

# WEALDSTONE



official matchday programme £3

## HOW THEY LINE-UP TODAY

**WEALDSTONE**  
ROYAL BLUE/WHITE/WHITE

- G Dante-Astor BAPTISTE 1
- G Marcus DEWHURST 31
- Jack COOK © 2
- Charlie BARKER 3
- Ashley CHARLES 4
- Alex DYER 5
- Mason BARRETT 6
- Tarryn ALLARAKHIA 7
- Nathan FERGUSON 8
- Max KRETZSCHMAR 10
- Corie ANDREWS 11
- Charlie SEAMAN 12
- Micah OBIERO 14
- Luke DREHER 16
- Dominic HUTCHINSON 17
- Sam BOWEN 22
- Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23
- Jaiden BARTOLO 25
- Aaron HENRY 26
- Sean ADARKWA 27
- Declan PHILLIPS 28
- Tahvon CAMPBELL 29
- Brandon MASON 32
- Joe CULLIS 36



**MAIDENHEAD UTD**  
WHITE & BLACK STRIPES

- 1 Daneil JINADU G
- 13 Craig ROSS G
- 2 Zico ASARE
- 3 Sam BECKWITH
- 4 Will De HAVILLAND
- 5 Kevin LOKKO
- 8 Ashley NATHANIEL-GEORGE
- 9 Shawn McCOULSKY
- 10 Kane FERDINAND
- 11 Jayden MITCHELL-LAWSON
- 12 Bradley KEETCH
- 14 Tobi SHO-SILVA
- 16 Casey PETTIT
- 17 Reece SMITH
- 18 Christian JOHNSON
- 19 David OMILABU
- 19 Ryan UPWARD
- 20 Remy CLERIMA
- 21 Chanka ZIMBA
- 24 Alan MASSEY
- 25 Sam BARRATT
- 26 Lewis KINSELLA
- 27 Charlee ADAMS

### TODAY'S RESULT

WEALDSTONE   MAIDENH'D

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### MATCH OFFICIALS

**REFEREE**  
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**Assistants**  
Robert Evans and Christopher Darling  
**4th Official**  
James Keane  
**Observer**  
William Jordan  
**Coach**  
Stephen Dunn

**MATCH SPONSOR**  
To be announced

**BALL DONOR**  
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### NEXT HOME GAMES

**v Hendon**  
(Isuzu FA Challenge Trophy 5th round)  
Saturday February 10, kick off 3pm

**v Gateshead**  
(National League)  
Sat February 17, kick off 3pm

**v Dorking Wanderers**  
(National League)  
Tues February 20, kick off 7.45pm



gpflewis

Inside: Welcome to the Stones' new management team: David Noble, Neil Banfield and Sam Cox



Wealdstone v Maidenhead United

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE  
TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2024, KO 7.45PM



HE'S BACK: Stones' Tarryn Allarakhia causes panic in the Aldershot defence when he comes on as a second-half substitute in last Tuesday's rip-roaring 3-3 draw at The Vale PICTURE: JON TAFFEL



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By Tim Parks

## Written in Stone

**Good evening and welcome back to The Vale for another high-octane dose of National League action!**

Due to early print deadlines I'm writing this before the epic visit to Barnet last Saturday, which capped off two of the most riveting weeks in the Stones' history. After the departure of Stuart Maynard and Matty and Craig Saunders, our chairman Rory moved swiftly to appoint David Noble from St Albans... and he in turn brought in his old mentor Neil Banfield (ex Arsenal, QPR and Glasgow Rangers) and the Spurs coach Sam Cox who of course had a playing spell with the Stones back in the Bobby Wilkinson era.

Excellent recruits!

And while Alex Dyer took over as interim coach for the Halifax game, Noble & Co watched on as we swept to an impressive 2-0 win. And then took charge for the first time as free-flowing and free-scoring Aldershot came to the Vale last Tuesday.

It was immediately apparent that we would be shifting the ball more quickly and playing a bit more direct where the occasion warranted, and with four goals in that first half nobody could accuse the tactics of being boring! I was up in the commentary box with our former goalkeeper John Morton (and kudos for a man in his 70s to scale that ladder while the expected co-commentator Dom Hitchinson bailed out claiming vertigo!) and the play ricocheted from end of the pitch to the other in a heart-stopping 45 minutes.

In Laurent Tolaj, Josh Stokes and Jack Barham the Shots have the most potent front three in the National League, in my opinion... although the Swiss striker Tolaj seems set for a move to AFC Wimbledon as I write. For once our back line were left chasing shadows as the Shots took a 2-0 lead. But we recovered our composure and roared back with first Sean Adarkwa (above) and then Nathan Ferguson rattling in goals in front of the jubilant Holywell end.

And when Micah Obiero looped that brilliant shot over the Shots out-of-goal keeper Jordi Van Stap-

perschoef in the first minute of the second half it looked as though the Stones were on course for yet another home win.

The unfortunate red card for Aaron Henry forced us to change to a back four and to be fair on Aldershot, they deserved the point that arrived via the head of substitute Kwame Thomas. And the second red card for our sub Mason Barrett in injury time means two players suspended.

**But now all eyes turn to tonight and the visit of Alan Devonshire's Maidenhead United for a game that's day rained off on New Year's Day.**

That stalled our momentum a little after the terrific 2-0 win at York Road on Boxing Day (thanks to a delightful goal from Sean Adarkwa and Mex Kretzshmar's penalty) while the Magpies struggled a little with just one goal in six games. That drought ended ten days ago when they beat high-flying Solihull Moors 2-1 with Tobi Sho-Silva and Sam Barrett winning the three points to hoist them up to 14th place, two points behind ourselves (before last Saturday) but having played two games more.

Our thanks go to Steve, Megan and Rebecca Wood for donating tonight's match ball.

**And next Saturday, of course, the magic of the Isuzu FA Trophy descends on The Vale when Southern League Premier side Hendon arrive hoping to repeat their shock 2-1 win at Oldham in the last round.**

It's the last 16 and our focus will be on making it through to the quarter-finals for the first time since the memorable trip to Billericay six years ago. The Trophy is in Wealdstone's DNA and we're expecting big crowd so get your tickets early and don't forget

to buy a programme. That issue will include interviews with men who have played for both clubs: Joe White, the current Hendon skipper and Gary Hand, who is synonymous with the late 1960s and 1970s Stones and Hendon teams when he starred on the big amateur stage.

**Exciting times! Up the Stones!**



Sam Cox, David Noble and Neil Banfield.. welcome to the Stones!





# WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2023/2024

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

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Vice Chairman & Financial Director Dominic Whyley  
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 David Noble  
Assistant Manager Neil Banfield  
Goalkeeping Coach Jason Scanell  
First Team Coach Sam Cox  
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

## CLUB PERSONNEL

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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

## GROUND REGULATIONS

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

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

Wealdstone FC Board of Directors

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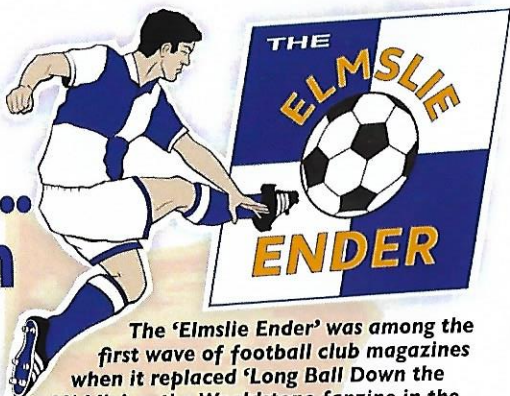
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Britain's longest-running fanzine column (and it shows it)

# Two weeks can be a very long time in football... especially when you don't even play a game!



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 ADAM HILLS**  
(Like David Noble, making his debut in the EE hotseat...)

**TWO weeks...two managers...two postponements...zero game time!**

Last week's announcement that David Noble had been appointed the full time manager of The Stones brought down the curtain on what may well have been a pivotal fortnight in the club's history.

Of course, it had an encore... Alex Dyer taking over as interim gaffer for that one glorious game against Halifax, before Noble and his management team made their full home debut in the rip-roaring six-goal classic against Aldershot.

So what do we make of the appointment? Noble had been shortlisted as a likely contender to succeed Stuart Maynard by @StonesCast85 last week and chairman Rory Fitzgerald acted quickly to maintain the momentum at The Vale. Noble is joined by Neil Banfield who will assume the role of assistant manager with former Stones midfielder (and Tottenham coach) Sam Cox as first team coach

Hold your horses, let's digest that first. This is a huge, huge statement of intent from The Board of Directors, of course following the news announced in November that a new 6,700 capacity stadium is

on the horizon.

That suggests to this writer that the club are now executing 'the next step' towards a professional era. It may be a small step, one of many in the long-term objective of The Stones reaching the EFL (as a professional club in a sparkly, swanky new stadium) but the structure of this new management team indicates a desire to start the 2024/25 National League season (assumptions made!) as 'not one of the only part-time teams in the league'. The new gaffer will no doubt have a busy summer.

