2020/21 campaign, the 28-year-old spent the entirety of his playing career at Barnet, where he gained valuable experience in both the National League and League Two.

4. NIK TAVARES - MIDFIELD

Nikola joined the Daggers upon the expiration of his contract with fellow National League side Wealdstone in the summer of 22/23. The South African-born defender made 27 appearances in his recent one-year spell with the Stones. Tavares has also represented Croatia at youth level. Nikola can slot in anywhere across the back line, mainly filling in as a centre-half during his time at the Stones. Starting out as a youngster amongst Brentford's youth system, he spent three years between 2013 and 2016 before his release. He would then find a home in Crystal Palace, spending four years with the club between 2017 and 2021, before joining Wealdstone ahead of the 2021/22 season.

5. TOM EASTMAN - DEFENCE

Tom Eastman became the Daggers third signing of

the Summer as he joined following the expiry of his contract with Colchester United. The Daggers beat competition for League Two and other National League clubs to secure the signature of the 31-year-old centre back. Standing at 6 ft 5, Eastman joins the Daggers with a wealth of experience in the EFL, spending twelve years with Colchester United which put him seventh in the all-time appearances for the Essex side. He also collected a club record four Player of the Year awards.

6. JAKE HESSENTHALER - MIDFIELD

The fifth signing of the summer, Hessenthaler joined the Daggers from Crawley on a two year deal. The 29-year-old midfielder spent most of his career at Gillingham making 159 senior appearances after being promoted from the clubs youth ranks. Jake also had successful spells at Grimsby and Crawley before joining the Daggers.

7. FRANK VINCENT- MIDFIELD

Vincent became the fourth signing of the Summer and signed a two-year deal with the club. He joined following expiry of his contract with Notts County, where he spent three seasons. Frank started his career in the youth ranks at Queens Park Rangers, before making his way to Barnet and then onto AFC Bournemouth. With Bournemouth, he enjoyed loan spells at Torquay United, Scunthorpe United and Walsall before joining Notts County permanently in July 2021.

8. JOSH REES - MIDFIELD

Rees joined the Daggers in June 2023 following the expiry of his contract at fellow Vanarama National League side Boreham Wood, where he has spent the past two seasons. The 29-year-old is a well known and respected name around the National League, playing for Bromley over two stints, Aldershot Town and Boreham Wood.

9. INIH EFFIONG - FORWARD

The Daggers number nine signed for the club in February of this year from Aldershot Town. He went on to nine goals in 18 games in his first season. The striker has a history of scoring goals in the National League, notching up goals for the likes of Aldershot, Woking and Dover. Our talisman also spent a period of time in the SPFL for Ross County in 2018.

10. RYAN HILL - FORWARD

Hill joined in June 2023 from fellow Vanarama National League side Eastleigh for an undisclosed fee, where he has spent the past three seasons. The 25-year-old spent his youth career at Stoke City, before moving to Hampton and Richmond. His

performances there then secured him a move to Eastleigh, where he featured 92 times, scoring six goals.

11. MYLES WESTON - MIDFIELD

Myles joined the Daggers in February 2020 on a deal until June 2021 after he left Ebbsfleet United, making four appearances before the season was cut short. A pacey-wide man, Weston scored seven goals for The Fleet in 27 appearances last season before his move and arrived at the Daggers having scored four goals in his last seven games. Weston began his career in the academies of Arsenal and Charlton Athletic, and has featured more the 320 times at Football League level. Myles has represented England at U16, U17, U18, and U19 level, and has also been capped by Antigua & Barbuda.

13. JOSH STRIZOVIC - GOALKEEPER

Josh joined the Daggers in May 2019, to provide back-up to No.1, Elliot Justham. The 19-year-old is a product of Braintree Town's youth system, where he featured on the bench for the Iron as a 16-year-old before joining Burnham Ramblers in the Essex Senior League in the summer of 2017. Aged just 17, Josh went on to play a full season in the first team for Burnham, winning the players' and manager's player of the year awards at the end of the season. He was then picked up by Billericay Town in the 2018 close season, before linking up with Harry Wheeler once again when he signed for Maidstone United in September 2018. Josh has spent time on loan at Basildon United and has been with Harrow Borough for the season, featuring in the Borough's FA Cup first round draw away at Portsmouth.

14. OMAR MUSSA - MIDFIELD

In the summer of 22/23, Mussa put pen to paper on a two-year deal, with an additional year option. Omar made 34 Vanarama National League appearances in 2021/22 for relegated side, Weymouth. Starting his career in Belgium, the midfielder played for KV Mechelen's youth teams until January 2019, when he made the switch to Walsall. From Walsall, Omar joined Dover Athletic during the 2020/21 season, before opting to join Weymouth ahead of the 2021/22 campaign.

15. LEWIS PAGE - DEFENCE

16. HARRY PHIPPS - DEFENCE

Phipps joined the Daggers the week before the opening game of the 2018/19 season, the young holding midfielder joined the club having been released by Maidstone United. After a string of impressive performances that saw him at the heart of a midfield that helped the Daggers soar up the National League table, Phipps was handed an

18-month contract extension.

The 20-year old made 23 appearances in his first season with the Club, but was only able to make 9 last season due to injury. Phipps spent the remainder of the 21/22 season on loan at King's Lynn Town and even scored in his debut in the Linnets 2-1 loss away to Southend.

17. CHARLEY KENDALL - FORWARD

19. SAM LING - DEFENDER

Sam Ling first joined Dagenham & Redbridge in 2016 from Leyton Orient on a free transfer where he played a total of 41 times for the Daggers. During his first spell, Ling scored three goals for the club. His first came against Fylde where he scored a 94th minute equaliser against the Coasters. His second, which was also a late equaliser, came in the 86th minute away to Aldershot as well as his final, which was one of four in the Daggers 4-0 win away to Chester. Ling opted for a move back to Leyton Orient in January 2018 for an undisclosed fee and would go on to win the Vanarama National League the next season with the O's. Sam went on to make 45 EFL appearances for the east London club before his release at the end of the 2020/21 season.

