

WEALDSTONE



programme 2023-24 £3

THE LINE-UPS: TUESDAY & SATURDAY

WOKING

Red/Black/Red

G Alexis Andre Junior	1	
G Will Jaaskelainen	22	
Dan Moss	2	
Josh Casey	3	
Scott Cuthbert	4	
Greg Taylor	5	
Luke Wilkinson	6	
Tunji Akinola	16	
Timi Odusina	21	
Sam Habbergham	28	
Robbie Willmott	8	
Matt Robinson	12	
Jim Kellerman	17	
Manny Oyeleke	18	
Zak Bradshaw	20	
Jermaine Anderson	23	
Rohan Ince	24	
Ricky Korboa	7	
Reece Grego-Cox	9	
Padraig Amond	10	
Dennon Lewis	11	
Rhys Browne	14	
Nana Boateng	15	
Charlie Wakefield	19	

WEALDSTONE

Blue/White/White

G Dante-Astor BAPTISTE	1	
Jack COOK	2	
Charlie BARKER	3	
Ashley CHARLES	4	
Alex DYER	5	
Mason BARRETT	6	
Tarryn ALLARAKHIA	7	
Nathan FERGUSON	8	
Olufela OLOMOLA	9	
Max KRETZSCHMAR	10	
Corie ANDREWS	11	
Giovanni McGREGOR	12	
G Jed WARD	13	
Micah OBIERO	14	
Luke DREHER	16	
Dominic HUTCHINSON	17	
Kyle SMITH	18	
Charlie CLAYDEN	19	
Abdul ABDULMALIK	20	
Sam BOWEN	22	
Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH	23	
Sean ADARKWA	27	
Tahvon CAMPBELL	29	
Joe CULLIS	36	

OLDHAM ATH

Orange/Blue/Orange

1 Magnus Norman	G
2 Jordan Clarke	
3 Mark Kitching	
4 Liam Hogan	
5 Shaun Hobson	
6 Mark Shelton	
7 Kurt Willoughby	
8 Josh Lundstram	
9 Milke Fondop-Tallom	
10 Joe Nuttall	
11 Daniel Ward	
13 Matthew Hudson	G
14 Nathan Sheron	
15 Devarn Green	
16 Charlie Raglan	
17 Harrison McGahey	
18 Ben Tollitt	
19 Dan Gardner	
20 Hallam Hope	
21 Will Sutton	
22 Brennan Dickenson	
23 Kieron Freeman	
25 Alex Reid	
30 James Norwood	

WEALDSTONE WOKING WEALDSTONE OLDHAM

Match sponsors

v Woking

- 1) Rolfe East
- 2) The Bugler Group

Rolfe East bugler

Ball donor

v Oldham Ath

Tony Paulley

Officials v Woking REFEREE: Matthew Russell ASSISTANTS: Grzegorz Kornasiewicz and Benjamin Williamson 4TH OFFICIAL: Vladyslav Bakulin OBSERVER: Michael Russell COACH: Stephen Dunn **Officials v Oldham Athletic To be announced**

MAIN CLUB SPONSOR:

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gpflewis

INSIDE:
Meet Luke Dreher, the unluckiest man in football

Wealdstone v Woking

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2023, KO 7.45PM

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Wealdstone v Oldham

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, KO 3PM

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE



LOAN STARS: Stones' former loanee Miguel Freckleton (No. 16) tries to hold off the threat of our new Millwall loanee Kyle Smith during Saturday's dramatic game at Chesterfield. Smith scored but Stones went down 3-2. PICTURE: JON TAFFEL

26 The Bishops Avenue
High End Residential New Build



Official Sponsors of
Wealdstone FC

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By Tim Parks

Written in Stone



Welcome back to the Vale as the games come thick and fast - due to print deadlines we've had to make this issue for the visit of Woking on Tuesday and Oldham on Saturday a 'double-header'.

You'll find all your usual features however: just a thicker programme!

The player interview with broken-arm victim Luke Dreher on subsequent pages reveals just how astonishingly unfortunate he's been in his career... and you might think the same sort of misfortune is also being experienced by Stuart Maynard's team as the games roll by, the performances continue to be high yet the points refuse to roll in.

I don't think I've held my head in anguish more often than I did at Dorking in the 3-1 defeat in mid-week, or at Chesterfield on Saturday as the 7,000+ crowd jubilantly celebrated their sixth successive victory after being frustrated (and trailing) for almost an hour.

It's the intensity and insanely high skill levels in this division that have us hooked. And no doubt we're in for more of the same as Darren Sarll's play-off chasing Cards and ex-Premier Leaguers Oldham fill the Vale with expectation and excitement this week.

•DON'T forget the ever-improving *Stonecast 85* podcast that will be available on all platforms (including Spotify) by the end of the week, looking back on the Woking game and previewing the Oldham clash, with all the debate and opinionated tosh you could wish for!

Does anybody fancy helping out the successful Wealdstone FC Foundation one day a week?

The charity co-ordinator job is a paid post and an ideal opportunity for probably a retired or semi-retired person who is interested in running the Foundation activities and further promoting the work of the charity.

You may have read in previous programmes about the Foundation's delivery of maths and football sessions in primary schools - helped by the attendance of Stones players including Olufela Olomola and Dom Hutchinson - and the weekly tea dance in the Social Club at Grosvenor Vale. It uses grants from

The National League Trust and The Football Foundation with the aim of boosting crowds and supporting both the young and old in various projects. The school sessions have been a great success, involving St. Bernadette's, West Lodge, Vaughan, Lady Bank, Sacred Heart and Bishops Winnington.

Many of the pupils who have been involved in the school sessions have turned up to watch home games.

To apply, please contact David Leigh (DavidLeigh@tc-group.com) to discuss this role.

Many thanks to serial match sponsors Rolfe East (estate and letting agents) and The Bugler Group (builders and property developers) for sponsoring the Woking game,

and to supporter Tony Pauley for donating the matchball against Oldham.

The commercial side is hugely important to the club and our General Manager Richard Hopwood would be delighted to hear from potential sponsors on 07799 077816 or at richardhopwood@wealdstonefc.com

Rolfe East

bugler
DEVELOPMENTS

The Youth and Academy set-ups are of course also a crucial part of the club as the season gets underway.

The Stones' under-18s have been drawn away to Leighton Town in the 2nd Qualifying Round of the FA Youth Cup on Thursday October 5 (7.30pm) while the Under-23 academy side under Cameron Mawer kicked off the Under-23 Premier League South campaign with a game at the Harefield Academy v Hartley Wintney yesterday (Monday) afternoon. Next Monday (October 2) they travel to Ely to face Kings Lynn (KO 1.30pm) before a home game at Harefield v Brooke House Coventry City on Monday October 9 (also 1.30pm). The full season's fixtures can be viewed on the FA's National Football Youth League website.

•SEE you all at Gateshead and Kidderminster next week!

Up the Stones!

WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2023/2024

GROSVENOR VALE, RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX HA4 6JQ
WEALDSTONEFC@BTINTERNET.COM • WWW.WEALDSTONE-FC.COM • COMPANY NO. 3953962
01895 637487

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Peter Worby, Quentin Fox,
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Andrew Lane

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Matt Saunders
Goalkeeping Coach
Jason Scaneil
Coach Craig Saunders
Kit Manager Brett Aherne
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Cameron Mawer
Academy Coach
Kenny Mutsanya
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Sports Therapist Michael Owen
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Rachel Hill
Performance Analysts
Tommy Wilson
Academy Manager Brunel
University London Dale Welsh

GROUND REGULATIONS

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

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

Wealdstone FC Board of Directors

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Richard Hopwood

MAJOR HONOURS SINCE 1950

LEAGUE TITLES

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

NATIONAL CUPS

1965 / 1966 FA Amateur Cup
1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

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

NON TITLE-WINNING PROMOTIONS

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

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

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ALAN COUCH, RIP

Farewell to a man who never looked for thanks or accolades ...but was instead a true Stones super hero

The club was deeply saddened to learn of the death of a true gentleman of WFC, Life Vice-President Alan Couch, at the age of 89 a fortnight ago. Tributes flooded in to match those for the passing of his brother Roy, a few years earlier, and here we print a cross-section of the kind words...

TONY WALLER

MY UNCLE Alan was a loyal supporter of the mighty Stones for 75 years, serving as a volunteer in a wide number of roles and together with his brother Roy travelled the length and breadth of the UK watching games. The stories he told of journeys to the extremities of the country, before many main roads and motorways were built were the stuff of legend - he enjoyed some of the greatest times our club has had and he also endured some of the low points!

True to form, despite his deteriorating health his main concern last weekend was the result against Ebbsfleet and his face lit up when he heard we had won. I will always hold Alan and Roy responsible for cursing me with the Wealdstone bug, the pain, the sorrow, the joy, the magic, the memories.

Although he will be missed by many we can take great comfort in the fact that he is now re-united with Roy and their mother Edie.

PAUL (FINGERS) FRUIN

ALAN was 89 years old on his passing and during that time he had performed a number of roles not only with the main club but also

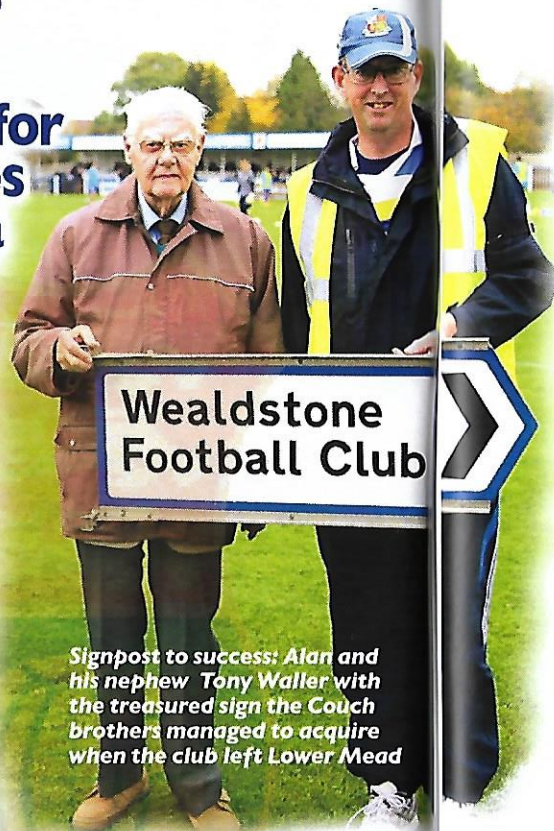
the Supporters Club, along with being the secretary of the Capital League, which the Stones were founder members of in the early 80's. Us older generation of supporters all have our own fond memories of Alan.

I really got to know him well during our years groundsharing firstly at Watford then Yeading and onto Northwood and Edgware - it was during our ground-sharing years that I became secretary to the then PASE Academy which evolved into the Football Scholarship and I first sought Alan's advice.... he was the fixture secretary of the main club, although he looked after much more than that on daily bases and 31 Jersey Avenue (Alan and his late brother Roy's home) was the hub of the club.

One of Alan's roles was looking after players' contracts.. This of course was pre-computerisation and all contracts had to be hand written on thick blue paper, not just one, but three times and signed by the player and club with the player and club keeping a copy each and one being faxed (yes the good old fashioned fax) to the FA.

It was then a 7-day wait to get a letter back from the FA approving the contract before then posting the copy off to them.

Eventually the FA moved into the 21st century and things became



Signpost to success: Alan and his nephew Tony Waller with the treasured sign the Couch brothers managed to acquire when the club left Lower Mead

much easier. Alan took the change like a duck to water.

When I became club secretary in 2007, following our move to The Vale, Alan became my guru and was always on hand to offer help and advice for which I'm eternally grateful. The move to The Vale saw the workload increase and Alyson Angelides joined Alan and I as assistant club secretary, also learning from the great man.

One of our proudest moments was being pitchside with Alan for the presentation of the Ryman League Championship Trophy in April 2014.

The move to the National League South saw an increase of daily workload shared between us, and in the summer of 2015 he decided to call it a day in the daily running of the club, passing the reins over to myself and Alyson...

but even at the age of 81 wasn't getting away that easily though! He kept himself busy in the days after matches looking after the disciplinary side of things, recording cautions and sendings off and updating everyone weekly via e-mail. Indeed Alan was still performing this role until the end of last season.

The club has lost a true legend and Alyson and myself have lost a true friend and guru. Rest in Peace Alan, you'll always be in our hearts.

SUDHIR RAWAL

TERRIBLY sad news: We have lost a colossus of the football club. Without Alan and his brother Roy, Wealdstone would probably not exist. The roles he took on included the Supporters Club committee, programme assistant to his brother Roy, club secretary, match secretary, club statistician, youth secretary - he set up the Capital League, was still doing disciplinary and maintained club records

late in life. Is there anything I may have missed? And then there was the man himself: Kind, a good sense of humour, could take a bit of fun at his own expense, courteous, charming and thoughtful. A gentle man but also a gentleman. RIP Alan. Legend is too small a word for your contribution to our great club. We all owe you so much.

PETE WORBY

NOT unexpected this, but still sad nonetheless. Alan was a ripe old age. I think I first met and got to know Alan back in the late 70's when I joined the Supporters Club committee. Alan had been Treasurer but was still continuing to look after the tea hut finances (back then the Supporters Club used to open and run a tea hut for

the Thursday Harrow Market). Anyway, I've known Alan for nearly 50 years and I don't think I ever heard him say anything nasty about anyone - or even moan.

He was a long-time servant of the club, always on a voluntary basis. His brother Roy was programme editor for many years (during our hardtimes) and Alan used to help Roy with running off copies, then compiling the pages, before stapling. I went round their house once on a Friday and observed the military operation in action. I couldn't say for how long but Alan was Match Secretary for many years, could have been 20 years for all I know. Also, Alan was involved with the administration of The Capital League throughout its 30 year existence. He was never less than helpful with me and he honestly was just a really nice man. I liked him.

I'm proud to have known him and to have been his friend. A top gentleman.

LAYNE PATTERSON

HOW on earth can you even begin to put into words Alan's contribution to this club? Alan done so much for Wealdstone, much of which went unnoticed, and never once complained! I can hand on heart say that in all the time I worked alongside him he never once got rattled or annoyed (certainly never ever swore), and never ever looked for any form of recognition. I am so pleased to have known him, he was most definitely one of the good guys - and I was literally only talking about him the night he died when I met up with Nick. This club has been blessed with more than a few legendary characters, and he certainly is amongst them. As someone else has correctly said a little bit of the club has died today. RIP to a fine, decent and good all-round old fashioned Gentleman. RIP Alan. And finally my sincere condolences to Tony and all the family.