Noble's appointment was met with enthusiasm amongst my group of Stones fans, if not the clamour of excitement with which Ross Jenkins or Matt Gray might have been greeted.

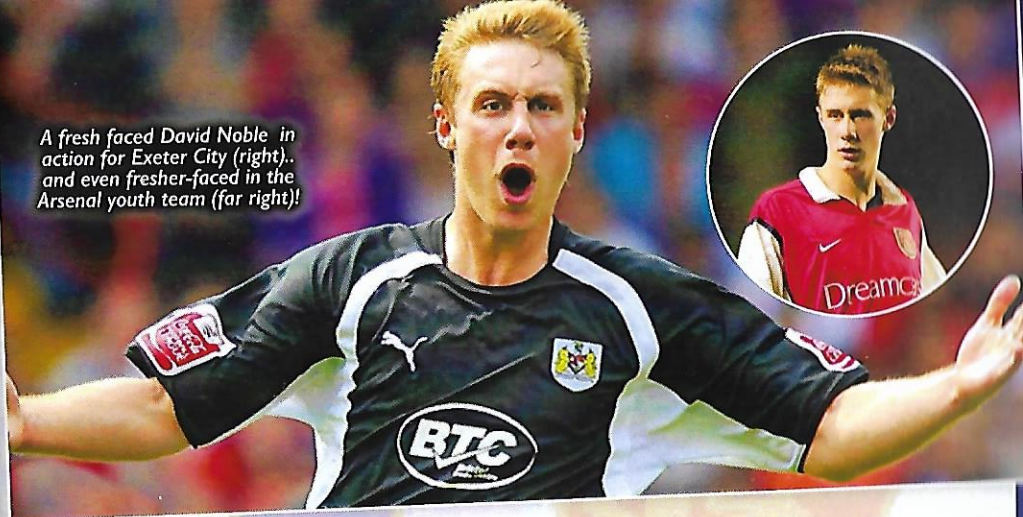
But it's the right appointment. There has been some lazy comparisons to when Maynard, and his predecessor Dean Brennan were appointed but beyond their age and relative inexperience in the managerial game, there is one fundamental difference which plays to the intent of that next step.

David Noble comes from a professional background. In my youth, I remember him being "the next big thing", "a starlet", "a future England captain" as his emergence at Arsenal materialised. Or perhaps didn't. For whatever reason, it didn't quite happen in that way, but David Noble enjoyed a solid professional career racking up a few hundred appearances in the EFL and is fondly remembered by fans of City's Exeter and Bristol.

And that...right there...is what sets him apart from the scenario when Brennan or May-

nard were appointed. He has lived and breathed professional football for much of his career and that, alongside the appointment of Banfield and the well-qualified Cox tells me that Wealdstone FC are ready to kick on. That is exciting!

A fresh faced David Noble in action for Exeter City (right).. and even fresher-faced in the Arsenal youth team (far right)!



While Noble was the face of last week's announcement, perhaps Banfield's appointment is the more dramatic given his experience working as part of Arsene Wenger's coaching staff and then following the sought-after Mick Beale north of the border to Rangers. Banfield coached Noble at Arsenal many moons ago and there was an immediate tribute by the ex-Gunners midfielder to the man who was his first coach as a youth player.

**The immediate priority though is keeping the club in the National League.**

That might sound a little dramatic with the club sitting in 13th place, seven points clear of the drop zone (and with up to four games in hand on most teams), but The Stones face a game every 3.86 days assuming no more postponements or Trophy progression. That is a lot for a part-time squad.

Maynard found it tough (as the nine games in 35 days (eight points and an FA Cup exit) proved last September and Noble/Banfield will have their work cut out to ensure Stones do not get dragged into a relegation fight. At the same time, there is potential to secure another solid mid-table finish in

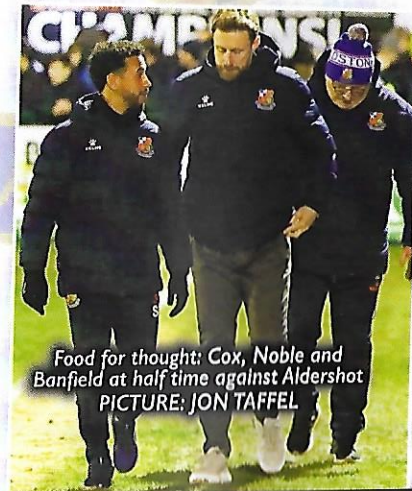
**The new MT have lived and breathed pro football and it sets them apart from scenario of previous appointments**

the National League and the small matter of the FA Trophy and a potential trip down (across?) the Met Line on the 11th May...

Until David Noble experiences The Bulla in full voice - or a full-time send-off from disgruntled Stones fans after a meek surrender/last-minute defeat - he probably doesn't realise just what he has inherited. But he holds the key for unlocking the undoubted potential that is starting to surface at Wealdstone.

Rising crowds, community engagement, new stadium on the way...some of it as a result of Stuart Maynard, but much of it due to the strategic vision that is (and has been) held by the Board of Directors.

In many, many ways, Wealdstone are vastly inferior to most of their league counterparts and massively punch above their weight, but when it comes to the individuals who run the club, there are few better in the National League. They have a vision for this club and have entrusted the next chapter to another very exciting individual in David Noble. It is crucial that Stones fans see that bigger picture and give David, Neil, Sam and the players their full support over the coming weeks and months. **This rollercoaster ride has only just got going...**



Food for thought: Cox, Noble and Banfield at half time against Aldershot  
PICTURE: JON TAFFEL

Below: the iconic Elmslie Stand at the Stones' former ground, Lower Mead in Harrow







Wealdstone FC Supporters Club Fund Raiser

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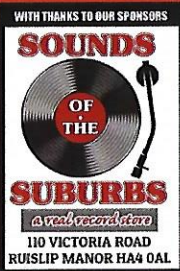
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MAX KRETZSCHMAR

# Taking it to the

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

Our striker/midfielder Max Kretzschmar on the week of upheaval, and positive signs for the Stones...

**Hello Stones' fans and welcome back!**

After a short period of uncertainty without a manager at the Vale we are back to normality with the new gaffer appointed. As we all know, David Noble has come in with Neil Banfield and former Stone Sam Cox. The blend of modern-day thinking and old-school experience and steel should be a really exciting prospect for any Wealdstone fan.

Judging by our match against Aldershot last Tuesday night you'd be right! With only a short one hour session where the boys came in the day before (on the Monday) to go through some tactical stuff for the Aldershot game, I thought there was a lot to be positive about.

We knew that the two forward players in Tolaj and Barham, supported by now-Bristol City's Josh Stokes are probably the best attacking threat in the league. And it proved so, with Aldershot taking a quick 2-0 lead with some lacklustre defending.

I thought to myself when walking back to the half-way line after the second goal from Tolaj, that we were actually playing well. I find that it's important to separate performances from scores or results especially when analysing games. So the message when I got back to the centre circle for the restart was "OK we're 2-0 down. We're actually passing the ball well and I feel like there's space to create chances out here. Stay calm and we'll get back into this!" I was vindicated.

With the pitch being so soft after the incredible amount of rain we've had over the winter, I feel there's a bigger margin for error with longer balls you play in behind the opposition's defence. The ball just stops with very little bounce and doesn't run off the pitch or to the goalkeeper. Both aerial balls from first Aaron and then Barks proved too good for the Aldershot back line and we were back in the



Max sees this volley saved by the Shots keeper last week

**'The message was to play forward and run with the ball without compromising style of our passing game'**

sure could've been prevented with more investment into the pitch itself. As players, it's going to be a huge physical and mental challenge.

I want to thank Paul Hughes and his team for helping Dyer and Rory at short notice during our vacancy period. I've never met Paul before but it was clear to see why Rory regarded him so highly even in such a short space of time.

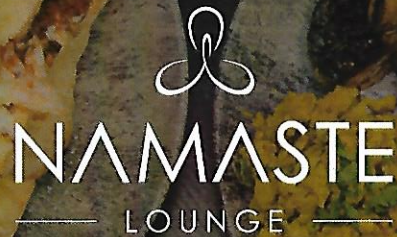
The message from Alex and Paul was clear. We wanted to play forward and run forward without compromising our possession based style too much. Alex and I had to step in with the coaching during training and hammer this message home. Alex rang me one morning and said he needed help planning and running the session for that evening. I jumped at the chance and the boys made me look good that night in all honesty with their intensity and professionalism. I have completed my UEFA B Licence coaching badge and coaching is definitely something I can see myself doing further down the line. But for now I want to give my all to the playing side of things.

I think the win against Halifax and the draw v Aldershot have shown our intent going forward with new management. We want to keep the ball but keep it with a purpose to go score and create.