21. DAVID LONGE-KING - DEFENDER

Longe-King made his summer move to Daggers in July 2022 and penned a deal with the club that would keep him here until the end of the 2023/24. The defender made six appearances in all competitions for Grimsby last season, as well as 15 in the Vanarama National League while on loan with Woking, scoring one goal during his time with the Cards. The 6'4 centre-half appeared 11 times in League Two for Newport County during the 2020/21 season.

22. SYDNEY IBIE - FORWARD

Sydney signed his first professional contract with the Daggers in mid December. The 20-year-old, 6-foot 6 winger joined the Daggers from Isthmian League side, Northwood FC on a deal that will see him at the club until the end of the season with an option to extend for a further year in the Club's favour.

23. CONOR LAWLESS - 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.

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Dagenham & Redbridge greatest seasons

CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

1992/93

Paul Cavell was leading marksman with 19 goals as Dagenham & Redbridge finished third in the Conference in 1992/93. Newly-named after the merger between Dagenham and Redbridge Forest, the Daggers remained in the leading places throughout the season and only runaway champions Wycombe Wanderers gained more than their 19 Conference wins. The Daggers' 1-0 defeat at Wycombe in February was watched by 5,106. John Still's side had drawn 4-4 at home to fellow high-fliers Slough the previous week. The Daggers hammered Merthyr Tydfil 6-1 at Victoria Road in April. They lost 5-4 at home to Leyton Orient in a thrilling FA Cup first round match.

1996/97

Dagenham & Redbridge reached the FA Trophy final for the first time in 1996/97. Ted Hardy replaced Graham Carr as manager and the Daggers defeated Aldershot 3-1, Dover Athletic 2-0, Chelmsford City 2-1, Morecambe 2-1, Ashton United 1-0 and Gloucester City 2-1 in the FA Trophy semi-final replay before losing 1-0 to Woking in the Wembley final. The Daggers finished fourth in the Isthmian League Premier Division but a long way behind the top two sides Yeovil Town and Enfield, despite drawing 0-0 and winning 1-0 in the respective away games. They were unlucky to lose on penalties at home to Ashford Town in an FA Cup first round replay.

1997/98

Dagenham & Redbridge reached the FA Cup second round for the first time in 1997/98. Paul Cobb was leading marksman with 24 goals as the Daggers finished fourth in the Isthmian League Premier Division, hammering Oxford City 7-1 and Heybridge Swifts 6-2 in November. Ted Hardy's side also won 5-0 at Harrow Borough in March. Tim Cole was 'Player of the Year' as the Daggers beat Farnborough Town in the FA Cup first round. They defeated Hornchurch, Leyton Pennant, Billericay Town and Southend United en route to the Essex Senior Cup final and Steve



John Still

Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS selects ten post-war Dagenham & Redbridge 'Classic Campaigns'.

Connor lifted the trophy for the first time in the club's history after a 2-1 win over Purfleet.

1999/00

Dagenham & Redbridge stormed to the Isthmian League title in 1999/2000, winning the title by an incredible 24 points from nearest challengers Aldershot. Garry Hill replaced Ted Hardy as manager during the summer. After the Daggers went top in late September with a 4-0 win over then leaders Enfield, they remained in pole position for the rest of the season, with only brief challenges from St Albans City and Aldershot. They lost just one of their first 20 Isthmian League games, overcoming a poor spell in February to drop only four points from their last 14 matches. Only Chesham left Victoria Road with a point as the Daggers gained a club record 101 points.

2000/01

Dagenham & Redbridge made headlines as they took Premier League high-fliers Charlton Athletic to an FA Cup third round replay in 2000/01. Garry Hill's side triumphed 3-1 at home to Hayes in the first round before Mark Janney's goal clinched a 1-0 second round win at Lincoln City, the first time the Daggers had defeated Football League opposition in the competition. They were cruelly denied from becoming the first non-Leagueurs to beat a Premier League side in the FA Cup by John Salako's late equaliser at Charlton, then unluckily lost 1-0 after extra time in the replay watched by 5,394 at Victoria Road. The Daggers finished third in the Conference.

2001/02

Mark Stein and Ken Charlery netted 41 goals between them as Dagenham & Redbridge finished Conference runners-up in 2001/02, controversially piped to the title on goal difference by Boston United after they both finished on 84 points. Ex-Stoke and Chelsea striker Mark Stein joined the Daggers from Luton Town during the summer and scored their penalty winner over Southport in the FA Cup first round. Goals by



2006/07's FA Trophy/Nationwide Conference winning side. PIC: daggers.co.uk

Mark Janney, Junior McDougald and Ken Charlery secured a 3-0 second round replay victory at home to Exeter City as they reached the third round for the second year running, losing 4-1 at home to Premier League side Ipswich Town.

2002/03

Dagenham & Redbridge reached the Conference play-off final in 2002/03. Mark Stein and Steve West scored 16 goals each as the Daggers qualified for the play-offs in fifth position, trouncing Barnet 5-1 during a Conference record 11 successive wins. Garry Hill's side beat Morecambe on penalties after a 3-3 aggregate draw in the play-off semi-final but lost 3-2 to Doncaster Rovers to a sudden death goal in extra-time in the final at Britannia Stadium. The Daggers defeated Havant & Waterlooville 3-2, Crawley Town 2-1 and Plymouth Argyle 2-0 after a replay to reach the FA Cup fourth round for the first time but then lost 1-0 to Norwich City at Carrow Road.

2006/07

Paul Benson was leading marksman with 28 goals as Dagenham & Redbridge swept to the Conference title in 2006/07. They lost their opening home match against Oxford United and also suffered early exits in the FA Cup and FA Trophy. Results picked up and the Daggers went top after a 1-0 victory over Halifax Town at the end of December. John Still's side lost at home to Rushden & Diamonds shortly after selling Craig Mackail-Smith and Shane Blackett to Peterborough United for a club record fee in January but were then unbeaten in their next ten games. They clinched the title with a 2-1 win at

home to Aldershot, finishing 14 points clear of Oxford United.