SATEESH KHANNA

To me, Roy and Alan Couch were

two humble men who never looked down on anyone and treated everyone with respect. If you were a Wealdstone fan then you were their friend.

The thing I remember most about them (amongst many) was that when we went into administration back in the 90's and the Administrator was hovering ominously over our club, the Couch Duo stepped in and did all those roles that Sudhir mentioned previously at no cost and purely for the love of the club (whilst others, who the Administrator had decided their services could not be afforded anymore were not taking the club to court!)

I remember saying to Alan then that I saw them as Wealdstone's answer to Batman and Robin, coming in and saving the club from all those horrible evil-doers.

I even stretched it to say that bet they go home after matches to stately Couch Manor in their Couch Mobile and to the Couch Cave where they studied their Couch Computer to make sure that no harm would come to Wealdstone. I also remember that Alan looked at me, paused and with his usual polite smile told me that they lived in an ordinary house, drive an ordinary car and that they didn't even have a computer! To me though they will always be remembered as Dynamic Duo who helped save the club and with both now passing on this is indeed a very sad time for the WFC.

Alan's funeral will take place on Thursday October 12th at 12.45 pm at the Breakspear Crematorium's West Chapel. Everyone will be welcome. There will be a minute's appreciation of Alan before the Oldham game.

Continued over page >>



ALAN COUCH, RIP

Probably the most revealing and most endearing tribute to Alan lies in this programme feature from 2016. We were facing Truro City at The Vale in the National League South... and he recalled the only previous time the teams had met...



AGE 34

DIDN'T THEY HAVE A LOVELY TIME..

Royal Blue Review

...the day they went to Truro. And long-time Stones fan Alan Couch was there, 62 years ago, the last time we took on the White Tigers

WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB
Easter Tour in Cornwall
 Thursday, April 15th to Monday, April 19th, 1954
 Headquarters for Tour: ROYAL DUCHY HOTEL, FALMOUTH

MATCHES:
 Friday, April 16th
Falmouth Town v. Wealdstone
 K.O. 3.15 p.m.

Saturday, April 17th
Truro City v. Wealdstone
 K.O. 3.15 p.m.

Name _____
 Exeter Hotel Room No. _____
 Falmouth Hotel Room No. _____

BY ALAN COUCH



YES, the first time we ever met Truro City - which was also our last match against Truro City - came when Wealdstone FC arranged an Easter Tour to Cornwall in April 1954 to play Falmouth Town on Good Friday, the 16th and then 'The White Tigers' at their Troyow Road ground the following day. We were then members of the Athenian League while the Cornish side played in the South

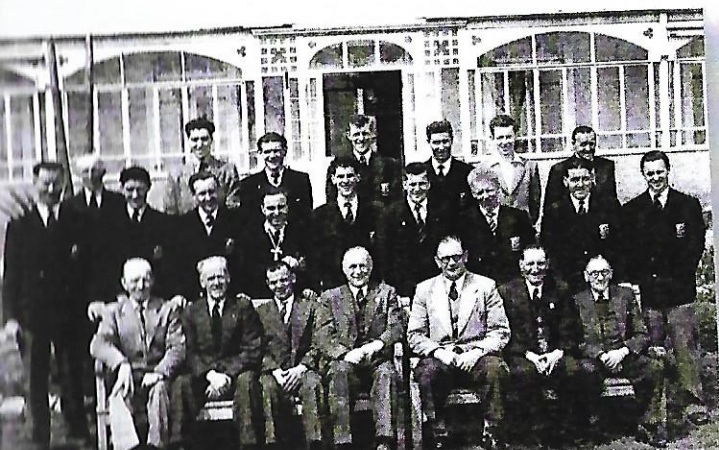
Western League. I was able to attend both these matches as I was doing my National Service in the Royal Air Force then, and fortunate to be stationed at RAF St.Mawgan in nearby Newquay. I went by bus direct to Falmouth for the first match but was invited by one of our players, Peter J Rogers, who

attended the same school as me in the late 40's in Harrow, to meet the party at their Falmouth hotel the following day to travel on the team coach to Truro City.

In the first match, we defeated Falmouth Town 8-3 but lost the match against Truro City 3-0. I still have the original matchday programmes for both matches.

Our team against Falmouth Town was: J.Muller, P.J.Rogers, Edgar Francis (a Welsh Amateur International), A.T.Payne, G.Wilkinson, R.Franklin, K.Bodfish, T.O'Connor, G.Kenny, S.Trehearne and R.Stewart. Our goalscorers were Bodfish 3, Kenny 3, and Trehearne 2.

Unfortunately, Ken Bodfish broke his wrist in scoring his third goal and missed the match at Truro. Our team that day was: Muller, P.J.Rogers, J.Warrick, E.Bicknell, Wilkinson, Franklin, Payne, O'Connor, Kenny, Trehearne and Stewart.



The Wealdstone touring party, pictured at their Falmouth hotel. The players are in the back and middle rows!

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

Royal Blue Review

DIDN'T THEY HAVE A LOVELY TIME..

PAGE 35

In the Truro programme it stated that "Hot Pasties and Tea are on sale at the rear of the Grandstand this afternoon". I wonder if that is still the case as I love genuine Cornish Pasties.

Here are some quotes from Roger Slater's book, published in 2002. "The Friday match at Falmouth was marred by the fact that Bodfish, who had given a brilliant display at outside right, broke his wrist when falling after completing his hat trick. Although losing the toss and kicking against the wind, Wealdstone were soon playing scintillating football and were two goals up within ten minutes of the start. The Stones continued to attack and Bodfish made the half-time score 4-0 with a clever overhead hook shot from a corner kick. Starting the second half in the same bright manner, Wealdstone had taken the score to 6-0 with Bodfish scoring his third goal, before Falmouth replied with their first goal. After the Stones had made it 8-1, our hosts scored twice in the last three minutes."

"For the match with Truro City, Wealdstone brought in J. Warrick at left back and made him captain for the day. This was to mark the fact that he had previously played for St.Austell and had come to Wealdstone from Cornwall. Wealdstone again gave a good exhibition of fast, first time passing but failed in front of goal and by half time Truro had a two goal lead. The Stones continued to play attractively in the second half and although the scoreline of 3-0 flattered them, Truro deserved their win."

"The Wealdstone party of 14 players and 6 Officials left Harrow by coach on the Thursday and after dinner in Salisbury went on to Exeter where the night was spent. On the Saturday evening all were guests of the Truro Club at a dance, and on Sunday morning

ITINERARY

DATE: Thursday, 15th April, 1954.
 TIME: Assemble Lower Head at 4 p.m. (sharp).
 LUGGAGE: Light luggage only should be carried and this must be clearly marked with name.
 HOTEL: Make a note of the room allotted to you.

In charge of Party: H. A. LUCK
 In charge of Players, Trainer and kit: F. W. HARBUD

Officials:
 H. A. LUCK J. PYERS
 F. W. HARBUD C. HURFORD
 R. A. LEMMINGS L. GULDFORD
 D. WILTSHIRE
 W. WILLIAMS (Trainer)

Players:
 J. MULLER K. BODFISH
 A. STEWART G. KENNY
 E. FRANCIS P. A. R. ROGERS
 A. PAYNE P. J. ROGERS
 E. BICKNELL S. TREHEARNE
 G. WILKINSON T. O'CONNOR
 R. FRANKLIN A. LITTLEJOHN
 J. WARRICK S. HADDLETON

Thursday, April 15th
 4 p.m. LEAVE LOWER HEAD
 7.30 p.m. ARRIVE WHITE HART HOTEL, SALISBURY, FOR DINNER
 8.15 p.m. LEAVE SALISBURY
 11.30 p.m. ARRIVE WINDSOR HOTEL, EXETER
 Light refreshment before retiring

Friday, April 16th
 8 a.m. BREAKFAST
 8.45 a.m. LEAVE EXETER
 12.30 p.m. ARRIVE ROYAL DUCHY HOTEL, FALMOUTH
 1 p.m. LUNCH
 2.30 p.m. LEAVE FOR FALMOUTH F.C. GROUND
 RETURN TO HOTEL FOLLOWED BY GAMES EVENING

Saturday, April 17th
 9 a.m. BREAKFAST
 MORNING FREE
 12.45 p.m. LUNCH
 2 p.m. COACH LEAVES FOR TRURO
 RETURN TO FALMOUTH ROYAL DUCHY HOTEL FOR DINNER
 RETURN TO TRURO TO SPEND EVENING AT TRURO CITY HEADQUARTERS

WFC Itinerary for the 1954 trip. I hope something similar is printed for the fans' and players trip to Truro this April, though I've a feeling that 'Games Evening' might include 'Drinking Games'

the players played golf at Falmouth. In the afternoon there was a launch trip down the River Fal.

It may be of interest to any of our Supporters who intend to fly to Newquay

Airport for our return match at the end of April that the airstrip was once the main runway at RAF St. Mawgan and was still operational when I was stationed there for two years between 1952 and 1954.

The camp was part of Coastal Command during and after the 2nd World War and had a fleet of Lancaster bombers and Shackleton aircraft on daily operations from there. While I was there, the Lancasters were used by the S.M.R. (School of Maritime Reconnaissance). It was then that I fell in love with the Lancaster especially the sound of its four Rolls-Royce Merlin engines on and after take off.

Finally, I would like to thank once again the Truro City club for their kind hospitality given to me in 1954. I wonder if there is anyone from your Club here today that attended our match with you all those years ago?
Alan Couch

TRURO CITY v. WEALDSTONE
 (Friendly)
 Easter Saturday, April 18th, 1954. Kick-off 3.15 p.m.

Referee: W. GALLAGHER

4-1, 6-2

TRURO CITY (2) 3
 (Colours - Red and Black Shirts, White Shorts)

Hanley
 Lobb (2) Streat (3)
 Jennings (4) Barnes (5) Kendall (6)
 Dillon (8)(1) Sim (10)
 Stepper (7) Pearce (9)(8) Slater (11)
 Beer (1)

AFTER THE MATCH VISIT THE CITY HALL

STEWART Bodfish (11) KENNY Miektrat (9) PAYNE P.A.R. Rogers (7)
 Trehearne (10) O'Connor (8)
 Franklin (6) Wilkinson (5) Bickrell (4)
 Francis (3) Rogers (2)
 WARRICK Muller
 WEALDSTONE (0) 0

Remarkably - and this is the sort of statistic the Couch brothers loved - we have won every one of the four league games we've played at Truro's ground. We like the Cornish air!

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

Perfectionism, pragmatism or percentage football? Only points in the bag matter

says **SUDHIR RAWAL**

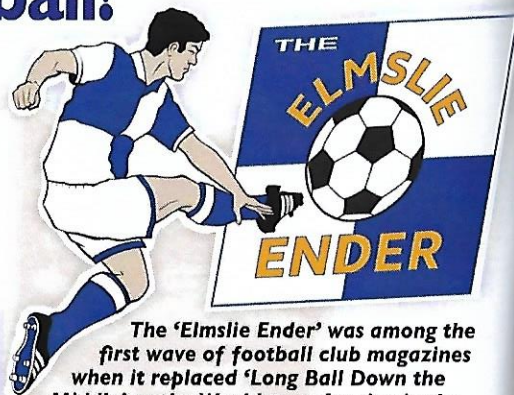
THERE is only one place to start my column this week, and that is Alan Couch.

In today's prog Tim has put together a lovely four page obituary on Alan who passed away last week. I said on the Stonecast Podcast that Alan was a colossus of the club. I will not go over more as the obituary is full of touching tributes... but I must say that Alan was a constant in my time of supporting Wealdstone, alongside his twin brother Roy.

For fifty years he's been there since I first started going to Lower Mead as a ten-year old. He seemed old then, in my young eyes, but there was an unassuming, gentle nature about him that will endure long after he's gone. The work he did for the club was unrivalled, even until recently as his health was deteriorating. He was 89 years young rather than old, and his humility and self-deprecating humour is beautifully illustrated in the story that Sateesh Khanna regales in the obit.

Alan and Roy were indeed Wealdstone superheroes, the like of which I don't think we will ever see again. I know when there are silences or applause, quite often we have no

32 years ago... Tony Kelly scores the final goal at Lower Mead in front of the Elmslie End faithful (April 1991)



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

knowledge of whom they are for. We respectfully stand there and observe, but without the knowledge of the person being remembered. Alan was one of our own and when the whistle blows to remember him and applaud, please think of Alan and everything he did for our great club.

Onto footballing matters.

On the Podcast preview of the upcoming games, we always discuss our expected points tally. With games coming up against Altrincham, Dorking and Chesterfield (we forgot about Woking), the feeling was that we should get four points and maybe six if things went well. We ended up with one. Probably sums up our season, where we have a left a number

of points out on the pitch.

Frustration is the overall feeling at the moment. I'm not into footballing stats to be honest, the only one I really care about are points in the bag. However, to illustrate my point about how frustrating the season has been here are a few: for possession we average 61.5%, second in the division; and surprisingly for shots on goal, we are top with 145. For dribbles, not that this means much, we are top with 158.

I would urge you all to listen to the management team in their post/pre-match interviews, as they are always worth listening to, especially the preview ones where the post-match emotion is eliminated. In Matty Saunders' pre-match interview before the Chesterfield game, he spoke about the stats that suggest we should be in second in the league, the difference between the expected goals scored less those chances conceded. We should have seventeen points rather than the twelve we had. I know that stats can be used to prove anything, but we all know that we have not gained the points we should have.

Looking back at the Altrincham game, both teams looked toothless. For Alty who had lost their top two strikers that was hardly surprising, but after Campbell went off (he could have had a hat-trick in the first half) we never really looked like overly troubling their keeper.

Alty came for the draw and successfully went home with the point that they wanted. Onto Dorking, I am still scratching my head how we did not get at least a point from the game. In game-defining moments, we haven't been good enough and the quality in key moments of the game has not been there.

At Dorking, we made an absolute hash of the first goal and should have dealt with the ball in for their second far better than we did. At the other end, we missed two



Perfect pragmatism: Brian Hall's 'percentage' side lifts the FA Trophy at Wembley in 1985 to seal the first-ever non-League double

sitters, more gilt-edged you could not have asked for. Even the mercurial Marc White talked about the chances we missed in his interview.

