

# WEALDSTONE



matchday programme 2023-24 £3

## THE LINE-UPS: 27/01/24 AND 30/01/2024

### HALIFAX TOWN

Grey/Grey/Grey

### WEALDSTONE

Blue/White/White

### ALDERSHOT

Yellow/White/White

G Sam Johnson 1	G Dante-Astor BAPTISTE 1	1 Jordi Van Stappershoef G
G Tom Scott 31	G Marcus DEWHURST 31	2 Haji Mnoga
Tylor Golden 2	Jack COOK © 2	3 Ollie Harfield
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Jamie Stott 6	Mason BARRETT 6	7 Stuart O'Keefe
Angelo Capello 7	Tarryn ALLARAKHIA 7	8 Tyler Frost
Jack Hunter 8	Nathan FERGUSON 8	9 Lorent Tolaj
Rob Harker 9	Max KRETZSCHMAR 10	10 Josh Stokes
Jamie Cooke 10	Corie ANDREWS 11	11 Ryan Glover
Millenic Alli 11	Charlie SEAMAN 11	12 Keane Anderson
Jack Evans 12	Micah OBIERO 14	14 Ollie Bray
Kane Thompson-Sommors 14	Luke DREHER 16	15 Zain Walker
Jordan Keane 16	Dominic HUTCHINSON 17	16 Alex MacAllister
Max Wright 17	Brooklyn ILLUNGA 19	17 Aaron Jones
Florent Hoti 18	Sam BOWEN 22	18 Olly Scott
Aaron Cosgrave 19	Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23	19 Christian Maghoma
Tom Wilson 21	Jaiden BARTOLO 25	20 Joe Haigh
Andrew Oluwabori 22	Aaron HENRY 26	22 Jack Barham
Joe Cummings 23	Sean ADARKWA 27	23 Hady Ghandour
Festus Arthur 30	Tahvon CAMPBELL 29	24 Maxwell Mullins
	Brandon MASON 32	27 Tommy Willard
	Joe CULLIS 36	31 Ollie Turner



**Farewell Stuart and Matty.. it's been one hell of a ride**



OFF ON A GREAT ADVENTURE: Stones' ex-manager Stuart Maynard and former assistant Matt Saunders celebrate the titanic win over Barnet in November... one of the many warm memories we'll cherish of their three years in charge PICTURE: JON TAFFEL

WEALDSTONE  HALIFAX  WEALDSTONE  ALD'SHOT

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SATURDAY JANUARY 27, 2024, 3PM VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

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## CLUB STATEMENT



**Notts County have activated the release clauses in the contracts of both Stuart and his assistant, Matt Saunders, agreeing substantial compensation for their services. Additionally, Stones' first team coach Craig Saunders will be leaving to join Stuart and Matt, forming the new management team at the League Two club.**

Maynard, 43, a former player for the Stones, returned to the club in 2019 as assistant manager to Dean Brennan. The duo spectacularly led the club to automatic promotion to the National League as champions of the National League South in their first season. Stuart took the helm as first team manager in 2021, and with part time resources in a full time league has secured 16th and 13th place finishes in his two full seasons in charge.

The board of directors issued the following statement: "As sad as we are to lose Stuart, he leaves with nothing but our best wishes and gratitude. There is great affection for Stuart and his management team across the club. They have returned the Stones to the pinnacle of non-league football after 32 years and established the club within the division, playing a

brand of football that has drawn praise from many across the National League and the EFL. Our

### Stuart Maynard has left The Vale to become the new Head Coach at Notts County FC

achievements as a part time club under Stuart since his appointment have inevitably attracted interest from other clubs, and we recognise that the opportunity to lead a club challenging for promotion to League One is impossible to turn down.

"Whilst everyone will miss Stuart, Matt, and Craig, our search for their successors commences immediately.

We are committed to finding replacements who will build on the solid foundations that have been set and continue with the brand of football that has become synonymous with the Stones."

In the interim, first team affairs for Saturday's National League fixture away at Rochdale will be handled by Alex Dyer and Chairman Rory Fitzgerald. The board of directors have immediately commenced with the recruitment process, speaking to suitable candidates to ensure a smooth transition and continued success for the club. Further updates will be provided when it is appropriate.

**WEALDSTONE FC**

## A MESSAGE FROM STUART, MATTY & CRAIG

**It's been a few days now and we've finally had a chance put together a message...**

It's been an emotional rollercoaster and leaving has been the hardest decision we've had to make. A club that gave us our opportunity and took a chance on us when it would have been easier to look elsewhere. For that, we will forever be indebted to Rory.

Without that decision, we wouldn't be where we are now as a management team and the club wouldn't be in as good place as it is currently. The support we've had from all the board, is something we're extremely grateful for. Trust them in this process, as they've shown time and time again their decision making is second to none.

Wealdstone now is probably in its most exciting moment, and there's foundations being laid behind the scenes that 4 years ago, seemed impossible. To depart the club in this position, with the help of so many, is something we will always hold dear to us no matter what we achieve. What we've all done together, has been deemed impossible by clubs much wealthier than Wealdstone.

The style and manner in which we did it as a club, makes it's all the more satisfying. Wealdstone is now

the envy of so many on the outside, and every fan, staff member, volunteer and player that has contributed, should be proud of what they've done. You've got an identity that many clubs strive for, but can't replicate.

Wealdstone is a club that many don't understand from the outside. It's a club that makes the most of the things it has. It's not blessed with the biggest resources, but it's the human element of the club that makes it so special. It's a place full of good human beings first and foremost, not there for the glory or credit, but for the love of their club. The success is built from hard work, and that's why we know that with or without us, it will continue to thrive.

We're excited and looking forward to our journey now with Notts County, but Wealdstone will always hold a special place in our hearts. We've had some tough times, but the good times have far outweighed the bad times. From the win against Southend, all the way to the last minute winner against Barnet, those memories can never be taken away from us. It's a special football club and we're honoured to have been given the chance to manage it.

Up The Stones

**STUART**

# WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2023/2024

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

## PERSONNEL

Chairman Rory Fitzgerald  
 Vice Chairman & Financial Director Dominic Whyloy  
 Director Nick Symmons,  
 Engagement and Community Director Darren Linden  
 Associate Directors Paul Rumens, Paul Fruin,  
 Peter Worby, Quentin Fox, Keith Davies  
 Chief Operations Manager & Senior Safeguarding Officer Richard Hopwood  
 Club Secretary & Welfare Officer Paul Fruin (07790 038095)  
 Company Secretary Andrew Lane

## FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT

First Team Manager Stuart Maynard  
 Assistant Manager Matt Saunders  
 Goalkeeping Coach Jason Scaneil  
 Coach Craig Saunders  
 Kit Manager Brett Aherne  
 Head of Player Development Cameron Mawer  
 Academy Coach Kenny Mutsanya  
 Club Doctor Benjamin Bennett  
 Sports Therapist Michael Owen  
 Strengthening & Conditioning Rachel Hill  
 Academy Manager Brunel  
 University London Dale  
 Welsh

## GROUND REGULATIONS

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

1) The club reserves the right to eject from the ground any person who is considered to have committed any of the following acts:

- Entering the ground through any means other than through the turnstiles or entrances
- Entering the field of play before, during or after a game without prior authorisation
- Being drunk, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs • Using violence of any nature
- Carrying items which may be considered a danger to others, including cans, bottles, or glasses containing alcoholic beverages
- Throwing any article onto the field of play • Climbing floodlight pylons, fences, stands or any structure or building
- Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others • Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulla stand

2) No spectator ball games.

3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.

4) Vehicles parked on the Grosvenor Vale site are at the owners' risk.

5) Wealdstone Football Club supports the FA's campaign on pyrotechnics (e.g. flares and smoke bombs). Any misuse of such items in and around the Ground will result in those responsible being asked to leave the ground and, in line with football authority guidance, may result in a report to the Police, potential prosecution and a ban from the Club of up to three years.

6) No Smoking or Vaping inside the ground.

## CLUB PERSONNEL

Life Vice-President Alan Couch  
 Treasurer Barry Benveniste  
 Head of Media Chris Woods  
 Media Team Nicole Cho-Yee,  
 Chloe Atkins, Will Beaman, Will Bewsey, Libby McElhinney  
 PA Announcer Michael Leckie  
 Commentators Tim Parks  
 Club Historian Peter Worby  
 Events Officer James Klarfeld  
 Matchday Catering Dd's Diner  
 The Vale Bar & Banqueting Sarah Gowdy  
 Events Officer/Liaison Officer James Klarfeld  
 Safety Officer Amar Zama  
 Boardroom & Hospitality Carol Carter, Lynn Evans

## MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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## 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 (Registered Number 03953962). Shares in excess of 10% are held by Peter Marsden Property Finance Ltd & Wealdstone FC Supporters Club

Wealdstone FC Board of Directors



By Mark Hyde

# Written in Stone



Welcome to the Vale and a very special thanks to all our match and ball sponsors who's generosity is an important part of funding our team..

Welcome also to our special guest the St.Joseph's under 10s.We hope you all enjoy your time with us this afternoon/evening

Mark

## MASCOTS - ST.JOSEPH'S UNDER 10s

Leading out the Stones this afternoon are the players from St Joseph's Under 10s (White team).They are a group of players with a FANTASTIC team spirit, not only do they enjoy training and playing matches together they enjoy socialising together and it has been noted on many occasions they have a better social life than their parents!

The young players hope that watching the STONES will give some ideas to improve their already successful season! Everyone at Wealdstone FC wishes them every luck for the rest of the season and hope to some of the players at future games.



## MATCH SPONSORS

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It's my 60th and I have several of my old pals coming along (many of them from schooldays) who in 1985 formed a team which played in the Marathon Sunday League called 'Weald Academicals' including some games against SFC Reserves.As I've been in Scotland since the mid-90s we don't get together too often so it will be something of a reunion.

### ALDERSHOT TOWN

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## THANKS AND FAREWELL TO MAYNARD & CO

# Dozens of applicants flood in for a job 'with great future prospects'

### CHOOSING THE NEW MAN

**STONES PROG caught up with the club's upbeat chairman Rory Fitzgerald as he took training with Alex Dyer last Saturday morning... and the first obvious question was whether there had been lots of applicants for Stuart Maynard's job writes Tim Parks.**

"We've had dozens!" he said. "Some are of very high calibre... people know that we have a good squad here and there is a great opportunity for them to make a mark in the National League."

"We've proved that there is a pathway here, a strategy through to top managerial jobs and we are looking for a management team in the mould of Stuart and Matty".

How long will that process take?

"Well ideally it would happen in the next week but I want to meet the good ones face-to-face and each interview will take a couple of hours, which I hope to do over the next week... in between all the other things I have to do running a business!

"But hopefully then we'll have a short list of two or

three solid candidates who are impressive and who fit our commercial structure." Rory has stressed to the squad that they have played a key role in securing Stuart and Matt, and Craig, their dream full-time move into the EFL. "I told them that what happens next depends on what they do on the pitch, and we are very confident their professionalism will keep us moving in the right direction."

"There is not a lot to be done here, playing-wise, maybe a few tweaks and bringing in a bit more quality in certain areas. This is a club with great prospects, with the run in the FA Trophy and of course the new stadium".

Are you enjoying this hands-on role, helping with the training? "I'd rather be in the boardroom to be honest, watching from the side. But this is an exciting time and an appointment we have to get right".



**The first success: Chairman Rory (left) shares a joke with Stuart and Matty after the win over Boreham Wood in March 2021 which ended an inaugural run of five games without a win**

### THE STATS BY ADAM HILLS

*The MT by numbers (League games only) 138 games, 43 wins, 33 draws, 63 defeats, 165 goals scored and 233 conceded. Average of 1.17 points per game. (Ignoring the Covid season, that record improves to 146 points from 115 games for 1.27 points per game). The home form has been vital with a 40% win ratio at The Vale from 70 games. Stones kept 27 clean sheets in that time, but failed to score in 40 games.*

## Year-on-year improvement is a huge

### THE DEFINING MOMENTS

**STUART Maynard and Matt Saunders have left Wealdstone in a vastly better place than when they inherited the job - and cast a legacy for whoever takes the reins next writes Adam Hills.**

They will be remembered for having a vision, belief and an incredible work ethic, qualities that Wealdstone so desperately needed as the club came out of the pandemic and glanced around at the daunting challenges of facing the likes of Stockport, Grimsby, Wrexham, Chesterfield and of course Notts County themselves.

That the club has never really flirted with relegation in those four seasons (ignoring the nonsense Covid season) and improved year-on-year is evidence of their impact and is a huge achievement in itself. As gutting as it is, especially at such a crucial part of the season, both Stu and Matt go with nothing but thanks and admiration for their efforts and of



course well-wishes for what will be a very big step up at a club with the history and potential of Notts County.

#### Eight defining moments in Maynard's Wealdstone career...

- Feb 2021 - Darlington (A) Lost 1-4 FA Trophy - A harsh debut in the hot seat after the departure of Dean Brennan as Stones were thumped in the North East and dumped out of the FA Trophy last 16.
- 26-Oct 2021 - Grimsby Town (H) Won 1-0 League - One of the first of many great wins at The Vale, with Matt Buse's sole strike giving Stones a historic win against Grimsby who eventually went back up to the EFL.
- 18-Dec 2021 - Needham Market (A) Lost 1-2 FA Trophy - This loss to a team three levels below was a real low-point of his tenure.
- 12-Feb 2022 - Barnet (A) Won 3-1 League - Maynard was vocal in making sure his squad knew the importance of this game as the Stones, backed by 900 hostile fans took over the Hive and secured a historic win.
- 27-Aug 2022 - Gateshead (A) Won 1-0 League -

## testament...

Quite how Stones won this game will always remain a mystery, but the emergence of the free-flowing (Brazil Stones) football was in full flight and this result put Stones top of the early season table. 29-Oct 2022 - Dag & Red (A) Lost 1-4 League - Stones' squad had been decimated by injury and this was a sixth defeat in a row, a run which included a meek surrender in the FA Cup - arguably the lowest point of Stones' season. 7-Oct 2023 - Kidderminster (A) Lost 0-1 League - With away form a major concern, Stones conceded a last minute goal in a dire game against basement boys Kidderminster. Angry exchanges between the MT and some Stones fans. 25-Nov 2023 - Barnet (H) Won 3-2 League - A dramatic win over the local rivals, weeks after the club announced a plan to move to a new 6,700 capacity stadium in Hillingdon. Quite a day!