2007/08

Dagenham & Redbridge played in the Football League for the first time in 2007/08. The Daggers kicked off in League Two with a 1-0 defeat at Stockport County and their first victory was 1-0 at home to Lincoln City in their fourth match. John Still's side won consecutive away games at Mansfield and Brentford but managed just six wins in their opening 30 League matches despite reaching the FA Cup third round. The arrival of Mark Arber from Stevenage in February heralded a run of five successive wins including a 6-2 demolition of Chester and 4-1 beating of Grimsby. Ben Strevens was top scorer with 15 goals as the Daggers finished in 20th position.

2009/10

John Still plotted Dagenham & Redbridge's 2010 League Two play-off final triumph. The Daggers won their opening three games, slamming five goals past Torquay and Shrewsbury, then bounced back from a 3-0 defeat at Notts County to go top with a 3-0 victory at home to Lincoln. They lost just once in 12 matches to regain pole position with a 1-0 win at Accrington in mid-November, but then just two wins in their next 12 games saw them slip to mid-table. Newcomers Marlon Pack and Damien McCrory helped to improve results and they qualified for the play-offs in seventh place. The Daggers beat Morecambe 7-2, then Rotherham 3-2 in the Wembley final.





FIRST TEAM RESULTS 2023/2024

AUGUST	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers
5 YORK CITY	VNL	2-1	1,805	680	6	Kretzschmar (P), Mundle-Smith
12 Eastleigh	VNL	0-0	2,030	172	8	
15 Bromley	VNL	1-1	1,810	159	8	Campbell
19 AFC FYLDE	VNL	3-2	1,145	20	5	Campbell 2, Ferguson
26 Aldershot Town	VNL					
28 DAGENHAM & RED.	VNL					

SEPTEMBER	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers
2 Hartlepool United	VNL					
9 EBBSFLEET UNITED	VNL					
16 ALTRINCHAM	VNL					
19 Dorking Wanderers	VNL					
23 Chesterfield	VNL					
26 WOKING	VNL					
30 OLDHAM ATHLETIC	VNL					

OCTOBER	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers
3 Gateshead	VNL					
7 Kidderminster Harriers	VNL					
14 TBD	FAC4Q					
21 BOREHAM WOOD	VNL					
24 OXFORD CITY	VNL					
28 Solihull Moors	VNL					

NOVEMBER	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers
11 ROCSDALE	VNL					
18 FC Halifax Town	VNL					
21 Southend United	VNL					
25 BARNET	VNL					

DECEMBER	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers
2 ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL					
9 TBD	FAT3Q					
16 Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL					
23 HARTLEPOOL UNITED	VNL					
26 Maidenhead United	VNL					

JANUARY	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers
1 MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VNL					
6 Ebbsfleet United	VNL					
20 Rochdale	VNL					
23 SOUTHEND UNITED	VNL					
27 FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL					

FEBRUARY	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers
3 Barnet	VNL					
10 Altrincham	VNL					
17 GATESHEAD	VNL					
20 DORKING WANDERERS	VNL					
24 Woking	VNL					

MARCH	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers
2 York City	VNL					
9 EASTLEIGH	VNL					
12 BROMLEY	VNL					
16 AFC Fylde	VNL					
23 KIDDERMINSTER	VNL					
29 Oxford City	VNL					

APRIL	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers
1 SOLIHULL MOORS	VNL					
6 Boreham Wood	VNL					
13 CHESTERFIELD	VNL					
20 Oldham Athletic	VNL					
29 Southend United	VNL					

TO BE ARRANGED

Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
Dante BAPTISTE																																
Jack COOK																																
Charlie BARKER																																
Ashley CHARLES																																
Alex DYER																																
Mason BARRETT																																
Tarryn ALLARAKHIA																																
Nathan FERGUSON																																
Olufela OLOMOLA																																
Max KRETZSCHMAR																																
Corie ANDREWS																																
Giovanni MCCREGGREG																																
Jed WARD																																
Micah OBIERO																																
Luke DREHER																																
Dom HUTCHINSON																																
Charles CLAYDEN																																
Sam BOWEN																																
Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH																																
Sean ADARKWA																																
Tahvon CAMPBELL																																
Eric NEGRARU																																
Joseph CULLIS																																

KEY



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



PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

8th July	Bracknell Town	N	3-2	Campbell, Allarakhia, Mundle-Smith
10th July	Milton Keynes Dons	H	2-1	Dyer, MacGregor
15th July	Farnborough	A	4-2	Otomola, Campbell, Trialist C 2s
18th July	Billerica Town	H	0-0	
22nd July	Charlton Athletic	H	0-5	
25th July	Wycombe Wanderers	H	0-1	
29th July	AFC Wimbledon	H	0-2	

(MID) DATE = Midweek

Pictures above of from dramatic win here at The Value over AFC Fylde courtesy of Jones Taffer @KewieRaffle

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 CHARLTON ATHLETIC Saturday 22nd July Pre-Season Friendly	Steve Grimwood — Osmo UK	
 YORK CITY Saturday 5th August Vanarama National League	Ruislip Windows & Doors	
 AFC FYLDE Saturday 19th August Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	
 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Monday 28th August Vanarama National League	Danny Kindell – NBM Technology	
 EBBSFLEET UNITED Saturday 9th September Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Sponsor 2 Available
 ALTRINCHAM Saturday 16th September Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
 WOKING Tuesday 26th September Vanarama National League	Rolfe East	Sponsor 2 Available
 OLDHAM ATHLETIC Saturday 30th September Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
 BOREHAM WOOD Saturday 21st October Vanarama National League	Barry Eynon – in memory of John O'Connor	
 OXFORD CITY Tuesday 24th October Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available



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 ROCHDALE Saturday 11th November Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
 BARNET Saturday 25th November Vanarama National League	Ruislip Windows & Doors	Rolfe-East
 ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday 2nd November Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
 HARTLEPOOL UNITED Saturday 23rd December Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	Sponsor 2 Available
 MAIDENHEAD UNITED Monday 1st January Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
 SOUTHEND UNITED Tuesday 23rd January Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Sponsor 2 Available
 FC HALIFAX TOWN Saturday 27th January Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
 GATESHEAD Saturday 17th February Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Sponsor 2 Available
 DORKING WANDERERS Tuesday 20th February Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
 EASTLEIGH Saturday 9th March Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	Sponsor 2 Available
 BROMLEY Tuesday 12th March Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
 KIDDERMINSTER HARR. Saturday 23rd March Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Sponsor 2 Available
 SOLIHULL MOORS Monday 1st April Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
 CHESTERFIELD Monday 1st April Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available



