

# WEALDSTONE



official matchday programme £3

## HOW THEY LINE-UP TODAY

**WEALDSTONE**  
ROYAL BLUE/WHITE/WHITE



**BARNET**  
AMBER/BLACK/BLACK

- G Dante-Astor BAPTISTE 1
- G Marcus DEWHURST 31
- Jack COOK © 2
- Charlie BARKER 3
- Ashley CHARLES 4
- Alex DYER 5
- Mason BARRETT 6
- Tarryn ALLARAKHIA 7
- Nathan FERGUSON 8
- Max KRETZSCHMAR 10
- Corie ANDREWS 11
- Micah OBIERO 14
- Luke DREHER \* 16
- Dominic HUTCHINSON \*\* 17
- Kyle SMITH 18
- Abdul ABDULMALIK 20
- Sam BOWEN 22
- Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23
- Sean ADARKWA 27
- Tahvon CAMPBELL 29
- Brandon MASON 32
- Joe CULLIS 36

- 1 Laurie WALKER G
- 13 Jordan GILLMORE G
- 2 Reece HALL-JOHNSON
- 3 Ben COKER
- 4 Danny COLLINGE
- 5 Marvin ARMSTRONG
- 6 Jerome OKIMO
- 7 Courtney SENIOR
- 8 Dale GORMAN
- 9 Nicke KABAMBA
- 10 Callum STEAD
- 11 Idris KANU
- 14 Harry PRITCHARD
- 16 Connor SMITH
- 17 Sam GRANVILLE
- 18 Anthony HARTIGAN
- 20 Connor STEVENS
- 21 Ben WYNTER
- 22 Alebola OLUWO
- 24 Dominic RAVAN
- 25 Sam BARRATT
- 30 Finley POTTER
- 33 Zak BRUNT
- 88 Gary HOOPER

\* On loan to Lewes  
\*\* On loan to Slough

### TODAY'S RESULT

**WEALDSTONE**   **BARNET**

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### NEXT HOME GAMES

**v Billericay T**  
(Isuzu FA Trophy  
Third Round)  
Saturday  
December 9,  
kick off 3pm  
**v Hartlepool**  
(National League)  
Saturday  
December 23,  
kick off 3pm

gpflewis

**INSIDE: Latest update on the Stones' new stadium site**



**Wealdstone v Barnet**  
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE  
SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2023, K0 3PM



THE JOY OF A LAST-MINUTE WINNER: Stones' skipper Jack Cook celebrates with vice-captain Alex Dyer after his injury-time goal had won the points against Rochdale here at the Vale a fortnight ago PICTURE: JON TAFFEL

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By Mark Hyde

## Written in Stone

### DAWNING OF A NEW ERA

Welcome back to Grosvenor Vale as we welcome our close neighbours Barnet this afternoon.

Obviously the talk of the town over the last week or so has been the clubs statement regarding outline plans for a new stadium just a few miles away at Hillingdon Circus.

The plans have been met with almost universal positivity and understandable caution given our recent past. I am sure the irony of this fixture carrying this message is not lost on long term supporters.

These are just the very first steps but huge thanks are due to both our Board, Hillingdon Council and other parties who have played a part in getting us to the start line.

Today's Programme reflects the impact of the

above news in not only comments from Martin Read in the World of Ball and Sudhir Rawal in Elmslie Ender but significantly in a further set of notes from our Board of Directors.

Enough of the future for now then and on with the

**The irony of  
this fixture  
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lost on long  
term  
supporters**

now. Our home form has been exceptional so far this season and we will need to be at our very best today against our high flying rivals to get a maximum return. I know you don't need me to encourage you to be extra vociferous this afternoon... Come on you Stones

#### FIXTURE UPDATE

Following last Monday's FA Trophy 3rd round draw, our next home game following today will be on the 9th of December when we host **Billericay Town** who are currently 4th in the Isthmian League Premier Division.

Mark

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# WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2023/2024

GROSVENOR VALE, RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX HA4 6JQ  
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01895 637487

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Company Secretary  
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Jason Scannell  
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## 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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Matchday Catering Dd's Diner  
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## MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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

## COMMERCIAL/ MARKETING

IT Consultant Neil Rands  
Commercial Emin Alibey,  
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  
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## BIGGEST STADIUM NEWS IN OVER 100 YEARS



On opposite page: The site of the prospective new stadium (ringed, bottom left) is just 2.7 miles away from Grosvenor Vale (circled top right). Above: the 17-acre site alongside Hillingdon station

TWO WEEKS ago, we announced the thrilling news that Hillingdon had allocated the former Master Brewer site in Hillingdon for a new stadium for the Stones. Here is the Board's update.....

### A new stadium and beyond

IT HAS BEEN an extraordinary couple of weeks for the football club as we announced the news that, following a year of negotiations between the club and London Borough of Hillingdon, land has been identified for a new home where we could build a stadium to enable us to pursue our ambition of playing in the English Football League (EFL).

The land, at Freezeland Way, Hillingdon, situated under three miles from Grosvenor Vale, has been redundant for a long time. It was identified as potentially suitable as it is ideally situated just a stones-throw from Hillingdon Underground Station, the A40 and away from core residential areas. This is

undoubtedly a major step forward as we look to safeguard the future of the club and support our ongoing growth.

Thank you to everybody who has been involved so far..... the list is long but we would like to make a special mention to those local political leaders for whom decisions to support such a major infrastructure project can have implications.

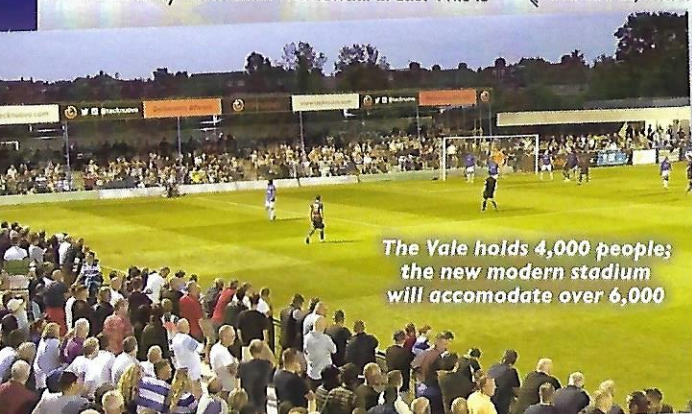
Cllr Jonathan Bianco, Hillingdon Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Properties, Highways and Transport has been on record to say: "The council has a proud history of strongly supporting the borough's local sports clubs, including Wealdstone FC, which we know has a loyal and passionate fanbase in Hillingdon.

"This is potentially a great win for all residents, not just for local sports fans, as the club's proposals have the potential to be a positive development that could bring many benefits to our borough.

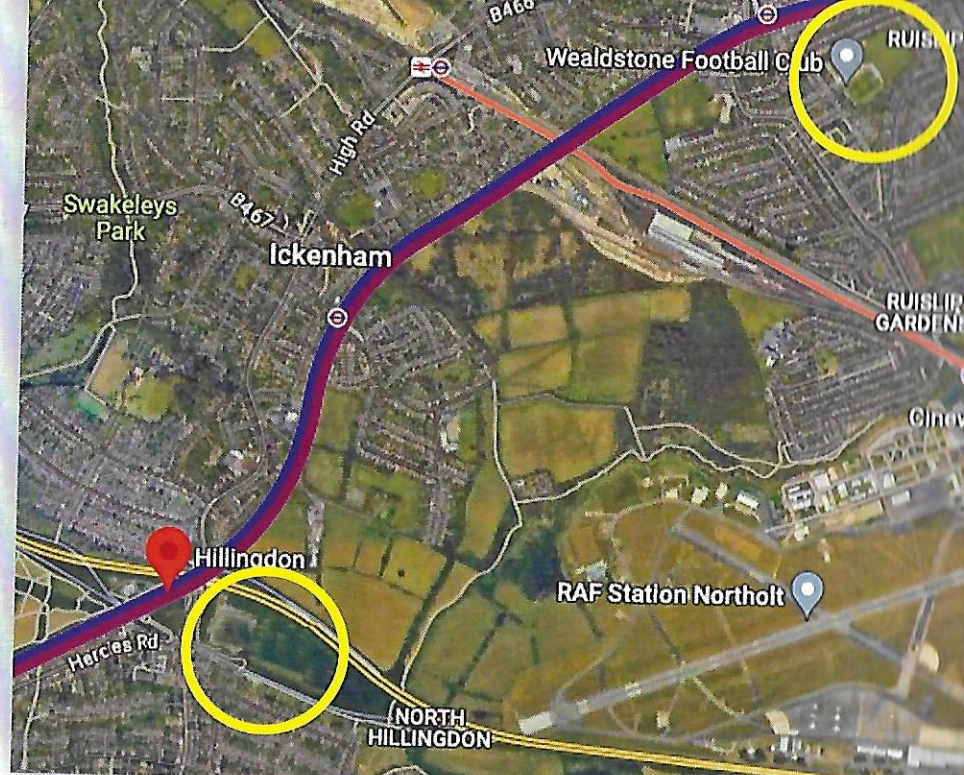
"It's a long road ahead but we look forward to hearing more detailed plans in due course, which will undoubtedly be an exciting prospect for Wealdstone fans."

As has been made clear, no plans have been finalised and any proposals for a new stadium

# New site in Hillingdon will enable ambitious Stones to push on for that place in the EFL



The Vale holds 4,000 people; the new modern stadium will accommodate over 6,000



would be subject to the club being able to find funding for the project, develop an acceptable plan and demonstrate a robust case that the project has significant benefits for the local community that goes beyond the core football function.

### The Timetable

WITH SIGNIFICANT political and local support, the project has real momentum and our current expectation is within 12 months we will have submitted planning permission. Whilst political support is currently favourable we are all aware a general election is less than 12 months away and at this stage political support across all parties has not been confirmed.

### Funding

THE INITIAL estimated cost of the new complete stadium build is circa £10m. The nature of new-build stadiums and the need to incorporate modern building regulations and the most recent disability act means that there is very little suitable at our existing stadium that could be transferred across. This would be a completely new build.

The funding for the new stadium is expected to come from a mixture of sources. We are in discussions with a number of partners around the construction of new residential units and commercial floorspace on the site. These modern and much-needed properties will benefit from the same

outstanding location and transport links associated with the new stadium.

This alone though will not be enough to fund the stadium and we are in discussion with various grant funding bodies and local sport clubs who could also benefit from using the facility. In addition, a number of external investors have expressed an interest in supporting the development and the board are actively progressing discussions.

### The future of Grosvenor Vale

RETAINING and developing Grosvenor Vale is part of our strategic vision. As was mentioned in Rory Fitzgerald's notes for the Ebbsfleet United game, we have started the process of designing the future for Grosvenor Vale and plans will be shared when we reach an appropriate point in the process.

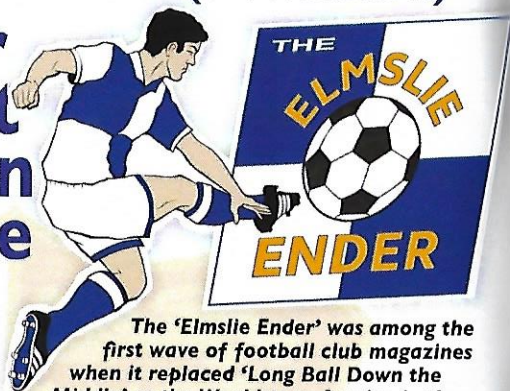
The Vale would be an ideal facility for our training needs when the club implements our vision to go full time. The 12-acre site has ample room for an additional (3rd) Academy base as well as improved facilities for Wealdstone Youth and the wider community.

If you have any questions or suggestions as either supporters or residents on the ongoing developments at the club, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please direct any correspondence to [media@wealdstonefc.com](mailto:media@wealdstonefc.com)

**The Board of Directors, Wealdstone FC**

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

# Mr Elmslie Ender gets frustrated at another defeat on the road... but the brilliant stadium news puts it all into context



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

**BY SUDHIR RAWAL**

**HALIFAX away: the standard non-win, as Wealdstone's travails on our travels continue. Now one away win in a year.**

The last victory on the road was secured back in early March at Torquay. I'm not sure exactly what goes wrong for the Stones when we set off on away journeys. Not all the trips are long ones into the north, but whether north, south or in the midlands, we come home without a win.

It would be unfair not to point out that this season we have played six of the top eight on the road and (bar Kidderminster) haven't played any of the bottom eight away from the Vale.

Equally, our good home record against the backdrop of playing the weaker teams here in HA4 rather than the stronger ones. Including the FA Cup, tie at Bromley we have lost nine away games on the spin... though the last seven have all been by a single goal.

Of the last three, at Kidderminster, Solihull and Halifax, all should have been goalless draws but in every game, we made a crucial error that led to the opposition scoring and hold out for the win. Take Halifax, we were attacking, there were claims for a

penalty (though the view on the clip I saw this morning, it didn't appear to be one); they clear, we miss two tackles, the ball breaks loose, the defender doesn't come across to close off space, and the shot from a narrowish angle flies into the net. Forget the penalty claim, the ball should have never got anywhere near our box. It should have been dealt with much sooner. For historians, our worst period on our travels was back in 1993, when we went a thirteen-month period without winning an away game.

I missed the Rochdale last minute win as I was away but the highlights showed it was a game between two teams playing a similar style. Those at the game were quite impressed by Dale, but equally to come back twice from behind including a 95th minute winner was equally impressive.