## It'll be fascinating to see what they can achieve now



### REACTION & EMOTION BY TIM PARKS

**That moment of pure elation at the end of the thrilling 3-2 win over Barnet spelled out exactly the strength of Stuart Maynard's emotional attachment to Wealdstone FC.**

He poured his heart and soul into the club, despite the restrictions of part-time status, and it is impossible not to wish good luck to him - and of course Matt and Craig Saunders - as they take on the high-profile challenge of managing Notts County.

The League Two club are assured of the same energy, commitment and attention to detail that the trio brought to every single hour of their time at the Stones. They wrung every single ounce from their part-time status... and it'll be fascinating to see what they can achieve with the far greater resources at Meadow Lane (pictured below). I remember Stones director Nick Symmons joking "the executive boxes here are bigger than the whole of the Vale" as we turned up at Notts for the first time in the Covid season.

The stadium was empty but it echoed with prosperity and ambition. It is a Championship, if not a Premier League club in waiting and Stuart Maynard and Matt and Craig Saunders must be rubbing their hands with glee at the squad and

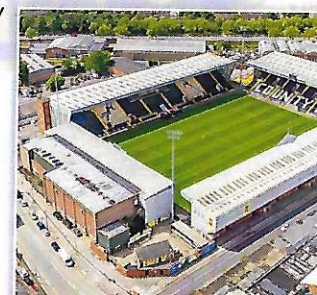
facilities they are inheriting. In his first interview with new club, Stuart was both humble and markedly ambitious in the same breath.

"It would have had to be some club to pull us away from Wealdstone" he said. "Obviously when Notts came up and showed their interest it was something we got very excited about. We'll move here because we believe that when an opportunity like this comes up you have to give it absolutely everything."



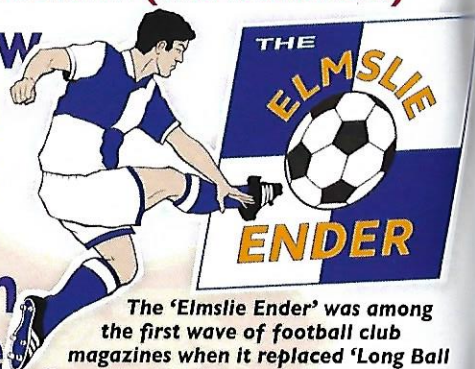
"We know the players, the quality and ability they've got in here. Just walking about the place today, everyone's together and we just want to get on with the journey now."

It'll be difficult to replicate the family feel that Stuart and his staff managed to engender at The Vale. His wife Rachel was a popular face around the place and they're welcome back anytime. But the Stones now have to look to the future and, as Sudhir Rawal writes in his Elmslie Ender column later in this programme: **The king is dead, long live the king**



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

# I think we should view the departure of Stu and Matt as a source of pride; gone to the oldest football club in the world and a huge one at that level



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



**WE ALWAYS knew this day would come. We hoped that it would be later rather than sooner, but the time would come.**

At some point an offer would come along for the services of Stuart

Maynard and his management team that would be just too good - and an offer from Notts County is too big a job to turn down.

Whenever there was a vacancy in the south of England for a manager at National League level, Maynard's name was in the frame. I thought he'd go to a well-resourced NL side at some point, when he wasn't convinced that full time football with a well-resourced budget was or would be on offer at some stage with Wealdstone.

Maynard is an ambitious man and at some stage he would out-grow us. Woking, Dagenham, Boreham Wood would have all fitted that criteria. He would never have sullied himself with a role at PEPF: that cuckoo had flown the nest. So, whilst sad and disappointed that Maynard and the Saunders brothers have moved on, at least it wasn't to another NL side as we all feared. That would have been a clear signal that we could no longer match their ambition.

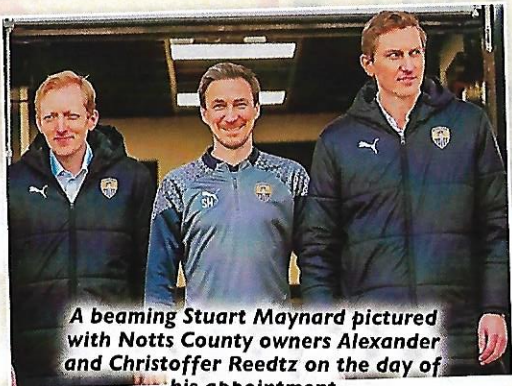
Was I surprised that they went to the higher reaches of EFL 2? Yes I was. Not that I don't think

they will do well; I certainly think they will be a success at Notts County but would a side flying so high in the division above take what would be perceived as risk on their part? That said, Mike Williamson went from Gateshead to MK Dons, so why not Maynard to Notts?

The lure for Notts County was acquiring a manager in the same mould as Luke Williams who departed for championship Swansea City - a style of play that is similar, an ethos and ethics that were from the same page. The fact that there was a mutual love and respect between Williams and Maynard would not have gone unnoticed in the boardroom at Meadow Lane. **Let's not make light of the huge hole that will be left at the Vale.** What Stuart Maynard and his team

achieved at Wealdstone was the gold standard on how a team with limited resources could establish themselves in the National League, pretty much the only part time team against teams with three or four times the budget.

Of course, the playing squad have been an integral part of the success, as have the board, but the playing style, the work ethic and attention to detail was set by the management team. Naturally they had their detractors: the intransigence/bloody mindedness to change the style, the mantra of "trust the process" and "we are outcome based



A beaming Stuart Maynard pictured with Notts County owners Alexander and Christoffer Reedtz on the day of his appointment

not results-based", but how could anyone really criticise a process that had ensured that we never flirted with relegation for even one game in the National League?

Maynard, as an ex-player, got Wealdstone. He understood what it meant to be a Stone. He respected the tradition, understood the pain that we went through the years of wilderness. He played against us for Aylesbury when hundreds descended on the Buckinghamshire town, signalling how big we could be, and even at Hemel, he always had a desire to manage the Stones. He will be a hard act to follow... but so was Bartlett, so was Brennan.

There were wonderful days: three derby wins v the Cuckoos (four if you include the BCD season); the win over Grimsby when they were top of the table; winning at Southend on the last day of the season; and Brazil Ball at Oldham Athletic where we played the former Premier Leaguers off the park. The win in November v Barnet, the last-minute winner, has to be the greatest moment ever at the Vale.

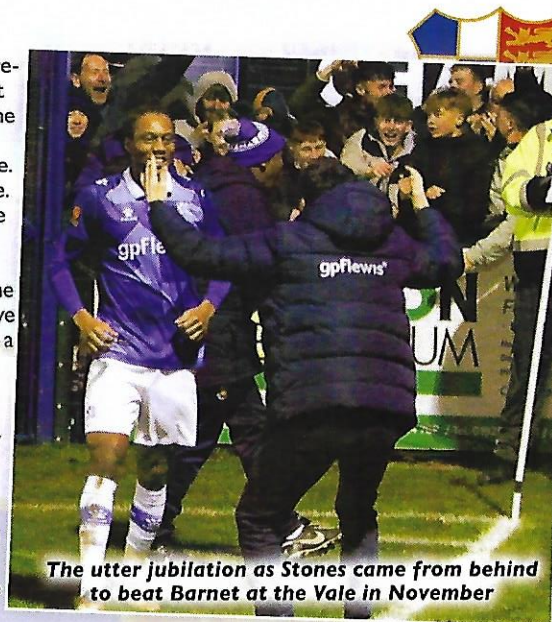
These are memories that will not dull with the tide of time. There were horrors as well: defeat against ten-man Dagenham in the FA Cup, the Trophy disaster at Needham Market and even this season a loss at Kidderminster that caused a huge ruckus at the end. But the good outweigh the bad multiple times.

I think we should view the departure of Maynard as source of pride that he's gone to the oldest football club in the world from Wealdstone. A huge club at that level. They will feel the scrutiny of ten thousand not fifteen hundred. The pressure will increase ten times over. But they will thrive.

We are used to players leaving for much better pastures, so why not the management team? It is part of our DNA. Stuart Maynard is a decent man, with a great team in Matty & Craig Saunders behind him and he deserves this chance.

When they were appointed at Wealdstone, they were seen as possibly the next Cowley brothers. The Cowley boys - having risen as high as the Championship with Huddersfield - now find themselves at EFL 2 relegation-threatened Colchester. Maynard and Saunders can do better. **The King is dead, long live the King...so what comes next?**

This may be hyperbole, but if the club gets this



The utter jubilation as Stones came from behind to beat Barnet at the Vale in November

wrong, we could see the house of cards crash. The new stadium needs at least National League football and continued success is hugely important for both the playing side and building the stadium.

But the board, and chairman Rory, have a good track record in employing young talented managers. Dean Brennan (with Maynard at his side) took us into the National League and then with Maynard himself who has established us a side in the National League on skinny resources.

How good will RF's black book be? No doubt we will attract some very high calibre candidates and in the same way Notts were attracted to Maynard as someone who would continue with the way they play, Wealdstone will no doubt have the same requirements.

At *Stonescast*, the Wealdstone podcast, we cast our eyes over a few candidates and by the time you read this after Saturday's postponement, the special edition will be out.

As an official club publication, this programme cannot name names. And any names that *Stonescast 85* has thrown into the arena are simply speculation. They could be totally uninterested and, as I've said on X (Twitter), we may well be going after a manager who is already in situ somewhere, and contented.

**A huge weight of responsibility rests on the shoulders of the board. I have no doubt they will wear it heavily and make the right decision for the club.**

## No doubt the manager's job will attract some high-calibre names..but they must continue to play the same style of football

THE STONES INTERVIEW BY TIM PARKS

ten minutes with...

# AARON HENRY

**You can't accuse Aaron Henry of lacking self-belief.**

The Charlton Athletic midfielder - back on loan with the Stones until the end of the season - was bracketed alongside Jude Bellingham back in 2020 when the pair starred in midfield for England's under-16s in a tournament in Turkey.

And it's a real surprise that the now-20-year

old Aaron has yet to make a real impact in the EFL, after a dynamic start to last season that seemed to have assured his place in the Addicks' League One line-up.

"I think there's a lot of luck involved in football" said the classy midfielder when I caught up with him after the FA Trophy win at Chelmsford.

"I had a great loan spell at

Wealdstone in 2022 with a couple of goals and 12 assists and was grateful to Charlton for letting me play men's football" said Aaron. "And I knew that their manager Ben Garner liked me - he'd tried to get me over to Swindon on loan while he was boss there the previous season.

"So when last season started I was a regular in the team, played the first four games and scored against QPR in the League Cup and also Gillingham in the EFL Trophy. I was Man of the Match in that game. Ben Garner was then sacked, but the new gaffer Dean Holden kept me in the team... until he didn't."

Aaron believes that there were simply too many midfielders competing for his position.

"Charlton have ten midfielders on the books, excluding me. And the first team skipper, George Dobson, plays in my position and has unreal stats for consistency and playing successive games.

"Don't get me wrong, he's a good player but the polar opposite of me: He's really good off the

ball, winning it back but I don't think he's anywhere near as good as me on the ball".

Dobson was always Dean Holden's first name on the teamsheet which made it very difficult for Aaron to be handed a shirt. "I was really confident after the first few games that season but as time went on I was on the bench, hoping to make an

impact. And then I wasn't on the bench at all"

Things improved in the second half of last season, though. Aaron played in successive wins over Morecambe (4-1), Shrewsbury (6-0) and Burton (1-0) as the Addicks wound up in the 10th place... but he also has the memories of reaching the Carbao Cup quarter-finals and coming off the

bench at Old Trafford as Man Utd beat Charlton in front of a 74,534 crowd. It took two Marcus Rashford goals in the 90th and 94th minutes to settle the game.

Aaron had scored a terrific right-footer from 18 yards in the first round to take the QPR tie to penalties - which Charlton won 5-3. They then overcame Walsall 1-0 before triumphing on penalties against both Stevenage and Premier League Brighton.

**But at the end of last season Aaron was disappointed to hear that boss Holden wanted him to go back to playing with the under-23s.**

"I wanted to go out on loan but I wasn't allowed to as they wanted me around to be in the first

team squad. You could say false promises... it was very frustrating and I was relieved to go to Crawley Town on loan in the summer."

Aaron was an immediate success at the League Two side, playing in the 1-0 win over Bradford on opening day, and also in successive wins over Tranmere, Grimsby and Sutton after a shaky few weeks. "And then a similar situation to Charlton... Crawley's best player is Liam Kelly and of course he plays in the same position as me! Of

course, it's my responsibility force my way in but I was out of favour. I

was on the bench most of the time and then, in the last month, I didn't come onto the pitch at all."

Hence Aaron believing that he's nowhere near full

fitness, or sharpness at the moment. "I've just not been playing enough minutes" he says.

"But I honestly think I'm a much better player now than when I came to Wealdstone the first time.

"I know that to progress my career I've got to be as good out of possession as I am in possession... I've got to be more focused and know how to position myself to win the ball back."

I joked with Aaron that I've seen a new side to his game as he was booked in BOTH his first two games back with the Stones!

"Yeah, I was only booked twice all last season, in 25-odd games. Mind you, the booking against Chelmsford was ridiculous. I was standing over the ball after a foul, trying to get out of the way and their player just kicked the ball at me. I was hopping up and down trying not to get hit and the ref booked

me!" But it was a disappointing return in his first game at Ebbsfleet as we went down 2-0. Despite 70% possession and a string of late freekicks and corners from Aaron that seemed certain to bring a goal, we somehow ended up beaten.