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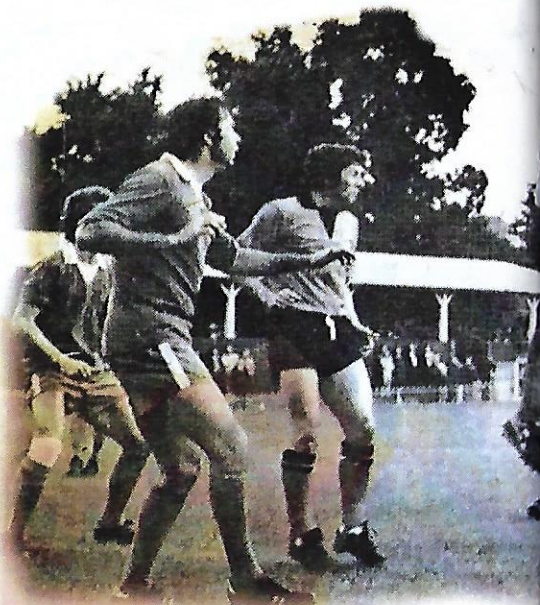
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part six: stones pull off a whopping 8-2 two-legged beating of Bletchley!

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.

Tuesday August 28, 1973: A pretty routine trip up to Buckinghamshire to play Bletchley Town in the second leg of the Southern League Cup first round. Yet there is always something that sticks in the memory and on this occasion it's the home side's lanky No.9 John Weekes who sparked the cry of "Bletchley lay-off!" to be bellowed from the Lower Mead terraces for the best part of the next decade. For Bletchley were pretty awful, and probably the hapless striker was the worst in their modest ranks.

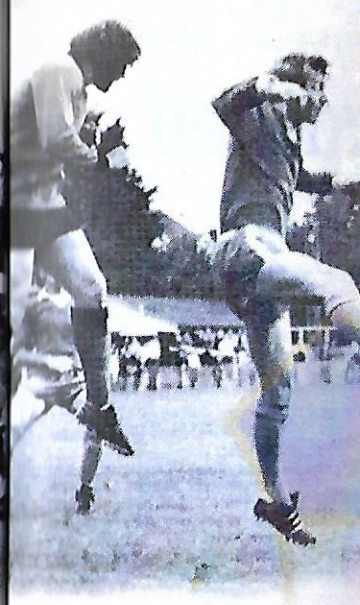
The Stones had won the first leg of this tie 4-1 at Lower Mead with ace marksman George Duck notching a hat-trick (including one penalty) - and the difference between Duck and Weekes was painfully obvious. George would be strolling around, controlling passes and laying them off, imperious on the ground and in the



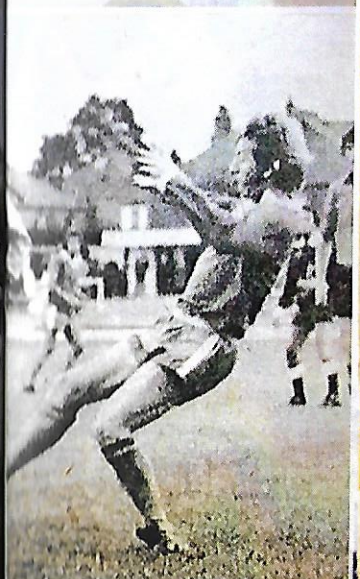
air while poor Mr Weekes achieved his moment of 'fame' by moving to flick the ball on from a long ball up the channel... and succeeding in heading the ball out of the ground in the direction of the Hindes Road Chest Clinic. This provoked much hilarity amongst the Elmslie Enders - but not as much as seven days later when he performed the same trick at Bletchley's Manor Field in the second leg. He looked on, crestfallen, as the ball looped over the stand and the delirious cry 'Bletchley lay-off' punctured the air.

Only three years before, Weekes had scored the equaliser for little Leighton Town as the Spartan

CONTINUED ON OPPOSITE PAGE >>



Above and below: action from the first leg of the Southern League Cup tie with George Duck and Eddie Presland (dark shirts on the left) waiting to see if Stones' John Henderson can flick on this early corner. Below: Henderson stretches to try and squeeze the ball past Bletchley keeper Dennis Wells... 'Johnny H' wasn't popular with his former team mates as he taunted them over both games!



'Stones give Bletchley a football lesson

Bletchley 1, Wealdstone 4

WEALDSTONE supporters who made the trip to Bletchley for this Southern League Cup return match on Tuesday (and there were scores of them) must have returned home intensely proud.

With a stunning display of attacking soccer — one veteran supporter thought the best performance by a Wealdstone team for many years — Bletchley were pulverised by a four goal avalanche in the space of 20 minutes in the first half and Wealdstone won by an incredible 8-2 margin. They had won the first leg 4-1.

So complete was Wealdstone's first half dominance that Bletchley, themselves fresh from coming from behind to beat Bedworth last Saturday, must have thought that the 'Stones had 14 men on the park.

The manner in which victory was achieved was a sheer delight to watch. Intelligent running off the ball, adroit use of the open space, and precision passing had the Bletchley crowd applauding, and by half-time it had become exhibition stuff.

Yet this, on paper, was not by any means the strongest Wealdstone side — a very good argument against the protagonist for the squad system, which Wealdstone are now operating.

Both John McCormick (injured leg) and Bill Byrne (strained shoulder ligaments) were late non-starters and Eric Burgess made his first appearance of the season in the No. 5 shirt. Terry Dyson was recalled in the middle. Alick Brown and John Henderson joining George Duck up front.

One of the supreme architects of Wealdstone's victory was Jim Godfrey, who had his best game so far — and crowned it with a very well taken goal to make it 4-0.

DUCK AGAIN

Nothing was seen of Bletchley's attack in the first half, and Wealdstone went ahead after 20 minutes. Godfrey did the spadework and Henderson, a former Bletchley player coolly beat Wells. Four minutes later Bailey pulled a Dyson cross down with his hands, and Duck hit an immaculate penalty.