**The handbrake has been taken off so buckle up and enjoy the ride!**

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Nick DuGard

## WFCSC Update

**A very warm welcome to Maidenhead fans visiting us this evening and I'm sure there will be many of them here for the short trip over to The Vale! We've always had a good relationship with Magpies fans and we look forward to another crucial hard fought match this evening!**

Wow! What a few weeks we've had! I am writing these notes just after the dust is settling on the whirlwind departures and arrivals of our management teams! For me it was no surprise (as to many others) that Stuart and co were snapped by an EFL club and certainly no shock it was Notts County as it has been an open secret that that have admired their work here, suiting their style of football pretty perfectly. We all thank Stuart, Matt and Craig for their fantastic work since they arrived at The Vale and wish them all the very best for a dream set of appointments.

As SM put it in his farewell notes:

"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."

We now welcome David Noble and his staff to Wealdstone! David will receive our fullest support from the terraces as he settles in and it will be a baptism of fire as he full well knows! We look forward to meeting up with David and his staff in the near future.

As the official supporters club of Wealdstone FC we will always strive to represent you the fan base in any way we can whilst supporting the main club via our various activities including valuable fundraising. This includes meeting and engaging with members of the board as a significant shareholder in WFC Ltd when appropriate and these discussions will be fed back to our members as we are able. We will always endeavour to pursue the interests of our members as club matters evolve as they inevitably will. As an independent supporters organisation we will always represent views on behalf of our growing membership base. This will become increasingly important as we enter new

phases of the club's progression, particularly with recent announcements over the new ground.

On that subject your SC committee will be engaging with the board soon to seek more information if possible at this very early stage and to offer whatever support we can. We know that many challenges lie ahead and I detect very sensible pragmatism but we must push on and all work together to get to a long term solution to our ground lease issues that frustratingly continue to hamper our progress.

Congratulations to the committee and all helpers on the very successful Xmas disco that was a sell out and James at the time of writing is well underway with our next event which was due to take place in the RSC with a SKA Night on Saturday 3rd February. I sure it was a huge success! Thank you again to everyone that supported our big Xmas Raffle but there is no rest as the sub committee are now working on the Easter Draw! Details to follow

Why not join up as a WFCSC member and join the hundreds that already are! Get involved by joining as a life or annual member via the WFCSC website or see any committee member at a game or please pop into the Megastore.

Look out for our 50/50 sellers around the ground tonight and please buy your tickets- this is an increasingly important fundraiser for the club. Please also remember to visit the two new Megastore cabins that are positioned by the service road next to Dd's catering outlet. Check out new stock and favourites on line via WFCSC Megastore website.

Finally it was fantastic to progress in the FA Trophy versus a very strong Chelmsford side; we now look forward to an intriguing tie with our old local rivals Hendon and their gaffer Lee Allinson this Saturday. A massive game that will be very tough but we can't complain for once at the draw. It's very clear that will be right up for it - and so will we. We love the FA Trophy!

UTSI!

Nick





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the stones interview by tim parks

ten minutes with...

# CHARLIE SEAMAN

**THE LOAN signing of Doncaster Rovers' right back Charlie Seaman a fortnight ago went a bit under the radar... there was quite a lot going on at the club at the time!**

"Yes, I agreed to the deal with my agent and Wealdstone but never actually got to speak to Stuart Maynard!" admitted the 24 year-old. "His move to Notts County was announced on the Thursday and a bit later that day I came over to training to meet Alex Dyer. But I'm used to that sort of thing: I've been at Doncaster for three or four years and there have been six different managers in that time".

Charlie's loan deal is for the remainder of the season and his immediate impact - coming off the bench against Halifax and providing a goal assist for Tahvon Campbell - showed what an asset he'll be.

He's naturally right-sided which is quite a change from having to use left-footers Brandon Mason and the returning Milton Keynes loanee Brooklyn Illunga in that role.

"I've often had to fill in on the left at other clubs but I'm comfortable on either side."

Born in Chingford, Essex, Charlie kicked off his youth career at West Ham alongside Mason Barrett and Sean Adarkwa, while he's also played alongside Jaydn Mundle-Smith in a loan spell at Maidstone United.

He then joined Bournemouth - without ever making a Premier League start - before moving North to sign for League One Donny.

Right: Charlie Seaman in action for Doncaster Rovers and Hartlepool United (far right)

## 'I agreed to the loan deal with my agent & then the manager changed... so I never got to meet Stuart Maynard at all!'

Thirty-one EFL appearances later he went to Hartlepool United on loan last summer and was an ever-present for the Pool until suffering an abdominal tear at the back end of last year.

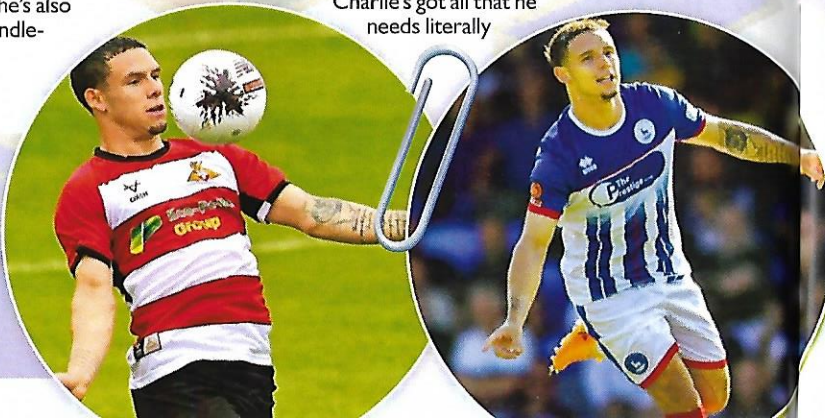
"It was painful and meant that I was dropping in and out of training while it healed. We had a great start to the season and were top of the table for a while around the time we played Wealdstone (who were beaten 2-1) in September. We had three or four injuries all together and had to change our passing game, playing out from the back to a more direct style... and it all went a bit wrong from there".

**Charlie was unhappy living so far from his family in Essex and - in the last few months of his contract at Doncaster - was delighted to get the chance to move back down South.**

"I've shared a flat in Doncaster with one of the other Rovers players but I missed my family. Now I'm back for the moment at my mum Holly's place in Buckhurst Hill with my five siblings and my grandparents all just round the corner".

Charlie's got all that he needs literally

Charlie takes to the field at The Vale for his impressive Wealdstone debut. Picture: JON TAFFEL



on his doorstep. 'There's a gym in the garage with all the equipment - my mum and stepdad Andy love working out too. It's good to be back.

"I've been in a full-time football environment for seven or eight years so this will be a nice change. I'm just living in the present, trying not to stress about my future.... I just want to help get us up the table and have a good run for the rest of the season".

Apart from the Stones players he knows from West Ham, Charlie also spoke to our ex-striker Josh Umerah to get his views on the club.

"Josh was really helpful and he told me to try to build a relationship with Alex Dyer as he knows how influential he is at Wealdstone, and what a great person and what great experience he has in the game.

"We met the new gaffer, David Noble and his coaches after the Halifax match...and we also had a short Monday night training

he scored in successive games. Not bad for a right-back!

And they were almost identikit goals. "The first one, at home against Maidenhead in a 3-1 win, came when I broke from the halfway line, nutmegged a defender, and carried the ball to the edge of the box; and then shot into the top corner." The second, almost identical, came in an impressive 3-2 win at

Roots Hall against Southend.

Charlie, of course, became an immediate Stones fans' favourite as he rampaged up the right flank in the final 20 minutes of his debut against Halifax.

"I probably should have crossed first-time for Tahvon but slowed down and cut the ball back for Sam Bowen, who shot over. Tahv was a bit angry with me!

"But I think he forgave me a few minutes later when I crossed for his injury time goal!



I'd heard a lot about you boss, but not about your stylish taste in headgear

Fresh Ego Kid? Nah, I'm big into The Smurfs right now

Charlie gets a surprise fashion tip from interim boss Alex Dyer



session to get an idea of how things are going to go. It may be a part-time club but things are run very professionally".

The highlight of Charlie's pro career (so far) came on his League One debut against Wimbledon, at home, in 2020 when he netted Doncaster's goal in an eventual 2-1 defeat with a sharply-taken left foot half volley from the middle of the box after a quick throw-in.

That memory is dampened by that fact that Rovers lost - but he had a week to remember earlier this season in a Hartlepool shirt when

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HOW MUCH?



you need to know about... Maidenhead United

# The opposition in focus

The origins of senior football in Maidenhead can be traced back to October 1870 with the formation of Maidenhead Football Club, which subsequently played its first ever fixture on November 17th, 1870 against Windsor Home at Bond's Meadow Maidenhead bridge.



On Thursday, February 16th the club played their first match on the York Road site against Windsor. This ground, which was then shared with the cricket club, is now officially acknowledged as the oldest continually used football ground in the world by the same club, beating Northwich Victoria's old claim by five years.

Maidenhead were one of the original 15 entrants for the first ever FA Cup competition in 1871-72 and the following season reached the last four before losing to Oxford University. Maidenhead reached the quarter-final in the next two seasons, but in 1876 did not enter, although this was the only season they failed to compete. They also entered the first ever Berks & Bucks Cup competition in 1872.