"Maybe we should have played with a lot more intent, and more quickly, in that first half but I was pleased with my performance. I'm a bit similar to Sam Bowen and Ashley Charles is a good partner; he's excellent off the ball and keeps things ticking over. We probably got a bit hooked on playing in front of them but it's very hard to play through a low block!"

And does he fancy a run in the FA Trophy after the win at Chelmsford?

"That was just one of those tough games that you need to win, even a bit ugly, and it's exciting to think of maybe ending up at Wembley. I've not played in the Trophy before but it's a great competition".

And how does the standard of National League football compare to Leagues One and Two?

"Well, when I was at Wealdstone that first time we faced teams like Wrexham, Stockport and

Notts County so they were clubs that have really impressed since promotion.

Very good sides. I've only played against Ebbsfleet and Chelmsford so far this time, so I'm looking forward to going to Rochdale and then the run of home games."

Mention of Stockport brought an obvious reminder of Aaron's beautiful freekick goal there, two years ago, and the equally obvious question:

"Was that your best goal in men's football?"

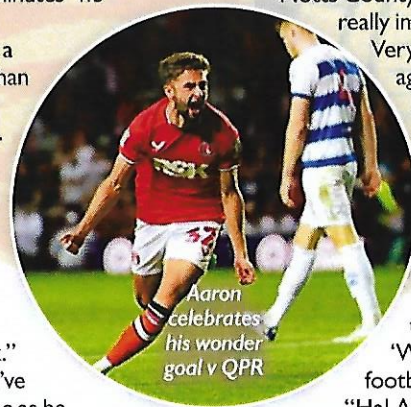
"Ha! Actually the goal against QPR

was a bit special, but I scored from the halfway line against Man Utd's under-18s, and then a volley against Swansea Under-18s but they don't really count. Stockport was enjoyable, but I also scored a direct freekick against Boreham Wood at The Vale which was a bit strange... I was 30 yards out and they didn't really put up a wall. So I whipped the ball into goal by the near post.

"Very disrespectful!"



Above: Aaron pictured at Chelmsford by Jon Taffel



Aaron celebrates his wonder goal v QPR



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## MAX KRETZSCHMAR

# Taking it to the

M<sub>3</sub> A<sub>1</sub> X<sub>8</sub>

*Our striker/midfielder Max Kretzschmar reflects on the departure of our management team and the reaction that it will provoke from the team...*

**Hello Stones fans and welcome back to the Vale! Deep breaths...it's been an eventful week.**

The game against Southend last Tuesday bit the dust, after after two postponements of the fixture at Roots Hall. So getting back on home soil for these games makes it even sweeter.

I'm sure your commute to the ground, your drink at the bar and your support of the team may feel a bit different today. The departure of the gaffer, Matty and Craig will leave a seismic hole behind at the club in the short term, but one which can be sewn back together as quickly as it was created.

I think we can all agree we expected a big National League club or EFL club to come knocking (they have before!) sooner or later and for that offer to be too good to turn down. If I could name the best potential job possible for that management team it would be Notts County.

I believe Notts are comfortably the best non league team I've ever faced, and the philosophies of both our clubs match perfectly. That philosophy at Wealdstone has been created over the past four years by Stuart.

Personally, he was the primary reason why I joined Wealdstone and I have him to thank for some of the most enjoyable football I've played in my footballing career. He must have rung my phone every summer for the past 4 years prior to signing and I finally relented in 2022!

I joked that he had rung me so much that summer that we'd spoken to each more than we had our other halves! Looking back at some of those enjoyable performances I cast my mind back to Cookie's last minute winner against York City (our Christmas party was straight after the final whistle in

Manchester!); that ugly away win in the scorching heat in Gateshead ;and of course the derby day win against Barnet this season.

But I have to put Oldham Athletic away right at the top! The team made our way up on the coach to once-Premier League and newly-relegated Oldham and passed them off the pitch in the first half. I've never played in a more enjoyable 45 minutes in my life I can assure you!

Our movement, our passing, our patterns...it was scintillating. I was looking around at the boys on the pitch in disbelief and astonishment. It was at that moment I knew I had made the right decision to join Wealdstone Football Club.

Thank you gaffer.

**As a prominent player in a squad, I've only been involved in a manager leaving his position once.**

Alan Dowson was sacked in my last year at Woking and it left a horrible feeling with me and a precarious position for the club.

Right now we have a home FA Trophy tie with neighbours Hendon for a place in the quarter finals, we sit 12th in the National League with two games in hand and have five home games in our next six with Barnet away sandwiched in there too.

We are in a pretty strong position and have so much to look forward to!

Now it's important for the likes of myself, Cookie (and all the players for that matter) to support Rory and Alex Dyer in this time of transition. I have the utmost respect for Alex, his footballing career and his attachment to Wealdstone. Moreover, I see

Rory's passion for this club week in week out. Unlike with a sacking, there's not all that much that needs to be abruptly fixed. As

Britain's wartime propaganda once coined it: 'Keep calm and carry on!'

**We need your support more than ever and I know it will be there in these next six games. Let's hear you loud and proud! UTS**



Max and the gaffer celebrate after the Barnet game

**The departure of the gaffer, Matty and Craig leaves a seismic hole but unlike a sacking, there's not much that needs fixing**

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



# All you need to know about... FC Halifax Town

## Opposition in focus



**H**uge tax debts buried Halifax Town A.F.C. after almost 100 years as a football club. In May 2008, it was revealed that Halifax owed over £814,000 to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. It was originally thought the club owed the taxman around £500,000, which might have left scope for a deal. At a meeting of the FA, discussing the makeup of the football pyramid for the 2008–09 season, it was decided that FC Halifax Town would be placed in the Northern Premier League Division One North (the eighth tier of English football) despite various appeals.

### Northern Premier League (2008–2011)

The club's first game under the new name FC Halifax Town was a friendly defeat against Tamworth on 19 July 2008.

The Shaymen's first competitive match came in a 3–0 loss to Bamber Bridge. FC Halifax's first ever season was filled

with inconsistency: ending outside the play-off positions in 8th place. [citation needed]

In April 2009, Neil Aspin was appointed as the new manager, which would prove to be an excellent appointment. His first season in charge was a successful one; winning the league with 100 points (scoring 108 goals in the process). Halifax reached the FA Cup 4th qualifying round that season; eventually losing to Wrexham in front of a record crowd of 2,843. The title was sealed with a 2–2 home draw against Clitheroe.

Halifax started the 2010–11 season in the Northern Premier League, (the 7th tier of English football). New-signing Jamie Vardy (who would later play for Leicester City and the England National Team) helped fire Halifax to back-to-back promotions to the Conference North as top scorer with 22 goals. Once again, Halifax would lose in the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup to a fifth tier side; this time it would be a narrow defeat to Mansfield Town. On New Year's Day 2011, Town beat FC United of Manchester 4–1 at the Shay which attracted a crowd of 4,023, an attendance that at the time held the record crowd for the Northern Premier League. They finally won the title after winning 2–0 at Retford

United and gained automatic promotion to the Conference North.

### Conference North years (2011–2013)

During pre-season, star-striker Jamie Vardy signed for Fleetwood Town. Vardy was replaced as Halifax's main striker by Lee Gregory (who would later play for Millwall and Stoke City in the Championship). Halifax had a sluggish start to their first ever season in the 6th tier. For the first ever time, Halifax reached the 1st round of the FA Cup: a televised home tie against League One leaders Charlton Athletic. The result was a 4–0 defeat in front of 4,601 supporters. The club rose from 13th at the start of the match to 3rd by the end of the season. Halifax lost in the play-offs

to Gainsborough Trinity (3–2 on aggregate).

The 2012–13 season was the club's second consecutive season in the 6th tier. The season was defined by successful cup-runs and another promotion. In the FA Cup, Halifax took Conference Premier side Lincoln City to a replay in the

4th qualifying round. In the FA Trophy Halifax reached the quarter-finals of the tournament, eventually losing out to 5th tier side Dartford. Due to Town's cup-runs and postponements from poor weather caused a huge back-log in fixtures. By February, Halifax had ten games in hand on certain teams. Halifax had a difficult run at the end of the season (despite playing 12 games in 27 days), reaching the play-offs in 5th. In the play-off semi-final, Halifax won 3–1 (on aggregate) against local side Guiseley. The play-off final was won 1–0 against Brackley Town with a solitary goal by Lee Gregory.

### National League years (2013–)

The National League (5th tier) was the highest level that the newly formed FC Halifax Town side had played at since formation. Neil Aspin started the 2013–14 season by signing a two-year contract. Their first season in the 5th tier started with a disappointing 5–1 defeat to Cambridge United. Town's first win in the 5th tier was against Wrexham. From March onwards, the Shaymen won 9 of 10 matches (keeping 7 clean-sheets) Halifax finished their first season



in the Conference play-off positions (the highest placed semi-professional team in the country). Halifax lost 2–1 to Cambridge United in the play-off semi-final, rounding off a sensational first season in the 5th tier.

During pre-season, Lee Gregory was sold for £250,000 to Millwall after being Halifax's top scorer for three consecutive seasons (scoring 18, 20 and 29 goals respectively). Halifax started the new season with five consecutive wins, placing the Shaymen at the top of the league.

In the 1st round of the FA Cup, Halifax were drawn against old rivals Bradford City. The televised match attracted 8,042 spectators (FC Halifax Town's record attendance) which Town lost 2–1. Eventually, form dropped off in the league with too many draws (15), leaving Halifax Town in 9th place at the end of the season.

The Shaymen's third season in the National League was a poor one, culminating in relegation back to the 6th tier. Neil Aspin was sacked and replaced by Darren Kelly. Kelly oversaw disastrous results against Grimsby Town (7–0), Cheltenham Town (7–1) and Braintree Town (6–3). The Braintree defeat forced the hand of the board who sacked him after less than two months in charge. Jim Harvey became caretaker manager, he turned the club's fortunes around but couldn't prevent Halifax's relegation back to the National League North following a draw against Macclesfield Town. Meanwhile, Halifax reached the 2016 FA Trophy final, defeating Grimsby Town 1–0 at Wembley Stadium.

Harvey was replaced by North Ferriby United manager Billy Heath. Town made an immediate return to the National League, finishing in 3rd place. Halifax met Salford City in the play-

off semi-final, drawing 1–1 (winning 3–0 on penalties). In the play-off final, Halifax beat Chorley 2–1 after extra time in front of nearly 8,000 fans.

Halifax's return to the National League was largely uneventful. Despite mid-season doubts, Halifax were never in serious danger of relegation. Billy Heath was replaced by Jamie Fullarton mid-season who guided them to 16th place. For the second consecutive season, Halifax finished the season in 16th place. Halifax

were top of the league at the end of August having just switched to a hybrid full-time model. The highlight of the season was an impressive win against League Two side Morecambe.

In 2018, it was announced that FC Halifax would become full-time. During pre-

season, Jamie Fullarton was replaced with Pete Wild. This time though, the positive start to the season didn't end like in previous seasons. By March, the COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the season. The final league position was decided on a points per game decision, meaning Halifax would end up in the play-off positions. However, the Shaymen lost 2–1 in the play-offs to Boroham Wood. Halifax finished the following season in 10th place – four points outside the play-offs. Due to the recent coronavirus pandemic, the vast majority of fixtures were played behind closed doors during 2020–21.

In the 2021–22 season, FC Halifax posted their highest ever league finish of 4th place, qualifying for the play-offs. In the play-off eliminator, they lost 2–1 at home to Chesterfield. At the end of the season, Pete Wild left for EFL League Two side Barrow. Wild was replaced by Chris Millington. Under Millington, FC Halifax finished 11th and won the 2023 FA Trophy final at Wembley, defeating Gateshead 1–0.

## ALL TIME

P 7 W 2 D 0 L 5 F 3 A 11

## LAST SEASON

Sat 20th Aug 2022 (H) - W 1-0

Tue 28th Feb 2023 (A) - L 1-0

# OPPOSITION IN FOCUS

## FC HALIFAX TOWN

### 1. SAM JOHNSON - GOALKEEPER

Johnson turned professional at Port Vale in 2011, and played on loan at Stafford Rangers. He was loaned out to Alfreton Town in 2014, and FC Halifax Town in 2015, and won the FA Trophy with Halifax in May 2016. He was loaned out to Gateshead in June 2016 & returned to Halifax permanently IN 2017. He again won the FA Trophy in 2023.

### 2. TYLOR GOLDEN - DEFENCE

Came through the youth ranks at Wigan Athletic & spent time on loan at Droylsden and Nantwich Town before being released in June 2020. Golden made the move to Salford City in 2020. In 2021 Golden joined Notts County on loan. He joined the Shaymen last season. ut in the EFL Cup against Barnsley in August 2022.

### 3. RYAN GALVIN - DEFENCE

Galvin came through the youth ranks at Wigan Athletic before making the switch to Hillsborough in 2020. In 2021, Galvin joined Gloucester City then Maidstone on loan. Galvin was one of seven players released by the Owls as they confirmed their return to the Championship.

### 4. LUKE SUMMERFIELD - MIDFIELD

He began his career with Plymouth Argyle where he played over 75 league games and had loan spells with AFC Bournemouth and Leyton Orient. Summerfield has also turned out for Cheltenham Town, Shrewsbury Town, Grimsby Town, Macclesfield and York City.

### 5. ADAM SENIOR - DEFENCE

Adam Senior was on loan with Town last season from Bolton Wanderers making 20 appearances during his time with the Club.

### 6. JAMIE STOTT - DEFENCE

Began his career with Oldham Athletic & spent time on loan at Curzon Ashton, AFC Fylde and Stockport before making the move permanent in July 2020.