At Chesterfield last Saturday, probably the best side in the division, I don't think anyone expected us to pick up any points. Yet, having gone ahead in the first half despite the referee's best efforts (surprisingly, not, the BELT supporters thought he had a good game), we then made a basic error at the

start of the second period which let them back into the game.

From then on, your backs are truly against the wall and we fell to a defeat marked in the *heroic failures* category.

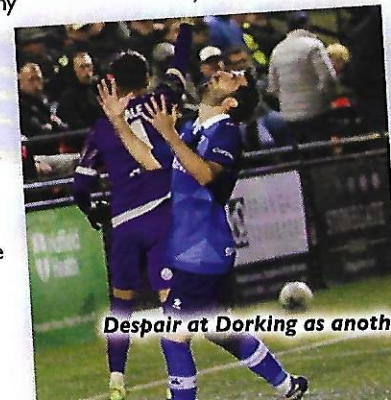
Young team or squad or not, we need to learn quickly that this division, and our participation in it, is determined by the quality shown

in both boxes. The management don't believe in outcome-based football, Matty Saunders passionately in his interview before Chesterfield reiterated how important it is for Wealdstone not to be, but supporters are inevitably outcome based. This is

where management teams and supporters diverge, I suppose.

We play some beautiful football at times, drawing rave reviews from opposition fans and internet analysts, yet Wealdstone's "greatest" team won the double playing ugly percentage football. Maybe it is the same, trusting the process, just at the opposite end of the spectrum.

'Wealdstone's greatest team played ugly, percentage football that was outcome based'



Despair at Dorking as another chance goes begging

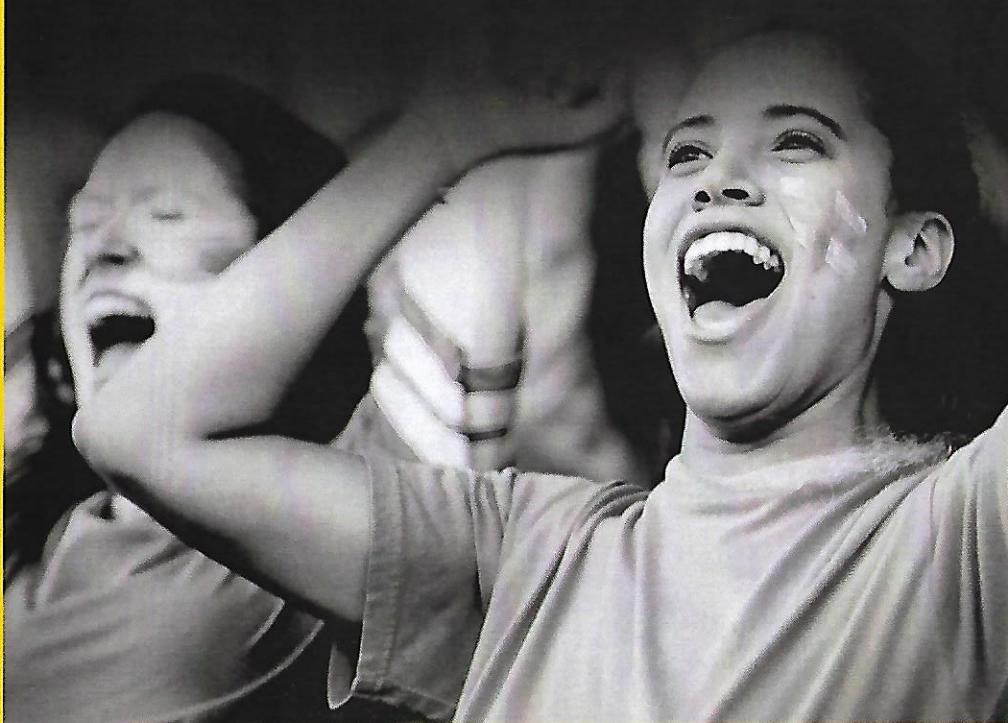


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the stones interview by tim parks

ten minutes with...

LUKE DREHER

IT SEEMS like Luke Dreher's rabbit's foot fell out of his pocket and frightened a black cat, who tripped over a four-leaf clover and smashed a mirror. Could anybody be more unlucky than the Stones new midfielder?

Back in 2019, the then-20-year-old was a shining star at Crystal Palace, making his Premier League debut off the bench against Bournemouth on the last day of the season...

...but then, on top of the world and taking part in every one of Palace's pre-season games 1st XI games, he ruptured his ACL and tore the cartilage in a behind-closed-doors friendly. He was out for 18 months.

If that wasn't bad enough, three years earlier the 17-year-old

Luke was named on the Palace bench for the Prem game at Manchester United and was being talked of as a teenager to watch... but then he tore the meniscus in his knee which caused a domino-effect of injuries, keeping him out of the frame for six months.

And if all that wasn't bad enough, when Luke signed a one-year deal with the Stones in pre-season this year (after a year without a club, or any football) he had the misfortune to break his arm in the final warm-up friendly against AFC Wimbledon!

"People would be shocked by the number of injuries I've suffered in my career" he said.

"A lot is just bad luck, but then maybe I've been too quick to try to return in the past and it's started the cycle again. But it's hard to legislate for injuries".

It was certainly a quick piece of work by the

Right: Palace's Bakary Sako congratulates fellow sub Luke after the win over Bournemouth three years ago



Stones management team to spot the availability of Luke last summer - and he thanks his ex-Palace team mates Nik Tavares and Gio McGregor for recommending the club.

"Nik's a good friend of mine and he spoke only good things about

Wealdstone, and as soon as I came over to training I could see how good the footballing philosophy is. My agent explained that I wasn't as fit as a fiddle but over the summer I worked hard to get close to 100%... I played a part in every warm-up game as a triallist to blow the cobwebs off and, to be honest, I've not felt as good in

pre-season for years.

"Then - here's the bad luck again - I signed a one-year deal on the day of the AFC Wimbledon game and played only about 40 minutes before I went up for a header and was bumped in mid-air by Omar Bugiel.

"I came down heavily on my arm and knew at once it was broken. I suppose the silver lining is that it wasn't a knee or joint injury, but it's still frustrating as I won't be able to take part in full-on training until it's healed.

"I had surgery the next day, had plates and scans and it was bandaged up... it was painful for a few weeks but now it's healing well. I probably won't be available to play until mid-October and I'm desperate to get out there and help the lads!"

It was an open secret among the fans that the impressive Declan-Rice-playalike triallist in midfield was the ex-Palace man Luke. And brilliant news when he signed that contract.



Luke (right) gets on the ball against AFC Wimbledon in pre-season. Ten minutes later he'd broken his arm....

"Yes, I felt I had proved my worth in the warm-up games and fitted in well with the lads. Apart from knowing some of them through reputation, I'm in a car share from my home in Epsom with Charlie Barker (who drops by on his way up from Brighton) and Max.

"The way we play suits me as I like to think I am good technically, can drive forward or shore things up if necessary.

"The time I spent training with the first team at Palace was a great education, with people like James McArthur and Yohan Cabaye two of the stand-outs.... James took me under his wing, an unbelievable man and very underrated, while Yohan had played at PSG and was extraordinarily talented. Can only make you a better player."

Luke's Crystal Palace story began when he was signed from the youth team Epsom Eagles at the age of eight. He would spend the next 15 years at Selhurst Park, progressing up through the youth teams to under-18 level and then the under-23s.

"Alan Pardew was the manager in 2016 when I was named in the first team squad for the game at Old Trafford... it was good of him to give me that experience".

United won that game 2-0 in April, and the next month also lost the FA Cup Final to United 2-1 after leading until the 81st minute.

"I was well thought of at Palace but the injuries knocked me back. Three years later, when Roy Hodgson put me on for the last few minutes against Bournemouth (in a game we won

5-3) it wasn't sympathy because Roy's not that type. He liked me as a player and told me to 'shore things up in midfield' but I wanted to make an impact so went looking to try and score a goal and get noticed!

"He is a really good manager, a people person. Gets the best out of everybody... he's been managing for 40-odd years so is obviously good at it, you'd get found out otherwise".

An online opinion poll following his debut, among Palace fans, saw 69% confident that he would break into the first team the following season. But then came the devastating ACL injury and, to be fair, Palace stuck by him in the subsequent three years before he was released in the summer of 2022.

"I even went on loan to Bromley at one stage, but here's the recurring theme again - I got injured in training before I could play even one game.

"I can't imagine enduring 18 months out of football again... that time at Palace three years ago was the worst. I stopped myself watching football, live or on the telly. It just hurt too much not to be playing the game.

"My dad, Gary, and my mum Debbie have been massive for me, from ferrying me to all those youth games and being honest about my career. My dad has given great advice..

"But they love watching games too and they have been missing it as much as me! Hopefully that will all change soon".

quick questions...

Whose game do you style yours on? Steven Gerrard: He could tackle, pass and score goals.

Favourite meal? Five Guys burger

Favourite restaurant? Sticks n sushi

Best goal scored? In an academy game a few years ago - I was on the edge of the box and the ball was cleared. It fell straight to me so I hit it on the volley and knew straight away it was going in the top corner!

Best mate in football? Sam Woods - currently at Bromley

Romantic holiday destination? Any Greek island

Last book read? Atomic Habits

Last fim watched? The Founder

Your run-out music favourite track? Use Somebody

Club supported growing up? West Ham

Three things you know about Wealdstone FC history? They won the National League South 3 years ago; they lost their ground for a long period; and I know Barnet are the main rivals!





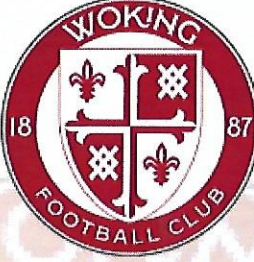
All you need to know about... Woking FC

The opposition in focus

Woking Football Club, known as the Cards (from the Cardinal red of the red and white halves), was formed in 1889.

The Club joined the West Surrey League in 1895/96, winning the title by one point on the final day of the season. However, within 21 years of being formed, the Club was in danger of folding for financial reasons. The turning point came when, in January 1908, Woking played Bolton Wanderers in the First Round of the FA Cup, having battled through five qualifying rounds. Despite losing the away game 5-0, the Club made it into the national press. Bolton Wanderers, impressed by the minnows they had defeated, travelled to Woking for a friendly match the following season, which kept the Club solvent.

In 1911 the Club joined the Isthmian League, maintaining their place in the top division for 72 years and finishing as runners-up to Wycliffe Wanderers in 1956/57. That achievement was eclipsed the following season when, in front of a 71,000 crowd, the Cards beat Ilford 3-0 in the last FA Amateur Cup Final to be televised live. Sadly, the Club then went into decline, culminating in a first-ever relegation in 1982/83. By the end of the 1984/85 season the Club had plunged to Division Two South of the Isthmian League. It was during that season that former player, Geoff Chapple, was appointed as manager. Although he was not able to save the Club from relegation, the renaissance was underway. Just missing out on promotion at the first attempt, the Club clinched the Division Two South



title in 1986/87 and, after two third place finishes in Division One, they were promoted back to the Premier Division at the end of the 1989/90 season.

The next season saw the Club become part of FA Cup folklore. Entering the competition at the Fourth Qualifying Round, they beat three Conference sides to set up a Third Round tie away to West Bromwich Albion. Recovering from being a goal

behind, Woking triumphed 4-2, thanks to a superb team effort and a never-to-be-forgotten hat-trick from Tim Buzaglo. To be drawn out of the hat with a home game against Everton was beyond everyone's wildest dreams. The tie was switched to Goodison

Park and, against a team packed with internationals, the sides were separated only by a solitary Kevin Sheedy goal. Over 34,000 people remained in the ground to give the players a rapturous standing ovation.

Promotion to the Conference was achieved

in 1991/92. The Isthmian League title was clinched in early April, with seven games still to be played. The FA Trophy was won in 1994, 1995 and 1997 and the Cards also achieved five successive top five finishes in the Conference, including being runners-up in 1994/95 and 1995/96.

Significant events had taken place off the field. The downturn in the Club's fortunes had led to a financial crisis. With the Club facing administration or worse, successful businessman and long-time fan, Chris Ingram, came to the

THE CARDS

HOME GROUND LAITHWAITE COMMUNITY STADIUM

CAPACITY - 6,036 (2,500 SEATED)

MANAGER - DARREN SARLL

2022/23 - 4TH NATIONAL LEAGUE



Last seasons fixture was featured live on BT Sport



Woking's 6,036 capacity Laithwaite Community Stadium

rescue, becoming Chairman in February 2002. He continues to own the ground, with the Club enjoying a 125-year lease at a peppercorn rent, but his financial backing of the Club and involvement in its running ceased at the end of the 2010-11 season.

The Club went full-time in the summer of 2003. The fans' hopes were borne out by a much better season, with the Cards achieving a ninth place finish, having been on the fringe of the play-off places until the last few weeks. Again, only a poor finish the following season deprived the Cards of a play-off place, but a final placing of 8th with 68 points was the best achievement since 1997/98. Disappointingly, the Cards failed to mount a challenge for a play-off place in 2005/06, finishing in 11th place. 2006/07 was another season of underachieving and, despite bringing in fresh faces during the January transfer window, the Cards finished in 15th place.

The following two seasons produced more disappointment, culminating in the Cards' relegation in summer 2009 from the BSP after 17 years in the top flight of non-League football.

In the 2011-12 season, the Cards reached the top spot in late September and stayed there throughout the campaign. The BSBS title was won by nine points, with only five games lost all season.

The Cards finished in a comfortable 12th place in their first season back in the Conference Premier, playing an entertaining brand of football, and did even better the following

season, ending in 9th place after showing great form in the second half of the campaign. The 2014-15 campaign saw the Club finish in a commendable 7th spot, missing a play-off place by only three points. Garry Hill maintained his record of top-half finishes the following season as the side ended in 12th position. But the summer of 2016 saw the loss of some experienced players and the side struggled throughout the 2016-17 season, eventually averting relegation thanks to generally improved form from the new year onwards, finishing in 18th place.

Summer 2022 saw an influx of new players, including established EFL players such as Padraig Armond and Scott Cuthbert, as the Cards found themselves in a playoff race from September onwards.

After a superb run in October and November saw Woking pull away from the chasing pack, cementing themselves in fourth place, the signing of Rhys Browne from Wealdstone proved to be excellent business, with the striker scoring 13 goals in total.