After winning the Berks & Bucks Cup for the first time in 1895 - and the first FA Amateur Cup in 1893. Maidenhead adopted club colours of Red & Black, initially as halved shirts, but changed to stripes in 1901.

Maidenhead FC merged with three sides before the First World War. Maidenhead Excelsior were founded in 1877 and joined forces with the Red & Blacks in 1885. Maidenhead Temperance - originally known as Maidenhead Band of Hope - amalgamated with the club in 1901 and Boyne Hill FC did likewise later that year. After many seasons of playing friendlies and Cup matches, Maidenhead FC were founder members of the Southern League in 1894 but competing in Division 2. The likes of Watford, Brentford, Fulham and Aston proved too demanding and the club eventually struggled. Eventually in 1902, after eight years of membership, they resigned and joined both the Berkshire League and the Berks & Bucks League. In 1904 Maidenhead became members of the Great Western Suburban League where they remained until

## THE BEES

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the outbreak of the Great War. Spartans and Corinthians. After the Great War the two remaining town clubs - Maidenhead and Maidenhead Norfolkians (founded 1884) - decided to join forces. The conflict had meant that it was unrealistic to run two senior clubs, so after a meeting in April 1919, the Norfolkians were incorporated into the Maidenhead club, and soon afterwards a kit of black and white was adopted as club colours. There was immediate success in the first season of structured league football as Maidenhead FC won the Great Western Suburban League. In August 1920 the

suffix "United" was added but, more importantly, the freehold of York Road was purchased for £1,450 from William Grenfell, later to become Lord Desborough. Two years later the club joined the Spartan League and the 500 seater grandstand - at the time considered one of the best of its kind - was opened by Club President, Ernest Dunkels.

Maidenhead United won the Spartan League title three times during their nineteen year stay. In 1929-30 season the club's goal-scoring record for a season was set when Jack Palethorpe notched 65 goals in 39 games, including an individual post 1919 record of seven in one game against Wood Green Town. Jack went on to play for Sheffield Wednesday and scored in the Owls FA Cup win in 1935. In 1936, Maidenhead reached the semi-final of the FA Amateur Cup losing 4-1 to Ilford at West Ham in front of 18,000 spectators. It was during that season

that the record attendance for a Maidenhead home match of 7,989 was set when Southall visited York Road in the quarter-final. During the Second World War, the club competed in the Great Western Combination.

In 1945 the club were founder members of the Corinthian League. After many seasons of relative mediocrity, fortunes changed under the guidance of ex-Brentford forward, Len Townsend, and then former Slough Town manager Jimmy Price, and the Magpies enjoyed the first real "purple-patch" in their history. In seven seasons between 1956 and 1963 the club won the league three times, were runners-up twice and also reached the third round of the FA Amateur Cup in 1960, losing to West Auckland at York Road in front of a post-war record attendance for a Maidenhead game of 5,597. As well as County Cup, County Benevolent Cup and League Memorial Shield successes during this period, the 1st round proper of the FA Cup was reached in 1960 (losing 5-0 away to Colchester United), 1962 (losing 3-0 at home to Wycombe Wanderers) and 1963 (losing 2-0 to Bath City at York Road).

Athenians and Isthmians In 1963, United joined the Athenian League finishing a best placed 3rd in 1965-66. In 1973, the Magpies were elected into the newly created second division of the Isthmian League. They made a concerted effort to

achieve promotion to the Premier Division in 1979 and 1980 when managed by Geoff Anthony (finishing 3rd on both occasions), and then again in 1985 under Brian Caterer and Colin Lippiatt, when they finished 4th. They remained in this division until 1987 when the Club suffered relegation for the first time in its history, and the dark days were made worse with the destruction of the main grandstand by an arson attack in December 1986. It

took four seasons to get out of Division Two South, and this was achieved under the guidance of Martyn Spong in 1991. An Isthmian League record of 13 straight wins at the start of 1990-91 season was the springboard to success, but the club lost out on the title to Abingdon Town on the last day of the season.

During this season, however, the team established a club record of 19 league games without defeat. Following the unexpected departure of Spong to Enfield in the summer of 1991, Gary Goodwin, John Clements and then John Watt took on the manager's job with generally moderate results and the club regularly finished in or around mid-table.

In 2016-17 Maidenhead won the renamed National League South, earning promotion to the National League with 98 points and remain at National League level to this day.

Maidenhead finished the 2022/23 season in 20th place.

THE HISTORIC YORK ROAD Pic: footballtripper.com



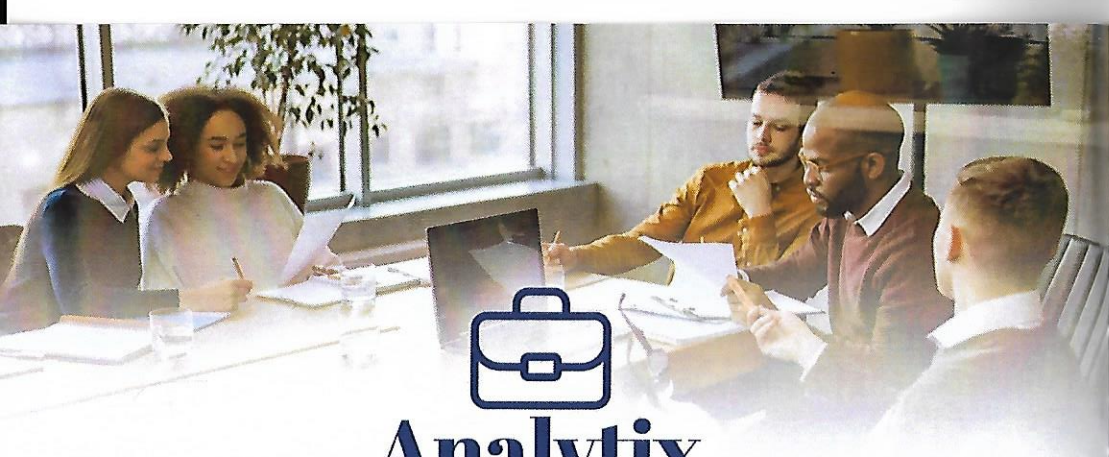
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**FERGUSON (2) OLOMOLA**  
**SUN 1ST JAN 2023 (A) D 0-0**

## ALL TIME

**P 57 W 16 D 11 L 29 F 69 A 116**





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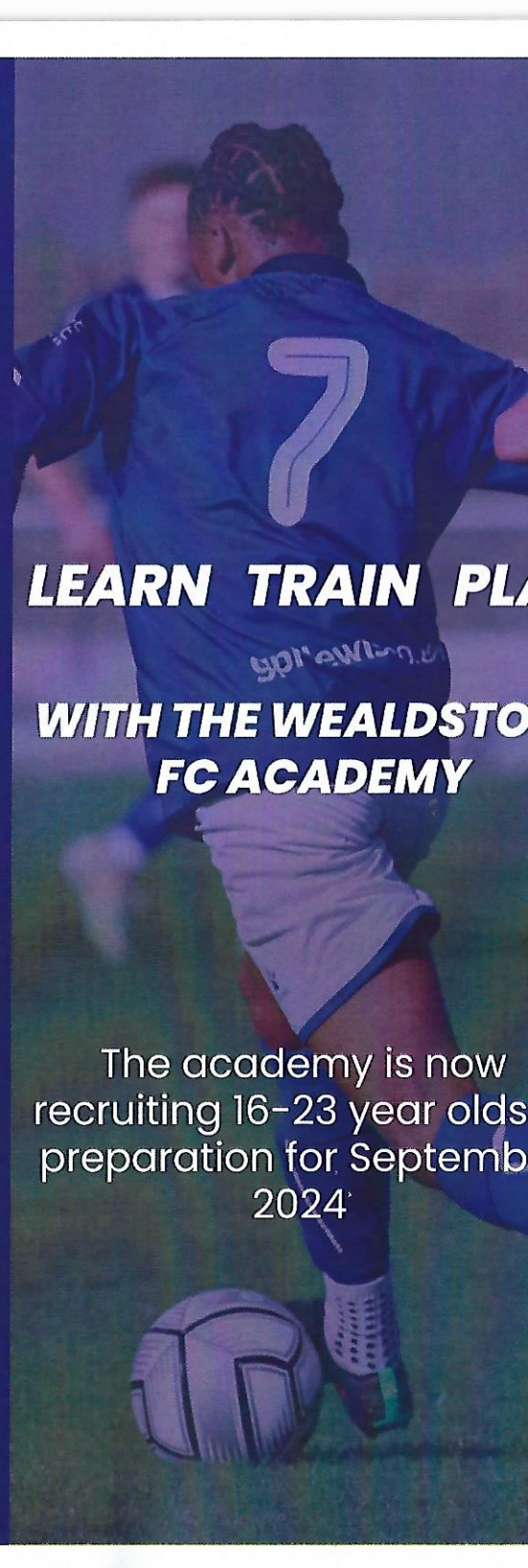
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# PROPOSITION IN FOCUS

## Maidenhead United FC

### DANIEL JINADU - GOALKEEPER

Danu joined the Magpies in 2023 following his release from Dartford. The young keeper has featured at youth level for both Chelsea and West Ham before moving to Barnsley where he would spend two seasons in Yorkshire. Jinadu would then move for both Margate and Dartford before moving to Maidenhead.