Rochdale social media was in meltdown post-match, with the usual clichés around being beaten by a team of plumbers and bakers, not forgetting the candlestick maker. When will the Belts learn that a history of being in the EFL does not guarantee success in the NL?

What was interesting to read was how they felt that we got the ball into the box better than they did, a point reiterated by our management team post-match as it was a tactic to expose a perceived

Rochdale weakness. Our home form keeps our head above the relegation zone, but with tougher games to come, we need to start winning on the road.

**The big news though to break since our last**



bove: Sean Adwarka's wonderful volley for 2-2 against Rochdale.

Below: the iconic Elmslie Stand at the Stones' former ground, Lower Mead in Harrow. Can this be replicated at our new home?



game here at the Vale- was of course the announcement Hillingdon Council have allocated 17 acres of land at the Master Brewer site opposite Hillingdon station to build and develop a new stadium for Wealdstone.

Whilst there are many hurdles still to cross, we may finally be getting a stadium to call our own, fit for modern-day football.

To be fair, it has been a poorly kept secret, as many people knew that this was a site that Hillingdon were interested in developing having lain empty for over two decades since the hotel closed.

Ironically it was to be developed by Tesco's, but this has never come to fruition. Wealdstone have six months, extendable for a further six months, to secure funding and to bring forward detailed plans. We have been here before of course.

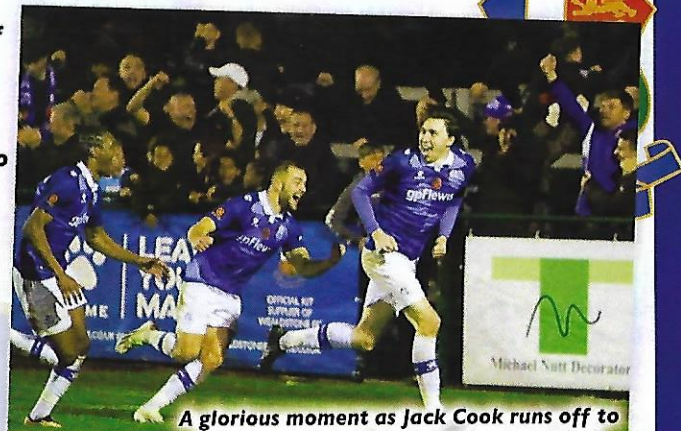
When Lower Mead was sold, the developer we were partnered with were supposed to build Wealdstone a new stadium, on a site that had not been found as yet, but after the mortgage fraud that saw the demise of the developer and then the ill-fated purchase of Vicarage Road, saw the club

totter on the brink of extinction. Harrow Council finally granted permission for Wealdstone to develop PEPF with Stadia Management into a stadium and associated facilities.

We know what happened next. Stadia Management overspent on the site, together with their other projects, and went into liquidation/receivership. Despite the football stadium being largely completed, the agreement with the council was that the stadium could only open once all of the other facilities were completed.

External consultants suggested that Staines Town, part of the same development project, should be completed but not PEPF - and the whole site was put back on the market by the council.

Despite Wealdstone partnering up with The London Playing Fields Association to complete the project, the council decided to go with another party and the rest is history. Now, I am glad that we aren't at PEPF, as I have said previously, as I don't believe the demographics of the area will support football to the level it needs to be successful. Harrow council, of whatever colour, have been unhelpful to Wealdstone at some time or another, so having a council like Hillingdon that is



A glorious moment as Jack Cook runs off to celebrate his injury-time winner against Rochdale pursued by Jaydn Mundle-Smith and Charlie Barker! Picture: Jon Taffel

fully onboard will be vital to seeing the project through to a successful conclusion. I am surmising but would think a new stadium is at least five years away and much of the funding of the complex will come from the build and sale of flats and other commercial units, in the same way as Woking's new ground development was supposed to be. There are a lot of moving parts which need to come together.

## The board have done brilliantly in getting thus far... Could we finally be in sight of the holy grail?

Is the site located in the ideal place? For me, probably not as it is around two and a half miles away from an area that we have made home and has welcomed us with open arms: a locality that is a football area above all.

But what were the alternatives? The Vale? The landlords do not seem willing to provide a long-term lease to allow it to be developed to

appropriate standards. Much has been said about West Ruislip Golf Course where the HS2 works are being undertaken, but was it ever a goer?

A new school is planned for there and could a football stadium be built to share the same space? The beauty of WRGC was that it was walking distance of the Vale while Breakspear Road, the home of Hillingdon Borough, has had a lot of chatter, but the owner wants way too much money and transport links are poor.

Brunel University has also attracted some attention, but this is way too far away with again poor transport links so this bring us back to the Master Brewer site. Right on the A40, Hillingdon station across the road, residential areas both north and south of the A40 ... in many ways it is ideal if away from HA4.

The board have done a brilliant job in getting us thus far. Could we finally be reaching the holy grail?

# THE STONES INTERVIEW BY TIM PARKS

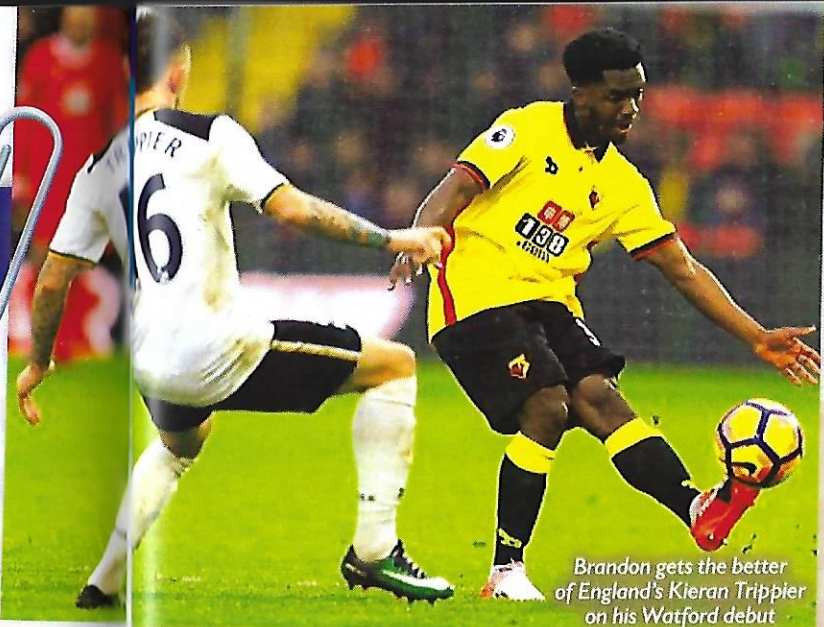
## ten minutes with...

# BRANDON MASON



Brandon was named in the side to face Millwall at the New Den in the next round of the FA Cup and he was upset to be mis-quoted in *The Athletic* article as saying that the players 'weren't up for it'.

"We lost 1-0 but I got the impression that the club were more focused on staying in the Prem above all else" he says. **With the club finally safe from relegation, Brandon made his final Watford Premier League appearance against mighty Manchester City at The**



Brandon gets the better of England's Kieran Trippier on his Watford debut

**FOR a long time (probably in the wake of the ill-fated groundshare at Vicarage Road in the 1990s) Wealdstone and Watford kept their distance. But there are so many crossovers between the Stones and the Horns these days it's almost incestuous!**

Just think of the former Watford juniors who helped us to promotion three years ago: Dennon Lewis, Ashley Charles, Connor Smith and Connor Stevens.

Then there has been Andy Eleftheriou and David Sesay, while in the current squad Dante Bapiste, Mason Barrett and Dom Hutchinson have all worn the yellow & black.

**Now you can add Brandon Mason to that long and impressive list.**

"I've been to watch a lot of games at Wealdstone in recent years as I've had so many ex-Watford friends with common links" says the 26-year-old left back who signed for the Stones a month ago. "And of course the gaffer (Stuart Maynard) has a Watford background and I've got him to thank for giving me a chance after being out of the game for a while".

Brandon's story is a familiar one. How many of our talented and youthful players have found the path to first team football blocked at their EFL clubs?

There was an excellent interview with Brandon in *The Athletic* (online and newspaper) on the occasion of his return, with Coventry City, to Vicarage

Road to face Watford in an EFL Cup 2nd round tie four years ago. Much was made of the fact that three years earlier he was the last Academy graduate to appear in a 1st XI game for the Hornets... and how the fans sang his name and 'he's one of our own'.

That game was Brandon's debut. He came off the bench against a rampant Tottenham team in the Premier League on New Year's Day 2017.

The *Athletic* article says: "The fans knew they were witnessing the introduction of a bona fide collector's item – a player who had come through Watford's academy. Since the Gino Pozzo era began in 2012 there had only been 12 in

seven years, with none in the last two. It's easy to see why Mason, who was number eight on that list, was met with such enthusiasm."

Brandon says: "That season I had been training with the first team every day and had the chance to try and impress the manager Walter Mazzarri with my dedication and intensity.

"The very first day he said he liked me a lot and that I've got something - and that he wanted to work with me and that I'd be a top player. He didn't speak much English but used an interpreter to get that message across."

The game with Spurs was the pinnacle of Brandon's career so far. "I was one of three academy players involved with the squad that week which narrowed it down - we knew we would all be on the bench, and

**'I've returned to live in the same Watford digs... it's like a second home and so good to be back'**



Brandon bobs and weaves against Rochdale. Pic: Jon Taffel

maybe even get a chance to play."

Brandon's chance came with 25 minutes to go, replacing the injured Holebas at left back and with his dad Sylvan's advice ringing in his ears ("Make that first tackle, complete that first pass") the 19-year-old did exactly that to spark the home crowd.

"I was up against Kieran Trippier and the thing I'll always remember was how Premier League players think so far in advance. I'd be shaping up to tackle him and he'd already be thinking of the next movement, the next pass. Spurs had Son Heung-min, Harry Kane and Dele All and I was just hoping Sonny wouldn't come across to my side. They were some of the best players in the world".

Spurs were 4-0 up after 46 minutes (Kane 2, Ali 2) so Watford won 1-0 while Brandon was on the pitch!

He kept his place for the next game thanks to Holebas' injury - an FA Cup 3rd round tie against Burton Albion. Watford won 2-0 and Brandon laid on the opening goal for Christian Kabasele with a low ball across the six-yard box (pictured above right).

He was fighting for a regular slot in Mazzarri's team but the pressure was all on the manager to avoid relegation from the Prem.

**Vicarage on May 20... a game I was at.**

Brandon's name seemed familiar as he performed heroically in a bizarre starting XI. Shorn of several defenders, Mazzarri's last line-up before facing the axe saw two full backs (including Brandon) and a midfielder named in the back three. He even had two goalkeepers on the bench, but even that wouldn't have saved Watford from a mauling.

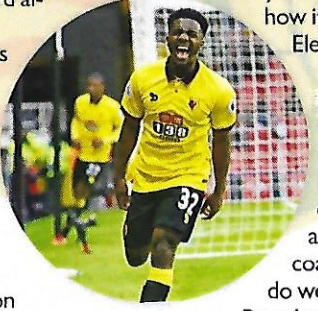
City were 5-0 up after an hour and that's how it finished, with ex-Stones Andrew Eleftheriou playing all the second half. "That was memorable!" says Brandon. "Andy is one of my best mates but he's stopped playing now - he's assistant manager at a club in Greece. He'd suffered lots of injuries and decided to go down a different route... he's very into coaching and tactics and I'm sure he'll do well".

Brandon knew his days at Watford were numbered once Mazzarri got the push. "It was horrible for me", he says, though new boss Marco Silva **almost** gave him a chance early the next season against Brighton when Holebas was injured

"I got told a day before the game I was starting. I called my family. I couldn't believe it!

"But I was at the hotel on the day of the game and the gaffer pulled me aside and said I wasn't

**Continued overpage >>>**





**From previous page**  
going to play."

The reason? Watford deduced that old foe Anthony Knockaert would be starting for Brighton on the right, and Silva had decided that he wanted a more experienced player on that side to deal with the threat. "Then, I got to the game and my kit wasn't laid out and I was told I wasn't in the squad at all. It was tough, especially with all my family there."

To compound his misery, he watched on as Miguel Britos (his replacement) scythed down Knockaert with a knee-high tackle that saw him sent off.

A loan move to Dundee United - not what Mason had desired - was next in store. And that heralded a 4-1 defeat by Falkirk as the youngster, nursing an injury, was given less than 24 hours to prepare for his debut by manager Csaba Laszlo.

Watford then decided not take up the option of an additional 12 months on his two-year contract, severing his nine-year association with the club.

His four Watford appearances may seem insignificant to some but they give him a record that stands to this day - the most games played by an academy graduate of the Pozzo era.

**So how about Coventry City? I asked him, 30 games in two years and a promotion to the Championship?**

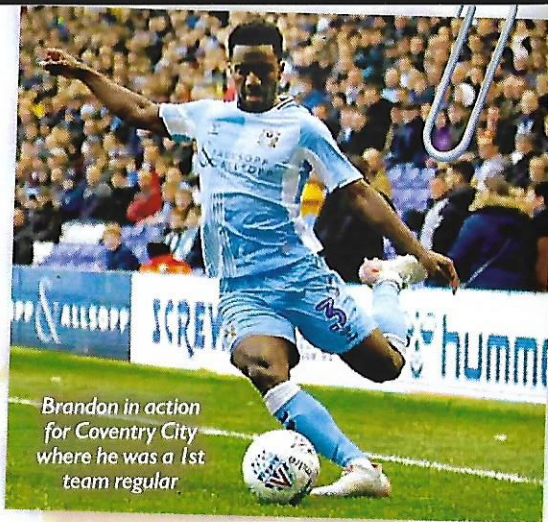
It was the 2019-2020 season, disrupted by Covid and the Sky Blues pulled off the same trick as the Stones did when winning the National League South title: Coventry won League One on points-per-game.