Woking eventually finished fourth, and were edged out in their first ever playoff game by Bromley in front of a full house, but Sarll has continued to add to his side, with playoffs very much the aim again in 2023-24.

LAST SEASON

SUN 4TH SEPT 2022 (H) D 1-1

SAT 25TH FEB 2023 (A) D 1-1

ALL TIME

P 30 W16 D5 L9 F64 A43

OPPOSITION IN FOCUS WOKING

2. DAN MOSS - DEFENCE

An exciting and highly rated young prospect, the right-sided defender joined Woking on a two-year deal in the summer of 2022, following the expiry of his contract with Championship side Millwall. The full-back began his career with Burnley, before moving to London in 2019, where he became the captain of the Lions' Under-23 team and graduated from the club's academy two years later.

3. JOSH CASEY - DEFENCE

The left-back has been Woking's captain since his arrival at the club in the summer of 2018. Over the past five years he has made more than 200 appearances in all competitions, won promotion to the National League, reached the third round of the FA Cup, an FA Trophy semi-final, and the National League play-offs. During a memorable first season with the club he also won three Player of the Year Awards.

4. SCOTT CUTHBERT- DEFENCE

The veteran defender joined Woking in the summer of 2022 after a hugely successful Football League career. A former Swindon Town, Leyton Orient, Luton Town, and Stevenage centre-back, he played more than 400 EFL games over a 13-year spell, notably winning promotion to League One with Luton in 2018 and winning the Player of the Year Award at both Orient and Stevenage, in 2012 and 2019 respectively.

5. GREG TAYLOR- DEFENCE

The experienced defender joined Woking in the summer of 2023 after ending a ten year spell with Cambridge United. The two-time England C international brings with him a wealth of experience with close to 500 career games, more than half of which have come in the Football League.

6. LUKE WILKINSON - DEFENCE

The experienced defender joined the Cards on a two-year deal in the summer of 2022 following the expiry of his deal with manager Darren Sarll's former club Yeovil Town. The centre-back joined Yeovil from mother of Sarll's former clubs, Stevenage, in 2019 and went onto make 89 appearances in three years - helping the club reach the National League play-offs in his first season and serving as club captain during his final year at Huish Park.

7. RICKY KORBOA - FORWARD

A dynamic wide player, he joined the Cards from Luton United on a two-year deal in the summer of 2022 following the expiry of his contract with the League Two side. He spent one season at Gander Green Lane, where he was predominately used as an impact substitute, with arguably his best moment being a memorable brace in a 3-1 away win at Oldham Athletic. He made a total of 20 appearances in all competitions including 14 in the Football League.

8. ROBBIE WILLMOTT - MIDFIELD

The versatile attacking midfielder joined Woking in the summer of 2023, ending a six-year association with League Two side Newport County, with whom he was in a second spell. He made close to 300 appearances for the Exiles in all competitions, helping them win promotion to the EFL and spending several years playing alongside Woking teammate Padraig Amond, who joined the Cards from Newport 12 months earlier.

9. REECE GREGO-COX - FORWARD

A right-sided forward, he joined the Cards for a second spell in the summer of 2022, following his release from League Two side Crawley Town. He previously spent four months with Woking in the 2017/18 season, scoring four times in 18 appearances in a disappointing campaign which ultimately ended in relegation from the National League. His efforts were one of the few highlights of that period, with goals against Gateshead, Hartlepool, Macclesfield, and Torquay.

10. PADRAIG AMOND - FORWARD

The experienced striker joined Woking in the summer of 2022 on a two-year deal after leaving League Two side Newport County. The former National League golden boot and promotion winner, who has scored more than 200 career goals, is renowned for his goalscoring abilities in both league and cup football, having scored ten times for the Exiles in the FA Cup since 2017.

11. DENNON LEWIS - FORWARD

The versatile ex Wealdstone forward returned to Woking for a second time in 2023, becoming manager Darren Sarll's first signing of that summer, joining from fellow National League side Boreham Wood. He had previously enjoyed a season-long loan spell with the Cards in 2016/17, playing 35 times in all competitions under the management of Garry Hill, scoring three goals.

12. MATT ROBINSON - MIDFIELD

The central midfielder player joined Woking for a second time in the summer of 2023 following a seven-year stay with National League rivals Dagenham & Redbridge. He previously played for the Cards on loan for the bulk of the 2015/16 season, initially signing a short-term deal in October, before extending it until the end of the season. He made 31 appearances during his first stay at Kingfield, scoring twice, with both goals coming against Gateshead.

14. RHYS BROWNE - FORWARD

The versatile forward, who can play out wide or through the middle as a central striker, joined the Cards in October 2022 on a two-year deal from National League rivals Wealdstone. The move came after an exceptional start to the 2022/23 season for the player, who scored seven goals in 13 league matches to start the season, inspiring the Stones to the verge of the play-off places after the

first two months of the campaign.

15. NANA BOATENG - FORWARD

The exciting young forward joined the Cards on a six-month loan deal from Championship club Millwall shortly before the start of the 2023/24 season. An integral part of the Lions' Under 21s' Professional Development League Southern Division and National League Final double in 2022/23, he signed a new contract at The Den before joining up with his new teammates at the Laithwaite Community Stadium. Last season he made his senior debut for Millwall having come on as a late substitute in a 2-1 FA Cup loss against Crystal Palace.

16. TUNJI AKINOLA - DEFENCE

The versatile defender joined the Cards in July 2023 following a successful trial. Capable of playing anywhere across the back, he joined Woking following his release by Scottish Championship side Partick Thistle, where he helped the Jags to back-to-back fourth place finishes.

17. JIM KELLERMANN - MIDFIELD

The box-to-box midfielder joined the Cards on a two-year deal in the summer of 2022 after failing to agree a new contract with fellow National League side Chesterfield. He was a popular figure during his single season with the Spireites, where he made 36 appearances in all competitions, helping the club reach a play-off semi-final, losing out to Solihull Moors, and the third round of the FA Cup, where they were beaten by Premier League giants Chelsea.

19. CHARLIE WAKEFIELD - FORWARD

The ex Wealdstone winger joined the Cards on a permanent basis in the summer of 2023, following a short-term loan spell at the end of the previous season. He made four appearances for Woking following his signing from Yeovil Town in March, with further appearances prevented by injury, but still played his part in helping the club finish fourth in the National League and qualify for the end-of-season play-offs.

20. ZAK BRADSHAW- MIDFIELD

The young midfielder joined the Cards on loan in August 2023, joining from Championship side Ipswich Town, where he is a product of the club's academy. He made an immediate impact for Woking, scoring on his debut, netting the decisive third goal in a 3-1 away win over Gateshead. He has previously had loan spells with fellow non-league sides Bury Town, Chelmsford City, Bromley and Braintree Town.

21. MANNY OYELEKE - MIDFIELD

The midfielder joined Woking in the summer of 2023, returning eight years after a brief loan spell with the club in 2015, when he made five appearances. He arrived back at the Laithwaite Community Stadium from National League rivals Chesterfield, where he spent two-and-a-half injury-hit years.

22. WILL JAASKELAINEN - GOALKEEPER

Will joined Woking in February

2023, initially to provide competition for long-time number one Craig Ross, before becoming first-choice later that month and starting 14 of the club's final 15 fixtures of the season. His efforts helped the Cards secure a fourth-place finish in the National League and qualification for the end of season play-offs for the first time in the club's history at that level. He was rewarded with a new one-year contract at the end of the season.

23. JERMAINE ANDERSON - MIDFIELD

A physical and athletic midfield player who joined the Cards in December 2021. He made 42 appearances in all competitions during his first 18 months with the club, scoring twice, including a particularly memorable strike against Wealdstone in a game shown live on BT Sport. His consistently strong performances were integral to Woking's impressive performances last season, particularly prior to his cruelly timed achilles injury suffered away to Chesterfield in February, which saw him ruled out for the rest of the campaign - but the Cards still went onto finish fourth and qualify for the National League play-offs for the first time.

24. ROHAN INCE - MIDFIELD

An integral player at the base of the Woking midfield, he quickly became a firm fan favourite after joining the club in the summer of 2021 from National League rivals Maidenhead United. A tough-tackling defensive midfielder also capable of pushing further forward, he made 37 appearances during his debut season with the Cards, whilst chipping in with two goals and four assists.

28. SAM HABERGHAM - DEFENCE

The left-sided defender joined Woking from National League rivals Wealdstone in the summer of 2023. He arrived to add both depth and experience to the Cards' backline, starting the season as back-up to first-choice left-back and captain Josh Casey, as well as offering additional cover in central defence, and allowing manager Darren Sarll to switch between a back four and a back three.

MANAGER. DARREN SARLL

Darren was appointed as Woking manager in March 2022. He joined the Cards from fellow National League club Yeovil Town, where he had enjoyed a successful three years, leading the club to the National League play-offs and the third round of the FA Cup. A former midfielder, Darren spent his playing career in non-league football after leaving the Ipswich Town academy at the age of 16. He played for the likes of Hitchin Town, Bedford Town, St Albans City, Dunstable Town and Hemel Hempstead Town, before dropping out of the game in 2006 to pursue a career in coaching.



Woking FC Greatest Seasons CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

1957/58

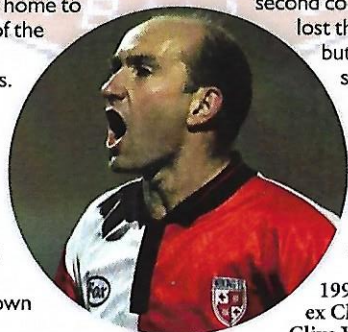
Woking won the Amateur Cup for the first and only time in 1957/58. The Cards beat Aveyley 6-1, Hendon 3-1, Hayes 5-1 and Finchley 3-2 in the Amateur Cup before defeating Barnet 3-2 in the semi-final replay at Griffin Park. Two goals by Hebbon plus another from Stratton gave Woking a 3-0 victory over Ilford in the final at Wembley: Burley, Ellerby, Parsons, Collingwood, Turner, Clacey, Littlejohn, Hebbon, Mortimore, Hamm, Stratton. Woking finished mid-table in the Isthmian League. Reg Stratton later played for Fulham and Colchester, while Roy Littlejohn had played for Bournemouth and Charlie Mortimore for Aldershot.

1990/91

Woking made national headlines as they reached the FA Cup fourth round in 1990/91. Geoff Chapple's side beat Bath City to reach the competition proper for the third successive season and overcame Kidderminster Harriers 2-1 in a first round second replay. Mark Biggins grabbed a hat-trick as Woking beat Merthyr Tydfil 5-1 in the second round, then Tim Buzaglio claimed a place in FA Cup folklore with a hat-trick in the Cards' stunning 4-2 third round win at West Brom. They lost 1-0 to Everton in a fourth round tie switched to Goodison Park. Woking also beat Carshalton Athletic 2-1 in the Isthmian League (AC Delco) Cup final.

1991/92

Geoff Chapple managed Woking to the Isthmian League title in 1991/92. Summer signings Laurence Batty and George Friel made their debuts as the Cards kicked off with a 3-0 win at home to Carshalton and raced to the top of the table with just one defeat in their opening 26 Isthmian League games. The title was won with consummate ease as Woking led by 26 points at one stage and eventually finished 18 points ahead of their nearest challengers Enfield, having trounced them 5-0 at Kingfield. In the FA Cup, Woking defeated Windsor & Eton 4-2 and Yeovil Town



1995/96's top scorer - the ever young ex Chelsea & Sunderland striker Clive Walker

Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS selects ten post-war Woking FC 'Classic Campaigns'.

3-0 before losing 2-1 at Hereford United in a third round replay.

1993/94

Woking won the FA Trophy for the first time in 1993/94. Geoff Chapple's side defeated Bashley 4-2, Dagenham & Redbridge 2-1, Bromsgrove Rovers 3-2 and Billingham Synthonia 2-1 in the FA Trophy before beating Enfield 3-0 in a semi-final replay. Goals by Dereck Brown and Darran Hay gave Woking a 2-1 victory over Runcorn in the final at Wembley Stadium. The Cards also defeated Weston-Super-Mare 1-0 to reach the FA Cup second round for the fifth successive year but they lost 1-0 at Kidderminster. Former Chelsea winger Clive Walker was leading marksman with 19 goals as they finished third in the Conference.

1994/95

Woking became only the second team in history to retain the FA Trophy in 1994/95. The Cards beat Chesham United 3-0, Cheltenham Town 3-1, Stevenage Borough 3-0 and Macclesfield Town 1-0 in the FA Trophy before overcoming Rushden & Diamonds 2-1 on aggregate in the semi-finals. Scott Steele and Colin Fielder scored to give Geoff Chapple's side a 2-1 win over Kidderminster Harriers in the Wembley final. Woking never looked a serious threat to Macclesfield's domination of the Conference but reduced the final points deficit to just five as they finished runners-up, also beating Barnet in the FA Cup first round.

1995/96

Clive Walker was leading marksman with 18 goals as Woking finished Conference runners-up for the second consecutive season in 1995/96. They lost three of their opening five matches but soared up the table with seven straight wins. Junior Hunter scored four goals in a thrilling 5-4 win at Morecambe, then grabbed a hat-trick in a 5-1 victory over Telford United. Seven wins in eight games during the closing weeks of the season saw Woking finish Conference runners-up to



Woking's 1957/58 Amateur Cup winning squad

Stevenage Borough. Geoff Chapple's team also defeated Barnet 2-1 and Enfield 2-1 in the FA Cup before losing 2-0 at Swindon Town in the third round.

1996/97

Woking won the FA Trophy for the third time in 1996/97. Geoff Chapple's side defeated Wokingham Town 1-0, St Albans City 3-1, Dorchester Town 3-2 and Heybridge Swifts 1-0 in the FA Trophy before beating Stevenage Borough 2-1 in the semi-final replay. Darran Hay's extra-time goal clinched Woking's 1-0 victory over ten-man Dagenham & Redbridge in the Wembley final. In the FA Cup, the Cards won at Millwall 1-0 and Cambridge United 2-0 before Steve Thompson's strike secured a 1-1 third round draw at Coventry City. They lost 2-1 at home to Sky Blues in the replay. Woking finished fifth in the Conference.