Some seven minutes later, after both Fulton and Kinnear had had tremendous shots finger-tipped over the bar, Henderson beat Wells to the ball and slid the ball just inside the post, and just before half-time Godfrey moved in quickly from the right flank and although awkwardly angled, hit a first timer which left Wells flat-footed.

With an aggregate lead of 8-2 Wealdstone came out for the second half obviously under orders to do nothing which might precipitate an injury, in view of Saturday's FA Cup game against Marlow.



Jim Godfrey — best game for Wealdstone

The result was that Bletchley came far more into the game and some heavy pressure was finally rewarded when Brodie, in the Wealdstone goal, had a mysterious penalty given against him, and Boyd got one back.

COMPOSED

Brodie made a spectacular flying save from Gibbs and then pushed a hot one from Weeks over the bar as Bletchley made the running, but the composure of Wealdstone's back four eventually took over and with Fulton and Dyson showing rare affinity, Wells was again a busy man.

A cunning header from Duck scraped a post, and Brown was clawed down inside the box after 80 minutes but a free-kick awarded on the line.

Bletchley, unfortunately, resorted to near naked aggression in the tackle towards the end, and Duck and Henderson in particular were the victims; so much so that for his own sake, Henderson was brought off for the final eight minutes, being replaced by Barnes.

Manager Sid Prosser obviously felt discretion was the better part of valour as referee Mr. Bant was sorely in danger of losing what little grip he had.

Wealdstone: Brodie; Presland, Fulton, Kinnear, E. Burgess; Fairclough, Godfrey, Dyson; Duck, Brown, Henderson, Sub: Barnes.

League Div One side had held the Stones to a 1-1 draw in the FA Cup in that Bedfordshire Town... and then Leighton 'giant-killed' our Isthmian League side with a 1-0 win in the replay.

But now the boot was on the other foot. Stones had won their first three competitive games and as the Harry O report (left) shows, were in a rich vein of form. The chief tormentor of the home side was their former winger John Henderson - who went on to score twice as Stones racked up a 4-0 lead within 20 minutes of the first half as Bletchley were left chasing shadows. Or, hacking at shadows more accurately as they savagely tried to stem the flow of goals with 'Johnny H' the main target.

Fifty years ago and you rarely see a Bletchley Lay-off these days...more's the pity!

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MATCH REPORTS

BROMLEY (A)

Hayes Lane Tuesday August 15th 2023

Bromley 1 - 1 Wealdstone Attendance - 1,810



The Stones came into the game with four out of six points, winning the first home game against York City and drawing at Eastleigh away. Bromley, on the other hand, came into the fixture with zero points and without finding the back of the net so far this season.

And the game started off in the best possible way for the Stones, with Campbell finding the back of the net within the first five minutes with a low effort that caught Grant Smith out before bouncing in off the post.

Bromley saw little of the ball, but Michael Cheek is always a danger and he tested his luck with a lob from the halfway line which caught Jed Ward out and dipped off the top of the crossbar and over.

A massive chance then came for the Stones when a Micah Obiero blocked shot fell perfectly to Campbell who went for the top corner but put slightly too much onto the ball.

Wealdstone fans were kept on the edge of their seats for the final couple of minutes in the first half when Olomola had two strong chances, one going over the back post and the other reaching the hands of former Stones keeper Smith.

Wealdstone started the second half just as they

finished off the first - looking fiery and threatening in the final third.

A sharp piece of footwork saw Olomola work his way through Bromley's defence to take him one on one with the keeper but his effort hit the side netting.

Twenty minutes into the first half, Bromley managed to find an equaliser courtesy of Kade, who slotted past Ward when played in on goal.

The equaliser gave the hosts some impetus and they went close again through their skipper Byron Webster, but he blazed over the bar.

Campbell then had a huge chance to put the game to bed when played in on goal, but his effort went straight to the legs of Smith in goal.

The points ended up split at Hayes Lane in a frustrating evening for the Stones.

WEALDSTONE:

Ward, Cook (c), Barker, Mundle-Smith, Clayden, Charles, Dyer, Bowen (Kretzschmar 69), Obiero, Olomola (Allarakhia 85), Campbell (Andrews 89).

Subs not used: Barrett, Adarkwa

Report by **Libby McElhinney**

AFC FYLDE (H)

Grosvenor Vale Saturday August 19th 2023
Wealdstone 3 - 2 Fylde Attendance - 1145



Wealdstone produced a spirited comeback to beat ten-man AFC Fylde and move up to fifth place in the National League table.

Manager Stuart Maynard made one change to the side that drew with Bromley midweek as Max Kretzschmar returned to the starting line-up, while the suspended Ferguson returned to the bench.

AFC Fylde started the match brightly; testing Jed Ward within the first four minutes of play when Haughton played a slick one-two with Omotayo, but the Coasters' number ten could only curl his effort straight at the Wealdstone shot-stopper.

However, it was the Stones who drew first blood when Charles Clayden surged down the left wing and drove in a dangerous cross that Campbell pounced on to smash home from close range for his second goal of the season.

Four minutes later, Wealdstone came close to doubling their lead when Sam Bowen slipped through goalscorer Campbell, who rounded visitors' keeper Theo Richardson, but the angle was too tight to square back to the Welsh midfielder.

As the Coasters began to settle into the tempo of the match, they crafted an opportunity to level in the 19th minute when Haughton released Tom Walker down the right flank and his deep cross found an unmarked Luke Charman, who struck wide.

Just shy of the half hour mark, the Stones galvanised another goal scoring chance with some excellent build-up play, resulting in Bowen forcing a solid save from Richardson.

Maynard's men continued their pursuit of a second goal and Micah Obiero nearly turned provider when he burst down the left wing towards goal, but AFC Fylde skipper Alex Whitmore responded with an excellent tackle.

However, the visitors were back on level terms in the 37th minute when Swiss striker Omotayo rose highest to powerfully head home Haughton's free-kick past Ward.

Bolstered by the equaliser, the Coasters nearly took the lead two minutes later when Luke Charman unleashed a fierce strike from range, but Ward produced an excellent save.