"Yes, we had a really good side that season" says Brandon. "The standout for me was Dom Hyam, who's now at Blackburn... he was the centre-back and the unsung hero really, so consistent every week.

"But then there was Jordy Hiwula, the winger/inside forward who'd roll inside and I'd overlap. We had a good understanding. Callum O'Hare and Zane Westbrook too... top players".

Brandon had a few assists that season but has yet to score even once in senior football. Although he very nearly tucked the ball away when Jack Cook popped up with his winning header in injury time against Rochdale at the Vale a fortnight ago....

"Yes! I could have got my foot on it but I had



Brandon in action for Coventry City where he was a 1st team regular

got beyond the defender and might have been off-side. But I was right in line with the ball and knew it was going in... I didn't want to steal his glory!"

**So what are the 26-year-old's remaining ambitions? He spent time at Crawley Town in League Two after the stint at Coventry... does he still think he can bounce back to the EFL?**

"My consideration now is simply to help Wealdstone climb the table" said Brandon. "I left Crawley with a year on my contract as I wanted to find a family club where I can enjoy my football ... and I think I've done that now.

"I was brought up in Acton and my mum Angela did all the ferrying around to my youth games. I owe her a lot. I moved away when I went to Coventry but now I'm back at the original digs I stayed in when I was at Watford: it's like a second home and I love it there!"

Brandon has also found a promising career outside the game having just dipped into property management - and very soon development - since the turn of the year.

"It's something I've always been interested in - my dad is retired now but he was a painter and decorator and is very keen to give advice. And to give advice about my performances when he comes to watch me play!"

Finally, I asked Brandon if he was aware of the importance of today's derby clash.

"Oh yes!" he said. "Connor Stevens is one of my best mates and of course he is a Barnet player now, having played for the Stones in the past. He says the rivalry is huge so I'll be doing my best to win it for Wealdstone. It'll be intense with a big crowd. I can't wait".

## TONY BOOTH WFCSC Update

### Please support our Christmas Fundraisers

*I am starting to write these programme notes after the last gasp winner against Rochdale and what a game that was. An emotional rollercoaster that saw us go behind twice before coming back to seal the 3 - 2 win with a great header from Jack Cook in stoppage time. The scenes in the Bulla after that winner were incredible and will definitely be up there as one of the standout moments of the Season. So much credit must go to Stuart, Matty and the Management Team for keeping us competitive at this level. With limited contact time and probably the smallest budget in the League it's no small task.*

It made for a fitting end to a week where the Board announced outline plans for a new 6,300 capacity stadium, with potential for further expansion. The decision by Hillingdon Borough Council to allocate the club an 18-acre site at Freezeland Way, adjacent to the former Master Brewer Hotel in Hillingdon, has sparked widespread excitement. Of course, there is a long road ahead with no doubt many obstacles in the way but what an opportunity this is. What a great job by Rory, Paul and the Board to reach this stage and I have every confidence they can move this forward, hopefully with plenty of consultation as to the plans and fundraising from the terraces.

Speaking of fundraising we have another great event coming up at the Vale on Saturday 2nd December with an 80s Xmas Disco (by which we really mean a supporter's party night!). Tickets are selling well and are just £5 in advance available over the Bar or online at

<https://www.wfsc.co.uk>.

I think this evening is going to sell out in advance so please get your tickets early.

Please also watch out for Xmas Raffle tickets which are just £5 a book and are available pre-match along with 50/50 tickets. We have some great prizes on offer for all the family from a Scalextric set, a Champagne Christmas Hamper to Family tickets to Harry Potter in Leavesden and a keg of beer. Tickets are also available online at the Megastore website,



<https://www.wfcmegastore.co.uk>. 50/50 and the Xmas Raffle are great fundraisers for the Club and we are always looking for more volunteers to sell tickets for either. If you can spare 30 minutes before a game to sell some tickets or take a few books of Raffle tickets to sell to family and friends, it would be really appreciated.

There has been a great response to the opening of the new Megastore and Adam has done a fantastic job sourcing an affordable range of merchandise. There really is something for everyone so please pay a visit for those stocking fillers and presents. Most items are also available online if you cannot make it down before Christmas. We have also now been able to open a second unit to sell all the old and varied programmes that were so popular in the old Megastore. This is located just past the Dd's truck opposite the new Megastore. There are some real gems to be found so please pay a visit. A big thank you to David Edwards for volunteering to look after this unit before each game.

Finally, on to today's game and a tough game against a high-flying Barnet side. I am looking forward to a great game in front of what might be a new record crowd and hopefully another Stuart and Matty masterclass to see us take the points.

Up the Stones.

Tony

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MAX KRETZSCHMAR

## Taking it to the



*Our striker/midfielder Max Kretzschmar on his dream of playing at Wembley in the FA Trophy final, and today's big local clash...*

**Hello Stones' fans and welcome back to the Vale! It's derby day!**

The 3rd Round FA Trophy draw decreed that we shall play Billericay at home in a fortnight's time. A rare and therefore welcome home draw against a team we played in pre season (a 0-0 draw).

I know Billericay manager Gary McCann very well and I know that will be a tough game ...but we should take huge confidence from our home form this season. And it's a competition where the final is played at Wembley!

One of my ultimate goals is to step foot on that hallowed turf (I have been on the bench with Wycombe in the 2014-15 League Two promotion final but didn't come on at Wembley).

I've felt the pain of losing that game to Southend on penalties, and also falling at the final hurdle in the FA Trophy semi final (a one-off game 0-1 at Hereford) with Woking at the end of the behind-closed doors season three years ago. So the Billericay clash is a game I'm really looking forward to.

Our last two games read as a familiar pattern. A fantastic 3-2 home win against former EFL members Rochdale followed by another away defeat in Halifax. Cookie once again scored a last minute winner which gave York City away vibes from last year. He continues to etch himself into Wealdstone history and folklore with such moments.

However, it was the least he could do that day as he was late to the game and our pre match meeting!

As for today, the local derby is the first match a football fan looks for when those fixtures are released pre-

**'The best feeling in the world is when you've earned those three points in a game with nothing left in the tank... it's what we'll miss when we retire**



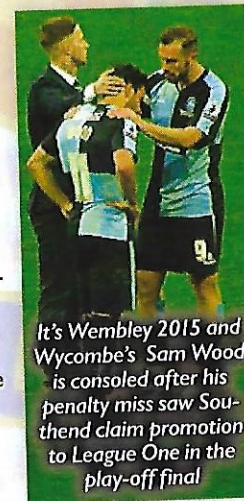
*You cannot be serious! Max is about to go all John McEnroe as he sees yellow in the 3-2 win over Rochdale. Picture: Jon Taffel*

season. The emotions that come with these types of fixtures are unparalleled especially for fans.

For players, it's a fine balance. You must harness the emotions of the fans and use that as fuel to produce a passionate and energetic performance. This should be evident in our press, our work rate and our willingness to win our individual duels all over the pitch. And your voices from the side can elevate those things, trust me. But in contrast, one must stay level headed and calm.

Our core principles in possession will never change, and our best games this season have come when we've been calm, controlled and considered in possession. Dean Brennan is someone everyone is familiar with here at the Vale having been promoted with the Stones from the NL South as winners. He's recruited another strong squad at Barnet this season so we're all aware it will be a tough game. However, I've been in professional/semi professional football for 14 years and I can tell you the best feeling in the world is having earned those three points after 90 minutes with absolutely nothing left in the tank. It's the feeling we all crave week to week and the feeling we will desperately miss when we retire.

**Be loud and proud today! Come on you Stones!**



*It's Wembley 2015 and Wycombe's Sam Wood is consoled after his penalty miss saw Southend claim promotion to League One in the play-off final*

**Follow Max's vlog [youtube.com/@maxtalksfootball](https://www.youtube.com/@maxtalksfootball)**



You need to know about... Barnet FC

# The opposition in focus

Football in Barnet can be traced back to the formation of the original net FC in 1888, with the bplying their trade in the London League until folding in 1912. Local rivals Avenue FC subsequently took over their me and their Queens Road ground before merging in 1912 with near-neighbours Barnet ton, a works team playing in a distinctive black and amber

In September 1907, they established a ground at Underhill where the current club continued to play for more than a century.

ton reverted to the name Barnet FC after the First World War. The club enjoyed moderate success, finishing outside the top half of the league in the 1920s before recording a Herts Senior Cup triumph over St Albans City during the same period. The emergence of local boy Lester Finch at outside-left coincided with consecutive Athenian League championships in 1931 and 1932, the first of which saw Barnet win all but four of their 26 matches. Finch went on to become the greatest export player to feature for the Bees, with an England wartime international cap alongside the likes of Eddie Hapgood, Sam Bartram and Stan Little testament to his ability.

Although the Second World War curtailed competition to regional Cups, of which Barnet won more than their fair share, the resumption of the League in 1945-46 brought three major trophies to Underhill in consecutive years; two more League championships in 1947 and 1948 and a 3-2 win over amateur giants Bishop Cleeve at Stamford Bridge in the 1946 FA Amateur Cup final. The Bees went on to lose to Tonstone in the final of the same competition a few years later. Barnet were also featured in the club's first ever 'live' televised game in October 1966 against Wealdstone and became the first English club to play Hong Kong opposition, beating the League winners 5-3 the following season.

Success eluded the Bees throughout most of the following decade, although another Athenian



League title in 1959 dulled the pain of Wembley defeat against Crook Town in the Amateur Cup final the same season. Two further consecutive League successes in 1964 and 1965, plus a narrow FA Cup third-round defeat to Preston North End, were the catalyst for the Bees to turn professional, which they did when joining the Southern League Division One in time for the 1965-66 season. A 10-1 rout of Hinckley Athletic at Underhill in

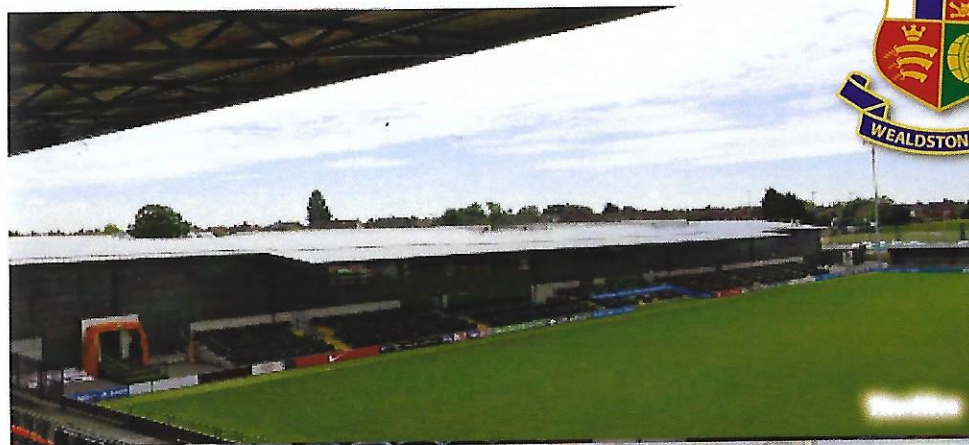
Barnet's first game whetted the appetite for a third successive league title, and elevation to the Southern League Premier Division at the first attempt.

Another Wembley final in 1972, a 3-0 defeat to Stafford Rangers in the newly-created FA Trophy, and an epic FA Cup battle with Queen's Park Rangers the

following season proved to be the highlight of a quiet decade that saw the likes of Bob McNab, Terry Mancini and the mercurial Jimmy Greaves appear for the Bees. Barnet became founder members of the Alliance Premier League (later re-named the Conference) in 1979-80 but, despite new manager Barry Fry's attempts to rebuild the team, the Bees flirted with relegation almost constantly during the early part of the 1980s.

Saved from receivership, the club persuaded Fry to return to the Bees from rivals Maidstone for what proved to be a tumultuous 10 years at Underhill. After finishing runners-up three out of the previous four seasons, Fry finally led Barnet to the Football League after a dramatic 4-2 win at Fisher Athletic in their final game of the season. The Bees' maiden Football League season began with an extraordinary 7-4 home defeat to Crewe Alexandra and ended in play-off heartache, losing to Blackpool. Promotion to the third tier was achieved the following season but, following off-field turmoil in which the club escaped expulsion and lost virtually the whole playing staff, new manager Gary Phillips was unable to prevent the inevitable relegation back to the lower level.

Under Ray Clemence and John Still, the Bees quietly established themselves in the fourth tier,



twice making the play-offs, before being relegated to the Conference in May 2001. It took Barnet four years to reclaim their Football League place as they secured the title at in Paul Fairclough's first full season as manager.

The 2008-09 season started poorly for the club and it wasn't until late September that the team recorded its first victory in any competition. Manager Fairclough subsequently brought forward his announcement to step aside and become a club director. Ian Hendon subsequently took charge of the first team and successfully steered the club away from relegation.

In 2009-10 League status was only guaranteed on the last day of the season under reinstated caretaker boss Fairclough.

In the close season of 2012 the entire backroom staff were released as the club entered a new era with the appointment of Fairclough as director of football and Mark Robson assuming the role of head coach, with the emphasis very much on youth. Many of the previous season's players were also released; including skipper Mark Hughes who had scored the winning goal at Burton.