### ZICO ASARE - DEFENCE

Asare would spend his youth career playing for Premier League side Fulham developing through the ranks while also picking up England caps at the U15 level. Asare moved to Oxford City in 2021 and after an impressive season with the Hoops, the full-back would move to Maidenhead United in 2022.

### SAM BECKWITH - DEFENCE

Beckwith's career started at Luton Town where he would feature regularly at youth level. The full-back's senior move would be to Biggleswade Town on loan in 2020. Beckwith first moved to Maidenhead United on loan in 2021 and after impressing Alan Massey in Devonshire would be signed permanently in 2022.

### WILL DE HAVILLAND - DEFENCE

De Havilland started his career with Millwall and played for the likes of Wycombe Wanderers, Aldershot Town, Maidstone United, and Dover Athletic before signing for Maidenhead United in 2021. The central defender has been a successful proposition for the Magpies and features regularly for Alan Massey in Devonshire's side.

### KEVIN LOKKO - DEFENCE

Lokko, a former England C international has had a successful career playing for the likes of Maidstone United, Stevenage, Dagenham & Redbridge, Aldershot Town, and Farnborough before making the move to Maidenhead United in 2023. Lokko impressed in his first pre-season for the Magpies scoring against Hitcham Town.

### HARRY PARSONS FORWARD

Parsons arrived at Maidenhead United on a free transfer at the beginning of the summer, after 12 seasons at Swindon Town. The 20-year-old played 25 games for the Robins, as he mostly spent his time on loan, with spells at Chippenham, Banbury, and Farnborough.

### ASHLEY NATHANIEL-GEORGE - MIDFIELD

Nathaniel-George spent his youth career at Arsenal, Watford, Wycombe, and Wealdstone, before moving to Potters Bar Town. After an impressive season at Hendon, he joined League 2 side Crawley Town. Nathaniel-George joined Maidenhead in 2022 after spells at Southend and Torquay and won Supporters Player of the Year last season. The winger has also been capped for Antigua and Barbuda on seven occasions, scoring once.

### 9. SHAWN MCCOULSKY - FORWARD

McCoulsky started his career at Dulwich Hamlet and impressive performances saw him sign for Bristol City. The striker would then spend the next few seasons on loan at a number of clubs, most notably Southend and Newport. After leaving Bristol City, McCoulsky would have spells in League 2 with Forest Green and Colchester before signing for the Magpies in January 2022.

### 10. KANE FERDINAND - MIDFIELD

Ferdinand started his career at Southend United and spent a number of seasons in the Football League with Peterborough, Northampton, Cheltenham, and Dagenham. He joined Maidenhead from fellow National League side Woking in 2021 and now is a regular in the Magpies midfield. Ferdinand was also named Alan Devonshire's Player of the Season for 2022/2023.

### 11. JAYDEN MITCHELL-LAWSON - MIDFIELD

Mitchell-Lawson spent his early career in the Swindon and Derby academies, and after a period on loan at Bristol Rovers, he would rejoin Swindon Town. The winger would play one season in League 2 before joining Ayr United in the Scottish Championship, where he also spent one season. Mitchell-Lawson eventually joined the Magpies on a free transfer in July 2023.

### 12. BRADLEY KEETCH - MIDFIELD

After spending time in the Reading Academy, Keetch joined Maidenhead in 2018. The midfielder has since spent time on loan at both Walton Casuals and Farnborough on two occasions.

### 16. TOBY SHO-SILVA - FORWARD

Sho-Silva joined Maidenhead this summer on a free transfer and is a product of the Charlton Athletic Academy. The forward adds National League experience to the Magpies, as he has previously had spells in the league with Welling, Bromley, Dover, Halifax, and Sutton. He also has

spent time in the Football League with Sutton and Carlisle.

### 17. REECE SMITH - MIDFIELD

After working his way through the youth ranks at Maidenhead, Smith is now a regular for Alan Devonshire's side, playing 38 times in the league last season. He is able to play in central midfield or out wide and is a fan favourite due to his coming from the club's youth system.

### 18. CHRISTIAN JOHNSON - FORWARD

Christian has had two successful seasons with Maidenhead United Academy scoring over 30+ goals in the National Academy South League. The Wycombe teenager spent this season playing for Holyport FC under the guidance of former assistant manager, Sam Lock, gaining valuable experience and notching 14 goals in 32 starts playing as a winger and a striker. Christian is currently part of the talented Maidenhead United Academy which allows talented young footballers the chance to continue their academic studies through BCA.

### 20. REMY CLERIMA - DEFENCE

Clerima spent his career in France playing for Lorient B before making the move to England to play for Histon FC back in 2010. The Frenchman would stay at Histon for four years before moving to Brackley Town in February 2014 and then Braintree Town in August 2014. Clerima signed for the Magpies in 2016 and has been a key member of the side ever since.

### 24. ALAN MASSEY - DEFENCE



Massey started his career at Wycombe Wanderers where he would be sent on loan to Hendon and Wealdstone with the latter signing Massey in 2008. The central defender would spend four years with the Stones before signing for Braintree Town on a free transfer. Maidenhead United would sign Massey in 2015 who would prove to be a major success for the Magpies and is now the club captain.

### 26. LEWIS KINSELLA - DEFENCE



Kinsella's youth career started at both Arsenal and Aston Villa before he would have back-to-back loan moves to Luton Town and Kidderminster Harriers. The full-back's most known for his time at Aldershot Town where he spent four seasons and played over 100 times. Kinsella has also played for Colchester United and Wealdstone before signing for the Magpies in 2023.

### 27. CHARLEE ADAMS - MIDFIELD

Adams played for both West Ham and Birmingham City at youth level, and after loans at Lincoln City and Kilmarnock, he would drop down to the National League to play for Dagenham and Barnet. The midfielder joined Maidenhead in August 2021 and made 42 league appearances last season, scoring 7 goals.

### 38. DAVID OMILABUT - MIDFIELD





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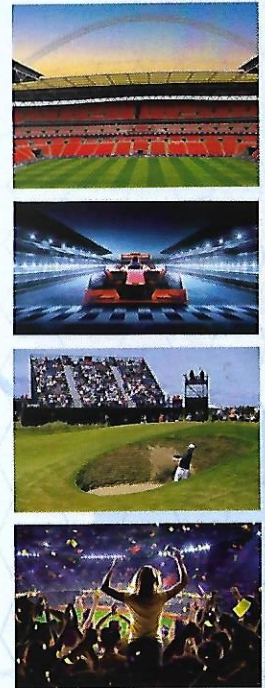
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# Maidenhead United Greatest Seasons

## CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

### 1957/58

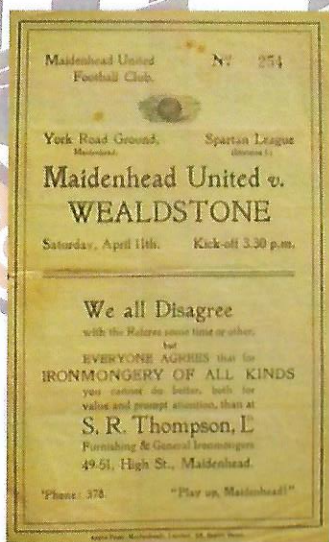
Maidenhead United won the Corinthian League title for the first time in 1957/58. Grays Athletic held a seven-point advantage over the Magpies in mid-March but Maidenhead won 13 and drew one of their final 15 games. They gained a vital 2-1 victory at Grays in their penultimate match, then clinched the title with a 2-0 win at bottom club Worthing. The Magpies had trounced Worthing 7-1 at York Road six months earlier and finished with 43 points from 28 matches. They also reached the Berks & Bucks Cup final but lost 1-0 to Wycombe Wanderers. Ron Barrett, who later joined Grimsby Town, was leading marksman with 23 goals from 22 games.

### 1960/61

Maidenhead United won the Corinthian League title again in 1960/61. The Magpies went to the top of the table in October and remained in pole position, clinching the title with a 0-0 draw at Edgware in their penultimate match. They gained 43 points from 30 games, finishing three ahead of runners-up Chesham. Maidenhead beat Windsor & Eton, Uxbridge, Edgware and Erith & Belvedere to reach the FA Cup first round proper and faced Football League opposition for the first time, losing 5-0 at Colchester. They also won the Berks & Bucks Cup, defeating Chesham 2-1 in the final replay. Wally Beever and Peter Lowen scored 40 goals between them.