### 7. ANGELLO CAPPELLO - FORWARD

Angelo Cappello joined the Shaymen following his release from Championship side Sheffield United. Cappello has been capped by the Belize National Team at both youth and senior level, being called up for a CONCACAF Nations League Qualifying match. He is also eligible to play for Honduras. Cappello came through the youth ranks at Sheffield United before being sent out on loan to Blyth Spartans in March last season where he made 12 appearances,

helping them to a 19th placed finish in the National League North.

### 8. JACK HUNTER- MIDFIELD

Jack Hunter joined the Shaymen from fellow National League side Gateshead last summer.

He began his career at Newcastle United. He then joined Blyth Spartans in 2018. Hunter then joined Gateshead for the 2020/21 season.

### 9. ROB HARKER - FORWARD

The striker came through the youth ranks at Bury before signing for the then Premier League side Burnley. During the 2019/20 season, Harker spent time on loan at Hartlepool United. In the season prior to making the move to the Shay, Harker made just six appearances for the under 23s in the Premier League 2, due to an injury.

### 10. JAMIE COOKE - MIDFIELD

Signed two summers ago, Cooke was a real impressive sight for Halifax in Pre-Season. The Scouse attacking midfielder was picked up after a compensation fee was paid to Colne, and it was at Fleetwood Town where Cooke first came onto the scene through their youth ranks. He scored the only goal of the game for the Shaymen at Wembley to win the FA Trophy over Gateshead in May 2023.

### 11. MILLENIC ALLI - FORWARD

FC Halifax Town signed Millenic Alli following his release from Stockport County last summer. Formerly of Bury FC's youth team, South Shields signed the forward in 2019. The following season however, Alli made the switch to Ashton United in the Northern Premier League. Again, he spent just one season at the club before being signed by Stockport County. Alli was sent straight out on loan to Chorley in the National League North and spent the entirety of last season there helping them to reach the playoffs.

### 14. KANE THOMPSON-SOMMERS - MIDFIELD

Kane joins the Shaymen having been released by Hereford FC at the end of last season. Thompson-Sommers began his career in Tottenham Hotspurs' academy before making the switch to Birmingham City in 2016 then being loaned out to Woking in 2021. At the end of the 2021/22 season, Thompson-Sommers was one of eight players to be released by the Blues and he joined Hereford.



### 15. TOM CLARKE - DEFENCE

Tom played for Huddersfield Town, Preston North End and Salford City. Clarke is a former England youth international, having represented England at both under-18 and under-19 level.

### 16. JORDAN KEANE - DEFENCE

Jordan Keane joined the Shaymen from League Two side Stockport County last summer. Keane has previously spent time at Stoke, Alfreton, Lincoln City, Nuneaton, Worcester City and Boston United before signing for Stockport in 2018. The versatile player, who can play in both midfield and defence, played a crucial role in their 2018-19 National League North title winning season. Keane made over 100 appearances for the 'Hatters', including 25 appearances in their Vanarama National League title triumph.

### 17. MAX WRIGHT - MIDFIELD

FC Halifax Town have announced the signing of forward Max Wright on a permanent deal with the Club. Wright had a loan spell with the Shaymen last season from Harrogate Town and came off the bench at Wembley Stadium in the FA Trophy win over Gateshead in May.

### 19. AARON COSGRAVE - FORWARD

Cosgrave began his career in the academies at West Ham United and Colchester United. In 2017, the forward left Colchester and signed for Coggeshall Town. In 2018/19 season Cosgrave signed with Havant & Waterlooville then Chelmsford City in January 2019, before making the switch to Welling United for the start of the 2019-20 season then on to Lewes in February 2020. In July 2021, Cosgrave had a successful trial with AFC Wimbledon and went out on loan to Dover Athletic. In August 2022 Cosgrave joined Southend United on loan then to King's Lynn Town.

### 22. ANDREW OLUWABORI - FORWARD

Andrew started his career with Huddersfield

Town's youth academy before making the switch to Peterborough in 2021 then Boreham Wood on loan in October 2021. Loans followed at Kettering Town & Yeovil Town.

### 24. FRANKIE SINFIELD - DEFENCE

Youngster who has come through the youth ranks at the Club.

### 25. TED LAVELLE - MIDFIELD

Ted Lavelle has signed his first professional deal with the Shaymen in September 2023.

### 30. FESTUS ARTHUR - DEFENCE

FC Halifax Town signed defender Festus Arthur from Championship side Hull City last summer. Born in Hamburg, the centre back was in the Oldham Athletic academy before joining Stockport County in 2019. Arthur made 35 appearances for the Hatters during the 2019/20 season, scoring two goals, one of which came against the Shaymen. As a result of his good performances for Stockport, Arthur was named as the Grahame White Young Player of the Year and George Haigh Young Player of the Year.

### 31. TOM SCOTT - GOALKEEPER

After joining in September 2021, Scott has been Sam Johnson's understudy. The goalkeeper is also a former Port Vale player and joined the Shaymen after being released from the League Two side. Tom has also been on the books of Manchester City - where he came through as a youngster. Scott made his debut in the West Riding County Cup against Ilkley Town. Last season he had a loan spell at Northwich Victoria and Ashton United

### MANAGER CHRIS MILLINGTON

Millington was appointed manager of the Shaymen at the start of the 2022/23 season following the departure of Pete Wild to Barrow, who Chris had been assistant to for three seasons.

He finished 11th in his first season and saw his side win 1-0 at Wembley to lift the FA Trophy.

# HALIFAX TOWN & FC HALIFAX TOWN

## Greatest Seasons

# CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

### 1952/53

Gerry Henry managed Halifax Town to the FA Cup fifth round in 1952/53. The Shaymen lost just three of their opening 16 Third Division (North) games, with leading marksman Des Frost scoring twice in a 4-1 victory at home to Southport. Jim Moncrieff grabbed a hat-trick in a 5-2 win over Workington as Halifax remained among the leaders until New Year. In the FA Cup, Halifax beat Ashton United 2-1, Southport 4-2, Cardiff City 3-1 and Stoke City 1-0 before losing 3-0 to Spurs in the fifth round, watched by a record 36,885 crowd at The Shay. Halifax finished mid-table after only four wins in the space of 20 matches.

### 1968/69

Les Massie and Ian Lawther scored 29 goals between them as Halifax Town won promotion for the first time in 1968/69. Alan Ball's side started slowly but soared up the table with just two defeats in 29 Fourth Division games. They also beat Bilston 3-1, Crewe 3-1 and Swansea 1-0 in the FA Cup before drawing 1-1 at Stoke in the fourth round, losing 3-0 in the replay watched by 24,891. Les Massie scored a hat-trick in a 3-0 win at home to Newport and Halifax clinched promotion with a 1-0 win at home to Rochdale in front of 17,186. John Pickering, Dave Shawcross and Alex Smith were ever-present as they finished runners-up.

### 1970/71

Bill Atkins was leading marksman with 18 goals as Halifax Town narrowly failed to win promotion to the Second Division in 1970/71. They kicked off with a 1-1 draw at eventual champions Preston and won four of their next six games, winning 4-1 at home to Plymouth. Bill Atkins scored

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

twice as Halifax won 2-1 at home to Aston Villa and they maintained their promotion challenge, beating rivals Preston and Fulham at The Shay and hitting four goals past Doncaster, Reading, Tranmere and Barnsley. Dave Chadwick, Dave Lennard, John Pickering, Alex Smith and Bob Wallace were ever-present as Halifax finished in third place.

### 1997/98

Geoff Horsfield was leading marksman with 30 goals as Halifax Town stormed to the Conference title in 1997/98. George Mulhall's side raced to the top of the table, unbeaten in their opening 12 Conference matches, with Horsfield grabbing a hat-trick in a 6-1 demolition of Telford. They overcame a 4-0 defeat at Cheltenham to lose just one of their next 13 Conference games, with Horsfield netting another hat-trick against Hereford. The Shaymen lost 4-0 at rivals Rushden & Diamonds, watched by 3,675, but won the title by a nine-point margin. Stars included Brian Kilcline, player-coach Kieran O'Regan and Mark Bradshaw.

### 2005/06

Chris Wilder guided Halifax Town to the Conference play-off final in 2005/06. The Shaymen started with a 1-0 defeat at Morecambe but gradually climbed the table, winning 4-0 at home to Tamworth and successive games against Kidderminster, Hereford and Altrincham. They took Rushden & Diamonds to an FA Cup first round replay before losing on penalties and just two defeats in 17 Conference games lifted them to third place by the end of March. John Grant was leading marksman as Halifax qualified for the play-offs in fourth place, beating Grays Athletic 5-4 on aggregate before losing 3-2 to Hereford United in the final.



some of the 1952/53 FA Cup Giant Killers

Pic. Johnny Meynell

### 2009/10

FC Halifax Town stormed to the Northern Premier League First Division (North) title in 2009/10. The Shaymen were unbeaten at home under new manager Neil Aspin, hammering Salford City 6-1 and AFC Fylde 5-0. Their only two Northern Premier League defeats of the season were at Prescott Cables and Radcliffe Borough. They scored 108 goals and gained a club record 100 points, clinching the title with a 2-2 draw at home to Clitheroe. The 4-0 victory over title rivals Lancaster City in April was watched by 3,152 at The Shay, while the last home match of the season against Skelmersdale United attracted a 2,939 crowd.

### 2010/11

FC Halifax Town won the Northern Premier League Premier Division title in 2010/11. The Shaymen lost just one of their opening 17 games, including a 6-0 win at Marine. The 4-1 victory over FC United of Manchester on New Year's Day was watched by 4,023 at The Shay. Halifax trounced Ossett Town 8-1, then Lee Gregory grabbed a hat-trick in a 6-0 win at Nantwich, while top scorer Jamie Vardy netted hat-tricks in consecutive wins over Chasetown and Kendal in March. They clinched the title with a 2-0 victory at Retford United, scoring 108 goals and gaining 98 points, finishing 19 ahead of runners-up Colwyn Bay.

### 2012/13

FC Halifax Town won promotion via the Conference North play-offs in 2012/13. Neil Aspin's side started with a 2-1 win at Bishop's Cleeve and Lee Gregory scored four times in a 5-0 win at home to Gloucester City. Runs in the FA Cup and FA Trophy, together with postponements from poor

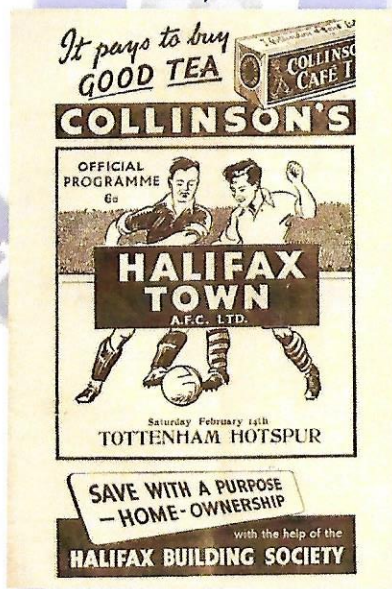
weather, caused a huge backlog in fixtures. By February, Halifax had ten games in hand on certain teams. Top scorer Gregory netted seven goals as they trounced Worcester 5-0 and Huddersley 7-0 in the space of four days at the start of March. They qualified for the play-offs in fifth place, beating Guiseley 3-1, then Brackley 1-0 in the final.

### 2013/14

FC Halifax Town qualified for the Conference National play-offs in 2013/14. The Shaymen had won promotion three times in the previous four seasons and won three of their opening five games back in the fifth tier. Leading marksman Lee Gregory scored 31 goals, including hat-tricks at home to Welling United, Salisbury City and Hyde. Neil Aspin's side dropped just two points in ten matches during the closing weeks, winning 22 games and gaining 77 points as they qualified for the play-offs in fifth place. They beat Cambridge United 1-0 in the semi-final first-leg at The Shay but lost the second-leg 2-0 at Abbey Stadium.

### 2021/22

FC Halifax Town qualified for the Conference National play-offs again in 2021/22. The Shaymen lost only four of their first 23 games and went top of the Conference National after a 4-0 win at home to Eastleigh in early January. Pete Wild's side lost consecutive matches against Maidenhead United and Boreham Wood but maintained their promotion challenge with five straight wins. Leading marksman Billy Waters and Matty Warburton netted 30 goals between them as they qualified for the play-offs in fourth place. They lost 2-1 at home to Chesterfield. Manager Pete Wild left to take charge of Barrow at the end of the season.



1952/53 FA Cup 5th Round

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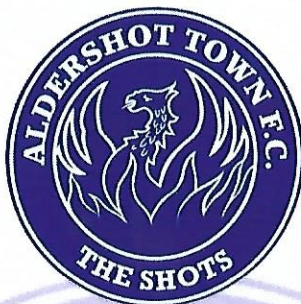


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All you need to know about... Aldershot Town

# The opposition in focus

**O**n March 25th 1992, Aldershot FC became the first Football League team to fold during the season since Accrington Stanley in 1962. From the ashes came phoenix club Aldershot Town, who were formed on April 22nd 1992 and managed by ex-Aldershot FC centre back Steve Wignall.



won the Isthmian League Charity Shield and ended the campaign as runners-up to Dagenham and Redbridge in the Isthmian League Premier Division.

A fourth-place finish was claimed in 2000-01, whilst November 2001 saw a club record crowd of 7500 fill the Rec for the 6-2 defeat by Brighton and Hove Albion in the FA

Cup first round. Following a run of poor results and pressure from fans, Borg resigned in mid-January 2002.

Borg's assistant Stuart Cash took temporary charge before Terry Brown left his post at Hayes in late March to come to North East Hampshire, thus beginning a five-year love affair with the Shots fans. Following a third-place finish and a third Hampshire Senior Cup win in 2001-02, the squad was overhauled and, having attained top spot in mid-November 2002 the Shots remained in top spot to claim the title and, with it, promotion to the Football Conference; they also retained the Hampshire Senior Cup.

Disappointment followed in 2003/04, when the

Shots were beaten on penalties by Shrewsbury Town (after a 1-1 draw) in the play-off final at Stoke City's Britannia Stadium.