In mid-October, with the team yet to record a victory in any competition, the world-famous Dutch international Edgar Davids was named as joint head coach alongside Robson. This appointment stunned the football fraternity and attracted worldwide media coverage for the club.

Davids became a fixture in the team and soon took sole charge of team matters. Despite many impressive results, including an away win at eventual champions Gillingham, defeat to

Northampton on the final day of the season sentenced the Bees to the Conference on goal difference; the poor start to the campaign proving an impossible handicap to overcome.

There remained a mood of optimism at the club, boosted by the fact that Davids would again be at the helm for the Bees for the 2013-14 season but the club narrowly missed out on the Conference play-offs, and Davids was replaced in the latter stages of the season. Ulrich Landvreugd and Dick Schreuder temporarily steadied the ship, before Martin Allen

returned for his fourth spell as manager and led Barnet to the Football Conference title the following season.

A bright start to the 2017 season including a narrow defeat at Premier League Brighton in the Carabao Cup and a 4-1 win away to Swindon saw the

Bees get off to a good start, but a poor run of form saw Mark McGhee replace Rossi Eames as manager in November.

McGhee was charged with appointing his successor and hired Graham Westley in January but with only 2 wins on the board in 11 games, Martin Allen was brought in for a fifth time. The Bees would win 5 of their last 7 matches but this wouldn't be enough to keep them up, relegation to the National League was confirmed.

Barnet finished the 2020/21 season second bottom and three places below Wealdstone and last season in 18th and two places below Wealdstone

Despite finishing 5th last season and securing a home tie in the Play offs the Bees fell at the first hurdle in the Quarter Finals 2-1 to Boreham Wood.

## THE BEES

HOME GROUND THE HIVE

CAPACITY - 6,500

MANAGER - DEAN BRENNAN

2022/23 - 5TH NATIONAL LEAGUE

## LAST SEASON

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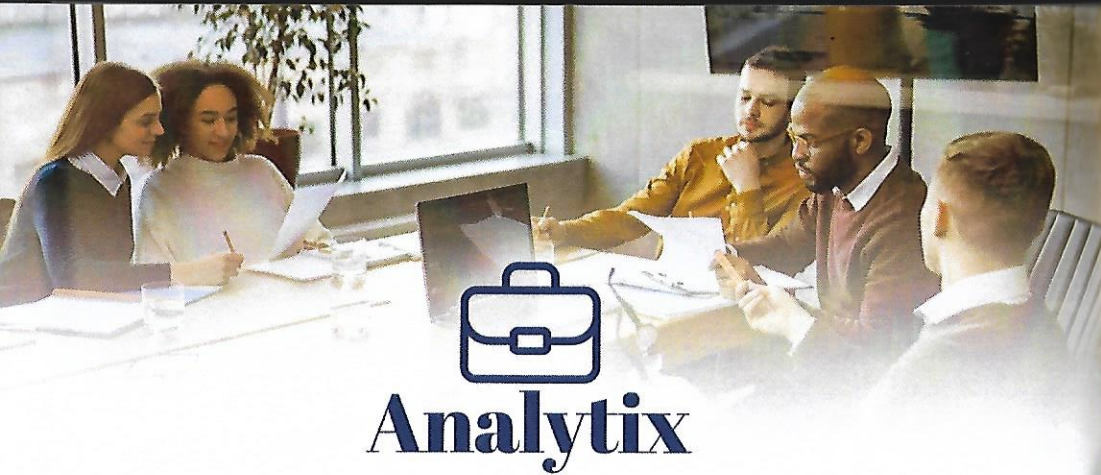
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# OPPOSITION IN FOCUS BARNET FC

## **LAURIE WALKER - GOALKEEPER**

Laurie signed for The Bees in June 2022 after departing League Two Stevenage. The 6'5" goalkeeper came through the MK Dons' academy, where he earned a move to Cambridge United in 2009. Notable spells at Kettering Town, Hemel Hempstead Town, Oxford City and Brackley Town followed for the 32-year-old before returning back to Stadium MK in 2019.

## **REECE HALL-JOHNSON - DEFENCE**

Summer signing, Hall-Johnson started his career at Norwich City Academy. The right-back was part of the FA Youth Cup winning team in 2013 that beat Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. He would make a professional debut against Crawley Town in the League Cup. After a few non-league moves, Hall-Johnson would join Grimsby Town in League Two. He would make 40 EFL appearances for the Mariners before leaving for Northampton. After one season with Northampton, Hall-Johnson joined Wyrexham in the National League. During his three years in Wales he would win the National League and finish runner-up in the FA Trophy.

## **BEN COKER - DEFENCE**

Coker joined The Bees in the summer from fellow National League side Solihull Moors. The left-back started his career at Colchester United where he made 41 League One appearances in three seasons for The U's. After a loan spell with Histon, Coker joined Essex rivals Southend United in League Two. Coker would play over 200 games for The Shrimpers helping his side win the League Two play-offs in 2015 as well as making the PFA League Two team of the year. A move to Stevenage followed where he would make 74 appearances in League Two.

## **DANNY COLLINGE - DEFENCE**

Defender Danny started his career in Germany with VfB Stuttgart. Collinge would feature 15 times for their second team before moving to Colchester United in 2019. Loans followed at Maldon & Tiptree and AFC Sudbury before joining Dover Athletic. Collinge would play 38 National League games for the Whites. Collinge joined Barnet in June 2022 after the expiration of his contract with Dover Athletic.

## **MARVIN ARMSTRONG - MIDFIELD**

Marvin signed a permanent contract with Barnet in August 2022, from Worthing FC

## **JEROME OKIMO - DEFENCE**

Okimo joined Barnet in June 2022, following his departure from Wealdstone. This deal saw the 21-year-old become a player/coach for The Bees, using his title-winning experience to help lead the club in the right direction. Okimo offers a vast

amount of experience to the team, following an 18-year career in the senior game, racking up over 380 appearances for clubs such as Stevenage, Chalfont St Peter, and Braintree Town. Barnet's No. 6 also featured in the 2019/20 National League South Team of the year because of his consistently excellent performances for title winning Wealdstone, featuring in 32 of the 33 league games.

## **7. COURTNEY SENIOR - MIDFIELD**

The 25-year-old winger has made over 120 English Football League appearances with Wycombe Wanderers, Colchester United and AFC Wimbledon. Senior started his career at Brentford, making his way through the academy before signing his first pro-contract in 2015.

## **8. DALE GORMAN (C) - MIDFIELD**

Dale started his career at Stevenage. The midfielder went on to play over 60 times for the Hertfordshire based side before joining Leyton Orient in 2018. Gorman won the National league in his first season at Brisbane Road and gained valuable Football League experience the following year with The O's and Newport County. During his career so far, Gorman has also made appearances for Northern Ireland at U17, U19 and U21 level.

## **9. NICKE KABAMBA - FORWARD**

Nicke joined on a permanent basis following his departure from Northampton Town. Kabamba stared out at Hayes & Yeading and joined Uxbridge in 2011 where he spent two seasons. In 2015, Kabamba signed for Hampton & Richmond Borough. Stints at Portsmouth, Colchester United, Aldershot Town and Havant & Waterlooville followed before Kabamba signed for Hartlepool United in 2019. Kabamba joined Scottish Premier League club Kilmarnock in 2020 which preceded a move to Northampton Town.

## **10. CALLUM STEAD - FORWARD**

Callum joined the Club in the summer from Brackley Town. Prior to Brackley, Stead played for Kettering, Hitchin Town and South Shields

## **11. IDRIS KANU - FORWARD**

Kanu signed for The Bees in 2022 from Peterborough United. Kanu started his career in the West Ham United academy before joining Aldershot Town in 2016, he then signed for Peterborough United. Loans at Port Vale, Boreham Wood and Northampton followed.

## **13. JORDAN GILLMORE - GOALKEEPER**

Up until the end of last season, Gillmore rose up through the academy system at Millwall as part of the Under 18 and Under 21 sides at the New Den. He also spent time in Chelsea's Academy setup earlier in his career, and joined up with the Lions in 2019, signing his first professional deal in the summer of

2021.

**14. HARRY PRITCHARD - MIDFIELD**  
Pritchard, joins The Bees following his release from Eastleigh. Harry began his career at Flackwell Heath, followed by Maidenhead United where he spent almost seven years. He then joined Blackpool in League One then to Bradford City in 2019.

## **17. SAM GRANVILLE - MIDFIELD**

Sam Granville came through the ranks of our Academy before signing his first professional contract in the summer of 2021. Granville has had a loan spells at Bedford Town and Beaconsfield Town.

## **18. ANTHONY HARTIGAN - MIDFIELD**

The 23-year-old came through the youth ranks of AFC Wimbledon before breaking into the first team in 2017 at the age of 17. Over the next five seasons, Anthony would make 152 appearances for The Dons. Hartigan went on loan to Newport County where he would spend the second half of the 2020-21 season. Hartigan would then move to Mansfield Town in 2022 and make 23 appearances for The Stags. He now joins The Bees on a season-long loan

## **20. CONNOR STEVENS - DEFENCE**

Before joining The Bees this season, Stevens last played for Boreham Wood. Prior to joining The Wood, Stevens played at Wealdstone where he won the National League South title in 2020. The 25-year-old started his career at Watford FC academy. While with The Hornets, Stevens had a loan spell with Oxford City.

## **21. BEN WYNTER - DEFENCE**

Ben signed a permanent deal at The Hive in July 2022. The versatile right-back spent the previous four seasons at Torquay United before joining Barnet following the expiry of his contract. After coming through the Crystal Palace youth system, Wynter enjoyed a brief spell at Bromley before signing permanently for Torquay in 2018. During his first season at Plainmoor, Wynter won the National League South. Ben continued to improve well with the goals helped the side to the National League Play-off final during the 2020/21 campaign. Wynter scored nine goals and made 23 assists in over 150 appearances for the Devon-based side and was also called up to the England C squad last season.

## **22. ADEBOLA OLUWO - DEFENCE**

The 23-year-old signed from National League South side Chelmsford City this summer having spent three seasons in Essex. The 6'3" Central Defender made over 80 appearances for The Clarets before making the move to The Hive.

## **23. SAM BEARD - DEFENCE**

Sam signed on a permanent contract from Dorking Wanderers at the beginning of July 2021 after

undisclosed compensation was agreed between the two clubs.

He initially joined on loan from Dorking Wanderers in April 2021. Before joining the Bees, Beard played a critical role in Dorking Wanderers' rise through the divisions, winning two promotions in his five seasons with the Wanderers.

## **24. DOMINIC REVAN - DEFENCE**

Birmingham-born Dominic Revan signed on a free transfer after his contract with Aston Villa expired in June 2022. The 21-year-old has already played in the National League when he was on loan to Weymouth. Revan also had a successful loan spell at Northampton FC during 2020/21

## **25. SAM BARRATT - MIDFIELD**

Sam played over 170 games for Maidenhead United across two spells with club. Barratt started his career at Bracknell Town before moving to Maidenhead in 2014. After just a single season in the National League, Barratt made the jump to League One with Southend United. Barratt suffered a serious cruciate ligament injury shortly after signing for The Shrimpers and returned to Maidenhead.

## **26. GARY HOOPER - FORWARD**

Hooper started his career at Grays Athletic before joining fellow Essex side Southend United. Over the next four seasons, Hooper would make 112 appearances across all three levels of the Football League for Southend United, Leyton Orient, Hereford United and Scunthorpe United before moving to the Scottish Premier League to play for Celtic where he would win two Scottish Premier League titles and two Scottish Cups. A move to Premier League side Norwich City followed. Hooper then moved to Championship side Sheffield Wednesday. After four seasons in Sheffield, Hooper would play his football abroad. He would play in the A-League, Indian Super League, Cypriot First Division and UAE Second Division before joining Barnet FC.

## **30. FINLAY POTTER - DEFENCE**

The 19-year-old centre-back rejoined The Bees on loan for the season after a successful loan from Sheffield United in our last campaign.

## **32. JORDAN CROPPER - DEFENCE**

## **33. ZAK BRUNT - MIDFIELD**

Zak joined The Bees this summer from Premier League side Sheffield United for an undisclosed fee. Brunt spent last season on loan at National League side Boreham Wood. Whilst with Sheffield United, Brunt also had loan spells with Southend United and Notts County.

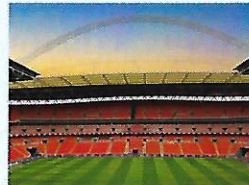




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# BARNET FC

## Greatest Seasons

# CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

**Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS selects ten post-war Barnet 'Classic Campaigns'.**

### 1958/59

Barnet reached the Amateur Cup final for the third time in 1958/59. The Bees lost 4-0 at Maidstone in their opening Athenian League match but stormed to the top of the table with nine straight wins, then trounced Walton & Hersham 7-1 and scored five times against Hendon, Finchley, Redhill and Southall as they pipped Wealdstone to the championship on goal average. Barnet defeated Sheppey United 4-0, Willington 8-4, Wycombe Wanderers 1-0, Bishop Auckland 2-1 and Walthamstow Avenue 2-0 in the Amateur Cup before losing 3-2 to Crook Town in the Wembley final.

### 1965/66

Les Eason was leading marksman as Barnet stormed to the Southern League First Division title in 1965/66. The Bees had turned professional that summer after winning the Athenian League title in the two previous seasons and kicked off with an incredible 10-1 victory over Hinckley Athletic. They dropped just one point in their opening ten games and remained in pole position with a 5-2 win at Gravesend & Northfleet, then a 7-1 victory at Sittingbourne. Dennis Roach was ever-present, while other key players included John Barr, Roger Figg and Barrie King. Barnet won the title by five points, finishing with a 5-0 win over Hillingdon.