2005/06

Glenn Cockerill managed Woking to the FA Trophy final in 2005/06. They defeated Uxbridge 2-1, Northwich Victoria 2-1, Welling United 3-2 and Stafford Rangers 4-2 in the FA Trophy before beating Boreham Wood 3-0 in the semi-final. Woking lost 2-0 to Grays Athletic in the final at Upton Park. The Cards won only one of their first six Conference games but soared clear of danger with a nine-match unbeaten run and finished mid-table. They reached the FA Cup second round before losing 2-1 at Northwich Victoria in a replay,

also defeating Nottingham Forest 3-2 in the Football League Trophy.

2011/12

Woking stormed to the Conference South title with 97 points in 2011/12. Garry Hill's side began with a 5-0 victory at Sutton United and lost just one of their opening 24 matches, including a thrilling 6-3 victory at Tonbridge Angels. The Cards lost twice in the space of three games in January, against Staines and Salisbury, but remained in pole position, clinching the Conference South title with a 1-0 win at Maidenhead United with two matches remaining. Leading marksman Guiseppe Sole scored for a record breaking 11 games in a row at the end of the campaign as Woking finished nine points ahead of runners-up Dartford.

2018/19

Woking regained Conference National status at the first attempt in 2018/19. The Cards won all except one of their opening eight games under new manager Alan Dowson, then Jake Hyde scored to give them a 1-0 FA Cup second round victory at Swindon Town en route to a 2-0 third round defeat at home to top-flight Watford watched by 5,717. Max Kretschmar was top scorer as Woking qualified for the Conference South play-offs in second place. They gained a dramatic 3-2 win over Wealdstone in the play-off semi-finals, then Armani Little scored to clinch a 1-0 victory over Welling United in the Conference South play-off final.



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- Match-day programmes or all in your party.
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Our match sponsors and their guests are all entertained in surroundings befitting such a special occasion be it a birthday, anniversary or any other special event! We will work with you to ensure you and your guests get to enjoy a truly memorable experience.

 MK DONS Tuesday 11th July Pro-Season Friendly	Ian Williams & Steve Grimwood	
 CHARLTON ATHLETIC Saturday 22nd July Pro-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	The Bugler Group
 ALTRINCHAM Saturday 16th September Vanarama National League	Ruislip Windows & Doors	
 WOKING Tuesday 26th September Vanarama National League	Rolfe East	The Bugler Group
 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 December Vanarama National League	Friends & Family of Tony Short	Michael Nutt
 HARTLEPOOL UNITED Saturday 23rd December Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	Sponsor 2 Available
 MAIDENHEAD UNITED Monday 1st January Vanarama National League	Keith Davies	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	(Reserved)	



FIRST TEAM RESULTS 2023/2024

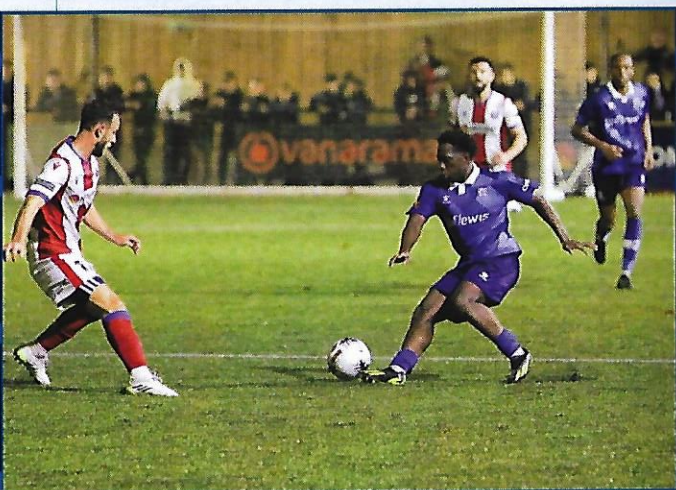
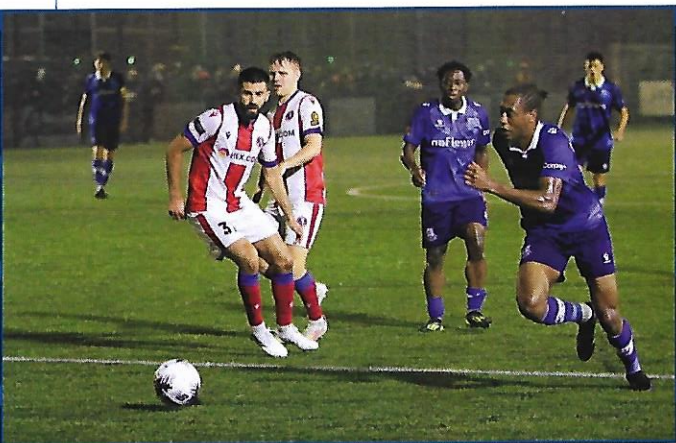
KEY



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

AUGUST	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lege	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	1-3	1,860	149	9	Adarkwa
28 DAGENHAM & RED.	VNL	0-2	1,513	275	12	
SEPTEMBER						
2 Hartlepool United	VNL	1-2	4,072	115	15	Allarakhia
9 EBBSFLEET UNITED	VNL	2-1	1,422	186	11	Campbell 2 (1 Pen)
16 ALTRINCHAM	VNL	0-0	1,302	70	11	
19 Dorking Wanderers	VNL	1-3	1,389	150	12	Bowen
23 Chesterfield	VNL	2-3	7,301	140	15	Smith, Adarkwa
26 WOKING	VNL					
30 OLDHAM ATHLETIC	VNL					
OCTOBER						
3 Gateshead	VNL					
7 Kidderminster Harriers	VNL					
14 TBD	FAC40					
21 BOREHAM WOOD	VNL					
24 OXFORD CITY	VNL					
28 Solihull Moors	VNL					
NOVEMBER						
11 ROCHDALE	VNL					
18 FC Halifax Town	VNL					
21 Southend United	VNL					
25 BARNET	VNL					
DECEMBER						
2 ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL					
9 TBD	FAT30					
16 Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL					
23 HARTLEPOOL UNITED	VNL					
26 Maidenhead United	VNL					
JANUARY						
1 MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VNL					
6 Ebbsfleet United	VNL					
20 Rochdale	VNL					
23 SOUTHEND UNITED	VNL					
27 FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL					
FEBRUARY						
3 Barnet	VNL					
10 Altrincham	VNL					
17 GATESHEAD	VNL					
20 DORKING WANDERERS	VNL					
24 Woking	VNL					
MARCH						
2 York City	VNL					
9 EASTLEIGH	VNL					
12 BROMLEY	VNL					
16 AFC Fylde	VNL					
23 KIDDERMINSTER	VNL					
29 Oxford City	VNL					
APRIL						
1 SOLIHULL MOORS	VNL					
6 Boreham Wood	VNL					
13 CHESTERFIELD	VNL					
20 Oldham Athletic	VNL					
TO BE ARRANGED						

Dante BAPTISTE	Jack COOK	Charlie BARKER	Ashley CHARLES	Alex DYER	Mason BARRETT	Tarryn ALLARAKHIA	Nathan FERGUSON	Olufela OLOMOLA	Max KRETZSCHMAR	Corie ANDREWS	Giovanni MCCGREGOR	Jed WARD	Micah OBIERO	Luke DREHER	Dom HUTCHINSON	Kyle SMITH	Charles CLAYDEN	Abdul ABDULLALIK	Sam BOWEN	Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH	Sean ADARKWA	Tahvon CAMPBELL	Eric NEGRARU	Joseph CULLIS
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
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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	Olomola, Campbell, Trialist C 2s
18th July	Billericay 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	

APPEARANCES



2023/2024

CORRECT AS AT 16/9/2023	VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE			FA CUP			FA TROPHY			MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP			MIDDLESEX CHARITY CUP			TOTALS			STONES CAREER		
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G
Abdulmalik, Abdul	2															2			2		
Adarkwa, Sean		5	1														5	1		5	1
Alarakhia, Tarryn	3	5	1													3	5	1	55	11	10
Andrews, Corie		5															5			13	3
Arker, Charlie	9															9				41	2
Arrett, Mason		2															2			19	9
Brown, Sam	6	1														6	1			6	1
Campbell, Tahvon	9		5													9		5		9	5
Charles, Ashley	7															7			105	21	2
Clayden, Charles	9															9			32	3	4
Cook, Jack	9															9			95	2	8
Coyler, Alex	7															7			203	37	34
Craigson, Nathan	4	2	1													4	2	1	54	11	8
Cutlinton, Dominic																			20	8	1
Dretschmar, Max	3	3	1													3	3	1	28	9	7
McGregor, Giovanni																			13	3	
Mundle-Smith, Jaydn	9		1													9		1	46	14	4
Niero, Micah	8															8			36	6	8
Omola, Olufela	4	3														4	3		36	13	10
Smith, Kyle	1															1			1		
Ward, Jed	9															9			9		



Peter Worby WFCSC Update



Good evening/afternoon everybody and welcome to the matches versus Woking and Oldham Athletic. As always, a big hello to all supporters of our visiting teams - we hope you have a safe journey home after the match.

Woking are opponents that I have seen us play many a time and the FA Cup match at their place back on 16/9/75 remains one of my most exciting games. Following a draw at our place we travelled to Kingfield Stadium (as it was then known) for the replay, and with about 15 minutes remaining we were losing 1-3 and effectively out of the cup. We scored twice to equalise and then added two more in extra time to seal a 5-3 win. Ray Fulton had a game to remember and for a 16 year old as I was at the time it was incredibly exciting.

It's probably mentioned elsewhere in the programme but remarkably Oldham were competing in the Premier League in 1993/94; in that season we were competing (that's probably not the right word) and finishing bottom but one in the Southern League South. So while Oldham were competing against the likes of Man Utd, Liverpool, and Arsenal etc we were busy losing at Bury Town in front of 146 spectators (a match well remembered by Tony Platt!!). Towards the end of that season I was one of the lucky 42 (yes, forty two) spectators who saw us win 2-1 at Canterbury City towards the end of that season.

How times have changed, we now compete with Oldham Athletic at the same level. In fact, we met Oldham last season for the first time in our history and won at their place and drew with them at Grosvenor Vale. The 2-1 win at Oldham was an early season midweek fixture and at half time I remember waxing lyrical over our performance and I offered the view to friends that the first half performance I had witnessed from Wealdstone was probably the best 45 minutes I had ever seen Wealdstone play. Given that I have been watching Wealdstone since 1967 then that's a massive compliment to the 11 players who started the match for us that evening.

Much will have been said and written about both Tony Short and Alan Couch over recent weeks so I

will be brief here. They were both top guys that I knew for 50 odd years and was lucky to count as friends. I first got to know Tony when I played football with him on occasions for SFC Wealdstone whereas I first met Alan when I first joined the Supporters Club committee back in the late 1970s. Both Alan and Tony did huge amounts of voluntary work for Wealdstone Football Club. We were lucky to have them.

Changing the subject now; coming up soon is a Comedy Night at The Vale on Saturday 11th November, doors open at 8.30pm but arrive earlier for a drink. Tickets are going well (as I write) so if you don't wish to miss then don't delay getting your tickets. Ring James on 07979795414 for tickets.



Spot the player

At the Dagenham & Redbridge match I really enjoyed chatting for much of the 2nd half with a Wealdstone FC one season legend - Glen Little. After initially joking that his goal at Dulwich just about made his

"Top 15" he admitted that it was probably in his top 2. Friends of his had taken the mick saying that the level he was playing should rule it out of contention but Glen's counter argument was that he was 38 at the time!!

The following match at Hartlepool Utd I was lucky enough to meet a different sort of legend. I travelled on on the Friday with Fingers, John and James and we found ourselves arriving at Hartlepool quite early. No sooner had we settled in with a drink that I walked Gary Pallerister of Man Utd and England fame. We chatted with him for at least 20 minutes (our own mini Sportsmans Dinner) - what a very nice guy.

To complete the hat-trick of legends who should be at the last home match v Altrincham but Viv Anderson!! Another top guy.

One final thing I wanted to mention was the newly opened Supporters Club Shop aka "The Megastore". Again a lot has been written about this and much said about the hard work put in by many but overlooked was a big Thank You to our Club Chairman Rory Fitzgerald for his help and assistance. Thank you Rory.

Peter

REWIND SPECIAL >>>> by tim parks

It happened 50 years ago

part nine: a slow start.. and the natives were growing restless

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.

Saturday September 29 1973, Southern League Div One South: Wealdstone 2 Salisbury 1
THE FANS were getting a bit restless. Admittedly, this was only the club's third season after quitting the amateur Isthmian League for the semi-professional Southern League, but

the only place to be was the SL's top tier and Stones fans were looking enviously at the strides taken by our former amateur rivals.

Barnet had quit the Athenian League in the mid-60s; Wimbledon the Isthmians at around the same time; and Maidstone United jumped ship with us Real Stones in April 1971. But Maidstone had won the Division One South the previous season. We had a better set-up than them. We had a better manager and arguably a better squad. So why were we struggling?