With five minutes of the first half remaining, the Stones generated their own opportunity to score as Kretzschmar broke forward; drawing a smart

save from Richardson after his effort was deflected.

Wealdstone's late flurry continued, as two minutes later, Clayden burst through centrally, drilling a low strike narrowly of the far post.

The Stones began the second half with the same attacking endeavour and Kretzschmar surged forward and struck from range, but Richardson was equal to the effort.

Nevertheless, it was the Adam Murray's men that seized the advantage on the 57th minute in sublime fashion when Haughton spotted Ward off of his line and hit a superb strike from inside his own half that flew over Ward into the net.

Growing in confidence, AFC Fylde struck from range again through Danny Philliskirk, but Ward was alert and palmed the effort away on the hour mark.

Two minutes later, the Coasters were reduced to ten men when Pierce Bird received two quick yellow cards and was sent his marching orders.

Keen to profit from their numerical advantage, the Stones began to mount waves of attacks, with Obiero firing just wide of the target on successive occasions.

In the 73rd minute, the Stones looked like they had drawn level as substitute Ferguson's pin-point cross found captain Jack Cook whose first-time effort was brilliantly saved by Richardson.

Wealdstone's pressure prevailed and they duly levelled in style on the 86th minute when Ferguson collected the ball in midfield, surged past two defenders and clinically despatched the ball into the bottom corner past Richardson from 20 yards.

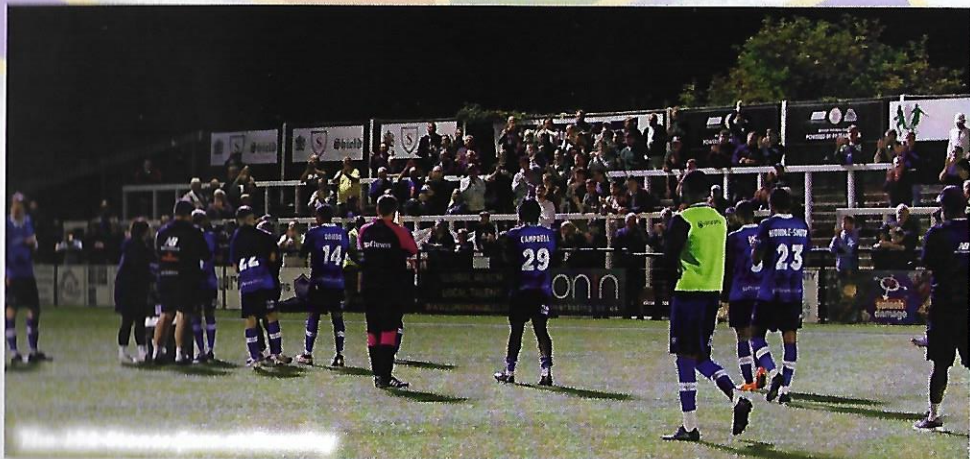
With ten minutes additional time added, the Stones were relentless in their pursuit of a late winner and they were rewarded in the 99th minute. Charlie Barker headed the ball back across goal from a corner and Campbell produced a spectacular bicycle kick for the winner.

WEALDSTONE:

Ward, Barker, Cook (c), Mundle-Smith, Clayden (Allarakhia 73), Charles (Ferguson 66), Dyer, Bowen, Obiero, Kretzschmar (Adarkwa 80), Campbell.

Subs not used: Barrett, Olomola.

Report by **Nicolo Cho-Yeo**



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Mya Graham,
UCFB graduate, Assistant Producer at talkSPORT



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Dennis,
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Two years ago: Defeat at Chesterfield in front of over 5,000... but Stones were coming of age

ON THIS DAY by Tim Parks

Saturday August 28, 2021 (Vanarama National League) Chesterfield A Lost 0-2 CAST your eyes on the scoreline and details above, and then shift your gaze to the opposite page. Therein lies the true, unbelievable story of Wealdstone FC.

A lot of the younger fans today, and the adult newbies hear mention of 'The Yeading Years' with a shrug. But for those of us who lived through it, it ends a shudder down the spine.

Bleak, apocolatypic Southern League Div One youth football barely worthy of the name, played out by blokes who would have struggled to get into our Sunday side. And there on the terraces, wearing designed looks, were the fans who kept the club going through the grimmest of times. Hoping that the light at the end of the tunnel wouldn't be the proverbial onrushing train.

Things were so bad at the end of 1993-94 that we volunteered to switch across to the Ryman (Isthmian) League to save on travel costs, knowing that we'd have to start in Div Three, two divisions lower. And those fans, bless them, stayed loyal though a turbulent next three decades as we clawed our way back to the Ryman Premier, then the National League South, then back to the National League itself which we had exited in 1988.

Then just the kick in the nuts we had become accustomed to. The pandemic. The fanbase that had grown to an average of 1,000+ as we swept to the NLS title under Brennan and Maynard was peremptorily locked out of The Vale and the long, long 2020-21 behind-closed-doors season played out to empty stands and the vagaries of a streaming service that was occasionally watchable but more often simply painful.

But the fans stuck with us. They were desperate to watch Wealdstone, in the flesh, in National League action and finally the Government relented to allow the 2021-22 season to kick off in front of packed terraces at The Vale. Okay, we lost 2-1 to Woking on opening day (thanks to a brace from a certain M.

Kretzschmar) but it was just good to be back with your friends, supporting the club in this long-awaited NL adventure.

But what we really, really wanted was a proper away trip. Not East Thurrock, or Tilbury, or Canterbury on a Tuesday night, but to one of the former Football League BELTS.

And the NL fixture computer had handed us just about the best present for our first away trip: Chesterfield at their shiny chrome and glass Technique Stadium.

Would we be up for it? It just seemed so long ago that we'd travelled to a big stadium for a big match. And as it turned out, the 5,336 present formed the biggest crowd to watch a Wealdstone league match since Christmas Day 1952 when 7,000 saw the 2-0 win over Hendon at Lower Mead. And despite the 300-mile round trip, 170 Stones fans (pictured left)



travelled up to Derbyshire to cheer on Stuart Maynard's boys - including a fair few old farts who had been present at the Margate match on the opposite page some 28 years earlier; and, encouragingly, a large group of teenage fans who had apparently decided

after the Woking game to travel up on the train. They enjoyed the Chesterfield Experience so much that they're now ever-present, home and away! Hats off to Luca, Jay, Alex, River and the rest of their crew!