### 1971/72

Tommy Coleman guided Barnet to the FA Trophy final in 1971/72. Notable newcomers included Dickie Plume and Colin Flatt, with Barnet winning their first three Southern League games. They slammed five goals past Margate and Gravesend, finishing in fourth place after trouncing Cambridge City 8-3. Barnet lifted the Southern League Cup, beating Hereford on penalties after a 2-2 draw in the final replay,



1958/59 Amateur Cup Final

but lost 3-0 to Stafford Rangers in the FA Trophy final at Wembley: Jack McClelland, Jimmy Lye, Peter Jenkins, Gerry Ward, Ben Embery, Barrie King, Colin Powell, Gordon Ferry, Colin Flatt, Les Eason, Dickie Plume.

### 1976/77

John Fairbrother scored 27 goals as Barnet swept to the Southern League First Division (South) title in 1976/77. The Bees were early pace-setters after winning six of their opening nine matches and beat holders Wimbledon 3-2 in the Southern League Cup second round. John Fairbrother netted four times in a 6-1 demolition of Poole Town and Barnet completed the double over nearest challengers Hastings United. They finished the season with a thrilling 20 match unbeaten run, winning the championship by a seven point margin. Billy Meadows' side included former First Division defenders Bob McNab and Marvin Hinton.

### 1990/91

Barry Fry managed Barnet to the Conference title in 1990/91. The Bees had finished runners-up in three of the previous four seasons and hammered Slough Town 6-1 in their opening home match. They maintained their title challenge with seven successive wins and beat Northampton Town en route to the FA Cup third round. Andy Clarke was sold to Wimbledon in February but Barnet went top after winning 2-0 at home to Runcorn and pipped Colchester United to the title with five wins in their last six matches. Gary Bull was leading marksman with 30 goals, while other stars included Gary Phillips, Gary Poole and Roger Willis.

### 1991/92

Barnet qualified for the Fourth Division play-offs under Barry Fry in 1991/92. Gary Bull and Mark Carter scored two goals apiece as Barnet began life in the Football



1965/66 title winning squad

League with an amazing 7-4 defeat at home to Crewe Alexandra, then lost 8-4 to Brentford in the Rumbelows Cup. The Bees triumphed 6-0 at Lincoln City and soared to the top of the table by mid-November after just two defeats in 15 matches. They beat Scarborough 5-1 and remained in the promotion race for the remainder of the season, finishing in seventh position. Barnet defeated Blackpool 1-0 in the play-off semi-final first-leg but lost 2-0 in the second-leg.

### 1992/93

Gary Bull and Mark Carter netted 28 goals between them as Barnet won promotion in 1992/93. The most notable newcomer was former England international Brian Stein and the Bees were early pace-setters with just one defeat in their opening 11 games. They went top of the Third Division with a 2-0 victory at home to Rochdale in mid-December, then gained a thrilling 5-4 win over Torquay United during a 12 match unbeaten run. Colourful chairman Stan Flashman resigned and Barry Fry left to manage Southend United at the end of March, but the Bees gained four straight wins and finished third under player-boss Gary Phillips.

### 1999/00

John Still guided Barnet to the Third Division play-offs in 1999-2000. The Bees kicked off with a 2-0 victory at Chester and trounced York City 6-3, storming to the top of the table with six straight wins. They remained in pole position with a six match unbeaten run and won 5-3 at home to Lincoln in late January, but then slipped down the table after five successive defeats. Ken Charlery was leading

marksman and other notable players included Mark Arber, Darren Currie, Greg Heald, Lee Harrison and Scott McGleish as Barnet finished in sixth position. The Bees lost 5-1 to Peterborough United in the play-off semi-finals.

### 2004/05

Giuliano Grazioli scored 29 goals as Barnet stormed to the Conference title in 2004/05. Richard Graham, Dwane Lee and Dean Sinclair made their debuts as Paul Fairclough's side began with a 3-1 victory over Forest Green Rovers, racing to the top of the table after winning seven of their first eight games. Ian Hendon netted twice as Barnet trounced Dagenham & Redbridge 5-0, then they won 3-1 at rivals Carlisle United. The Bees extended their lead at the top with five successive three-goal wins and hammered Farnborough 7-1. They clinched the title with a 3-1 victory at home to Halifax and finished 12 points clear.

### 2014/15

John Akinde scored 31 goals as Barnet won the Conference title with 92 points in 2014/15. Martin Allen's side began with a 5-0 win at Chester and won all but one of their opening eight games. The Bees remained in pole position with Akinde grabbing hat-tricks as they beat Altrincham 5-0, Telford United 3-1 and Aldershot 3-1. Briefly displaced by Bristol Rovers in early March, Barnet regained the leadership with a 2-1 victory at Eastleigh, then demolished Welling United 5-0 at The Hive. They ended the season with a nine-match unbeaten run and clinched the Conference title with a 2-0 victory at home to Gateshead,

Martin Read's original take on this beautiful game

# the world of ball

## Grounds for optimism on land lost to its local traffic



**Land on the Master Brewer site in Hillingdon - earmarked, in part, for a new Stones stadium - has a history as a meeting place for car-borne business travellers. Could it really be transformed to become a 21st century sporting hub?**

So it is that the first Stones programme to carry news of a potentially era-defining new stadium project is the one for the Barnet game. Hem hem. But anyway, what should we make of this fantastic opportunity? Well, first and foremost, fulsome praise must go to all those who've played a part in getting the club to this stage. And that includes our local Hillingdon councillors, whose attitude towards us is clearly more foresighted than those of other boroughs we could mention.

Secondly, any initial excitement at the announcement should be tempered by the more sober assessment of all that lies between now and the club potentially moving in. This, after all, is a site for which a multitude of previous attempts at development have faltered. Here's a quick site history.

### Brew are ya?

The Master Brewer hotel was built in 1969 on the north-eastern side of a road then still rather romantically described as the 'Western Avenue'. You'll see it marked on 1970s maps as a 'motel', and indeed its reputation was one of hosting itinerant business types so they could seal deals over a glass of Dubonnet or pint of Watney's Red Barrel (Southern Comfort and a pint of Foster's in the

eighties, perhaps).

The adjacent road junction is called Hillingdon Circus because, until the latter half of the twentieth century, it was one bloody great big roundabout like many of the Western Avenue's other early junctions. It even had a pub on the northeastern corner of the site, 'The Golden Lion', which reminds me that, two junctions to the east, we still refer to Northolt's 'Target Roundabout' after the pub on that junction's corner. The Target, now a sodding McDonald's, once played a big part in the sixties and seventies British music culture scene, hosting such up-and-coming stars as Kate Bush's KT Band as well as The Ruts, who played their first gig there.

But I digress. Back at Hillingdon Circus, the sheer volume of traffic running north-south as well as east-west saw it converted to a giant crossroads in the 1960s, operating in this form into the 1990s.

From 1988 to 1991 I worked in an office at the beginning of Hercies Road, opposite the Master Brewer. My recollections are of the shops and indeed whole area being entirely subservient to this incredibly busy junction. Cars were all powerful.

Back then, pedestrians had to use a thin metal foot bridge to cross from north to south over the A40, from Hillingdon station to the shopping parade. I remember it during rush hour, an absolute cacophony as the traffic roared off west when the lights went green. Walking over the incessant stream of vehicles below was like being on a noisy theme park ride.

As traffic volumes continued to grow, a better solution was required. Accordingly, this severely congested junction was materially improved with the building of a bypass running north and parallel to the original road.

Although much-needed, this rerouting of A40 traffic led to the creation of an isolated parcel of land now orphaned by the bypass. Here the Master Brewer sat, somewhat marooned, while its critical business clientele either forgot it was there or



opted instead to speed past it and meet in town. The motel closed its doors for good in the late 1990s and was demolished in 2012, the plot laying vacant ever since.

### The road is long

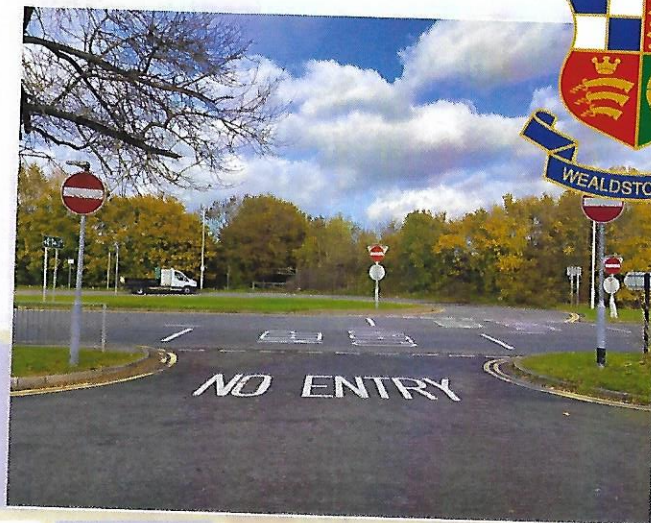
In pursuit of the very latest in programme-only content I got on my bike and cycled over to assess the site anew. Here are my personal observations.

For nearly three decades the site has seen off various proposals for hotels, houses and, most notably yet another Tesco's. (Barnet and Tesco in a piece about a new Stones ground project? Crikey.) To these eyes, previous attempts at developing the site seem to have shown little regard for anyone arriving by means other than a car. That surely needs addressing for the combined residential / sporting use case envisaged.

A still permanently busy, multi-lane road runs over the crest of the hill down to Hillingdon Circus. Navigating it is unavoidable for supporters arriving from the station. New infrastructure - a bridge perhaps, or maybe a tunnel under the road from the station to the site? - may be needed. Residential development for the Master Builder component of the site talks of pedestrianised areas internally; these will surely need connecting up externally too.

Otherwise, or as well as, there's the site entrance on Freezeland way itself. Should arriving fans need to walk around the residential development to get in, they'll encounter the former Western Avenue road which is now the junction 'off' ramp for those travelling west into Hillingdon. Visitors may need better protection from cars passing the proposed site entrance at high speed as they downshift from the national limit on their approach to Hillingdon Circus. Hopefully some or all of this requirement has already been factored in to works connected with the residential development.

Note too that there was a 'long and tortuous process' to get planning permission for the residential development, one that took many years and which followed many other false dawns.



**Left and above: The entrance to Freezeland Way - simultaneously the most exciting and boring pictures ever published in these pages.**

### Our dual carriageway awaits

So sure, there are challenges ahead - but the scale of the opportunity trumps them all. No doubt the move would represent another shift in the club's character and further broaden its area of influence, but it would also have an air of permanence to it. Also, the site is larger and more usable than most, as the club's plans suggest. (Imagine, too, its potential for those coach loads of Wembley-bound supporters we currently host here at The Vale - a scheme that could be expanded in scope with the extra capacity of this development.)

So yes, we've been burnt before. But unlike other grand projects in our relatively recent past, there is a real difference with this one. Because the prize here is not just huge for the club, it's huge for the borough as well. This is a generational

opportunity to transform the expectations of a site that has, for more than half a century, been associated solely with high volume road traffic use. There is a powerful environmental and thus political dimension here. A sporting development could help change the character of the area, associating it with healthy activity while also breathing new life into its North Hillingdon location.

Developers often talk of sustaining or introducing 'vitality' to a location, and this project can deliver that in spades, not just for the local town centre but for its residents and a new generation of Stones supporters. Exciting times could lie ahead.