More play-off heartache was experienced in 2004-

05, this time in the shape of a shoot-out defeat at Carlisle United in the semi-finals. The next two seasons were disappointing for the Shots (13th and ninth places respectively being secured).

In March 2007, Terry Brown resigned to take care of his wife, who had been ill for some time. Assistant Manager Martin Kuhl took caretaker charge for the remainder of the season.

In 2012-13 Former Rotherham United boss Andy Scott was brought in but couldn't stem the tide and relegation back to the Conference Premier (the club's first such event) was confirmed at end of the season as the Shots eventually finished rock-bottom of the table.

The "new" Shots began life in Isthmian League Division 3 and opened the 1992-93 season in a carnival atmosphere at the Recreation Ground against Clapton. Braces from Mark Butler and Steve Stairs secured a 4-2 win in front of 1493 fans, which was more than watched their predecessors' last home game at the same ground. The campaign finished with the Shots as champions by a commanding 18-point margin, whilst strikers Mark Butler and Steve Stairs scored a combined total of 62 goals in all competitions.

A second successive promotion (via a third-place finish) followed in 1993-94 together with a run to the FA Vase quarter-finals.

Steve Wignall departed in January 1994 to take charge of Division 3 side Colchester United and was replaced by ex-Nottingham Forest winger Steve Wigley. Despite a strong finish to the 1994-95 season, the Shots missed out on a third successive promotion on goal difference. Following fifth- and seventh-place finishes over the next two seasons, Wigley left to take up a post in (former club) Forest's youth set up in the summer of 1997.

Following a spell under the caretaker management trio of Andy Meyer, Mark Butler and Joe Roach, Enfield boss George Borg was appointed in September 1997 and his first season yielded increased crowds and the Isthmian League Division 1 title. In 1998-99, the Shots won both the Isthmian League Cup and the Hampshire Senior Cup. In 1999-2000, they retained the latter trophy,

## THE SHOTS

**HOME GROUND THE EBB STADIUM**  
**CAPACITY - 7,100 (2,000 SEATED)**  
**MANAGER - TOMMY WIDDRINGTON**  
**2022/23 - 18TH NATIONAL LEAGUE**

## LAST SEASON

**SAT 1ST OCT 2022 (A) W 2-1**  
**TUE 18TH APR 2023 (H) L 0-1**

## ALL TIME

**P 8 W 2 D 2 L 4 F 12 A 15**



On May 2nd 2013, just five days after their relegation from League 2, Aldershot Town officially entered administration with reported debts of £1.4 million.

The Shots began the 2013-14 season with a 10-point deduction as a punishment for the aforementioned entry into administration. With a hastily-assembled squad (some of whom were signed in the hotel the night before the season's opener at Grimsby Town)

On July 31st 2014, Aldershot Town announced that they had paid off all of their debts, which enables them to exit the auspices of the CVA after just 12 months – a massive two years ahead of the required date! The icing on the cake came with the additional news that the club had made "a modest profit" in the first year of trading under the new owners.

The 2015-16 season was another one of disappointing performances with the Shots finished the campaign having scored just 23 home league goals, equalled the club record for fewest home league wins (7) and most home league losses (12) as well as setting new club records for most league losses in a season (22) and lowest average home league attendance (1607); the season was also the fourth in succession in which the aforementioned

crowd figure had dropped.

A new-look side for 2016/17 secured fifth place in the table and a Play-Off semi-final against Tranmere Rovers. Unfortunately, The Shots lost the home leg 3-0 but at least restored a great deal of pride with a battling 2-2 draw in the Prenton Park return.

In 2017-18 the squad picked up where they

left off and spent the majority of the season challenging for the title eventually finishing 5th in the table losing to Ebbsfleet in the play-offs.

2020/21 saw the Shots placed 15th & 2021/22 placed 20th

Over the summer of 2022, Mark Molesley put together his squad

for the coming season and big wins were garnered over Boreham Wood, Barnet and FC Halifax Town before the team began to slide down the table, ending in Molesley's dismissal after a 2:0 FA Cup qualifier defeat at Chelmsford Town. Academy manager Ross McNeilly was put in caretaker charge and after a run of five wins from eight, was given the role on a permanent basis, until the end of the season.

Current Shots manager Tommy Widdrington has been in charge since 2nd April 2023.

# OPPOSITION IN FOCUS Aldershot Town

## **JORDI VAN STAPPERSHOEF - GOALKEEPER**

The Dutch goalkeeper had previously spent time in England with Bristol Rovers where he racked up a number of League One appearances. Van Stappershoef started his career with FC Volendam where he made a number of Dutch Second Division appearances before joining Rovers.

## **HAJI MNOGA - DEFENCE**

Haji Mnoqa signed for the Shots on a season-long loan from Portsmouth in August, 2023. Mnoqa was previously impressed with a loan spell at Aldershot in the second-half of the 22/23 season. Having made senior international appearances for Tanzania, Mnoqa brings with him experience of the Football League, National League and international football.

## **OLLIE HARFIELD - DEFENCE**

Ollie Harfield joined The Shots in June 2022 from Weymouth FC. The left-back has a lot of Vanarama National League experience and has made over 100 appearances in the division. Harfield came through the AFC Bournemouth youth ranks and has gained a reputation with the Shots for his crossing ability and high assist total in his debut season.

## **CIAN HARRIES- DEFENCE**

The centre-back joined following the expiry of his contract with Swindon Town. Harries is a former Welsh youth international and has made appearances in the Championship, League One and League Two, as well as in the Eredivisie whilst on loan with Fortuna Sittard.

## **COBY ROWE - DEFENCE**

Coby Rowe joined the Shots in July 2023 after leaving Sutton United. The dominant centre-back joined Sutton United halfway through their Vanarama National League title-winning campaign and made 4 League Two appearances in the following seasons. Rowe progressed through the rank at a number of non-league clubs, including Hillingdon Borough, Wingate and Finchley and Haringey Borough before making the move to the top of the non-league pyramid in 2020.

## **THEO WIDDRINGTON - MIDFIELD**

Theo Widdrington joined the Shots in June 2023 for an undisclosed fee from Kings Lynn Town. Widdrington came through the academy ranks at Portsmouth before joining Bristol Rovers. He's also had spells at Lewes and Havant and Waterlooville, as well as loan spells at Welling United and Hemel Hempstead. The central midfielder played 40 times and scored 6 goals in the National League North last season for Kings Lynn.

## **STUART O'KEEFE - MIDFIELD**

O'Keefe has racked up over 250 senior appearances in all four of English football's top divisions, including two seasons in the Premier League with Crystal Palace. The 32-year-old was most recently at

Gillingham where he made over 130 appearances and was Club Captain. He started his career with Southend United before signing for Palace where he was involved in their promotion to the Premier league in 2012/13 before joining Cardiff City two seasons later. The midfielder has also had spells with Blackpool, MK Dons, Portsmouth and Plymouth Argyle.

## **8. TYLER FROST - MIDFIELD**

On a free transfer after leaving Harrogate Town. Capable of playing anywhere across the midfield, the 23-year-old brings with him Football League experience, having made 37 League Two appearances with Crawley Town and 13 appearances in the same division with Harrogate this season.

## **9. LORENT TOLAJ - FORWARD**

The Swiss striker started his career with FC Sion before moving abroad as a teenager to join Brighton & Hove Albion. A former Swiss youth international, Tolaj was prolific for the Seagulls' youth sides and spent time on loan with Cambridge United, Salford City and Dundee.

## **10. JOSH STOKES - MIDFIELD**

Josh Stokes signed for the Shots in June 2023 for an undisclosed fee from AFC Sudbury. The 19-year-old advanced through the Ipswich Town youth ranks before joining Sudbury as a 16-year-old. He made his debut in an FA Cup fixture against Dartford in 2021 and continued to impress as he fired his side towards promotion with 16 goals as well as being named Fans Player of the Year last season.

## **11. RYAN GLOVER - MIDFIELD**

Following a loan spell at The EBB Stadium the season before. The versatile midfielder can play as a wing-back, winger or up-front and is another AFC Bournemouth academy graduate and joined from the recently promoted Premier League side. Having spent a lot of his loan spell not fully fit and fighting injury, Glover will be looking to show Shots fans his best form as he joins back up with some familiar faces.

## **12. KEANE ANDERSON - MIDFIELD**

Keane Anderson is an Aldershot Town Academy graduate and joins up with the first-team squad this season after impressing whilst progressing through the youth setup. Anderson's father, Mark Anderson, made 34 appearances for The Shots in the mid-90s and having made his debut in a Hampshire Cup tie against Farnborough last season, will be hoping to follow in his Dad's footsteps.

## **14. OLLIE BRAY - FORWARD**

The forward joined from Willand Rovers where he caught the eye with his performances in the Southern League Division One South, registering double figures for both goals and assists. Bray spent most of his football upbringing in the grassroots game but spent a couple of years at Exeter City as a teenager and spent time with Manchester United's youth setup in

the summer before signing for the Shots.

## **15. ZAIN WALKER - MIDFIELD**

The winger broke through into Bristol Rovers' first-team as a teenager having progressed through their academy ranks, going on to make 11 appearances before struggling with injuries. Walker worked with Widdrington at Kings Lynn and spent two seasons there before his move to the Shots this summer.

## **16. ALEX MACALLISTER - MIDFIELD**

MacAllister signed a professional development contract with the Shots in the summer of 2023 having progressed through the Aldershot Academy. The youngster was given his league debut when he came off the bench in a defeat at Wrexham.

## **17. AARON JONES - DEFENCE**

The right-back had spent five years at Kings Lynn and in the 22/23 season was named in the Vanarama National League North Team of the Season.

Jones spent his youth career with Ipswich Town before moving to America to progress through the US College system when he was eventually involved in the MLS draft.

## **18. OLLY SCOTT - DEFENCE**

Scott previously played under Tommy Widdrington at King's Lynn Town and made over 40 appearances in the National League and National League North. The left-wingback has also played for Blyth Spartans and Consett AFC.

## **19. CHRISTIAN MAGHOMA - DEFENCE**

The centre-back was formerly at Eastleigh where he made 42 appearances over two seasons. The 25-year-old has made a senior appearance for the Democratic Republic of Congo and came through Tottenham Hotspurs' youth ranks. Maghoma has also spent a couple of seasons abroad with Polish side Arka Gdynia where he made over 30 appearances in the Polish Ekstraklasa (top division).

## **20. JOE HAIGH - MIDFIELD**

Haigh has represented England at Under 15 and Under 16 level and has also been involved with an England training camp at Under 19 level. He was an exciting prospect whilst climbing the youth ranks at Chelsea and trained with the first-team squad after impressing in their development sides.

## **21. ETHAN BURNETT - MIDFIELD**

Ethan came through the Southampton Academy ranks before signing for Reading on a free transfer. The 21-year-old spent time on loan with Havant and Waterlooville last season, making 24 appearances.

## **22. JACK BARHAM - FORWARD**

The 27-year-old fired the Stones to promotion from the Vanarama National League South in 2021/22 with 18 league goals and has had spells with Dorking Wanderers and Barnet.

## **23. HADY GHANDOUR - FORWARD**

The striker has represented Lebanon at senior

international level and was most recently playing for Maidstone United. Ghandour earned a move to Charlton Athletic after impressing with Tooting and Mitcham and made a handful of first-team appearances for the League One side in cup competitions.

## **24. MAXWELL MULLINS - DEFENCE**

Maxwell Mullins is an Aldershot Town Academy graduate and joins up with the first-team squad this season having impressed whilst progressing through the youth setup and during a loan spell at Leatherhead last season.

## **27. TOMMY WILLARD - MIDFIELD**

The winger came through Southampton's youth ranks before joining Barnsley. Willard got his first professional appearance at Aldershot and now finds himself as the longest-serving Shot, fast approaching a century of appearances.

## **31. OLLIE TURNER - MIDFIELD**

Turner came through the youth ranks at Tottenham Hotspur before joining the Shots Academy. The central midfielder impressed with performances for the academy, in the Hampshire Cup.

## **34. DEJAN TETEK - MIDFIELD**

Tetek was a product of Reading's youth academy where he progressed through to the first-team and went on to make 17 appearances in the Championship.

The 21-year-old was born in England, but has Serbian family and despite having represented England at youth level, switched international allegiance to Serbia and has made five appearances for their Under 21s.

## **37. JASPER SHEIK - GOALKEEPER**

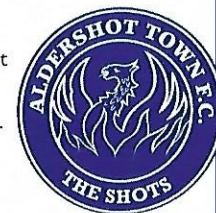
Jasper Sheik linked up with the Shots first-team in the 22/23 season. The 'keeper has impressed in training sessions with the first-team and has been an unused substitute. Sheik was part of an England Schoolboys U18 side that won the Centenary Shield against Scotland, Wales, Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

## **38. FINLAY WESTEN - GOALKEEPER**

Finlay Westen linked up with the Shots first-team during the 22/23 season. After progressing through the Shots' Academy, Westen began training with the first-team goalkeepers and has impressed in training enough to make a number of substitute appearances.

## **39. KWAME THOMAS - FORWARD**

Kwame Thomas joined the Shots in July 2023 following the end of his contract at Sutton United. Thomas began his career with Derby County and brings with him over 150 games of experience in the Championship, League One, League Two and the National League. The striker has represented England at under 16, under 17 and under 20 level and adds a physical presence to the Shots' frontline.