The season had started with six straight wins until

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Winners of European Cup Winners Cup: 1963
Winners of Football League Cup: 1971, 1973
Winners of U.F.A. Cup: 1972

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME
No. 66 MONDAY, 24th SEPTEMBER, 1973

OUR VISITORS TONIGHT
WEALDSTONE

London Challenge Cup, 1st Rd. 24th Sept., 1973 Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
White Shirts, Blue Shorts

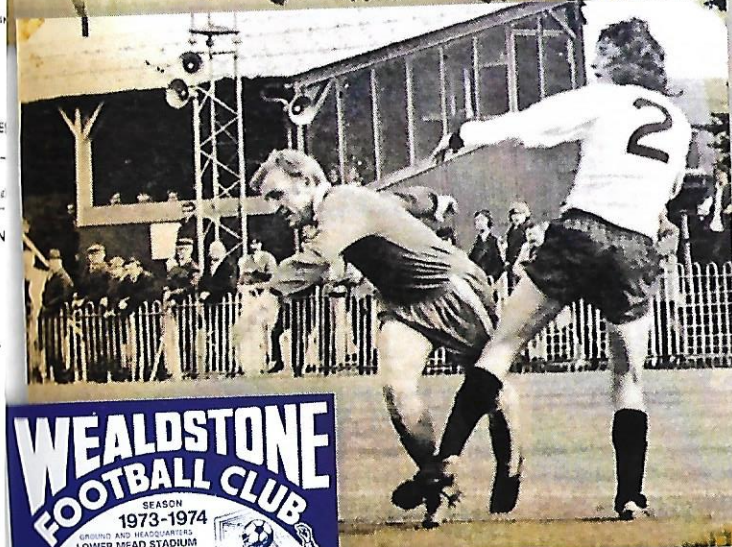
RIGHT WING	DAINES 1		LEFT WING	
	KINNEAR 2	OSGOOD 5	GIBBINS 3	
	NAYLOR 4	McGRATH 9	PECK 6	
NEIGHBOUR 7	CLAPTON 8	DILLON 10	JONES 11	
Referee: Mr. A. A. NATHAN, Essex				
Linesmen: Mr. L. A. COTTRELL, London (Red Flag)		Mr. R. R. LOGAN, Kent (Yellow Flag)		
11 DYSON	10 DUCK	9 HENDERSON	8 BROWN	7 WATSON
6 BURGESS	5 McCORMICK	4 KINNEAR	3 PRESLAND	2
1 FULTON				
LEFT WING	BRODIE		RIGHT WING	
WEALDSTONE Yellow Shirts, Yellow Shorts				

Left, and above: The Spurs programme for the visit of the Stones in September 1973. Quite an occasion for the visiting fans in the 2,000 crowd, and especially for former Tottenham double winner from 1961, winger Terry Dyson, who had a great reception from the home crowd

the 'blip' 0-3 defeat at hopeless Canterbury, which we chronicled in a previous programme. Then another 'blip' against Chesham, which saw us knocked out of the FA Cup in a replay (reported upon in the Altrincham programme). Then a third 'blip', perhaps more excusable which saw us KO'd from the London Challenge Cup at the hands of Tottenham. At White Hart Lane no less!

The programme (left) shows just how strong Spurs were, fielding experienced first-teamers Spary Daines, Joe Kinnear, Keith Osgood, Terry Naylor, Jimmy Neighbour, Chris McGrath, Mike

Continued on opposite page >>>



WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB
SEASON 1973-1974
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WEDNESDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 1973 Kick-off 3.0 p.m.
Southern League
WEALDSTONE 2 SALISBURY
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 5p.

Colours: ROYAL BLUE & WHITE

Top picture: Billy Byrne rises to head Stones into the lead against Salisbury despite the challenge of centre-back Eyden and keeper Morris. Above: Star man Terry Dyson skips past defender Syrett. Left: The match programme with its bizarre artwork

Dillon and Chris Jones. Inexplicably, our manager Sid Prosser opted for the calamitous Chic Brodie in goal and he was the difference between the two sides as Tottenham eased home 4-0.

So when Salisbury rolled into town on September 29 we were not in a good place. Our ace striker George Duck had broken a bone in his hand in the Spurs game (his former club, as a youngster) and we looked decidedly lightweight up front. Fortunately though...

- a) We had Bill Byrne proving a point in the No.9 shirt;
- b) We had Terry Dyson in imperious form; and
- c) Salisbury weren't very good.

We even had the luxury of a missed penalty with full-back Eddie Presland taking over duties in the absence of Duck and allowing keeper Morris to palm his fierce, but rising shot onto the crossbar and over. But Eddie atoned with a crisp cross that Byrne headed in for 1-0 (pictured above) and although Taylor levelled for the Wiltshire visitors in a rare attack, Byrne landed another header to seal the points in front of an 800 crowd.

It wasn't pretty but it was much-needed after three defeats and a draw in the previous four games... and happily George Duck was back for the next game (in a light cast) at Dorchester Town for the start of an unbeaten run of 10 games.

Salisbury ended the season in 17th place out of 20 clubs and they were the ideal opposition to halt the losing run. And looking back, they were also the ideal opposition to have started the season against, having also won 2-1 at Salisbury on the opening day!

So what was the standard of the SL Div One South like, compared to 2023-24? Very patchy, but with the contribution of genuine top-flight stars like Dyson and John McCormick, often hugely entertaining. **More next time!**



THIS evening we turn our attentions to the London Challenge Cup, and it is our pleasure to extend a warm welcome to Wealdstone, our visitors in the first round of the competition.

Wealdstone, who compete in the First Division South of the Southern League, are one of the clubs who were called upon to play in the Preliminary Round. In that round they were at home to Barnet, and their 4-1 victory in that match a fortnight ago qualified them for this evening's first round tie.

The participation in the Challenge Cup of clubs from outside the Football League has become a feature of the competition in recent years. Five of the eight ties in this season's first round are between clubs in the Football League and opponents from outside.

Orient are the current holders of the Challenge Cup, but it was by only a 2-1 margin that they beat Enfield in the Final last May. And the strength of the challenge from outside the League is underlined by the fact that Orient's victims in the semi-final were Dagenham.

HARD BLOW
In fact, we sustained a hard blow

to our own pride in losing in the Semi-final to Enfield last season. We were due to meet our Enfield neighbours on this ground, but it was agreed to play the match at Enfield Stadium.

The tie resulted in a 1-1 draw, and in the replay, also played at Enfield, we were beaten 3-2. In the earlier rounds last season we recorded home wins over Brentford (2-1) and Queen's Park Rangers (2-0). The game against Brentford was won in extra time.

We look forward to a good game this evening, and naturally hope Spurs will qualify for the next round. We feel it is time we added another Challenge Cup triumph to our record. The last time the trophy was won by Spurs was in season 1970-71. We then defeated Wimbledon on this ground by the only goal of the match, scored by Roy Woolcott.

WELCOME, TERRY
We welcome Terry Dyson, outstanding in our League and F.A. Cup-winning "double" team of 1961, back to White Hart Lane this evening as a member of the Wealdstone team. Other members of the team with Football League experience are Eric

All you need to know about... Oldham Athletic

The opposition in focus

Pine Villa was formed in 1895 but on July 4, 1899 ceased to exist. However, there were no tears because the name was changed and the birth of Oldham Athletic came about. Latics enjoyed success in the early years finishing runners-up in the First Division (the equivalent of today's Premier League) in 1914/15 having earlier reached the FA Cup semi final in 1913.

They lost their top-flight status in 1923 and would not regain it for 68 years. In the intervening years, most was spent in Division Three North, Divisions Three and Four. The club's three championship winning campaigns also came in this period in 1952/53 under the legendary George Hardwick, 1973/74 and 1990/91.

There had been dark days when Latics had to go cap in hand to the Football League to seek re-election after finishing in the bottom four in the basement division.

Latics have had a roller-coaster ride over the last twenty years, seeing action in the Premiership and the equivalent of the Championship before suffering relegation down to the current Coca-Cola League One.



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MANAGER - TBA

2022/23 -12TH NATIONAL LEAGUE

League back in the 1992-93 season, and stayed in the top flight for three seasons - one campaign in the old First Division, two in the Premier League.

They also enjoyed glory in both cup competitions (FA and League Cup). Indeed, they appeared in the 1990 Littlewoods Cup Final at Wembley, only to lose 1-0 to the late Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest, a game that even 'Cloughy' himself said was an unfair result.

The FA Cup also brought disappointment for Oldham when they lost two semi-finals to Manchester United. Their 1990 appearance in the last four was their first foray to that stage since 1913, but they bowed out to Manchester United 2-1 in a replay after a thrilling 3-3 draw in the initial clash.

Latics appeared in the semi-finals again in 1994, losing out 4-1 in a Maine Road replay following a 1-1 draw at Wembley.

The club lost its EFL status at the end of the

2021/22 season but the subsequent takeover by the Rothwell family as given the club renewed hope as it looks ahead to the future.

Last season Oldham finished their first non league campaign in 12th position on 61 points - this was one place and one point above the Stones.



Oldham's 13,513 capacity Boundary Park



The victorious Stones at Boundary Park last season

Pic Jon Taffel

HONOURS

**Football League First Division:
Runners-Up 1914-15**

**Football League Second Division:
Champions 1990-91
Runners-Up 1909-10**

**Football League Third Division:
Champions 1973-74**

**Football League Third Division North:
Champions 1952-53**

**Football League Fourth Division:
Runners-Up 1962-63, 1970-71**

**FA Cup: Semi Finalists
1912-1913, 1989-90, 1993-94**

**League Cup: Finalists
1989-90**

RECORDS

**Record League victory: 11-0 v Southport,
Division 4, 26 December 1962**

**Record Cup victory: 10-1 v Lytham, FA
Cup, Round 1, 28 November 1925**

**Record League defeat: 4-13 v Tranmere
Rovers, Division 3, 26 December 1935**

**Record Cup defeat: 1-7 v Sunderland,
League Cup, Round 2, 24 September 1962**

**Record home attendance: 47,671 v
Sheffield Wednesday, FA Cup, Round 4,
Boundary Park, 25 January 1930**

LAST SEASON

**TUE 16TH AUG 2022 (A) W 2-1
TUE 28TH MAR 2023 (H) D 2-2**

ALL TIME

P 2 W1 D1 L0 F4 A3

OPPOSITION IN FOCUS OLDHAM ATHLETIC

1. MAGNUS NORMAN - GOALKEEPER

The 6'4" shot-stopper, who has also been capped by England at U18 level, signed on a one-year contract after leaving Brunton Park at the end of the previous season. Norman, 25, who progressed through the youth set-up at Fulham, featured ten times for Carlisle last season after two years in Cumbria. On the books at Fulham from the age of eight, Norman spent a total of 14 years at Craven Cottage, progressing through their academy to sign a professional contract in 2014. Whilst still a youngster, he had loans in non-league with Hayes and Southport before spending half of the 2018/19 season at Rochdale.

3. MARK KITCHING - DEFENCE

27-year-old Mark Kitching arrived at Latics after two full seasons at Stockport County, where he won the National League title last season. A left-sided player who can operate in the defence or in midfield, he has also featured in the EFL for Rochdale and Hartlepool. Born in the North East, Kitching came through the academy at Middlesbrough as a youngster. Following a short loan spell with York, he joined Rochdale on a permanent basis and made 29 appearances for the club before signing for Hartlepool. He was ever-present for the Pools, appearing 78 times in the National League before joining Stockport in 2020.

4. LIAM HOGAN (C) - DEFENCE

The 33-year-old defender, whose professional career spans more than ten years with seven clubs, arrived at Boundary Park straight on the back of a second promotion from the National League with Stockport County last season. Hogan featured more than 80 times at Edgeley Park over a period of two-and-a-half years, culminating in captaining the squad that claimed the title on the final day of the campaign. A central defender by trade who can also feature at full-back, Hogan began his career in non-league with Halifax, earning two promotions as the club worked its way up the divisions. More than a century of games during three years at the Shay earned him a move into the EFL with Fleetwood, also spending time on loan at Macclesfield. Hogan then spent a season at Tranmere before a distinguished spell at Salford, captaining his home-town club to a double promotion, including success in the National League North before leading the Ammies to an historic climb into League football in 2019.

5. SHAUN HOBSON - DEFENCE

6. MARK SHELTON - MIDFIELD

Mark signed from Hartlepool United during the January transfer window of 2023. The 26-year-old

signed a contract until the end of the 2024/25 season, and made his debut at home against York City in a 2-0 win.

7. KURT WILLOUGHBY - FORWARD

8. JOSH LUNDSTRAM - MIDFIELD

9. MIKE FONDOP - FORWARD

A physical presence whilst leading the line, Fondop adds strength and power to the Latics side after joining from Hartlepool United. Born in Cameroon, the forward began his footballing journey at Stanway Rovers in Eastern Counties League whilst he studied Actuarial Sciences at the University of Essex – ultimately graduating with a First-Class Honours Degree – and his performances on the pitch mirrored his academic progression.

10. JOE NUTTALL - FORWARD

Nuttall began his career in the academy at Manchester City, where he spent two years after joining at the age of 16. He then moved to Scotland with Aberdeen, initially as a youth team player before making his professional debut in 2016. He had loans at Stranraer, where he scored twice, and Dumbarton, before returning to England with Blackburn. Nuttall spent two seasons at Ewood Park, scoring 14 goals in 15 appearances in PL2, earning him a call-up to the first team squad. His exploits in front of goal saw him shortlisted for the PL2 Player of the Season in 2018 whilst also making 13 senior appearances. The following season he scored twice in ten games for the Rovers first team as they earned promotion to the Championship. He moved to Blackpool for an undisclosed fee at the start of the 2019/20 season, spending time on loan at Northampton, before a move to Scunthorpe at the start of the current calendar year, scoring 11 goals in total.

11. DAN WARD - MIDFIELD

13. MATHEW HUDSON - GOALKEEPER

Hudson, who was at Preston until last summer, joined Oldham having previously spent time with National League North side Buxton. The goalkeeper is a product of the Preston North End Academy, he made his first-team debut as a teenager, coming on in place of Jordan Pickford in a game against Leeds in 2015.

The 24-year-old also spent time out on loan with Bury and Bamber Bridge, making four appearances for both sides. He was released by Preston in the summer, and spent the first few months of the season with Buxton.

14. NATHAN SHERON - MIDFIELD

The 24-year-old, who began his career with six seasons at Fleetwood Town, arrived at the club from Harrogate Town. A defensive player with the experience of featuring across the back-line, Sheron started 21 times in the latter part of the Sky Bet League Two season last term having become a regular in the Harrogate team. Sheron started out in the youth ranks at Liverpool before a move to Fleetwood at the age of 16. In total, he featured 36 times whilst at Highbury Stadium, having spent time on loan in the National League North with Chorley, Chester and Southport during his early days at the club.

15. DEVARN GREEN - FORWARD

16. CHARLIE RAGLAN - DEFENCE

17. HARRISON MCGAHEY - DEFENCE

McGahey arrived at Boundary Park after spending two-years at the heart of Scunthorpe United's backline. Joining the Iron for an undisclosed fee, he made 63 appearances altogether and found the back of the net against Forest Green Rovers in the last campaign after rejecting a new deal with the Iron in January, becoming a free agent this summer. McGahey, a quick and mobile defender, began his career at Blackpool and had a very successful spell in the youth ranks. In 2014, he played a major role in winning the junior league title as well as being named the Youth Team Player of The Year for a magnificent campaign.

18. BEN TOLLITT - MIDFIELD

The 27-year-old former Everton youngster who has also featured for Tranmere and Wrexham, arrived at Boundary Park on a one-year contract. Tollitt spent the previous two seasons at AFC Fylde, scoring 17 goals from wide areas including a hat-trick against Chorley last January as he made a good impression on the club. Having started out at Everton, he made 12 substitute appearances for Portsmouth before returning to the north west with Tranmere. After appearing 23 times on loan, he made a further year-and-a-half at Prenton Park, scoring a total of 18 times and was part of the squad that earned promotion from the National League in 2018. He also spent a season at Blackpool, in addition to two loans at Wrexham, before moving to Fylde in the summer of 2020.