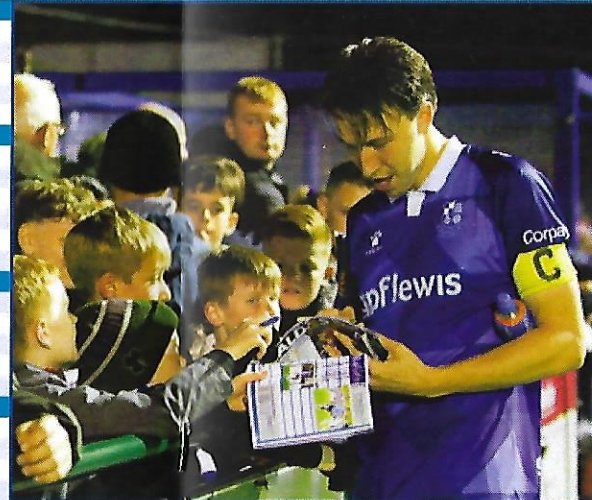
**"This is a generational opportunity to transform expectations of the site"**



# FIRST TEAM RESULTS 2023/2024

### KEY

- P FILLED-IN = STARTED THE MATCH
- P OUTLINED = CAME ON AS SUBSTITUTE
- P GREEN = FIRST SUBSTITUTION
- P PINK = SECOND SUBSTITUTION
- P BROWN = THIRD SUBSTITUTION



Month	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers
<b>AUGUST</b>						
5 YORK CITY	VNL	2-1	1,805	680	6	Kretzchmar (P), Mundie-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	
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>						
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	1-0	1,310	250	13	Bowen
30 OLDHAM ATHLETIC	VNL	1-1	1,640	350	15	Bowen
<b>OCTOBER</b>						
3 Gateshead	VNL	1-2	896	54	16	Allarakhia
7 Kidderminster Harriers	VNL	0-1	2,546	190	15	
14 Bromley	FAC40	2-3	1,933	195	15	Kretzchmar, Ferguson
21 BOREHAM WOOD	VNL	1-1	1,505	73	16	Allarakhia
24 OXFORD CITY	VNL	3-1	1,029	35	15	Smith, Bowen (2)
28 Solihull Moors	VNL	0-1	1,281	108	16	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>						
11 ROCHE DALE	VNL	3-2	1,470	220	12	Cook (2), Adarkwa
18 FC Halifax Town	VNL	0-1	2,119	92	16	
25 BARNET	VNL					
<b>DECEMBER</b>						
2 Southend United	VNL					
9 BILLERICAY TOWN	FAT30					
16 Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL					
23 HARTLEPOOL UNITED	VNL					
26 Maldenhead United	VNL					
<b>JANUARY</b>						
1 MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VNL					
9 ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL					
6 Ebbfleet United	VNL					
20 Rochdale	VNL					
23 SOUTHEND UNITED	VNL					
27 FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL					
<b>FEBRUARY</b>						
3 Barnet	VNL					
10 Altrincham	VNL					
17 GATESHEAD	VNL					
20 DORKING WANDERERS	VNL					
24 Woking	VNL					
<b>MARCH</b>						
2 York City	VNL					
9 EASTLEIGH	VNL					
12 BROMLEY	VNL					
16 AFC Fylde	VNL					
23 KIDDERMINSTER	VNL					
29 Oxford City	VNL					
<b>APRIL</b>						
1 SOLIHULL MOORS	VNL					
6 Boreham Wood	VNL					
13 CHESTERFIELD	VNL					
20 Oldham Athletic	VNL					
<b>TO BE ARRANGED</b>						

Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	
Dante BAPTISTE																																	
Jack COOK																																	
Charlie BARKER																																	
Ashley CHARLES																																	
Alex DYER																																	
Mason BARRETT																																	
Tarryn ALLARAKHIA																																	
Nathan FERGUSON																																	
Olufela OLOMOLA																																	
Max KRETZSCHMAR																																	
Corie ANDREWS																																	
Jed WARD																																	
Micah OBIERO																																	
Luke DREHER																																	
Dom HUTCHINSON																																	
Kyle SMITH																																	
Charles CLAYDEN																																	
Abdul ABDULMALIK																																	
Sam BOWEN																																	
Jaydn MUNDEL-SMITH																																	
Sean ADARKWA																																	
Tarvon CAMPBELL																																	
Marcus DEWHURST																																	
Brandon MASON																																	
Eric NEGRARU																																	
Joseph CULLIS																																	

## PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

Date	Opposition	Comp	Result	Scorers
8th July	Bracknell Town	N	W 3-2	Campbell, Allarakhia, Mundie-Smith
10th July	Milton Keynes Dons	H	W 2-1	Dyer, MacGregor
15th July	Farnborough	A	W 4-2	Olomola, Campbell, Trialist C 2s
18th July	Billericay Town	H	D 0-0	
22nd July	Charlton Athletic	H	L 0-5	
25th July	Wycombe Wanderers	H	L 0-1	
29th July	AFC Wimbledon	H	L 0-2	

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- Match-day programmes for all in your party.
- A dedicated table for you and your guests throughout your stay.
- Naming and presenting the 'Man of the Match' award
- A souvenir memento of your day.

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. If you or your organisation are interested in sponsoring a match, please email **Nick Symmons (nicksymmons@btinternet.com)** to discuss.

 <b>MK DONS</b> Tuesday 11th July Pre-Season Friendly	<b>Ian Williams &amp; Steve Grimwood</b>
 <b>CHARLTON ATHLETIC</b> Saturday 22nd July Pre-Season Friendly	<b>Steve Grimwood — Osmo UK</b>
 <b>YORK CITY</b> Saturday 5th August Vanarama National League	<b>Ruislip Windows &amp; Doors</b>
 <b>AFC FYLDE</b> Saturday 19th August Vanarama National League	<b>Harrow Windows</b>
 <b>DAGENHAM &amp; REDBRIDGE</b> Monday 28th August Vanarama National League	<b>Danny Kindell – NBM Technology</b>
 <b>EBBSFLEET UNITED</b> Saturday 9th September Vanarama National League	<b>Rolfe-East</b> <b>The Bugler Group</b>
 <b>ALTRINCHAM</b> Saturday 16th September Vanarama National League	<b>Ruislip Windows &amp; Doors</b>
 <b>WOKING</b> Tuesday 26th September Vanarama National League	<b>Rolfe East</b>
 <b>OLDHAM ATHLETIC</b> Saturday 30th September Vanarama National League	<b>OSMO UK</b>
 <b>BOREHAM WOOD</b> Saturday 21st October Vanarama National League	<b>Barry Eynon in memory of John O'Connor</b>
 <b>OXFORD CITY</b> Tuesday 24th October Vanarama National League	<b>The Bugler Group</b>



Please note that we can accommodate multiple match sponsors and tailor the experience to whatever your requirements are. (EG we can cater for as many as 10, 20 or 30 people in your group.)



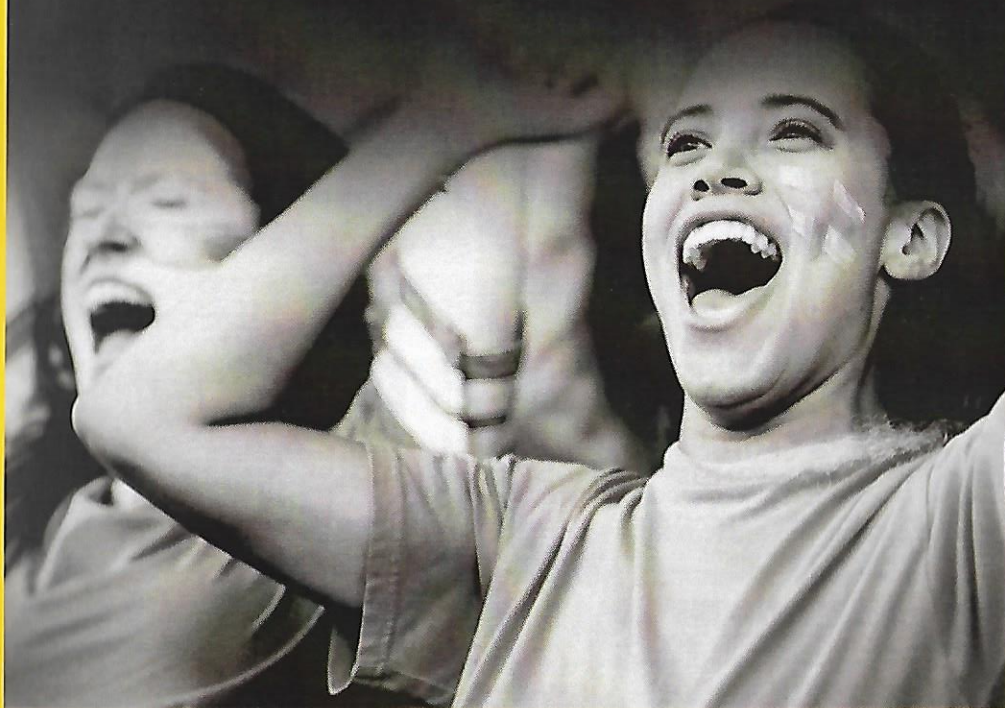
 <b>ROCHDALE</b> Saturday 11th November Vanarama National League	<b>Clear Insurance Management Ltd</b>	<b>Rolfe-East</b>
 <b>BARNET</b> Saturday 25th November Vanarama National League	<b>Ruislip Windows &amp; Doors</b>	<b>Rolfe-East</b>
 <b>BILLERICAY TOWN</b> Saturday 9th December FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>ALDERSHOT TOWN</b> Tuesday 9th January Vanarama National League	<b>Michael Nutt</b>	<b>The Ambassadors</b>
 <b>HARTLEPOOL UNITED</b> Saturday 23rd December Vanarama National League	<b>Harrow Windows</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>MAIDENHEAD UNITED</b> Monday 1st January Vanarama National League	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>SOUTHEND UNITED</b> Tuesday 23rd January Vanarama National League	<b>Rolfe-East</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>FC HALIFAX TOWN</b> Saturday 27th January Vanarama National League	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>GATESHEAD</b> Saturday 17th February Vanarama National League	<b>Rolfe-East</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>DORKING WANDERERS</b> Tuesday 20th February Vanarama National League	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>EASTLEIGH</b> Saturday 9th March Vanarama National League	<b>Harrow Windows</b>	<b>O'Nick Ltd</b> <b>Friends &amp; Family of Tony Short</b>
 <b>BROMLEY</b> Tuesday 12th March Vanarama National League	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>KIDDERMINSTER HARR.</b> Saturday 23rd March Vanarama National League	<b>Rolfe-East</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>SOLIHULL MOORS</b> Monday 1st April Vanarama National League	<b>Keith Davies</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>CHESTERFIELD</b> Monday 1st April Vanarama National League	<b>(Reserved)</b>	



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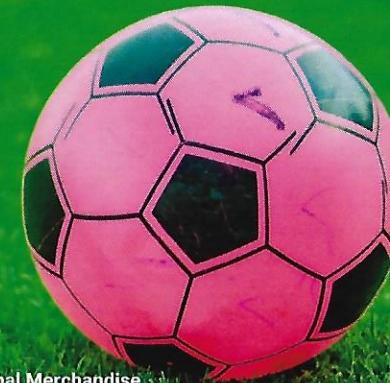
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# APPEARANCES



# 2023/2024

	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
Julmalk, Abdul	6	3				1									6	4		6	4		
arkwa, Sean	5	10	3												5	10	3	5	10	3	
arakhta, Tarryn	11	6	3	1											12	6	3	64	12	12	
rows, Corle	2	8													2	8		15	12	3	
ker, Charlie	19			1											20			52	2		
rott, Mason	3	3		1											4	3		23	10		
ven, Sam	16	1	5	1											17	1	5	17	1	5	
mpbell, Tahvon	15	1	5	1											16	1	5	16	1	5	
ries, Ashley	13	1		1											14	1		112	22	2	
nyden, Charles *	13	2													13	2		36	5	4	
ck, Jack	19		2												19		2	105	2	10	
hurst, Marcus	1														1			1			
r, Alex	10	3													10	3		206	40	34	
guson, Nathan	11	5	1		1	1									11	6	2	61	15	9	
chlnson, Dominic																		20	8	1	
tschmar, Max	7	5	1	1	1										8	5	2	33	11	8	
on, Brandon	2	2		1											2	3		2	3		
regor, Giovanni *																		13	3		
iddle-Smith, Jaydn	20		1	1											21		1	58	14	4	
ero, Micah	14	4		1											15	4		43	10	8	
mola, Olufela *	4	4													4	4		36	14	10	
th, Kyle	10	1	2	1											11	1	2	11	1	2	
d, Jed *	19			1											20			20			



with the stones academy by Dale Welch

## The under-23s blow Coventry City youngsters away again as two-goal Jimmy Bamgbose steps up in absence of hotshot Bartollo

**It started off as another good week for the Stones' academy sides...**

On Monday November 13 the under-23s travelled up to the Midlands for the first of three group games in the National Premier Youth League Cup. Facing Coventry City's international academy side, Brook House College at Harborough Town FC, the Stones ran out 6-1 winners with goals from Jimmy Bamgbose 2, Mikale Tsegay, Mohsen Mohamed, Shane Johnson and Blesk Ekpenyong.

We had beaten Brook House 4-0 at Brunel University in a Premier South League clash a

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
North Leigh FC U23	4	4	0	0	20	6	14	12
AFC Rushden & Diamonds U23 Scholars	4	4	0	0	15	3	12	12
Wealdstone FC U23	5	3	0	2	27	14	13	9
Chippenhams Town FC U23	4	2	0	2	6	7	-1	6
Brooke House Coventry City Int U23s	5	1	1	3	3	17	-14	4
Kings Lynn Town FC U23	2	1	0	1	3	1	2	3
Melton Town FES U23s	3	1	0	2	7	10	-3	3
Kempston Rovers Academy U23	4	1	0	3	9	20	-11	3
Hartley Wintney U23	5	0	1	4	6	18	-12	1

month earlier so this was a notable double! Especially as top scorer Jaiden Bartollo was away on international duty for Gibraltar's under-21s against Holland. He came on as a late substitute against the highly-ranked Dutch youngsters in a game in which Gibraltar were only edged out 1-0.



The under-23s' Premier League Cup is played on a countrywide basis (Premier South clubs mixed in with their Premier North counterparts) so the Stones' group will see a fair amount of miles covered. We are home to Macclesfield next on December 4 (1.30pm kick off) while Mansfield Town

also await... and also in our group are South Shields from the far North East.

Last Monday, however, the under-23s had a 4-2 league setback away at AFC Rushden & Diamonds Scholars. Rushden have won all four games in the Premier South League (as have North Leigh who were the only other team to have beaten the Stones under23s this season - see table above).

The under-19s National Youth League team had no game last week but the Tactic League under-19s teams continued their winning ways with a 5-0 win on Wednesday against Watford FC's Samuel Ryder college... and then a 4-1 win on Friday against Pro direct Watford.