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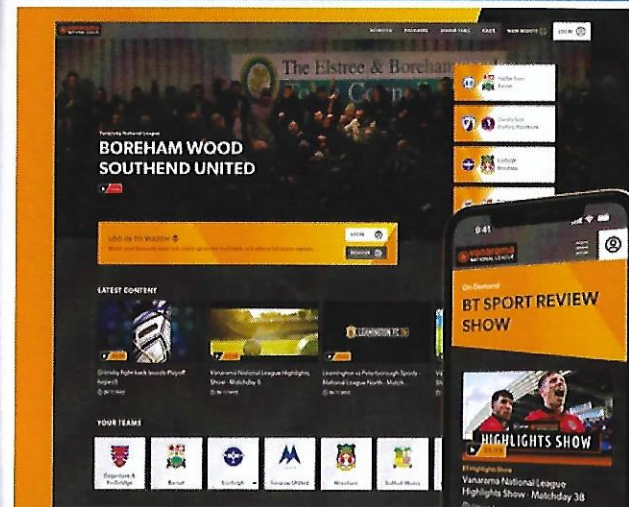
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<b>YORK CITY</b> Saturday 5th August Vanarama National League	<b>Ruislip Windows &amp; Doors</b>
<b>AFC FYLDE</b> Saturday 19th August Vanarama National League	<b>Harrow Windows</b>
<b>DAGENHAM &amp; REDBRIDGE</b> Monday 28th August Vanarama National 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>HARTLEPOOL UNITED</b> Saturday 23rd December Vanarama National League	<b>Harrow Windows</b>	<b>The Ambassadors</b>
<b>FC HALIFAX TOWN</b> Saturday 27th January Vanarama National League	<b>Keith Davies</b>	<b>Jim Sorrell</b>
<b>ALDERSHOT TOWN</b> Tuesday 30th January Vanarama National League	<b>Michael Nutt</b>	<b>Rolfe East</b>
<b>MAIDENHEAD UNITED</b> Tuesday 6th February Vanarama National League	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
<b>HENDON</b> Saturday 10th February FA Trophy 5th Round	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
<b>GATESHEAD</b> Saturday 17th February Vanarama National League	<b>Rolfe-East</b>	<b>The Ambassadors</b>
<b>DORKING WANDERERS</b> Tuesday 20th February Vanarama National League	<b>Smith &amp; Latimer</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
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<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>Dom Wong</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
<b>CHESTERFIELD</b> Saturday 13th April Vanarama National League	<b>The Old Gits Club</b>	<b>The Forest Green Five</b>
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# Aldershot & Aldershot Town Greatest Seasons

## CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

Football historian  
**LEIGH EDWARDS**  
selects ten post-war  
Aldershot & Aldershot  
Town 'Classic Campaigns'.

### 1960/61

Aldershot took Stoke City to an FA Cup fourth round second replay in 1960/61. Dave Smith's side were early pace-setters in the Fourth Division, winning all but one of their opening six matches, then triumphed 5-0 against Doncaster and Crewe. In the FA Cup, Aldershot defeated Notts County 2-0, Colchester 3-1 and Shrewsbury 2-0 in the third round second replay before two 0-0 draws against Stoke. The Shots lost 3-0 at Molineux in the fourth round second replay, their eighth FA Cup tie of the campaign. Terry Matthews netted four goals in a 6-1 win at home to York in their penultimate match as Aldershot finished mid-table.

### 1963/64

Aldershot defeated top-flight Aston Villa en route to the FA Cup fourth round in 1963/64. Alan Woan grabbed a hat-trick as the Shots kicked off their Fourth Division campaign with a 4-1 win at home to Hartlepool. They beat Tranmere 5-4 and other highlights included Tony Priscott scoring four times in an 8-2 win over Barrow, then Ron Fogg and Peter Kearns netting hat-tricks in a 7-0 demolition of Stockport as they finished mid-table. In the FA Cup, Aldershot beat Sutton United 4-0 and Torquay 3-2 before drawing 0-0 at Aston Villa. They won 2-1 in the third round replay but lost 2-1 to Swindon in the fourth round.

### 1969/70

Jack Howarth and Dennis Brown scored 36 goals between them as Aldershot finished sixth in the Fourth Division in 1969/70. Ex-England international Jimmy Melia

became player-manager and signed Dennis Brown from Northampton. The Shots lost just once in 14 Fourth Division matches during mid-season and in the FA Cup defeated Margate 7-2, with Jack Howarth and Dennis Brown netting hat-tricks, then Bristol Rovers 3-1 and Huddersfield Town 3-1 before taking Carlisle United to a fourth round replay. Jimmy Melia and Richard Walden were ever-present, while Jack Howarth and Dennis Brown missed just one match.

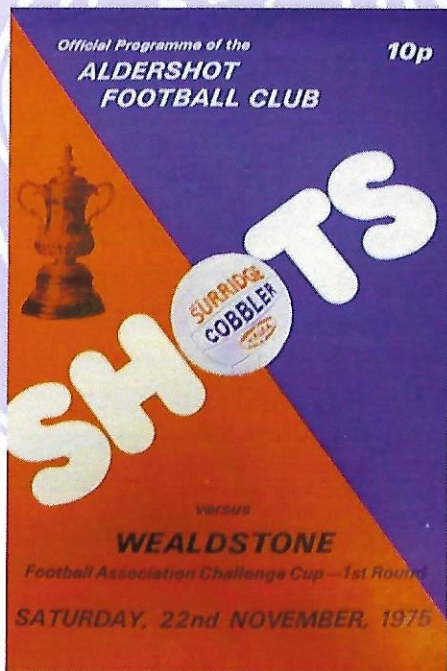
### 1972/73

Steve Melledeew was leading marksman with 18 goals as Aldershot won promotion for the first time in 1972/73. Tommy McAnearney returned as manager and goalkeeper Tony Godfrey rejoined the Shots from Rochdale. They were unbeaten in their opening six Fourth Division games and maintained their promotion challenge, with Jack Howarth

returning from Rochdale in November. Aldershot lost just one of their last 12 matches, clinching fourth place with a 1-1 draw at Stockport in their final match. Ray Dean, Tony Godfrey and Steve Melledeew were ever-present, while five other players missed just seven games between them.

### 1973/74

Jack Howarth was top scorer with 25 goals as Aldershot finished in their highest-ever position in 1973/74. Summer signings John Richardson and Bob Wallace made their debuts as the newly promoted Shots began life in the Third Division with a 0-0 draw at home to Tranmere. They won just three of their opening 16 matches before a 5-1 win over Wrexham in mid-November sparked an



**Aldershot v Wealdstone FA Cup  
1st Round 1975**



**A new era... Aldershot Town were formed in 1992**

upturn in results. Aldershot lost only twice in 15 games during a mid-season run and Terry Bell grabbed a hat-trick in a 4-0 win over Rochdale, then Jack Howarth repeated the feat in a 6-0 trouncing of Cambridge United. The Shots finished eighth.

### 1978/79

Ace marksman John Dungworth starred as Aldershot reached the FA Cup fifth round and narrowly missed promotion in 1978/79. Tommy McAnearney's side were unbeaten in their opening six Fourth Division games and triumphed 6-0 at home to Bradford City. In the FA Cup they beat Weymouth 2-0, Barking 2-1, Sheffield United 1-0 and Swindon 2-1 before taking Shrewsbury to a fifth round replay. They maintained their challenge with just one defeat in 25 matches but won only twice in their last six games and finished fifth. John Dungworth scored 34 goals overall, while goalkeeper Glenn Johnson was also ever-present.

### 1986/87

Len Walker plotted Aldershot's 1986/87 Fourth Division play-off final success. The Shots won just two of their opening nine games, with Mike Ring grabbing a hat-trick against Lincoln, but three successive wins in December lifted them to sixth place. They beat top-flight Oxford United 3-0 in the FA Cup third round and took Barnsley to a fourth round replay. Aldershot also reached the Freight Rover Trophy southern final. Top scorer Martin Foyle joined Oxford United in March but the Shots had a ten-match unbeaten run and qualified for the play-offs in sixth place. They beat Bolton 3-2, then Wolves 3-0 in the two-legged final.

### 2002/03

Aldershot Town stormed to the Isthmian League title with a club record 105 points in 2002/03. Terry Brown's side won all but two of their opening 11

Isthmian League games and remained in pole position for the rest of the season. The Shots overcame a mid-season loss of firepower and resisted a late challenge from Canvey Island, with a ten-match unbeaten finish including a 5-1 win over St Albans City and 6-2 demolition of Hendon. England Semi-Pro international Roscoe D'Sane was leading marksman, while experienced trio Paul Moody, Karl Ready and skipper Ray Warburton made a significant contribution

### 2003/04

Aldershot Town reached the Conference play-off final in 2003/04. The newly promoted Shots began life in the Conference with a 2-1 victory at home to Accrington Stanley and won their first four matches to go top of the table. They remained in contention with an eight-match unbeaten run and beat Forest Green Rovers and Grays Athletic in the FA Cup before losing 1-0 at Colchester in the second round. Despite failing to win any of their last five games they qualified for the play-offs in fifth place. Aldershot drew 1-1 with Shrewsbury in the final but lost on penalties. Roscoe D'Sane was leading marksman with 27 goals overall.

### 2007/08

New manager Gary Waddock guided Aldershot Town to the Conference title with a record 101 points in 2007/08. The Shots lost two of their first three home games, including a 3-0 defeat by Torquay, but then raced to the top with six straight wins. They lost at Stevenage and Burton, then regained pole position with seven consecutive victories. John Grant was leading marksman with 20 goals as the Shots gained a record 31 wins, finishing 15 points clear at the top. They clinched the 'double' with victory over Rushden & Diamonds in the Setanta Shield but lost to eventual winners Ebbsfleet United in the FA Trophy semi-finals.

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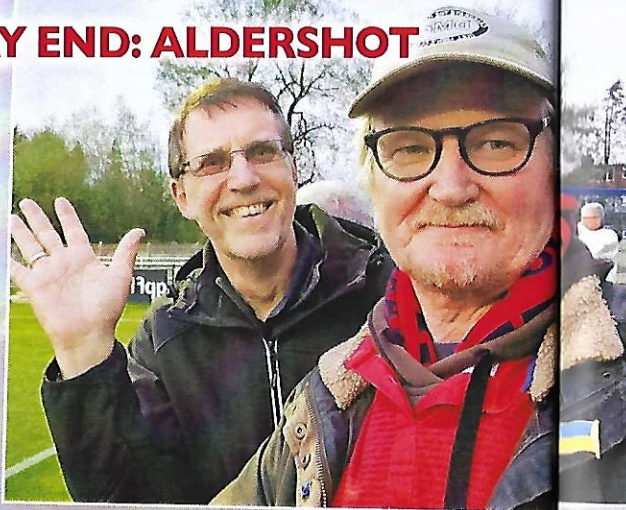
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## VIEW FROM THE AWAY END: ALDERSHOT

### I like coming to the Vale... especially the use of a shipping container to house turnstiles. Brilliant!

WE were very pleased to get loads of replies for this feature and we kick off with 58 year-old NICK CANSFIELD, who has written three books about following Aldershot home and away (most recent one is called Slab Life 3, pictured left). He says his wife allowed him that luxury expecting him to be less devoted in successive seasons, which hasn't really happened!



ABOVE: Nick (right) at the Vale last season with his friend Martin... who was understandably over-excited to be seeing his first Shots away game

**night's fixture? Were you in Ruislip to see the crucial 1-0 win over the Stones in April?**

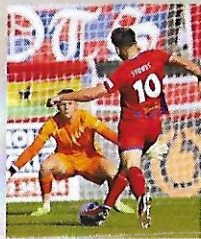
Yes, I'm expecting to travel to Wealdstone, and yes I was there last year. I travelled with my friend Martin for his first Shots away game - which he enjoyed. I like the visitor experience at Wealdstone - the bar is very friendly and the turnstiles for away fans are housed in a shipping container which I think is utterly brilliant! I even mentioned it in my programme column last season.

**Who are the new players (or management) who have effected this turnaround in fortunes?**

The players gaining all the plaudits are our strikers Josh Stokes and Lauren Tolaj who are both genuinely awesome and scoring goals for fun, but players from last season such as Ollie Harfield and Ryan Glover also seem to have a new lease of life. I could just give you our squad list as everyone who pulls on the shirt this season seems to be rising to every challenge. It suggests that a lot of the credit needs to be given to Tommy and his management/coaching team.

**Who is your Shots player of the season so far?**

This probably has to be 19 year old Josh Stokes (pictured above scoring v Stones). We recruited him from AFC Sudbury and he has proved so far that he is one of the best strikers in the National League with massive potential to go further in the game. Hopefully with the Shots! In truth though, I could name you half a dozen players who would be in contention for the award. It's a much longer list this season than it has been for the last few years!



**Were you expecting to see the Shots around the play-off positions and into the FA Cup 3rd round after narrowly avoiding relegation last season?** Errr, no! The last five years have been pretty difficult for Shots fans. We tend to be quite realistic in our expectations, but we have been brought up on attacking football and 'giving it a go', which has sadly been in short measure of late.

Tommy Widdrington was appointed our manager towards the end of last season, and we were unbeaten in the last six games, including the win at Wealdstone. We were hoping that this year would be better and whilst the bookies had us as clear favourites for relegation, we were probably hoping to be somewhere in the middle of mid-table.

The FA Cup has been a massive disappointment for us during this time, having been knocked out in the fourth qualifying round in each of the last four years. As you can imagine, losing to Bowers and Pitsea and then Chelmsford in the last two years was particularly disappointing! I'm not sure whether we expected to beat Swindon and Stockport this year, but most Shots fans were somewhat shell-shocked as every break at Swindon seemed to lead to a goal. Being 7-0 up after less than an hour is the stuff that dreams are made of!

Tommy has instilled a real sense of passion into the team and we never give up - for example at Bromley recently when we were 2-0 down after 5 minutes and managed to score a winner in injury time.

**Are you likely to be at The Vale for to-**

**When was your first Aldershot game? What are your memories of it?** I can't remember! My friend Matthew Brown had come round for the day and his Mum came round to take him to an Aldershot game. Neither of my parents had any interest in football, so this was the first time it ever featured in our house. I don't remember anything of the game, if I'm honest but I think it would have been a midweek game towards the end of the 1980 season and was enough to get me hooked for life.