After that history lesson, the result at the Technique Stadium seems almost irrelevant but an early strike by Saido Khan and a late header from substitute Carline condemned us to a 2-0 defeat.

WEALDSTONE: Wickens, Tavares, Cook, Okimo (c), Eleftheriou, Dyer (Buse 86), Cooper (Charles 86), Lewis, Browne, Fasanmade (Elito 76), Umerah. Subs not used: Wishart, Cawley.



Chesterfield defend a corner with Matt Buse and Jack Cook lurking

30 years ago: The car crash Yeading years were only just beginning...

ON THIS DAY by Gordon McKay



Tuesday August 28, 1993 (Southern League Division One South): Margate (home) Lost 1-3

WE HAD just moved into Yeading after our catastrophic two-year tenure at Watford and it would be fair to say the club was well and truly in the gutter.

What should have been a bright future after the sale of our Lower Mead ground ended up a financial nightmare with monies going missing and the ridiculous decision to share at Vicarage Road.

In amongst all of this the club entered administration and it is widely believed that at one point we were literally hours from going out of business. When survival is your main focus things like spending on players becomes a very minor priority and if you believe the rumour mill our budget was just £500 a week.

That doesn't get you a lot and subsequently the 1993/94 season saw undoubtedly the worst Wealdstone side since the 2nd World War... and possibly ever.

Margate at home was a midweek fixture played out in front of a meagre crowd of 225 and the inevitable 1-3 defeat with a Mike Perry goal our only consolation. These were hard times for the dwindling band of loyal fans but there was enough spirit and drive to overcome all the obstacles put in our way to ensure the

club survived.

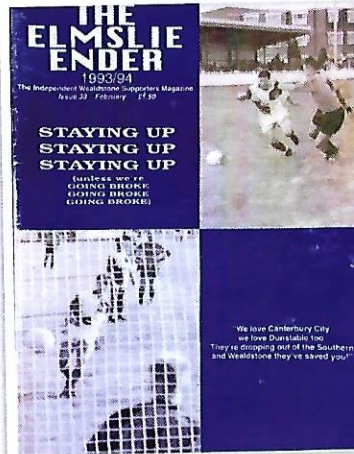
What happened next? Not a lot. We just lurched from one defeat to another and the crowds kept dropping until there were barely 120-150 left. However I do remember that the last game of the season saw about 100 fans travel to Weymouth and cheer us on to a 3-1 win. It showed the club still had a strong heartbeat and that afternoon seemed to eradicate the previous nine months in one fell swoop. Such is football: there is always another game and another season.

THE ABUSER

Useless. Hopeless. Worthless. Utterly. Abysmally. Totally. Worst ever. Lowest ebb. These expressions have become the standard currency of Elmslie Ender editorials over the past six years, six years of sad, unremitting decline. As far back as our second issue, August 1987, as we commenced another season in the Conference, I stated "things can only get better", since when we've suffered two relegations and lost two grounds, a few million pounds and three quarters of our supporters. So I was going to resist saying this was Wealdstone's darkest hour in case this time next season we found ourselves propping up the Hellenic League and ground-sharing with Rayners Lane. Only thanks to those kind folks at Dunstable and Canterbury, who have decided Southern League football is not for them, we cannot now be relegated, even if we finish bottom. And bottom is where we shall, in all probability, finish. In case you were fortunate enough to miss the debacles at Bury and Erith, you should know that we were not merely beaten but outclassed by two of the worst teams in the league. Last season when we beat Bury 3-1 at Vicarage Road it was a subject of great mirth that a team so completely bereft of talent should be competing at this level. This year we're the joke. And no sooner are we saying Bury was positively the worst ever performance by a Wealdstone team than they surpass themselves: at Erith we didn't have a serious goal attempt until the 88th minute. We are so bad that I now consider it perfectly feasible that we shall not win another game this season. The players have long ceased to be the heroes of the terraces - they are merely eleven people on whose shoulders the responsibility of keeping Wealdstone alive as a football team happens to have fallen. It would be nice if they could bear this burden with a modicum of pride, but if not then sooner or later they'll be on their way and when the good times return we'll have players that care. That 200 people are still regularly paying to watch Wealdstone is something to be grateful for. All the reasons one would normally expect football supporters to pay their money at the turnstiles - excitement, competitiveness, talent, skill - have become null and void at the Warren. Watching Wealdstone is now no more than an act of faith. Even more amazing is the away support, still

travelling despite the near certainty that every game will end in defeat. We're taking as many as a regular basis as we used to have at some Conference matches.

Sadly the fanatical loyalty of a small hardcore supporters counts for little in financial terms, and it is finance which will dictate our future. An announcement is presumably imminent of where we will be playing next year - the Warren or somewhere else? That is assuming Stones are not bankrupt after the finish of our current cases this summer. If the result of these cases favourable we may yet be looking at the possibility of getting our own ground again. The idea of a petition asking for Harrow Council's support is in the air. If/when this occurs please do everything you can to advance the cause.



Strong words by Martin Lacey in the club fanzine The Elmslie Ender as the 1993-4 season ended in disarray. But as the cover shows, we stayed up thanks to the demise of Canterbury City and Dunstable.