### 1961/62

Maidenhead United achieved the Corinthian League and Memorial Shield 'double' in 1961/62. The Magpies began with a 5-2 win at Wembley and also slammed five goals past Letchworth, Erith & Belvedere and Dorking, then hammered Epsom & Ewell 7-0. They achieved a then club record 18 match unbeaten run and won the Corinthian League title by a massive seven point



vWealdstone 1925

## Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS selects ten post-war Maidenhead United 'Classic Campaigns'.

margin, gaining 49 points from 30 games and boasting the best defensive record. The floodlights at York Road were officially switched with a 1-1 draw in a friendly against Reading watched by 2,150. Maidenhead beat Wokingham 6-2 on aggregate in the Memorial Shield final.

### 1990/91

Maidenhead United won promotion for the first time in 1990/91. They set an Isthmian League record by winning their first 13 games and a club record of going undefeated for 19 matches. The latter run started with a 3-0 win at Harefield in December and ended with a 2-0 defeat at Ruislip Manor in mid-April. Maidenhead clinched promotion with a 4-2 win at Eastbourne United with two games remaining. The Isthmian League Second Division (South) title race went to the final day but Abingdon Town won the title after Maidenhead were held to a 1-1 draw at Leatherhead and finished runners-up. Benny Laryea was top scorer with 35 goals

### 1996/97

Maidenhead United won the Isthmian League Full Members Cup in 1996/97. Alan Devonshire's side defeated Molesey 2-0 and Walton & Hersham 1-0, then Chuk Agudosi scored to give the Magpies a 1-0 quarter-final victory at eventual Isthmian League champions Yeovil Town. Goals by Francis Duku, Obinna Ulasj and Tyrone Houston gave Maidenhead a 3-1 semi-final win over Sutton United. The Magpies beat Aylesbury United 3-0 in the final with goals from Micky Creighton, Gary Attrell and Duku. It was the first trophy won by Maidenhead since the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup in 1970. They finished mid-table in the Isthmian League First Division.

### 1999/00

Maidenhead United won promotion to the Isthmian League Premier Division in 1999/2000.



### NLS Champions 2016/17

Pic. maidenhead-advertiser.co.uk

Alan Devonshire's side began with a 3-1 defeat at home to Leyton Pennant but then surged up the table with a 12 match unbeaten run. The Magpies gained a thrilling 4-3 victory at home to Braintree as they lost only twice in 14 games. Chuk Agudosi was leading marksman as they finished third in the Isthmian League First Division with 75 points. Maidenhead also defeated Bromley, Basingstoke Town, Whyteleafe, Bishop's Cleeve and Billericay to reach the Isthmian League Cup final for the first time. They were beaten 1-0 after extra-time by Farnborough Town

### 2003/04

Maidenhead United reached the FA Trophy quarter-finals in 2003/04. The Magpies drew 3-3 at Swindon Supermarine before goals by Steve Hale and Lawrence Yaku secured a 2-1 win in the replay at York Road. Hale scored twice as Maidenhead won 3-1 at Histon in the third round, then two goals by Yaku plus others from Hale, Steve Sanders and Brendon Gallen secured a 5-1 fourth round win at home to Wealdstone. Hale and Yaku scored again as Maidenhead won 2-0 at Halifax Town in the fifth round before the FA Trophy run ended with a 4-0 defeat at Canvey Island. John Dreyer's side finished mid-table in the Isthmian League Premier Division.

### 2006/07

Maidenhead United regained Conference South status at the first attempt in 2006/07. The Magpies began with a 2-1 defeat at Gloucester City, then drew their next five Southern League games. Dwane Lee scored as they took Stafford Rangers to an FA Cup first round replay. Johnson Hippolyte's side won three successive matches in January and they surged into the promotion race with eight straight

wins in March. Lee Newman was leading scorer as Maidenhead qualified for the Southern League Premier Division play-offs in fourth place after winning their final four games. They beat King's Lynn 1-0 in the semi-finals, then team Bath 1-0 in the play-off final.

### 2011/12

Maidenhead United took Football League opposition to an FA Cup replay for the first time in 2011/12. The Magpies won 3-2 at Farnborough in the second qualifying round replay, then beat Woking 4-1. They stormed to a 5-0 win at Godalming to reach the FA Cup first round proper. Anthony Thomas' early goal gave the following team a 1-1 draw with Aldershot Town in front of 2,283 at York Road: Sam Beasant, Bobby Behzadi, Leon Solomon, Daniel Brown, Leigh Henry, John Scarborough, Martel Powell, Will Hendry (Andrew Fagan), Ashan Holgate, Anthony Thomas (Alex Wall), Reece Tilson-Lascaris (Manny Williams). They lost 2-0 in the replay, history.

### 2016/17

Maidenhead United won the Conference South title in 2016/17. Alan Devonshire returned as manager and the Magpies stormed to the top with a 19 match unbeaten run, going nine points clear with a 5-0 win at home to Dartford in mid-December. The run ended with a 2-1 defeat at Wealdstone on Boxing Day but Maidenhead remained in pole position with nine straight wins. They lost 2-1 at home to rivals Ebbsfleet United in their penultimate match but clinched the title with a 3-0 victory at Margate. The Magpies boasted the best defensive record and won 30 of their 42 games, gaining 98 points. They also won the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup.



# 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			



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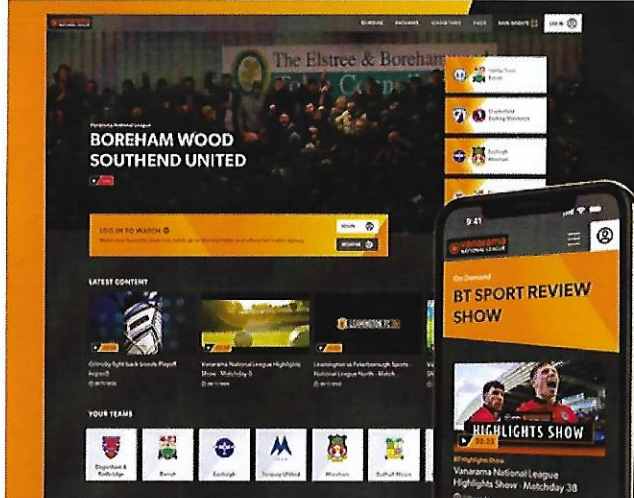
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# FIRST TEAM RESULTS 2023/2024

AUGUST	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers	Dante BAPTISTE	Jack COOK	Charlie BARKER	Ashley CHARLES	Alex DYER	Mason BARRETT	Tarryn ALLARAKHIA	Nathan FERGUSON	Olufela OLOMOLA	Max KRETZSCHMAR	Corrie ANDREWS	Charlie SEAMAN	Jed WARD	Micah OBIERO	Luke DREHER	Dom HUTCHINSON	Kyle SMITH	Charles CLAYDEN	Brooklyn ILUNGA	Abdul ABDULMALIK	Sam BOWEN	Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH	Jaiden BARTOLO	Aaron HENRY	Sean ADARKWA	Declan PHILLIPS	Jahvon CAMPBELL	Marcus DEWHURST	Brandon MASON	Eric NEGRARU	Joseph CULLIS			
5 YORK CITY	VNL	2-1	1,805	680	6	Kretzschmar (P), Mundle-Smith	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
12 Eastleigh	VNL	0-0	2,030	172	8		2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
15 Bromley	VNL	1-1	1,810	159	8	Campbell	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
19 AFC FYLDE	VNL	3-2	1,145	20	5	Campbell 2, Ferguson	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
26 Aldershot Town	VNL	1-3	1,860	149	9	Adarkwa	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
28 DAGENHAM & RED.	VNL	0-2	1,513	275	12		2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
SEPTEMBER																																								
2 Hartlepool United	VNL	1-2	4,072	115	15	Allarakhia	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
9 EBBSFLEET UNITED	VNL	2-1	1,422	186	11	Campbell 2 (1 Pen)	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
16 ALTRINCHAM	VNL	0-0	1,302	70	11		2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
19 Dorking Wanderers	VNL	1-3	1,389	150	12	Bowen	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
23 Chesterfield	VNL	2-3	7,301	140	15	Smith, Adarkwa	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
26 WOKING	VNL	1-0	1,310	250	13	Bowen	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
30 OLDHAM ATHLETIC	VNL	1-1	1,640	385	15	Bowen	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
OCTOBER																																								
3 Gateshead	VNL	1-2	896	54	16	Allarakhia	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
7 Kidderminster Harriers	VNL	0-1	2,546	190	15		2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
14 Bromley	FAC40	2-3	1,933	195	15	Kretzschmar, Ferguson	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
21 BOREHAM WOOD	VNL	1-1	1,505	73	16	Allarakhia	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
24 OXFORD CITY	VNL	3-1	1,029	35	15	Smith, Bowen (2)	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
28 Solihull Moors	VNL	0-1	1,281	108	16		2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
NOVEMBER																																								
11 ROCHDALE	VNL	3-2	1,470	220	12	Cook (2), Adarkwa	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
18 FC Halifax Town	VNL	0-1	2,119	92	16		2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
25 BARNET	VNL	3-2	2,515	556	13	Cook (2), Barker	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
DECEMBER																																								
16 Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL	2-0	1,318	173	13	Adarkwa, Allarakhia	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
20 Billericay Town	FATR3	4-1	310	100	13	Ferguson, Obiero, Campbell, Bowen	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
23 HARTLEPOOL UNITED	VNL	4-4	1,457	105	13	Adarkwa (3), Kretzschmar	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
26 Maidenhead United	VNL	2-0	1,709	250	12	Adarkwa, Kretzschmar (Pen)	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
JANUARY																																								
6 Ebbsfleet United	VNL	0-2	1,511	300	12		2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
13 Chelmsford City	FATR4	1-0	865	300	13	Campbell	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
27 FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL	2-0	1,519	111	13	Henry, Campbell	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
30 ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL	3-3	1,411	332	12	Adarkwa, Ferguson, Obiero	2	3	4	5	7	9	10	11	13	14	18	19	20	22	23	27	29	31	32															
FEBRUARY																																								
3 Barnet	VNL																																							
6 MAIDENHEAD UTD	VNL																																							
10 HENDON	FATR5																																							
13 Altrincham	VNL																																							
17 GATESHEAD	VNL																																							
20 DORKING WANDERERS	VNL																																							
24 Woking	VNL																																							
MARCH																																								
2 York City	VNL																																							
9 EASTLEIGH	VNL																																							
12 BROMLEY	VNL																																							
16 AFC Fylde	VNL																																							
23 KIDDERMINSTER	VNL																																							
29 Oxford City	VNL																																							
APRIL																																								
1 SOLIHULL MOORS	VNL																																							
6 Boreham Wood	VNL																																							