19. DAN GARDNER - MIDFIELD

The 32-year-old midfielder, who played 72 times for Latics across two seasons from 2017, re-joined the club after spending recent seasons with Wigan and Doncaster. Gardner reunited again with John Sheridan after working together during his previous

time at the club and brings significant class and experience to the squad. Originally from Manchester, Gardner's first professional club was Celtic, where he spent time in the youth set-up before continuing his development with Crewe, experiencing EFL football for the first time.

20. HALLAM HOPE - FORWARD

Born in Manchester, Hope actually began his career on the blue half of Merseyside as he progressed through the academy at Goodison Park. Whilst at Everton, he enjoyed loan spells with Northampton Town, Bury and Sheffield Wednesday. Hope scored five goals in eight games for the Shakers and he attracted attention from teams higher up the football pyramid. The 27-year-old put pen-to-paper on a permanent deal with Bury in January 2015 for an undisclosed fee. During his time at Gigg Lane, Hope helped guide the club to promotion from Sky Bet League Two and throughout his three-year spell made 71 appearances. Head Coach, Keith Curle knows Hope very well bringing him to Carlisle United initially on loan before making it a permanent deal. Whilst at Brunton Park, he managed to net 31 goals and finished as the club's top goalscorer in the 2017/18 season. Hope has represented England at U16, U17, U18 and U19 level before proudly being called-up to the Barbados senior squad and he's scored four goals in six games.

21. WILL SUTTON - DEFENCE

22. BRENNAN DICKENSON - MIDFIELD

23. KIERON FREEMAN - DEFENCE

25. ALEX REID - FORWARD

A proven goalscorer and National League winner at Edgeley Park last season, the 27-year-old joined Latics after scoring eight goals on loan at Solihull earlier in the campaign and brings genuine pedigree to the forward line. Reid started out in the youth set-ups at Aston Villa and Walsall, before spending time with Rushall Olympic, which earned him a move to Fleetwood Town. The striker didn't feature for the Cod Army, but did spend time on loan with Wrexham and Solihull, scoring seven goals in the process. Following a short spell with Stevenage in League Two, he featured for AFC Fylde, Ebbsfleet and Dagenham, netting ten goals.

30. JAMES NORWOOD - FORWARD



Oldham Athletic Greatest Seasons CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

1952/53

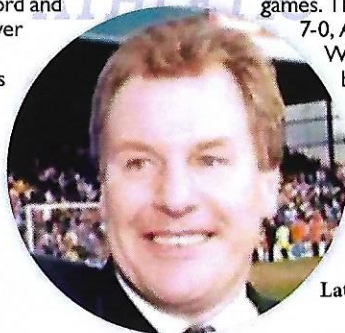
Eric Gemmell scored 23 times as Oldham Athletic won the Third Division (North) title in 1952/53. Player-manager George Hardwick signed Tommy Lowrie from Aberdeen and Latics were unbeaten in their first 13 matches, winning 5-0 in both matches against Darlington. The run ended with a 1-0 defeat at Gateshead but Oldham Athletic recovered with Eric Gemmell scoring hat-tricks as they beat Hartlepool 4-2 and Tranmere 5-2. Alf Clarke netted three times as six straight wins climaxed with a 4-1 win over Workington but Latics won just one of their next 11 games before clinching the title with a 0-0 draw at Bradford City.

1962/63

Bert Lister netted a post-war record 32 goals as Oldham Athletic won promotion in 1962/63. New signings included Jim Bowie, Bob Ledger, Peter McCall and Bill Marshall, with Latics going top of the Fourth Division with a 12-match unbeaten start. Exeter triumphed 2-1 to become the only side to win at Boundary Park that season, then Colin Whitaker arrived from Rochdale in October. Bert Lister netted six goals as Latics gained a record 11-0 victory over Southport on Boxing Day. Ken Branagan, John Colquhoun, Bob Ledger, Peter McCall and Alan Williams were ever-present as Latics finished runners-up to Brentford.

1970/71

Jim Fryatt and David Shaw scored 47 goals between them as Oldham Athletic won promotion in 1970/71. Latics recovered from a 4-1 defeat at Grimsby on the opening day to win five of their next seven games, with David Shaw scoring four times in a 5-1 victory over Brentford and grabbing a hat-trick in a 5-2 win over Aldershot. The 5-3 demolition of Crewe launched a run of nine wins in ten games that took Latics up to second place, overcoming a 5-0 defeat at rivals Bournemouth to maintain their challenge. Jimmy Frizzell's side clinched promotion with a 0-0 draw at Workington and also won the Ford Sporting League.



Latics legendary manager Joe Royal

Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS selects ten post-war Oldham Athletic 'Classic Campaigns'.

1973/74

Jimmy Frizzell guided Oldham Athletic to the Third Division title in 1973/74. Latics had narrowly missed promotion the previous season after selling David Shaw to West Brom. Andy Lochhead arrived from Aston Villa but Oldham Athletic's early form was inconsistent and by mid-January they were mid-table and 13 points behind leaders Bristol Rovers. The 2-1 victory at Wrexham sparked a run of ten straight wins that catapulted Latics into the promotion frame. Alan Groves was signed from Bournemouth and they slammed six goals past Cambridge, Southport and Huddersfield, clinching the title with a 0-0 draw at Plymouth.

1986/87

Roger Palmer was ever-present and top scorer as Oldham Athletic qualified for the Second Division play-offs in 1986-87. Joe Royle's side raced to the top with five wins in their opening six games before the unbeaten start ended with a 5-4 defeat at Huddersfield. Tommy Wright arrived from Leeds United in October and helped Latics regain pole position with a 2-0 win at Elland Road the following month. Mike Cecere secured a regular slot as they maintained their challenge on the new plastic pitch at Boundary Park and finished third. They lost on away goals after a 2-2 draw against Leeds in the play-off semi-finals.

1989/90

Joe Royle managed Oldham Athletic to the League Cup final and so nearly the FA Cup final as well in 1989/90. Newcomers included Neil Adams and Rick Holden, with Latics climbing the Second Division table after a poor start, losing just four times in 27 games. They beat Leeds 4-2, Scarborough 7-0, Arsenal 3-1, Southampton 2-0 and West Ham 6-3 in the League Cup before losing 1-0 to holders Nottingham Forest in the Wembley final. Latics defeated Birmingham 1-0, Brighton 2-1, Everton 2-1 and Aston Villa 3-0 in the FA Cup before taking Manchester United to a semi-final replay. They finished in eighth



Oldham eventually lost the 1990 League Cup Final 1-0 to Nottingham Forest who were captained that day by Wealdstone legend Stuart Pearce

place.

1990/91

Oldham Athletic won the Second Division title in 1990/91. Denis Irwin and Mike Milligan were sold during the summer and newcomers included David Currie and Richard Jobson, who replaced the injured Andy Holden. Latics stormed to the top of the table, remaining unbeaten in their opening 16 matches and recovering from two consecutive defeats to hammer Brighton 6-1. New signings Gunnar Halle and Paul Kane helped Joe Royle's side maintain their title challenge. England international Earl Barrett, Andy Barlow and Jon Hallworth were ever-present as Latics regained top-flight status after 68 years' absence.

1991/92

Oldham Athletic consolidated top-flight status under Joe Royle in 1991/92. New signings included Graeme Sharp and returning favourite Mike Milligan from Everton, with Latics beating Chelsea 3-0 in the opening home match and trouncing Torquay 9-1 in the League Cup first round. Victories over Coventry City and Sheffield United lifted them up to mid-table, then they won 2-1 at Manchester City and Neil McDonald was another arrival from Everton in October. Oldham Athletic remained clear of relegation danger despite the sale of Earl Barrett to Aston Villa, with Graeme Sharp scoring four times in a 5-1 win over Luton.

1992/93

Oldham Athletic retained Premier League status after a dramatic relegation escape in 1992/93. Summer signings included Ian Olney from Aston Villa and Neil Pointon from Manchester City. Joe Royle's side lost only two of their first nine matches, beating Nottingham Forest 5-3 and Ipswich Town 4-2 but then slipped down the table. They completed the double over Ipswich and Middlesbrough, also defeating Manchester United 1-0 and Wimbledon 6-2 but were facing the drop until wins over Aston Villa 1-0, Liverpool 3-2 and Southampton 4-3 in their final three games kept them up on goal difference at Crystal Palace's expense.

1993/94

Joe Royle guided Oldham Athletic to the FA Cup semi-finals for the second time in four years in 1993/94. Latics defeated Derby County 2-1, Stoke City 1-0, Barnsley 1-0 and Bolton Wanderers 1-0 in the FA Cup before holding Manchester United to a 1-1 draw in the semi-final at Wembley: Jon Hallworth, Chris Makin, Neil Pointon (Steve Redmond), Nick Henry, Richard Jobson, Craig Fleming, Paul Bernard, Darren Beckford (Andy Ritchie), Graeme Sharp, Mike Milligan, Rick Holden. Latics lost 4-1 to 'double' chasing United in the replay at Maine Road and were relegated after failing to win any of their last eight matches.



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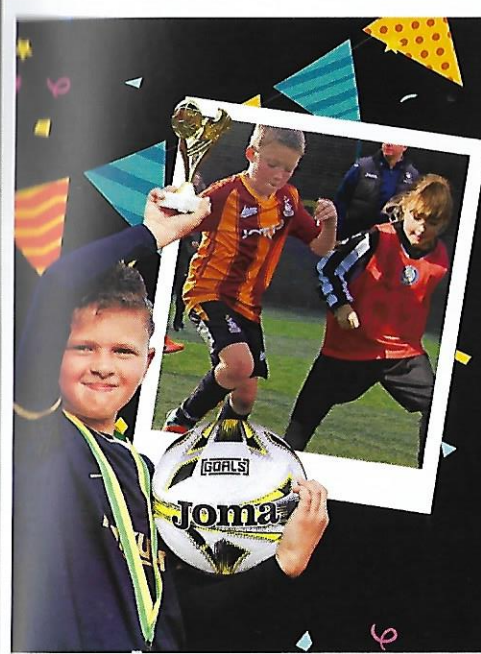
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It's Sunday May 5th 2019, the play-off semi-final at Woking and Freddie Grant (No.3) has just headed Stones into a 1-0 lead. But it ended in Wealdstone agony

TWO GOOD... ONE BAD

Ah, the anguish of Kingfield and that play-off semi final four years ago.. 2-0 up, 2-2... and then the 'offside' winner



Tim Parks looks back at some memorable, and some not-so-memorable Wealdstone results against today's opponents

WRITING this very column before the Stones met Woking in August 2018 - the first league match-up between our clubs in 48 years - it was tricky to recall many memorable encounters. The odd FA Cup clash perhaps. And certainly Wealdstone's last season as amateur Isthmians when Alan Humphries' desperately mediocre side actually managed to rack up a league double against the mid-table Cards.

In fact the uninspiring 3-0 win at Lower Mead in April 1971 was the club's final match outside the professional ranks.

But as for clashes seared on the memory? This was all to change in the space of one season as the sides met in three epic encounters four years ago. It was to end in unexpected drama and you could have

got seriously long odds on Bobby Wilkinson's Wealdstone going all the way to meet Woking in the play-off semi-final... for the Cards had spent all season locked in a two-way contest for the National League South title with Torquay United, and automatic promotion, while the Stones' stuttering challenge for a play-off place seemed to have fizzled out with three defeats in four games at Torquay, Hampton and at home to Dulwich.

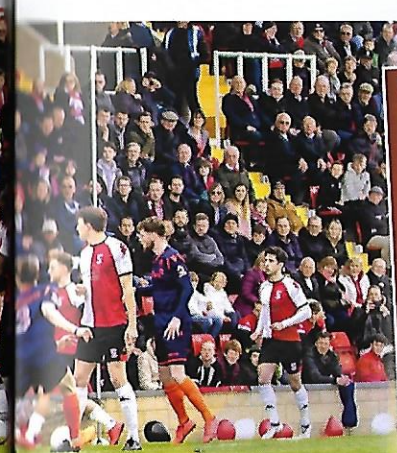
Our hopes had been raised by an unlikely league double over Woking - 1-0 at Grosvenor Vale on a balmy August evening thanks to Matt Lench's late penalty and then, even better, a terrific 2-0 win at a stunned Kingfield in February with Tarryn Allarakhia and Dave Pratt's opportunist goals.

The Cards fans might have been forgiven for think that the Stones were their bogey side ... especially after just half an hour of the play-off semi final when Wealdstone led 2-0. I think both sets of fans were incredulous!

Stones had only just crept into the knockout stage on that crazy last-day win over Hemel Hempstead. At 4pm, trailing 1-0, we were 11th in the table. At 4.45pm, after Jake Sheppard's outlandish winner, we had somehow overtaken four clubs and ended up seventh! And with an away eliminator at our own bogey side, Bath City.

Stones took 500 fans to Wiltshire on the Wednesday evening and scored an unbelievable 3-1 win to set up the big game at Kingfield the following Sunday.

And so the stage was set: A towering header from Freddie Grant and a cool finish from a corner by Connor Stevens had the 650+ Wealdstone contingent dancing in disbelief. But there was still a long hour of football to play. And while full-timers



Right: two terrific programmes from that 2018-19 season



Woking had had eight days to rest and prepare for the game, Stones had half a dozen walking wounded from the battle royale at Bath - including goalkeeper Jonathan North who almost had his head taken off by a brutal challenge from home striker Ryan Brunt.

Stones management spent the four days between that win and the game at Kingfield in a desperate search for a keeper - and play-off rules decreed that any specialist replacement could not be brought in from a higher level. Which left the yellow jersey filled by Mark Scott, the former Slough keeper who had broken his neck in a NL South game two years earlier and was finally back playing for Chertsey Town after a long lay-off.

Did Northy's absence affect Stones chances? Well, it certainly didn't help as Woking threw everyone forward in a titanic second half. Scott was buffeted and unable to get to the corner from which Diarra headed Woking's first goal, with 20 mins to play, and he had no chance when Max Kretzschmar (yep, now our own Max Kretzschmar) broke Stones hearts with an 86th minute leveller from close range. Max is now

contrite!