**Were you at Stockport for the FA Cup replay and will you be at The Hawthorns on January 7th?** Well, I would have made Stockport if it was on the Tuesday night

## I tell my teenage sons: It's Aldershot... so expect the highs quickly followed by lows

Next up is MIKE GALE, 45, whose first Aldershot game was in the old Div Three against Southend...

**Were you expecting such dramatic highs and lows this season?** I wasn't expecting the highs! To be brutally honest, our last five seasons have been pretty dismal, with a succession of lower table finishes ... My hopes for this season were simply not to still be nervously checking the league table by Easter; the possibility of making the play-offs had not crossed my mind.

And, given our recent habit of getting knocked out of both the FA Cup and Trophy early on (usually by teams from lower divisions), I'm delighted with the cup run! But I'm writing this just after watching the Shots get battered 4-2 at Kidderminster ... even though we were 2-0 up at one point! As I always say to my two teenage sons, supporting the Shots is a rollercoaster ride: enjoy the highs when they come along ... because the next dip is only just around the corner!

**Are you likely to be at The Vale tonight?**

Not sure. I'm hoping to get up for it, but we actually live down near Winchester these days, so it's an 80 mile round trip even for home games - and getting up to Ruislip on a week night won't be easy. It depends on whether I can sneak out of work.

**Who or what has caused this turnaround?**

Obviously, our attacking players have been getting a lot of the plaudits this year, but I think Haji Mnoga has been a key signing for us. He's strong at the back and a real threat pushing forward. We were lucky to get him on loan from Portsmouth last season, and even luckier to get him back again for this one. Hopefully, our chairman has been saving up from our cup run so that we can attempt to sign

as we had originally thought it would have been. Sadly I couldn't make the Wednesday. Bloody TV!

I did get to the Hawthorns, alongside the other 4,920 Shots fans who made the trip. Unfortunately West Brom were slightly better than us!

**Do you think Shots will make it a league double over the Stones tonight?** Josh Stokes scored two in our meeting at the beginning of the season and my recollection is that we thought you had brought the referee with you on your team bus!

(Be worth looking at the corners and match stats on the next spread for a true reflection Martin! - Ed)

him permanently! I also think our new Head of Recruitment Jamie Hedges deserves enormous praise he keeps finding us great players we can actually afford to sign!

**Who is your Shots player of the season so far?** I'm going to be controversial and NOT say Josh Stokes! Of course, he has been superb for us and I fully expect him to move on to bigger and better things before too long. But I'd say Jack Barham has

been my player of the season this far.

He took a little while to settle in from Maidstone but this season he's been a revelation! So energetic and pacey, and the goals are starting to rack up too. Put

simply, we play better when he is on the pitch - and I certainly wouldn't want to have to mark him!

**When was your first Aldershot game?**

At the tail-end of the 1987/88 season, watching the old Aldershot FC (i.e. before our 1992 demise and subsequent reformation as ATFC) lose 1-0 at home to Southend United in the old Division 3 (= League 1, for younger readers). I don't remember much about it, other than it was a pretty drab affair - and that David Crown tapped in a last-minute winner for them during a goalmouth scramble.

**How many have you seen this season?** About 30, if you include half-a-dozen pre-season friendlies.

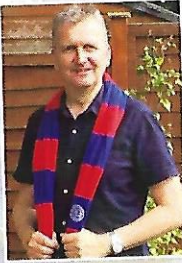
No, I couldn't make it up to Stockport as I was working down here until 5pm ... but we did make it up to the WBA game. I don't remember much about the home game vs the Stones back in August, apart from Ryan Glover's opening goal! I'm pretty sure it was a badly-hit cross rather than a shot, but your keeper very kindly helped it in at the near post.

**More contributions overpage>>>**



## VIEW FROM THE AWAY END CONTD

FIFTY-FIVE year old CRAIG HOOPER, an Aldershot fan from Camberley in Surrey, looks forward to a trip to 'friendly Wealdstone'... How unexpected is the Shots' current form after narrowly avoiding relegation last season?



**My first-ever game saw Red Devils parachute team drop onto the pitch.. I thought it'd happen every week!**

We finished last season strongly so despite what the pundits were saying, I didn't think it would be another season of struggle. I have to admit though that things have gone way beyond my wildest expectations. Tommy Widdrington coming in as boss along with some astute player recruitment has turned the club around. To reach the 3rd round of the cup is dreamland - we hadn't got past the 4th qualifying round for five years! It's looking like this will be Chesterfield's year for the title but the play offs are wide open and there's every chance. The Shots could be in the mix come the end of the season. **Are you likely to be at The Vale for tonight's fixture? Did you see the crucial 1-0 win over the Stones in April?**

I'll most likely be at the Vale for tonight's game. It's one of the closer ones for me and always a friendly place to visit. I was also at The Vale last April for our 1-0 win. We'd been on a decent run for a few games beforehand but were still threatened with relegation. It was a tight game but that win more or less made sure we avoided the drop. **Who are the new players (or management changes) who have effected this turnaround in fortunes?** Tommy Widdrington became manager towards the end of last season and has completely transformed our fortunes. He has a great eye for tactical detail and is passionate about the game. A bit too passion-

ate occasionally, given the number of yellow cards he's received this season! I can also say without doubt that Tommy is the best dressed manager in the league! You won't see Tommy in a scruffy tracksuit. The player recruitment has also been key though. Josh Stokes, Lorent Tolaj, Cian Harries and Coby Rowe have all been fantastic additions to the squad. **Who is your Shots' player of the season so far?** Josh Stokes has been a revelation since he joined us in the summer from Southern League AFC Sudbury. He's only 19 but seems to have everything. Strong on the ball, intelligent and most importantly knows how to finish. He's caught the eye of scouts now, of course,

**GUY BUTCHERS, 63, can even remember Kevin Keegan playing for Scunthorpe at The Rec...**

**Is the current stellar season something you were expecting?**

The short answer is 'no', but there were certainly signs that we could expect a better showing than last season. Tommy Widdrington came in towards the end of last season, during April, and took us on an unbeaten run to stay in the National League.

He and his staff know how to organise a team, and how to bring out the best in the players. After that, it was really a case of what happened on the recruitment side of things before this season. It was interesting to see them bringing in a small band of experienced players and blending them with a number of young and hungry players who had learnt their skills with some top clubs but wanted to tackle men's football rather than continue to contest development

games. During the pre-season campaign, there were some good signs but in all honesty, at that stage I was thinking a mid-table finish would be the upper end of my hopes.

With regard to the FA Cup run, for a club like us, and no doubt for Wealdstone too, progress in the Cup is vital in terms of bolstering the finances. I must dig out my silver foil FA Cup trophy before we are knocked out!

**Are you likely to be at The Vale tonight?** I hope to be at the game but it depends on one or two boring health issues which have dogged my attendance for the last 12 or 14 months. Hopefully my youngest son might drive me to the game. He's an avid Shots fan too, although at one time he did say him becoming an Aldershot supporter made me guilty of some kind of child abuse. I watched the April game via a live stream. The ability to do that is a real bonus. Having spent many, many



## APPEARANCES

# 2023/2024

CORRECT AS AT 6TH JANUARY.	VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE			FA CUP			FA TROPHY			MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP			MIDDLESEX CHARITY CUP			TOTALS			STONES CAREER		
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G
Abdulmalik, Abdul *	6	3					1		1							7	4		7	4	
Adarkwa, Sean	9	10	8													9	10	8	9	10	8
Allarakhia, Tarryn	15	6	4	1												16	6	4	68	12	13
Andrews, Corie	3	10							1							3	11		16	15	3
Barker, Charlie	23		1	1												24		1	56	2	1
Barrett, Mason	4	6		1				1								6	6		25	13	
Bowen, Sam	21	1	5	1				1	1							23	1	6	23	1	6
Campbell, Tahvon	16	2	5	1				1	1							18	2	6	18	2	6
Charles, Ashley	18	1		1					1							19	2		117	23	2
Clayden, Charles *	13	2														13	2		36	5	4
Cook, Jack	24		4					1								25		4	111	2	12
Dewhurst, Marcus	6							1								7			7		
Dyer, Alex	10	4														10	4		206	41	34
Ferguson, Nathan	11	8	1		1	1	1	1	1							12	9	3	62	18	10
Henry, Aaron	1															1			21		2
Hutchinson, Dominic																			20	8	1
Ilunga, Brooklyn	3	2						1								4	2		16	4	
Kretzschmar, Max	11	6	3	1		1										12	6	4	37	12	10
Mason, Brandon	4	2			1	1										5	3		5	3	
Mundle-Smith, Jaydn	25		1	1				1								27		1	64	14	4
Obiero, Micah	19	4			1			1		1						21	4	1	49	10	9
Olomola, Olufela *	4	4														4	4		36	14	10
Smith, Kyle *	10	1	2	1												11	1	2	11	1	2
Ward, Jed *	19						1									20			20		



**For me, being able to watch games on the live stream is a genuine Godsend**



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Greenking  
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Lawrence Rand  
Lewis Decorators  
Luker Rowe, Insurance Broke  
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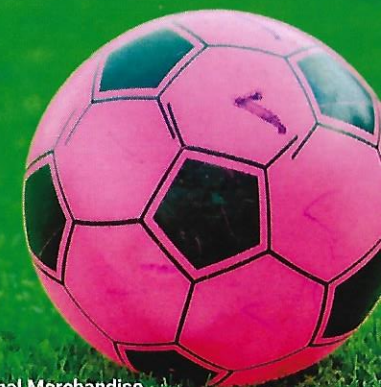
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REWIND SPECIAL >>>> by tim parks

# It happened 50 years ago

## Part 15: Never on a Sunday? Stones make history.. and then giant-kill Wimbledon

*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.*

Sunday January 6 1974, Southern League Division One South: Wealdstone 0 Bognor Regis Town 0

Saturday January 12 1974, FA Trophy 1st round Proper: Wimbledon 0 Wealdstone 1

### THESE were extraordinary times to be watching football.

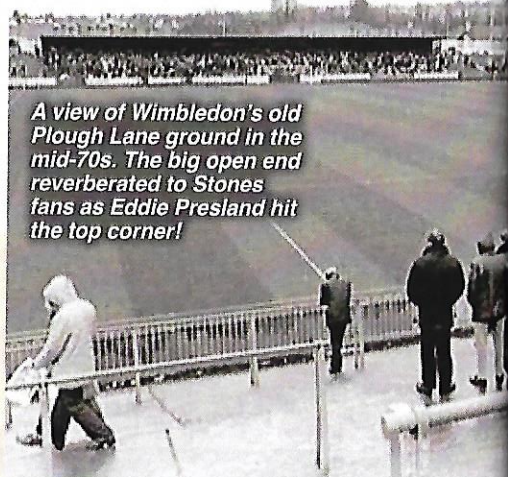
We've already discussed in previous 'episodes' the three-day working week, the industrial crisis and the constant power cuts that were just part of everyday life back in 1974... well now that all seemed to come to a head when our SL opponents Bognor announced that, due to power only being available to Sussex businesses on Saturday Jan 5th, they wouldn't be able to field a side for the game at Lower Mead.

You can imagine the club's conundrum. With flood-lighting banned (lack of energy due to the miners' strike) we did not want to re-arrange the game for a midweek date, possibly in the far-off future. Stones had three or four games still outstanding and a run in the FA Trophy would just exacerbate things.

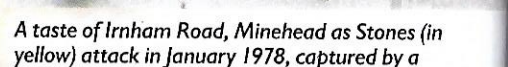
And so the club applied to play the Bognor game on a Sunday. What! Has football gone mad!

We were living in less secular times and the Church considered the holy day sacrosanct. A day of rest. End of.

Yes, there was Sunday morning amateur football but the professional game had not yet discovered the



A view of Wimbledon's old Plough Lane ground in the mid-70s. The big open end reverberated to Stones fans as Eddie Presland hit the top corner!



A taste of Irnham Road, Minehead as Stones (in yellow) attack in January 1978, captured by a

profitability of capitalising on the non-Church-going Sunday market.

Wealdstone beat them to it! The Lord's Day Observance Society decreed that money could not be taken over the turnstile but there was a loophole: you could charge full whack (25p) for a programme and gain admittance that way!

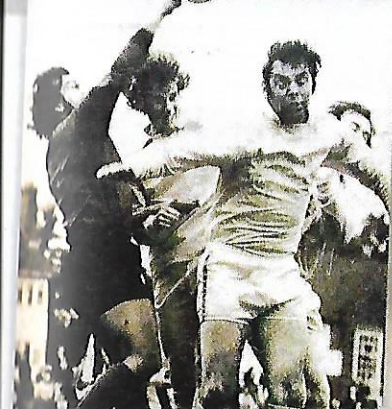
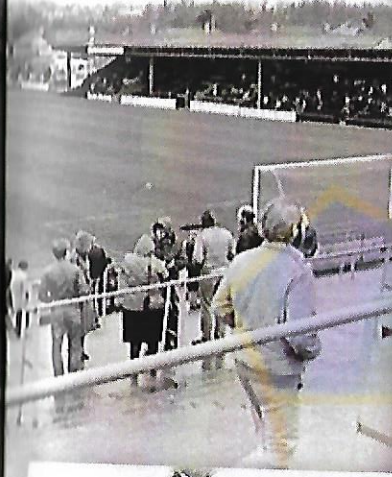
Bognor agreed, the Southern League agreed and the only problem was advertising the game locally, with the Harrow Observer also in the grip of industrial action. But word must have got through somehow, with national radio and newspapers reporting on a slew of FA Cup games also kicking off on that Sunday... the first Sunday football played in this country. The first-ever top flight game played on the Lord's day was later that month, January 27th 1974 when Chelsea were beaten 1-0 at Stoke City.

So how did the Harrow public take to Sunday football? Well we had 1,500 programmes printed and every one was sold as the fans flocked through the turnstiles clutching their printed progs. Maybe we should try that nowadays?