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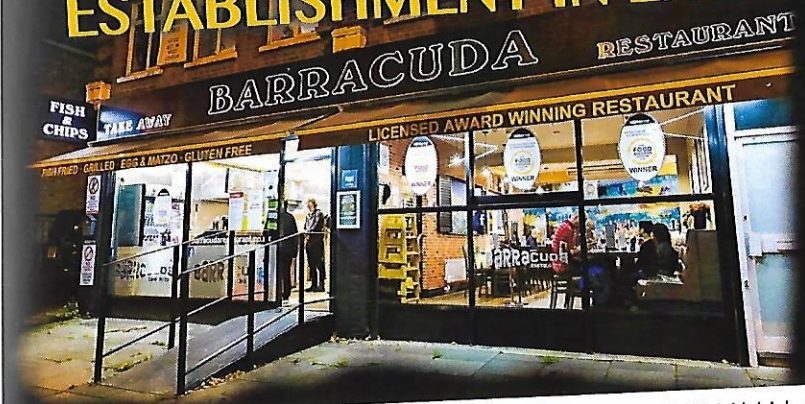
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A great way to celebrate an occasion or advertise your organisation's support, packages start for fans at just **£495** (for 4 people), and for businesses at **£595 + VAT** for 4 people. As sponsor you will enjoy:

- Match tickets for 4 people (inc. prime main stand seats if required)
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- Boardroom, Gordon Bartlett Lounge or Main Hall hospitality including a pre-match hot meal with wines and half-time refreshments courtesy of in-house caterer Lynn Evans.
- Match-day programmes for all in your party.
- A dedicated table for you and your guests throughout your stay.
- Naming and presenting the 'Man of the Match' award
- A souvenir memento of your day.

Our match sponsors and their guests are all entertained in surroundings befitting such a special occasion be it a birthday, anniversary or any other special event! We will work with you to ensure you and your guests get to enjoy a truly memorable experience. If you or your organisation are interested in sponsoring a match, please email **Nick Symmons (nicksymmons@btinternet.com)** to discuss.

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



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



	<b>ROCHDALE</b> Saturday 11th November Vanarama National League	<b>Clear Insurance Management Ltd</b>	<b>Rolfe-East</b>
	<b>BARNET</b> Saturday 25th November Vanarama National League	<b>Ruislip Windows &amp; Doors</b>	<b>Rolfe-East</b>
	<b>HARTLEPOOL UNITED</b> Saturday 23rd December Vanarama National League	<b>Harrow Windows</b>	<b>The Ambassador</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>Written in Stone</b>	
	<b>HENDON</b> Saturday 10th February FA Trophy 5th Round	<b>Harrow Windows</b>	
	<b>GATESHEAD</b> Saturday 17th February Vanarama National League	<b>Rolfe-East</b>	<b>The Ambassador</b>
	<b>DORKING WANDERERS</b> Tuesday 20th February Vanarama National League	<b>Smith &amp; Latimer</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
	<b>EASTLEIGH</b> Saturday 9th March Vanarama National League	<b>Harrow Windows</b>	<b>O'Nick Ltd</b> <b>Friends &amp; Family of Tony Shore</b>
	<b>BROMLEY</b> Tuesday 12th March Vanarama National League	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
	<b>KIDDERMINSTER HARR.</b> Saturday 23rd March Vanarama National League	<b>Rolfe-East</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
	<b>SOLIHULL MOORS</b> Monday 1st April Vanarama National League	<b>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>
	<b>SOUTHEND UNITED</b> To be advised Vanarama National League	<b>Allday &amp; Miller Estate Agents</b>	



## THIS DIDN'T AGE WELL! 50 YEARS AGO, TOP FLIGHT

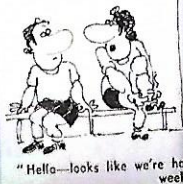
# 87% of Chelsea fans hated the idea of Sunday football ..now nobody thinks twice

**FOOTBALL these days is played right across the week, and right across the calendar.** No day is sacrosanct from the all-consuming game... with the only exception being Christmas Day itself.

Fifty years ago, we were a much less secular society and the thought of playing on the sabbath brought a torrent of criticism from all clubs. In 1974 the miners' strike, three-day working week and industrial crisis forced clubs to look at alternatives to Saturdays when working fans and (in non-League) the players themselves were having to work on the traditional footballing day.

But nobody was happy. Certainly not the readers of the Chelsea programme, which published this spread on the Sunday Football debate following on their Division One game at Stoke on January 27... the first top flight game ever played on the holy day. A week earlier, a dozen EFL games were played on the Sunday, although it wasn't until the advent of the Premier League in 1992 that matches

**Continued over page>>>**



## FANS SAID 'NO' TO SUNDAY KICK-OFFS

were routinely slated that day to take advantage of the growing TV-watching attendances.

The Stones can lay claim to having staged one of the very first competitive Sunday games in this country when we faced Bognor Regis in the

Southern League Div One South on January 6th 1974. Bognor's industries had power on Saturday 5th but not the 6th, so with players otherwise unavailable the date was switched... and our gate doubled to some 1,500 coming through the Lower

Mead turnstiles. Two months later we also faced Poole Town in Dorset on a memorable Sunday, winning 3-2 against our challengers for the title.

# NEVER ON SUNDAY!

**FOR** football, what could prove the most far-reaching sequel to this winter's industrial crisis has been the introduction of Sunday matches in the Football League and F.A. Cup. On such an important issue, we wanted to hear the opinions of our supporters, and asked for them in a recent programme. Your response included a particularly high-percentage reaction from Season-ticket holders, and analysis of all the replies received produced this verdict on the possibility of Sunday football at Stamford Bridge: **FOR—13 per cent; AGAINST—87 per cent.** Here is a selection of your views:

The ideal kick-off time is 3 p.m. on Saturdays. If Sunday soccer takes over at Chelsea, a lot of people like myself, who make long journeys to attend every home Saturday fixture, would find it virtually impossible. I did intend having a season-ticket in the new stand next season, but this would be out of the question if you play on Sundays.

**B. Wilkins, Bicester.**

Sunday is HOME day. We hope it never comes to Chelsea playing that day at The Bridge.

**E. D. & E. J. Evans, Ruislip.**

Sunday football for us is totally OUT. As Christians, we feel this should be a day set aside for worship and when the whole family can be together, as it has been for years. The work of Sunday schools would be badly hit by Sunday football, as they function morning and afternoon. For the sake of family life and Christian conscience, please keep Saturday as football day and Sunday God's special day.

**Graham & Jenny Wright, Southgate, N.14.**

I hold three season-tickets at Chelsea and would not be renewing if it came to Sunday football.

**J. H. Young, London S.W.9.**

I would welcome the introduction of Sunday football. Today's game is primarily concerned with economics, and as clubs are not likely to charge a more realistic entrance fee they must, if they are to survive financially, experiment with ever-changing public attitudes. In my opinion Sunday is no longer a "day of rest"; also, many people are unable to attend a match because they work on Saturdays.

**Jack Dymond, Langley.**

Sunday football at Chelsea? No! Reasons: 1 Transport. 2 Sunday roast. 3 Inconvenience to family. 4 Tradition. 5 Away travel—Monday morning work.

**R. Hanger & K. Jarman, Ottershaw.**

For many, myself included, long distances would be virtually impossible on Sundays, and Chelsea could lose many old and loyal supporters.

**C. A. Tigwell, Littlehampton.**

Please, no Sunday soccer—for the important reason that public transport, which thousands of supporters have to use, is not at its best then. I think Sunday soccer, so far, has been a five-minute wonder.