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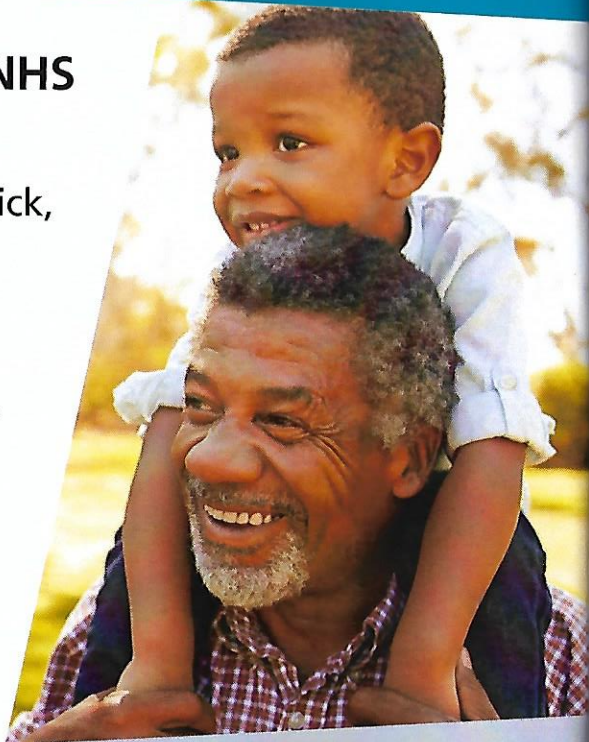
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 SOUTHEND UNITED Tuesday 23rd January Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
 FC HALIFAX TOWN Saturday 27th January Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
 GATESHEAD Saturday 17th February Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
 DORKING WANDERERS Tuesday 20th 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
 KIDDERMINSTER HARR. Saturday 23rd March Vanarama National League	David, Adam & Guy Edwards - in Memory of Rowland Edwards	
 SOLIHULL MOORS Monday 1st April Vanarama National League	Terry Hissey	Sponsor 2 Available
 CHESTERFIELD Monday 1st April Vanarama National League	Peter & Steve Drew, Ron Moore & David Edwards - in memory of fans no longer with us	

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JON TAFFEL

Charlie BARKER
3 12.2.03 | CB

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Dante-Astor BAPTISTE
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Jed WARD
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10 12.10.93 | 1.74m CM

MICK FISHMAN

Nathan FERGUSON
8 12.10.95 | 1.78m CM

KEVIN MCSWEENEY

Tarryn ALLARAKHIA
7 17.10.97 | 1.75m RM

DAVID EDWARDS

Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH
23 17.12.99 | 1.83m LB

GARY SMITH

Jack COOK
2 16.9.99 | 1.85m CB

**DAVID & CAROLINE
EDWARDS**

Alex DYER
5 11.6.90 | 1.80m DM

HILLCREST GROUP

Next up at The Vale:



Ebbsfleet United

National League
Saturday
9th September
3:00pm



Altrincham

National League
Saturday
16 September
3:00pm



Woking

National League
Tuesday
26 September
7:45pm

For all Vanarama National League fixtures:

£15 admission for EFL or Premier League season ticket holders and members of the armed forces

FINAL VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLE @ 22/8/2023

	ALL					HOME					AWAY					GD	PTS	RESULTS				
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D			L	F	A	(H)	(A)
1 Barnet	4	3	1	0	10	5	2	2	0	0	5	2	2	1	1	0	5	3	5	10		
2 Solihull Moors	4	3	1	0	8	3	2	1	1	0	4	1	2	2	0	0	4	2	5	10		
3 Chesterfield	4	3	1	0	11	7	2	1	1	0	5	4	2	2	0	0	6	3	4	10		
4 Hartlepool United	4	3	0	1	10	7	2	2	0	0	5	2	2	1	0	1	5	5	3	9		
5 Wealdstone	4	2	2	0	6	4	2	2	0	0	5	3	2	0	2	0	1	1	2	8	--	--
6 Gateshead	4	2	1	1	11	7	2	1	1	0	6	3	2	1	0	1	5	4	4	7		
7 Maidenhead United	4	2	1	1	6	5	2	1	1	0	3	2	2	1	0	1	3	3	1	7		
8 Halifax Town	4	2	1	1	5	4	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	1	0	1	2	3	1	7		
9 Southend United	4	2	0	2	9	5	2	1	0	1	6	3	2	1	0	1	3	2	4	6		
10 Altrincham	4	1	3	0	7	6	2	0	2	0	2	2	2	1	1	0	5	4	1	6		
11 Rochdale	4	2	0	2	5	4	2	1	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	1	3	3	1	6		
12 Ebbsfleet United	4	2	0	2	5	6	2	1	0	1	3	2	2	1	0	1	2	4	-1	6		
13 Boreham Wood	4	1	2	1	6	5	2	1	0	1	3	2	2	0	2	0	3	3	-1	5		
14 Kidderminster Harriers	4	1	2	1	2	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	+0	5		
15 Oldham Athletic	4	1	1	2	7	8	2	1	0	1	6	3	2	0	1	1	1	5	-1	4		
16 AFC Fylde	4	1	1	2	8	10	2	1	0	1	4	5	2	0	1	1	4	5	-2	4	3-2	
17 Woking	4	1	1	2	5	7	2	1	0	1	5	5	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2	4		
18 Aldershot Town	4	1	1	2	7	10	2	1	1	0	6	3	2	0	0	2	1	7	-3	4		
19 Eastleigh	4	0	3	1	4	6	2	0	2	0	3	3	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	3	0-0	
20 Dorking Wanderers	4	1	0	3	5	10	2	1	0	1	2	3	2	0	0	2	3	7	-5	3		
21 York City	4	0	2	2	4	6	2	0	1	1	2	3	2	0	1	1	2	3	-2	2	2-1	
22 Bromley	4	0	2	2	1	5	2	0	1	1	1	3	2	0	1	1	0	2	-4	2	1-1	
23 Oxford City	4	0	1	3	4	9	2	0	0	2	1	3	2	0	1	1	3	6	-5	1		
24 Dagenham & Redbridge	4	0	1	3	3	8	2	0	0	2	2	6	2	0	1	1	1	2	-5	1		



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Maintaining Excellence

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

gpflewis.co.uk

Follow Stones on the road:



Hartlepool United

National League
Saturday
2nd September
3:00pm

HartlepoolUnited.co.uk



Dorking Wanderers

National League
Tuesday
19th September
7:45pm

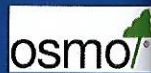
DorkingWanderers.com



Chesterfield

National League
Saturday
23rd September
3:00pm

Chesterfield-FC.co.uk



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.

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The FA and Government
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of pitches to transform
lives and strengthen
communities.*



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