Brooke House Coventry City Int U23s

FT  
1 6



Wealdstone FC U23

**Substitutes**  
 45 Alexander Costa Fisher  
 90 Alex Gicheru  
 60 Maximilian Salinas-Eiseman

**Lineup**  
 Al Eisraaq Ali Bin Al Meiri  
 Connor Bernhard  
 Boris Galabov  
 Coen Hughes  
 Jake Malone  
 Chatchadech Nawatari  
 45 Nicolaj Lunoe Rohde  
 60 Lucca Sen  
 Krishiv Shah  
 Martin Tsvetkov  
 cababucal ndante

**Lineup**  
 Jimmy Emmanuel Bamgbose 10:25  
 Pompeyo Castillo  
 Sakthim Chemjong  
 Benjamin Cook 45  
 Blesk Ndirreke Ekpenyong 35  
 Saba Gagua  
 Mohsen Mohamed 35 45  
 Romero Smart-Tull 45  
 Tyreeq White  
 shane johnson  
 mikiale tsegay 10

**Substitutes**  
 Ezra Aaron 45  
 Malachi Bailey 45  
 Casey Yusuf-Phillips  
 suraj gurung 45

Pictured top of page: Defeat at Rushden & Diamonds has seen Stones slip to third place in the National Youth League Premier South table. Left: all the details from the National Youth League Cup win at Brook House

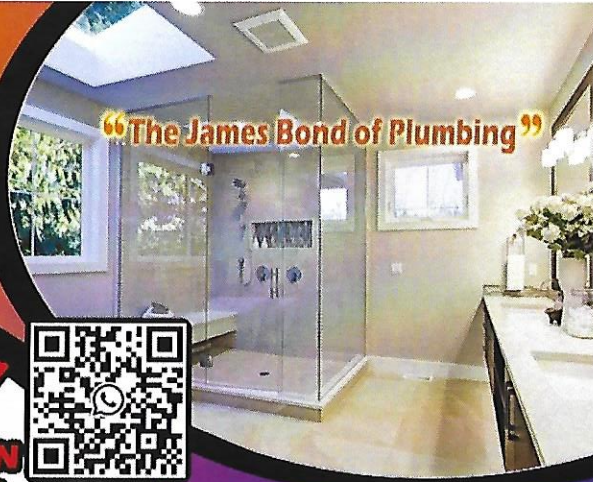


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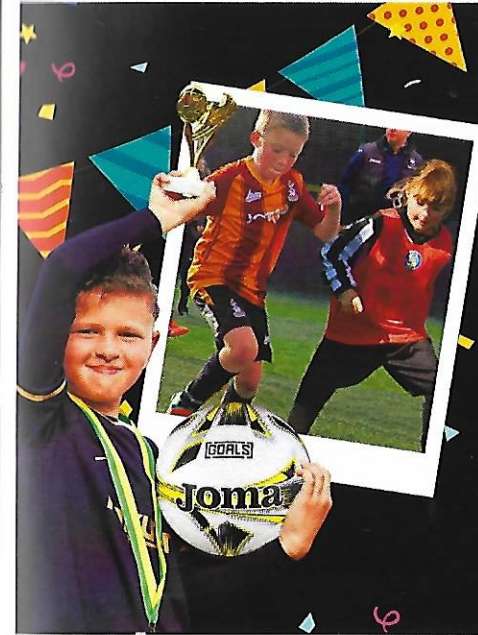
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**BARNET, WE'VE MET YOU BEFORE**  **BY TIM PARKS**

## Christmas 1982... Enfield beaten 1-0, Barnet beaten 6-0 and life as a Stone was never better

Monday December 27th, 1982, Alliance Premier League: Wealdstone 6 Barnet 0  
WHAT A TIME to be a Wealdstone fan! Newly promoted and riding high at the top of the APL, devastating football with the Cordice brothers and Mark Graves running riot... and this crushing

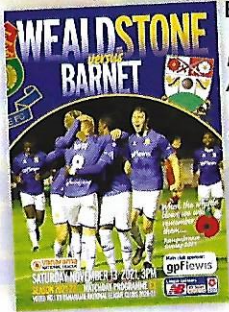
defeat of Barry Fry's side came four days before Allen Batsford took his boys to table-toppers Enfield and won 1-0!

We look back in wonderment at those days and recall how mid-table teams like Barnet were left reeling by the fast, incisive attacks that saw FIVE second half goals rip past Bees' keeper Gary Lewin. The whole season hinged, in my eyes, at the savage foul on Neil Cordice by Maidstone United's Thompson in the crunch Easter clash - we won 3-0 but the loss of Neil saw Stones weakened in midfield with a small squad, and we ended up third behind champions Enfield and Maidstone. Barnet finished back in 15th.

## ...while three successive NL defeats of Dean Brennan's side was amazing!

Easter Monday, April 5 2021, Vanarama National League: Wealdstone 5 Barnet 1

BEATING Chesterfield and Wrexham in our first season back in the NL was fantastic, but the Easter win over our old rivals Barnet at Grosvenor Vale was probably the fans' highlight of the season... even if they could only watch it on the live stream. The first game at The Hive finished goalless, but I was lucky enough to be commentating at the Vale alongside our left-back legend Lee Chappell - and we were in dreamland as the goals flew in. Skipper Jerome Okimo (now with the Bees of course) leaped unchallenged for 1-0; Dennon Lewis saw his shot deflected in for 2-0 and although Courtney Baker-Richardson soon made it 2-1 the Barnet striker was then sent off on the hour mark for an off-the-ball incident. The Stones were rampant and sub Craig Fasanmade scored with his first touch before Jacob Mendy's penalty made it 4-1 and we were pinching ourselves as the unstoppable Lewis fired in for 5-1.



Saturday November 13 2021, Vanarama National League: Wealdstone 1 Barnet 0

THE FOLLOWING season, with crowds back in the grounds made beating the Bees a much taller order but we completed a remarkable double... 2,662 in the Vale to see a 77th minute breakaway goal from Rhys Browne win the points.

Saturday February 12, 2022, Vanarama National League: Barnet 1 Wealdstone 3  
A DAUNTING first meeting at The Hive (with all that it meant, historically) couldn't have turned out better for Stones' mighty travelling support outsinning the muted 2,248 home crowd (including 848 in the away end). The excellent Medy Elito was involved in the first two goals, Nathan Ferguson banging in from 15 yards and Josh Umerah turning in a Tavares cross for 2-0.

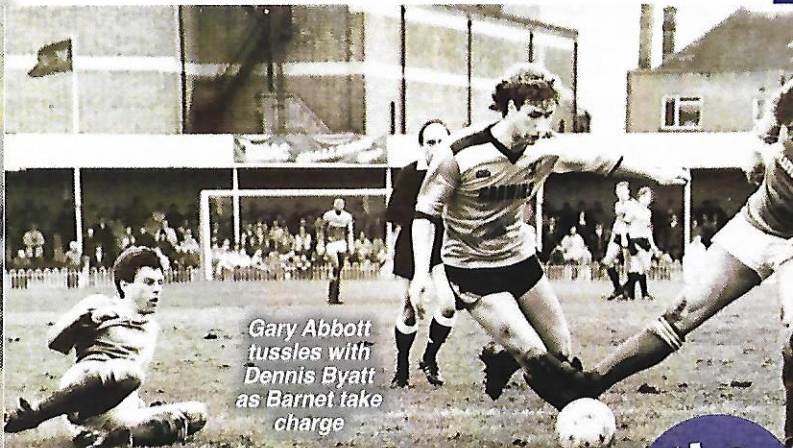
Richards-Everson pulled a goal back but Jaydn Mundle-Smith's first goal for the club - from a gloriously difficult angle - sealed the deal on 52 minutes.



It's Boxing Day 1982 and Mark Graves celebrates his second goal in the 6-0 mauling of the Bees at Lower Mead with Alan Gordice

the best

## ...and then the flip side, as the high-flying Bees wallop doomed Stones



Gary Abbott tussles with Dennis Byatt as Barnet take charge

the worst

## Sad Wealdstone are hit for six

Wealdstone 0 Barnet 6

IF evidence was required as to why high flying Barnet are Barclays League bound while Wealdstone are making similarly rapid progress in the opposite direction, there was ample on view at Lower Mead on Saturday.

Wealdstone's biggest crowd of the season (1556) saw the champions elect Barnet hand out a footballing lesson to Tony Jennings hapless outfit and at the same time hammer another nail in Stones' relegation coffin.

Even the introduction of two more new players - Wealdstone have now used 39 in Conference fixtures this season - did nothing to halt the slide. Danny Bailey and Greg Zacharia, both signed from Kingsbury, made promising debuts but Wealdstone now need more than mere maybes if they are to survive the drop.

They opened brightly enough with the effervescent Tony Lynch a constant threat but although Tom English and Samson Olaley both had good efforts clawed away by keeper Lomas, they were unable to make any breakthrough. And somewhat inevitably they were made to pay in the 20th minute when Abbot forced home Codner's cross to put Barnet ahead in their first serious attack of the game.

Wealdstone wobbled visibly as Barnet suddenly snarled into life

By  
**John Comfort**

and a second goal came as no surprise as Abbott was given the freedom of the park to head home Stein's cross a minute from the break.

A third goal just one and a half minutes into the second half erased any wild thoughts of a Wealdstone recovery and effectively ended the game as a contest Stein again supplied the cross and Evans scored with a fine glancing header.

32 minutes and a stack of chances later it was 4-0. Stones defence failed to clear a corner, and the ball was laid back to substitute Smith who drove home a low shot from 20 yards.

Three minutes later Smith struck again, smashing home Barnet's fifth after Parsons had crashed the ball against an upright.

Evans, looking suspiciously off-side from Brown's through ball, rounded Welsh and shot home off the retreating Bowgett to make it 6-0 two minutes from time and Wealdstone's small consolation was that at least this drubbing was not Barnet's biggest win of the season. They hammered Wycombe 7-0 at Loakes Park earlier in the season.

Wealdstone: Welsh, Harrison, La Ronde, Byatt, (Hirst), Bowgett, McCarthy (Zacharia), Davis, Bailey, English, Olaley, Lynch.

Saturday March 19th  
1988, Football Conference:  
Wealdstone 0 Barnet 6

SIX years later the turn-around in fortunes was complete. Barnet hailed the return of boss Barry Fry from Maidstone by suddenly competing at the top end of the Conference (as the Alliance Premier League was now known), thanks to new investment from owner Stan Flashman... and suddenly the local populace responded by filling Underhill on a weekly basis. I remember seeing one brilliant midweek 5-2 win over Wycombe in front of a 3,500 crowd and was blown away. As were Wycombe!

Barnet were runners-up to Scarborough in the first season of automatic promotion to the league (1987) and after they had crushed our relegation-bound side in this game at Lower Mead (before a 1,550 crowd) they were again agonisingly piped to the title by Lincoln.

Fry's side finally made it into the EFL in 1991, but then after 30 years of yo-yoing Barnet were back where the Wealdstone rivalry all started. Still dreaming of promotion though...

REWIND SPECIAL >>>> by tim parks

# It happened 50 years ago

## Part 12: This was a weekend to remember as Uri Geller and Andover cast a twin spell

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

Saturday November 24, Southern League Div 1 South: Wealdstone 1 Andover 5  
A COUPLE of weeks ago a Chelsea side struggling for results went to Premier League table-toppers Tottenham and won 4-1. Now I'm not saying that wasn't a shock result, but Stones 1 Andover 5 half a century ago was far, far, more mind-boggling. Andover were second-from-bottom of the table (and would finish there) while the Stones were everyone's favourites for the title and, indeed, finished the season 11 points clear at the top.

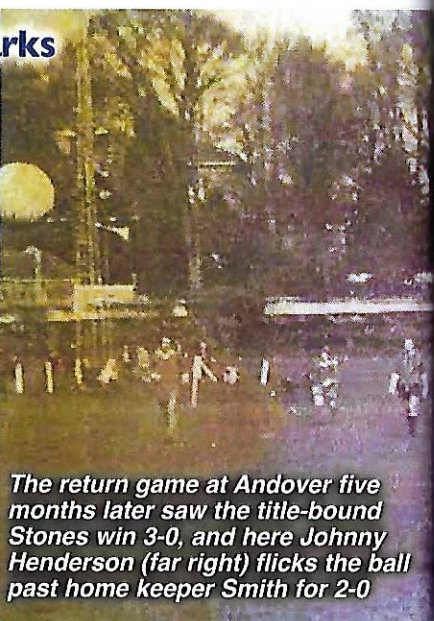
So how on earth could they lose 5-1 at home to the very ordinary Hampshire side? Perhaps the mood was set the previous evening. Most people of my generation will remember the Friday night (November 23) when,

on the David Dimbleby talk show, Uri Geller stunned the BBC audience by bending metal spoons and combs and stopping and re-starting watches... all by psychokinesis. He claimed it was the power of his mind, and we all stared at the screen eager to unveil the tricks of this magician.

There weren't any! It was a phenomenal TV programme... enough to make us Stones fans wonder if he'd interfered with force fields around Lower Mead to produce an equally gob-smacking afternoon just 17 hours later.

The Israeli's inexplicable trickery was literally the talk of Britain for weeks afterwards (although his supposed powers were the subject of ridicule in later years when, for some reason linked to Exeter City, he claimed that crystals positioned behind each goal would energise the Grecians and guarantee victory in a crucial Div Four game against Chester. Exeter lost 5-1).

But back to Andover. They arrived at Lower Mead as lambs to the slaughter, but on a heavy pitch and with a gale-force wind and the slope at their backs they shocked the Stones with four first-half goals.