Sadly, the game was possibly the duller served up that season (nothing happened) but the Stones remained top of the table with three games in hand on their nearest rivals.

### Six days later the Stones pulled off their first proper giant-killing since joining the pro ranks three years before.

I remember sitting in our front room plotting my route by underground to the FA Trophy First Round Proper game and wondering if it was



Match-winner Eddie Presland (right) in action as he tussles with George Duck and the keeper

worth going to see a repeat of the 3-0 defeat at snowy Plough Lane in a Southern League Cup 2nd replay only a couple of months before.

That was after a 1-1 draw at Lower Mead, a 2-2 draw at Plough Lane and then a 3-3 at Lower Mead. I was probably also a bit sick of watching Wimbledon!

It was the start of me travelling to more and more away games. A 30-yard winner on the ground of a team in the division above does that to you! And the Trophy thrills just got better and better....

# Presland's 30 yarder is Challenge Trophy ace

Wimbledon 0, Wealdstone 1

A 30-yard shot by Eddie Presland three minutes before half-time was enough to seal a Wealdstone victory in their fifth meeting with Wimbledon this season and a second round place in the F.A. Challenge Trophy.

The goal spells out Wealdstone's superiority in the first half. Wimbledon came after the interval looking determined to wipe off the deficit, but poor finishing and goalkeeping by Ray McKenzie kept them out. Six minutes from time Paul Fairclough, Wealdstone's substitute, went desperately near to increasing the lead.

Manager Sid Prosser's refusal to make changes in the side is paying dividends, for Wealdstone were more composed than ever before, particularly at the back, where McCormick, Presland and Burgess were towers of strength in front of the much improved McKenzie.

Watson is also finding his true form and was unlucky to be booked for what appeared to be a harmless tackle. In the middle Kinner, Dyson and Fulton combined well to keep the front runners, Duck, Byrne and Henderson, well supplied. Wealdstone got to work straight from the kick-off and had goalkeeper Guy busy clearing his line. Wing half Bloss got in the way of a goalbound shot in the 18th minute after Presland had let fly following a Dyson free-kick. Bloss took the full force of the shot and needed treatment for several minutes.

Mick Mahon, Wimbledon's new signing from Colchester, tested McKenzie with a drive and seconds later Bloss shot wide when he had only McKenzie to beat.

Byrne, playing better than ever, had a chance when Presland sent him through, but Guy got to his shot. Wealdstone continued to press and only excellent defending by Stockley, Loughlan and McCready kept them at bay.

However, their efforts were rewarded in the 42nd minute. Byrne was fouled, Fulton roared the free kick into the penalty box. McCready got his head to it, but it went to Kinner, who let it run to Presland. His first time shot from 30 yards went through a wall of defenders and into the net.

Wimbledon came out for the second half determined to wipe out the lead. Larkin, Smith and Mahon all missed chances. The home side's best chance came in the 60th minute when Smith intercepted McCormick's back

pass and beat McKenzie. Watson cleared.

Fairclough replaced Dyson in the 75th minute. In the minute Fairclough had a chance to put Wealdstone further ahead when he was up by Byrne and Henderson.

but his drive went wide only the goalkeeper to beat. Wimbledon threw everything into action in the remaining minutes, but the Wealdstone fence stood firm.

Wimbledon: Guy; Stockley; Loughlan; Bloss, McCready; Mahon, Cook, Kinn, Lucas, Smith. Sub: Byrne. Wealdstone: McKenzie; Presland, Watson, Kinn, McCormick; Burgess, Dyson (Fairclough), Fulton; By Duck, Henderson.

Two views on the win at Wimbledon. Harry O above and the South London Press below

IT wasn't a day for making comebacks. The ground was tricky, the team desperate and the manager disturbed. Added to that Wealdstone were still seething over their four lost chances in the Southern League Cup.

On the assumption that the Dons had to love one of their five encounters with the Southern League First Division leaders then they shouldn't have too many tears over this one.

But try telling that to Dons' centre-half Jeff Bryant, and he'll reply with words not usually unkind: "King Fu."

Making his first appearance in a Wimbledon jersey for five and a half months, he was called on to the field as substitute for Bobby Stockley with ten minutes to go.

And eight minutes later he ought to have made it a dream return — right out of the annals of "Roy of the Rovers."

But to the accompaniment of walking on the terraces and fainting in the directors' box poor Jeff missed the ruddy thing.

"Well, at least he was up there and in the right position. That's more than can be said for the others," said manager Dick Graham ironically.

But Bryant won't forget that one in a hurry.

It seems these days that the Dons are fated not to win. They've now gone nine games with only one win and the pos-

sibility of relegation is looming nervously close.

They put on so much pressure in the second half it was amazing they didn't burst with the effort. Time and again they

confidently banged their heads against the Wealdstone door.

From three corners the visitors had narrow escapes. Goalkeeper McKenzie turned the first shot out of the bar under pressure from Lucas. Phil Bloss that narrowly wide from the second end and Ian Cooke clipped the third out.

Then Wealdstone mounted one of their few attacks and scored. Fulton's free-kick was charged down but only as far as full-back Presland. The great defender tore in at the speed of light and in a blinding flash had the ball in the back of the net from 25 yards.

The Dons came out in the second half and fought. John Loughlan struck superb balls into the Wealdstone defence and twice Wimbledon could have scored.

Graham Smith got on the end of the first cross with a diving header that McKenzie greatfully scrambled away and then Cooke chested down the second before running all the good work with a weak shot.

Earlier he had seen his best right foot flick kick the post for after some good work by Andy Larkin down the left flank.

But at just over 20 minutes day and with trips to Cheshamford and Barnet coming up next the outlook is wet and windy.



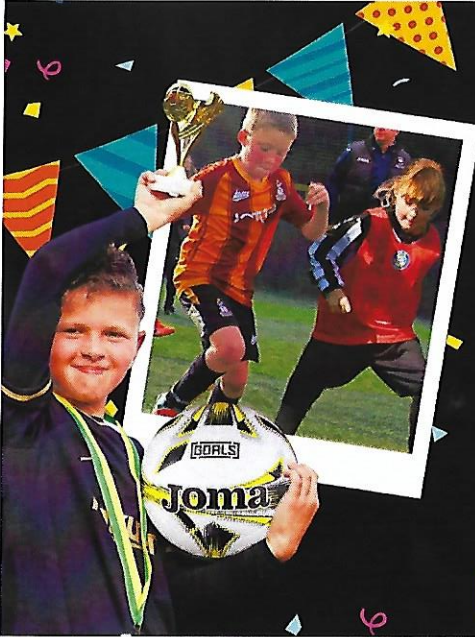
Bryant — terrible miss

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

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

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



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# WEALDSTONE FC

## BALL DONORS 2023/2024

A traditional package for businesses (from **£225** + vat) or fans (**£180**) for two people that will give you the satisfaction of knowing you have paid for the ball that Wealdstone FC are banging into the net (or out of the ground!). And we've frozen these prices for the 2023/24 season.

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If you or your organisation are interested in donating the match ball for a home match then please contact **Richard Hopwood** on **07799 077816** or **richardhopwood@wealdstonefc.com**

 <b>YORK CITY</b> Saturday 5th August Vanarama National League	<b>Toby Jackson (Lapels Badges)</b>
 <b>AFC FYLDE</b> Saturday 19th August Vanarama National League	<b>Mike &amp; Val Weston</b>
 <b>EBBSFLEET UNITED</b> Saturday 9th September Vanarama National League	<b>Paul Rease</b>
 <b>ALTRINCHAM</b> Saturday 10th September Vanarama National League	<b>The JD Football Academy</b>
 <b>WOKING</b> Tuesday 20th September Vanarama National League	<b>The Vale Social Club</b>
 <b>OLDHAM ATHLETIC</b> Saturday 30th September Vanarama National League	<b>Tony Pauley</b>
 <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>HARTLEPOOL UNITED</b> Saturday 23rd December Vanarama National League	<b>In memory of Roy &amp; Alan Couch</b>	
 <b>FC HALIFAX TOWN</b> Saturday 27th January Vanarama National League	<b>Toby Jackson (Lapels Badges)</b>	
 <b>ALDERSHOT TOWN</b> Tuesday 30th January Vanarama National League	<b>Wealdstone FC Supporters Club</b>	
 <b>MAIDENHEAD UNITED</b> Tuesday 6th February Vanarama National League	<b>Steve, Megan &amp; Rebecca Wood</b>	
 <b>HENDON</b> Saturday 10th February FA Trophy 5th Round	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</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>	
 <b>SOUTHEND UNITED</b> To be advised Vanarama National League	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>

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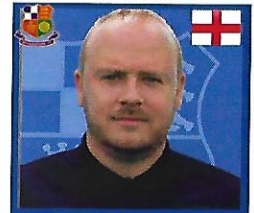
**Michael OWEN**  
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**Jason SCANNELL**  
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**Craig SAUNDERS**  
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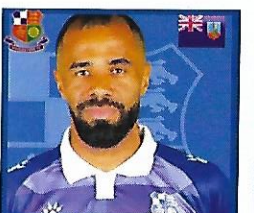
**Rachel HILL**  
JON TAFFEL



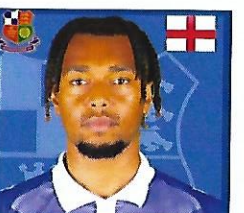
**Charlie BARKER**  
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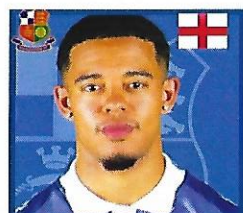
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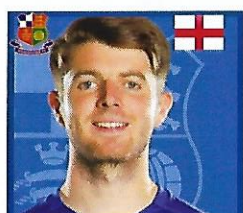
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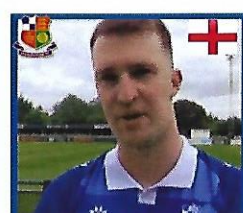
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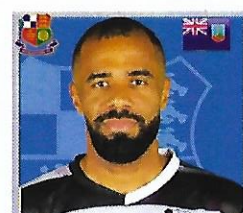
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# Next up at The Vale:



**Aldershot Town**  
National League  
Tuesday  
30th January  
7:45pm



**Maidenhead United**  
National League  
Tuesday  
6th February  
7:45pm



**Hendon**  
FA Trophy  
5th Round  
Saturday  
10th February  
3:00pm

For all Vanarama National League fixtures:

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

## VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLE AS AT SUNDAY 23/1/2024

	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	28	23	2	3	69	34	15	14	1	0	45	19	13	9	1	3	24	15	35	71	2-3
2 Bromley	30	16	10	4	52	32	15	10	3	2	32	16	15	6	7	2	20	16	20	58	1-1
3 Barnet	29	17	4	8	57	42	14	10	2	2	29	16	15	7	2	6	28	26	15	55	3-2
4 Solihull Moors	27	13	7	7	43	37	14	6	4	4	23	15	13	7	3	3	20	22	6	46	0-1
5 Oldham Athletic	28	12	9	7	45	38	14	5	5	4	23	16	14	7	4	3	22	22	7	45	1-1
6 Altrincham	27	11	10	6	49	38	13	7	4	2	30	16	14	4	6	4	19	22	11	43	0-0
7 Rochdale	28	11	8	9	46	39	14	6	4	4	25	17	14	5	4	5	21	22	7	41	3-2
8 Halifax Town	28	10	11	7	32	29	13	4	7	2	15	12	15	6	4	5	17	17	3	41	0-1
9 Aldershot Town	28	12	5	11	48	52	14	7	5	2	29	21	14	5	0	9	19	31	-4	41	1-3
10 Gateshead	27	11	7	9	50	39	13	5	4	4	25	19	14	6	3	5	25	20	11	40	1-2
11 Eastleigh	27	10	7	10	46	50	14	7	4	3	28	24	13	3	3	7	18	26	-4	37	0-0
12 Southend United	27	13	5	9	44	28	13	9	0	4	29	11	14	4	5	5	15	17	16	34	
13 Hartlepool United	30	10	4	16	45	56	15	6	1	8	21	26	15	4	3	8	24	30	-11	34	4-4 1-2
14 Wealdstone	25	9	6	10	34	36	12	7	4	1	23	17	13	2	2	9	11	19	-2	33	-- --
15 Dagenham & Redbridge	28	9	6	13	36	40	14	5	0	9	18	23	14	4	6	4	18	17	-4	33	0-2 2-0
16 York City	28	7	12	9	38	45	13	3	6	4	21	21	15	4	6	5	17	24	-7	33	2-1
17 Boreham Wood	28	7	12	9	35	44	14	4	6	4	16	15	14	3	6	5	19	29	-9	33	1-1
18 Maidenhead United	28	7	11	10	28	36	15	4	7	4	12	13	13	3	4	6	16	23	-8	32	2-0
19 Dorking Wanderers	28	9	4	15	32	47	15	5	2	8	17	22	13	4	2	7	15	25	-15	31	1-3
20 Ebbsfleet United	30	8	6	16	38	55	15	5	2	8	19	19	15	3	4	8	19	36	-17	30	2-1 0-2
21 Woking	28	7	6	15	28	38	13	2	3	8	13	20	15	5	3	7	15	18	-10	27	1-0
22 Fylde	28	6	8	14	41	52	15	4	6	5	24	26	13	2	2	9	17	26	-11	26	3-2
23 Kidderminster Harriers	30	6	8	16	25	39	15	3	5	7	14	17	15	3	3	9	11	22	-14	26	0-1
24 Oxford City	29	6	6	17	41	56	15	4	2	9	23	27	14	2	4	8	18	29	-15	24	3-1

# Follow Stones on the road:



**Barnet**  
National League  
Saturday  
3rd February  
3:00pm

BarnetFC.com



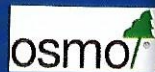
**Altrincham**  
National League  
Tuesday  
13th February  
7:45pm

AltrinchamFC.com



**Woking**  
National League  
Saturday  
24th February  
3:00pm

WokingFC.co.uk



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