Woking had all the momentum and extra time would have meant only one winner. But Stones were denied the chance to extend the game three minutes into injury time when a high up-and-under was nodded on to a clearly-offside Jake Hyde, who lifted the ball over the slowly-advancing Scott and into the net.

The crowd went bananas. The official (shared) attendance was 2,027 but Kingfield can seat 2,500 and pretty much every seat looked full to me. And the claim that there were less than 1,000 on the terraces was just laughable. There were over 3,000 in the ground for the play-off final the following week as Welling were beaten 1-0 an promotion assured. But that's a minor gripe and cannot disguise the pride felt by the 700 or more Stones fans who trooped along to Kingfield that afternoon, underlining our claims to be the best-supported club at that level away from home... claims backed up by the phenomenal following at Havant the following (promotion) season.

The six subsequent National League meetings between the Stones and the Cards have yielded just one win - 4-2 on the last day of the BCD Covid season at Kingfield, two draws and three defeats. We've not beaten Woking at the Vale since that August evening in 2018 so let's change the record tonight!



Two views which both show Jake Hyde (circled, above left) to be offside as the ball is flicked into his path for the winning goal. Not that it rankles or anything!

ONE GOOD... ONE AMAZING!

Well, we've only played Oldham Athletic twice - both last season - but what a pair of classic games they were!

Tuesday August 16 2022, National League: Oldham Athletic 1 Wealdstone 2

ARGUABLY the most sensational result in Wealdstone FC history came last August when 152 Stones fans made the long midweek trip to Lancashire and were rewarded with a scoreline that reverberated around the National League. Only two years earlier we had recorded our first win over a full-time team for 21 years (the FA Cup replay defeat of Barrow) when Wrexham were beaten 4-3 at the Vale in the Covid behind-closed-doors season.

But now, not only were we defeating a full-time outfit, on merit, on their own ground, in front of a 69 crowd... but we were beating a club that had been in the Premier League 30 years earlier. It was Oldham's FIRST-EVER defeat as a non-League club... and after defeating Dorking and drawing with Torquay in their opening games, the home crowd were upbeat and anticipating a season in stark contrast to the League Two campaign.

How wrong they would be. With just four wins in the next 23 league and cup games the Latics found themselves in the bottom half, and in real danger of dropping through to the National League North as the likes of established clubs York City and Stockport have done in the past, and of course Scunthorpe, Yeovil and Torquay this season.

His early defeat to Stuart Maynard's Stones was a real wake-up call as the part-timers dominated possession, kept the ball for long periods and scored two first-half goals from classic near-post play. The home hordes were dumbstruck; the excitement away ecstatic as Rhys Browne and Tarryn Allarakhia stuck away the goals that made them forever heroes in blue (well, Brazil yellow to be completely accurate as we showed off a yellow/blue/white away kit for the first time).

Rhys Browne got across his man at the near post quite



Above and right: Jack Cook and Tarry Allarakhia celebrate the second goal. Right: Browne makes it 1-0

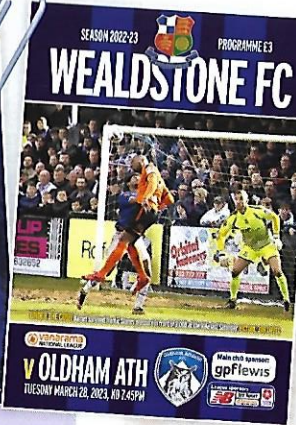
brilliantly to steer the ball past keeper Jason Leutwiler for 1-0, and then we were in dreamland as a wonderful 23-pass move opened up the Oldham left flank and Max Kretschmar's low cross was guided in by the sliding Allarakhia.

Oldham pulled one back in the second half as the Boundary Park crowd roared them on, Ben Tollitt's powerful 16-yarder striking the underside of the crossbar, striking keeper Sam Howes on the back and rebounding into the net for what was technically an own goal. It was less than Sam deserved on a night when his reflexes and sure handling denied the home side a way back into the game.

The excellent Oldham programme was full of harks back to the club's top-flight past which



Left: the Stones fans in ecstasy after Allarakhia leaves Latics on their knees. Above: The match progs last season



...and in March the Stones continued that unbeaten run against the Latics...

Tuesday March 28, 2023 National League: Wealdstone 2 Oldham 2

SPRING 2023 is a period that Stones fans will want to banish from memory. For after beating Altrincham,

Maidstone and Torquay in the space of seven days to go eighth in the table on March 11, we then plunged into a terrible spell of one point from the next 21!

And scoring just three goals! Remarkably, that single point (and two of the three goals) arrived against a resurgent Oldham at a damp and windy Vale in one of the most entertaining games of the season.

After that awful start to the campaign, the Latics were clambering up into mid-table and they would end up one place and one point above the Stones in 12th.

I was up in the commentary box that evening and just wondering aloud if the Latics' striker Joe Nuttall - sent off for a studs-up challenge on keeper Sam Howes after just 44 minutes when playing for Scunthorpe in their 3-1 defeat at the Vale a few months earlier - would have a more positive evening. He would!

On the 27-minute mark, Stones were unable to intercept Mark Shelton's pass and the powerful Nuttall breezed past Howes to slot in for 1-0.

It was a gloomy half-time chat, up in the gantry, but Olufela Olomolo changed the mood within three minutes of the restart, dancing past three tackles and firing past keeper Mathew Hudson. Stones were transformed and Corie Andrews blazed high and Olomolo was denied by the reflexes of Hudson... but he was unable to then stop our on-loan Derby midfielder Sonny-Blue Lo Everton as he swept home Micah Obiero's pass for 2-1 in front of the Bulla fans.

But Oldham weren't done yet, and their 150 travelling fans were leaping for joy in the Modu stand when Nuttall surged onto a clever through pass and Howes slid out to meet him. There was only one outcome as Nuttall flicked the ball wide and collided with the keeper: Penalty kick, and the big No.9 stepped up himself to coolly convert with 30 minutes remaining.

So no famous double for the Stones, but we are still unbeaten against the Lancashire outfit. Let Season II begin....



made the Stones' achievement even more memorable... especially a feature recalling the Latics' record in early-season midweek games.

It said: "The most memorable single-visit London guests on an August midweek evening were Chelsea, who arrived on August 21 1991 in our first match back in Division One after 68 years... and left on the back of a 3-0 defeat. Ian Marshall, Rick Holden and David Currie were the goal-scorers that memorable night in front of 14,997 fans. A month later Coventry City were the top-flight visitors, the Latics winning 2-1 and in our two Premier League seasons (1992-93 and 93-94) we chalked up three draws - with Crystal Palace in August 1992, 2-2 with Leeds Utd in September that year and 3-3 with Coventry in August 1993".

Thirty years later they were beaten 2-1 by Wealdstone. Sweet!

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Dene Field

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

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Mya Graham,
UCFB graduate, Assistant Producer at **talkSPORT**



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 ALTRINCHAM Saturday 16th September Vanarama National League	The JD Football Academy	
 WOKING Tuesday 26th September Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	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	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
 OXFORD CITY Tuesday 24th October Vanarama National League	Wealdstone FC Supporters Club	Sponsor 2 Available
 ROCHDALE Saturday 11th November Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available




 BARNET Saturday 25th November Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
 ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday 2nd December Vanarama National League	Sponsor 1 Available	Sponsor 2 Available
 HARTLEPOOL UNITED Saturday 23rd December Vanarama National League	In memory of Roy Couch	Sponsor 2 Available
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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	Wealdstone FC Supporters Club	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
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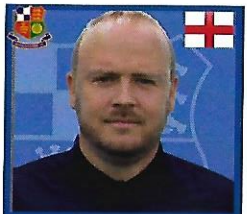
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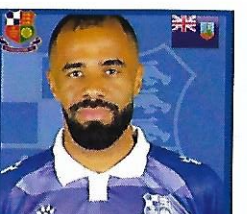
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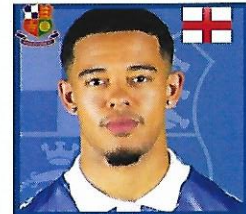
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Tarryn ALLARAKHIA
DAVID EDWARDS



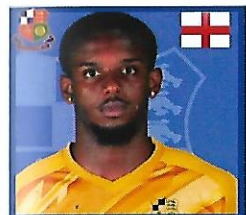
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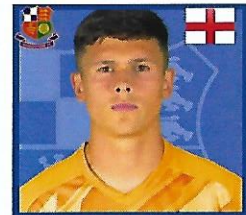
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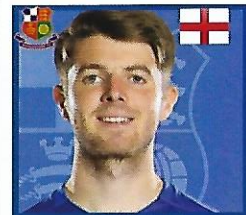
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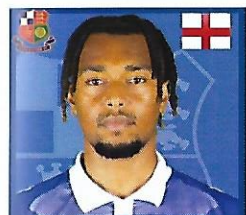
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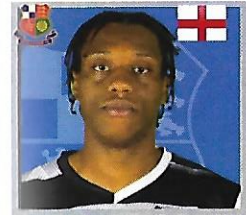
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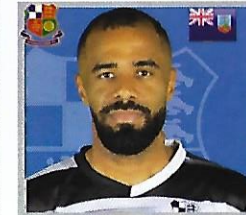
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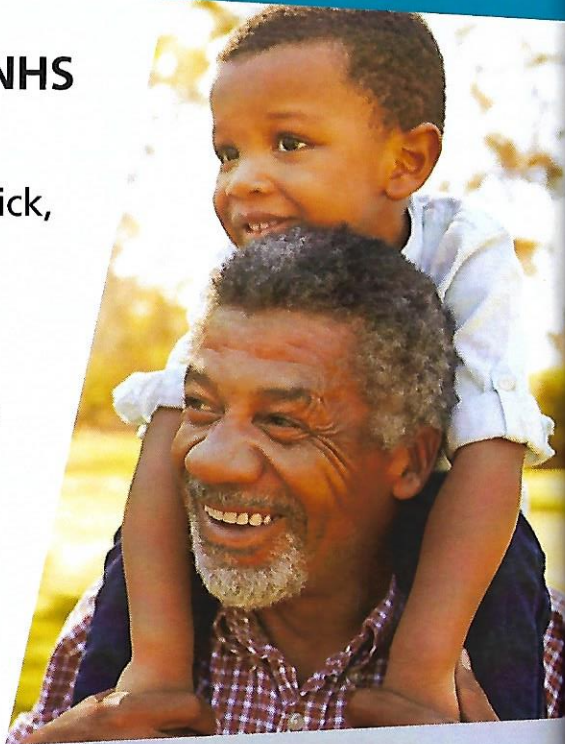
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Next up at The Vale:



Oldham Athletic

National League
Saturday
30 September
3:00pm



Boreham Wood

National League
Saturday
21 October
5:30pm



Oxford City

National League
Tuesday
24 October
7:45pm

For all Vanarama National League fixtures:

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

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLE AS AT SUNDAY 24/9/2023

	ALL					HOME					AWAY					RESULTS					
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A	GD	PTS	(H)	(A)		
1 Chesterfield	11	9	1	1	29	19	6	5	1	0	17	11	5	4	0	1	12	8	10	19	2-3
2 Solihull Moors	11	6	5	0	19	10	6	2	4	0	11	7	5	4	1	0	8	3	9	19	
3 Barnet	11	7	2	2	21	13	6	5	1	0	13	5	5	2	1	2	8	8	8	16	
4 Gateshead	11	5	4	2	27	13	6	3	2	1	15	8	5	2	2	1	12	5	14	15	
5 Bromley	11	5	4	2	16	11	5	3	1	1	10	5	6	2	3	1	6	6	5	13	1-1
6 Hartlepool United	11	6	1	4	22	21	5	4	0	1	10	6	6	2	1	3	12	15	1	12	1-2
7 Rochdale	11	5	3	3	18	13	5	2	1	2	8	6	6	3	2	1	10	7	5	12	
8 Woking	11	4	4	3	15	12	6	2	2	2	10	9	5	2	2	1	5	3	3	12	
9 Altrincham	11	3	6	2	21	18	6	2	3	1	13	8	5	1	3	1	8	10	3	12	
10 Halifax Town	11	3	5	3	10	10	5	1	3	1	4	3	6	2	2	2	6	7	0	11	
11 Aldershot Town	11	4	2	5	19	22	5	2	2	1	13	9	6	2	0	4	6	13	-3	11	1-3
12 Eastleigh	11	3	5	3	13	18	6	2	3	1	10	12	5	1	2	2	3	6	-5	10	0-0
13 Oldham Athletic	11	3	4	4	15	15	6	3	1	2	12	5	5	0	3	2	3	10	+0	10	
14 Ebbsfleet United	11	4	1	6	17	20	5	3	0	2	10	4	6	1	1	4	7	16	-3	10	2-1
15 Wealdstone	11	3	3	5	13	18	5	3	1	1	7	6	6	0	2	4	6	12	-5	10	-- --
16 Dorking Wanderers	11	3	3	5	12	17	6	2	2	2	8	8	5	1	1	3	4	9	-5	9	1-3
17 Oxford City	11	2	5	4	18	20	5	2	1	2	10	5	6	0	4	2	8	15	-2	7	
18 Boreham Wood	11	2	5	4	11	15	6	1	2	3	5	6	5	1	3	1	6	9	-4	7	
19 Dagenham & Redbridge	11	3	2	6	10	14	6	2	0	4	6	9	5	1	2	2	4	5	-4	7	0-2
20 York City	11	2	4	5	15	20	5	1	2	2	8	8	6	1	2	3	7	12	-5	7	2-1
21 Maidenhead United	11	2	4	5	7	15	5	1	3	1	3	3	6	1	1	4	4	12	-8	6	
22 Fylde	11	2	2	7	17	26	5	1	1	3	8	12	6	1	1	4	9	14	-9	5	3-2
23 Kidderminster Harriers	11	1	4	6	5	14	5	0	4	1	1	2	6	1	0	5	4	12	-9	4	
24 Southend United	11	5	1	5	18	14	6	4	0	2	13	6	5	1	1	3	5	8	4	3	

Follow Stones on the road:



Gateshead

National League
Tuesday
3rd October
7:45pm

Gateshead-FC.com



Kidderminster Harriers

National League
Saturday
7th October
3:00pm

Harriers.co.uk



Solihull Moors

National League
Saturday
28th October
3:00pm

SolihullMoorsFC.co.uk



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