The return game at Andover five months later saw the title-bound Stones win 3-0, and here Johnny Henderson (far right) flicks the ball past home keeper Smith for 2-0

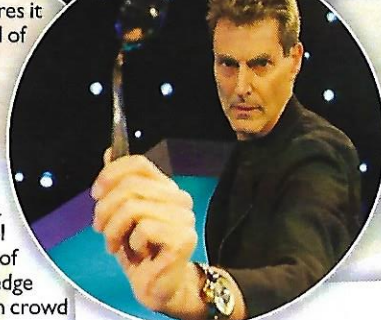
Every attack at the Cinema End seemed to lead to a goal (including a bizarre headed o.g. from George Duck who was far more used to scoring at the other end). Georgie did eventually pull a goal back as we drew the second half 1-1... but it was just one of those games when you shake your head in disbelief and move on.

I looked very hard for the usual Harrow Observer match report to flesh out my memories of the match but the journalist and print unions were talking industrial action in support of the striking miners. No Harry O added to the despair.

It was a chaotic period in our country's history as Tory PM Ted Heath battled to restore order. Who recalls the 3-day week imposed on all industry to save power? The 10pm television curfew to save electricity and the frequent power cuts? The ban on floodlit football? I remember doing my O-Level revision by candle light (very Dickensian) and of course it was a nightmare to disseminate information at Wealdstone's level with precious little newspaper coverage



Although the Harrow Observer wasn't available due to strikes, the Uxbridge Gazette (right) had its own quirky take on events. Some dispute over the crowd though. Below: The Israeli illusionist Uri Geller performs his tricks with spoons, combs and assorted bits of metal.



in these days before social media.

A week after this unexpected Andover setback we were due to take on Boston at Lower Mead in the FA Trophy... and when that game was iced off by a sudden drop in temperatures it was pretty much just word of mouth that passed on the news it would be replayed the following Wednesday afternoon at 2.15pm. Not the most convenient kick-off time!

I remember bunking off a Games afternoon at school to join the tiny attendance of 218, which is to my knowledge the smallest-ever first team crowd in the club's professional era. Maybe of all time!

Stones won that tie 6-1 on an eerily empty December afternoon, although the few of us made a bit of noise as Mr Duck rattled in four goals (inc two penalties) to put Boston (not Boston United, this was the Midland League side) to the sword. In fact it was a memorable Trophy run that year, but more of that story in a forthcoming programme....

George Duck, Wealdstone's top scorer these past two campaigns, was watched by scouts from both Arsenal and Luton Town during the League match against Andover. Although Duck has declared he would like to remain with his present club, the fee transfer mentioned is around £25,000. Duck was a former Millwall apprentice who played five senior games for Southend United before arriving at Lower Mead.

### in form

GEORGE DUCK stormed back to form with a four goal hit against Boston last Wednesday afternoon (5th) when Wealdstone smashed in a convincing 6-1 victory in the 3rd qualifying round of the F.A. Challenge Trophy. This takes them to a 1st round proper encounter in the competition against Wim-

bledon on January 12th away from home, k.o 2 p.m. Dick Graham's men at Plough Lane will be no easy hurdle, although the teams know one another well enough after their 4 match marathon in the Southern League Cup this term.

The visit to Lower Mead by Boston F.C. from the Midland League was postponed from the previous Saturday when the pitch was hard with frost. A Wednesday afternoon start at 2 o'clock did not encourage the club to anticipate crowd marshalling would be necessary. They expected a crowd of around 200. The 319 who did make up the attendance reduced Wealdstone's loss to around £150. Talk about panic on the Stock Exchange. What about the losses of football clubs unable to remain solvent because of the ban on evening matches and flood-lighting?

Wealdstone held a 2-1 interval lead before moving onto their biggest score since turning professional. Duck hit his highest goal tally ever and Bill Byrne contributed the other 2 goals.

Two of the Duck goals came from the penalty spot after Boston handling offences. It brought his season's aggregate to 30.

**Left: Although scoring an own goal balanced by one at the other end, George Duck was still an object of desire. The man himself denies that any bid was made... remarkably for a striker who scored 64 that season!**



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**Dene Field**

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



say if you have a job that you you'll never work a day in your and I genuinely feel like that.

**raham,**  
graduate, Assistant Producer at **talkSPORT**



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 <b>EBBSFLEET UNITED</b> Saturday 9th September Vanarama National League	<b>Paul Rease</b>
 <b>ALTRINCHAM</b> Saturday 16th September Vanarama National League	<b>The JD Football Academy</b>
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 <b>BOREHAM WOOD</b> Saturday 21st October Vanarama National League	<b>Stuart Kane</b>
 <b>OXFORD CITY</b> Tuesday 24th October Vanarama National League	<b>Vinusan Padmarasa</b>
 <b>ROCHDALE</b> Saturday 11th November Vanarama National League	<b>Jim Kane</b>

 <b>BARNET</b> Saturday 25th November Vanarama National League	<b>Adam Rossington</b>	
 <b>BILLERICAY TOWN</b> Saturday 9th December FA Trophy 2nd Qualifying Round	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
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 <b>MAIDENHEAD UNITED</b> Monday 1st January Vanarama National League	<b>Steve, Megan &amp; Rebecca Wood</b>	
 <b>SOUTHEND UNITED</b> Tuesday 23rd January Vanarama National League	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>FC HALIFAX TOWN</b> Saturday 27th January Vanarama National League	<b>Toby Jackson (Lapels Badges)</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>GATESHEAD</b> Saturday 17th February Vanarama National League	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>DORKING WANDERERS</b> Tuesday 20th February Vanarama National League	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>EASTLEIGH</b> Saturday 9th March Vanarama National League	<b>In memory of Tony Drew</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>BROMLEY</b> Tuesday 12th March Vanarama National League	<b>Wealdstone FC Supporters Club</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>KIDDERMINSTER HARR.</b> Saturday 23rd March Vanarama National League	<b>David, Adam &amp; Guy Edwards – in Memory of Rowland Edwards</b>	
 <b>SOLIHULL MOORS</b> Monday 1st April Vanarama National League	<b>Terry Hissey</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>CHESTERFIELD</b> Monday 1st April Vanarama National League	<b>Peter &amp; Steve Drew, Ron Moore &amp; David Edwards – in memory of fans no longer with us</b>	

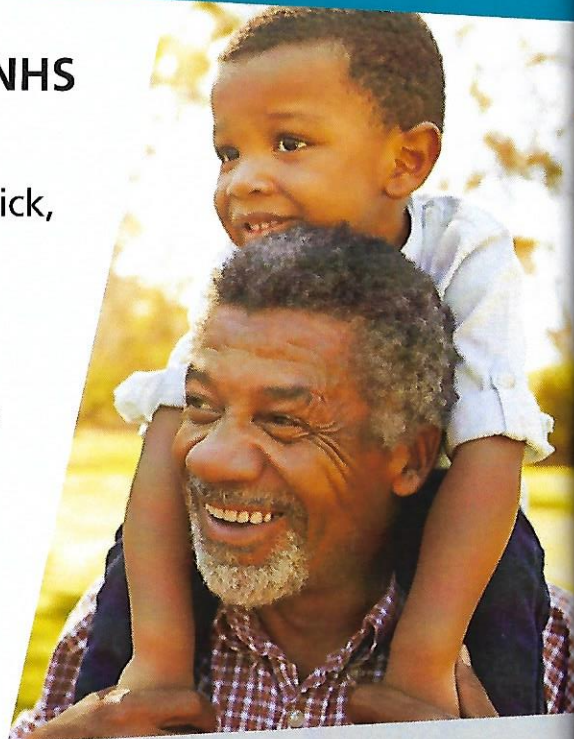


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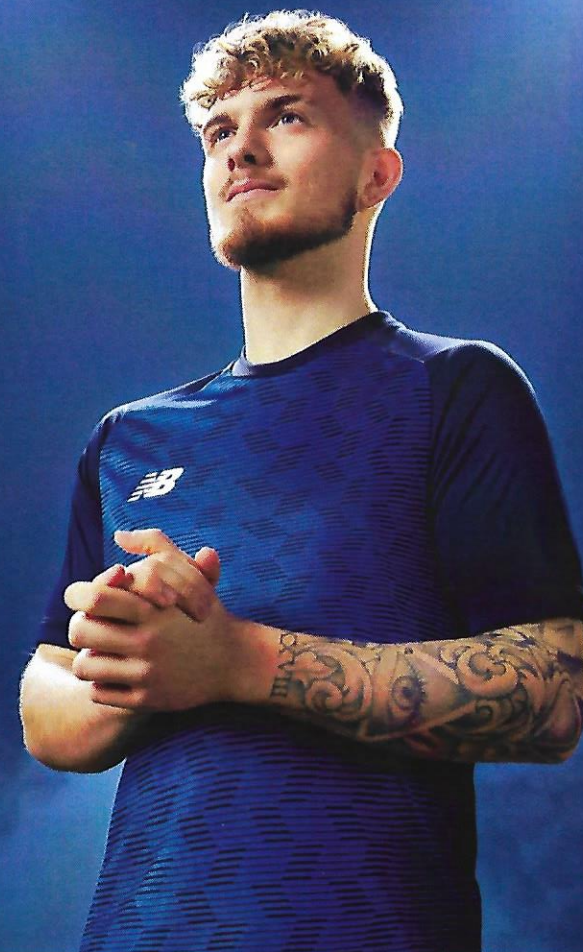
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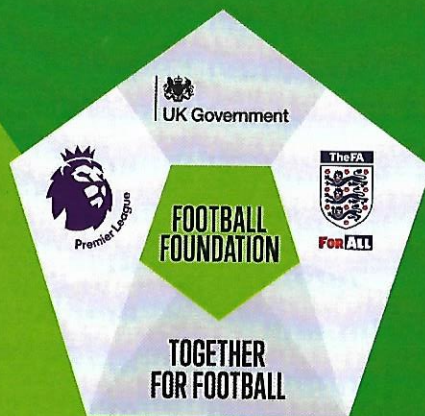
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## VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLE AS AT SUNDAY 21/11/2023

	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)
1 Chesterfield	19	15	2	2	48	26	9	8	1	0	27	13	10	7	1	2	21	13	22	47	2-3
2 Barnet	20	13	3	4	40	28	10	7	2	1	19	11	10	6	1	3	21	17	12	42	
3 Bromley	20	11	6	3	30	19	10	8	1	1	20	8	10	3	5	2	10	11	11	39	1-1
4 Solihull Moors	20	10	7	3	30	22	10	4	4	2	15	10	10	6	3	1	15	12	8	37	0-1
5 Gateshead	19	9	5	5	44	25	10	5	2	3	23	15	9	4	3	2	21	10	19	32	1-2
6 Altrincham	19	8	8	3	34	25	9	4	4	1	18	10	10	4	4	2	16	15	9	32	0-0
7 Halifax Town	20	8	7	5	22	18	10	4	4	2	11	8	10	4	3	3	11	10	4	31	0-1
8 Aldershot Town	20	9	3	8	34	34	10	6	3	1	24	15	10	3	0	7	10	19	0	30	1-3
9 Rochdale	20	7	6	7	35	33	10	3	3	4	18	17	10	4	3	3	17	16	2	27	3-2
10 Oldham Athletic	20	6	9	5	28	28	10	3	5	2	17	10	10	3	4	3	11	18	0	27	1-1
11 Eastleigh	20	7	6	7	30	33	10	5	3	2	20	17	10	2	3	5	10	16	-3	27	0-0
12 Hartlepool United	20	8	2	10	34	37	10	5	1	4	17	16	10	3	1	6	17	21	-3	26	1-2
13 Dagenham & Redbridge	21	7	4	10	23	27	10	3	0	7	11	17	11	4	4	3	12	10	-4	25	0-2
14 Southend United	20	10	4	6	36	21	10	8	0	2	25	7	10	2	4	4	11	14	+15	24	
15 Dorking Wanderers	20	7	3	10	23	34	11	4	2	5	15	17	9	3	1	5	8	17	-11	24	1-3
16 Wealdstone	20	6	5	9	23	28	10	6	3	1	16	11	10	0	2	8	7	17	-5	23	-- --
17 Woking	20	6	4	10	22	24	10	2	2	6	11	15	10	4	2	4	11	9	-2	22	1-0
18 Maidenhead United	20	5	7	8	21	30	10	3	5	2	10	9	10	2	2	6	11	21	-9	22	
19 Boreham Wood	20	4	9	7	22	28	10	2	4	4	8	10	10	2	5	3	14	18	-6	21	1-1
20 Oxford City	20	5	5	10	31	38	10	4	1	5	17	15	10	1	4	5	14	23	-7	20	3-1
21 York City	20	4	7	9	28	40	10	1	5	4	16	20	10	3	2	5	12	20	-12	19	2-1
22 Ebbsfleet United	20	5	3	12	25	40	10	4	0	6	13	13	10	1	3	6	12	27	-15	18	2-1
23 Fylde	20	4	4	12	28	39	10	2	3	5	14	19	10	2	1	7	14	20	-11	16	3-2
24 Kidderminster Harriers	20	3	5	12	12	26	10	1	4	5	5	10	10	2	1	7	7	16	-14	14	0-1



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# gpflewis

## Maintaining Excellence

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

[gpflewis.co.uk](http://gpflewis.co.uk)

# Follow Stones on the road:



**Southend United**

National League  
Saturday  
2nd December  
3:00pm

[SouthendUnited.co.uk](http://SouthendUnited.co.uk)



**Dagenham & Redbridge**

National League  
Saturday  
16th December  
3:00pm

[Daggers.co.uk](http://Daggers.co.uk)



**Maidenhead United**

National League  
Tuesday  
26th December  
3:00pm

[MaidenheadUnitedFC.org](http://MaidenheadUnitedFC.org)



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

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