**Mrs. B. Morley, Anerley S.E.20.**

One question I would put to those who advocate Sunday play: Have they done much Sunday travelling by public transport? Not all of us live within walking distance or own cars. We are told Sunday football is successful on the Continent. So what—must we always ape the foreigner? What the British public wants is more attacking football to bring the crowds flocking back.

**C. W. Fox, Worthing.**

I have seen Chelsea since the opening day in 1905 and am against Sunday football. The players want to be home with their families that day.

**J. Donald, S.W.16.**

We think Sunday football is a must and look forward to regular Sunday matches home and away. It took us less than three hours to get to Stoke on Jan. 27, and on a Saturday that would be at least four hours.

**R. Rixson & Co., Dartford.**

As one holding Church office, I could not attend Sunday matches. But apart from religious convictions on the matter, I feel it imposes an extra working day on too many people and disrupts neighbourhoods of football grounds unduly on a day when the inhabitants should be able to expect peace.

**P. Rainey, Stoneleigh.**

I was a season-ticket holder for four years, but now work on Saturdays so can only get to games in midweek. There are a lot of people in the same boat, so give Sunday a try. The gates can be no worse than they have been this season.

**David Icke, Folkestone.**

## That's your 87 per cent verdict against football on the Sabbath at Stamford Bridge

I have supported Chelsea for 51 years, now holding two season-tickets and sitting among twelve pals. We all say that if Chelsea play on Sundays we would NOT, repeat NOT, be renewing our tickets. On the seventh day we like our plant, roast dinner and feet up, so please don't be drawn into Sunday football.

**E. C. Humphrey, W.4.**

I am against Sunday football. Although attendances might increase at first, they would drop to about the Saturday average once the novelty wore off.

**G. Dubbin, S.W.6.**

A Chelsea home match to me means a journey of 200 miles, so for me (and I'm sure thousands of others) getting transport to Sunday matches is just not on.

**L. Stephens, Cheltenham.**

For me and my friends, Saturday is football day, Sunday is the day of quiet and rest, for entertaining friends and going to church. We shall continue to support Chelsea on weekdays, as I have done for about 40 years, but not EVER on Sundays.

**R. F. Smith, S.W.6.**

Although I have been a supporter for 30 years and am a season-ticket holder, I shall give up at once if you decide to play at home on Sundays. I am convinced that, with ever-increasing pressures in life, it is more and more important to have one day a week which is completely different from the rest.

**C. Healy, Ewell.**

What are the Sunday "merchants" proposing? Simply a double "ban"—on Saturday's football impact and on Sunday's peaceful recap.

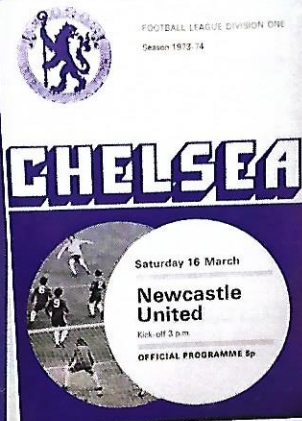
**T. Chester, S.W.9.**

*(Continued on next page)*

## OUR VIEW

**F**IRST, we would like to thank all those who so readily gave us their opinions on Sunday matches. In common with most other First Division clubs—including the other four in London—we have so far seen no reason to stage Sunday football. That is not to say unreservedly that the situation will not arise one day when the circumstances may seem right to make the experiment, but we do not anticipate doing so in the foreseeable future.

In many cases, particularly up-country and/or in lower divisions, clubs playing Sunday matches these past two months have had rewarding attendances. But while provincial clubs depend on what is predominantly local support, we know from previous study that thousands of Chelsea supporters travel a distance to home matches—in some cases up to 200 miles. With this very much in mind, we are bound to regard the modern decrease in public transport on Sundays as an important factor against staging Sunday football at Stamford Bridge.



Left: the cover of the Chelsea v Newcastle prog in March 1974 that published

the Sunday debate (above). And they even commissioned a Maddocks cartoon to decorate the feature!



REWIND SPECIAL >>>> by tim parks

# It happened 50 years ago

## Part 16: Stones hit a goal drought... and then the news on a dramatic Cup afternoon

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

Saturday January 19 1974, Southern League Division One South: Wealdstone 0 Ramsgate 1

Saturday January 26 1974, Southern League Division One South: Waterlooville 0 Wealdstone 0

Saturday February 2 1974, FA Trophy Second Round Proper: Wealdstone 5 Hastings United 2

In every successful season comes a 'blip', and Wealdstone's came in January 1974 just after winning five games back-to-back and scoring 15 goals. Suddenly they dried up.

A 0-0 home draw with Bognor (recounted in the previous programme) was followed by blanks at home to mid-table Ramsgate (0-1) and then 0-0 at title-challengers Waterlooville. With the country still in the grip of the power crisis, and our

players working haphazard hours as and when factories and offices were allowed electricity, manager Sid Prosser decided to give the team an extra training session on the morning of the big FA Trophy last-32 tie against Hastings United. He had them out on the Lower Mead pitch "with special emphasis on interplay between front-runners George Duck, Bill

### Southern League

## PRE-MATCH TRAINING FOR WEALDSTONE

By DEREK WILD

WEALDSTONE, worried about their lack of goals in recent games, will end special pre-match training only 24 hours before the kick-off of their second round FA Challenge Trophy tie against Hastings at Lower Mead Stadium tomorrow.

Despite riding high only two points behind Poole, the Third Division (South) leaders, with four games in hand, Wealdstone have scored only once in their last four matches.

That goal came from a defender, Eddie Presland, the lanky former West Ham and Crystal Palace player, at Wimbledon in the previous round of the competition three weeks ago.

So the 14-strong Wealdstone squad will have an hour's training starting at 11 a.m. tomorrow, with particular emphasis put on their front runners. George Duck's

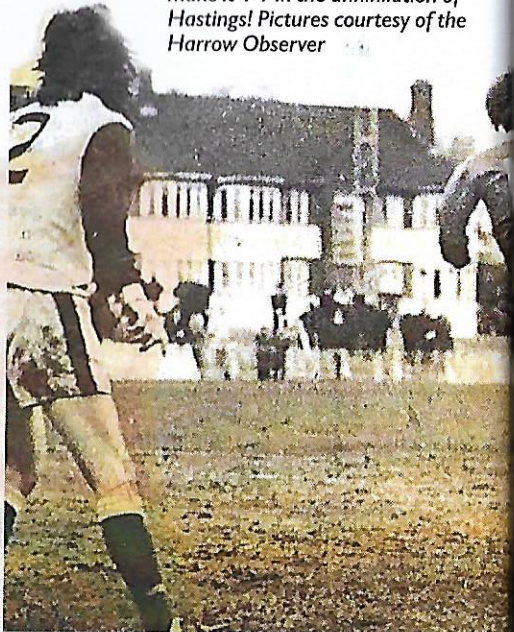
highest scorer, Bill Byrne and John Henderson.

Duck has scored 24 League goals, seven more than the section's next best marksman, Terry Evans, of Trowbridge, but he has suffered a drastic loss of form over the last month. Wealdstone are determined to help him get back among the goals as soon as possible.

Wealdstone beat Hastings, who have the best defensive record in the division, 2-1 in a League match at home three weeks ago, and they are confident they can now reach the last 16 of the Challenge Trophy at the Sussex side's expense.

The squad are all fit and the side who gained a point at Waterlooville last Saturday are expected to be retained.

Just to add to the drama, Stones winger John Henderson (No.11) backheel-volleyed a crazy goal to make it 4-1 in the annihilation of Hastings! Pictures courtesy of the Harrow Observer

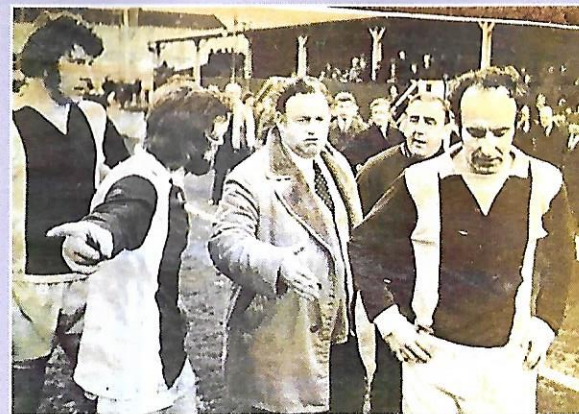


Byrne and John Henderson" according to the *Daily Telegraph* which ran a special article on the day of the game (see below, left).

So did it work? Blimey, did it! The *Telegraph* stated that Duck was 'drastically off form'

(despite having already scored 24 league goals) and he certainly bounced back with FOUR goals in this one game, including an extraordinary hat-trick of penalties. Not only were we in the national press but dead-eyed George also got a mention on BBC1's *Grandstand* that afternoon as the scores were read out from the vidiprinter!

Hastings were described as 'spoilers' by the Harry O scribe Phil Sugden and that was putting it nicely. They were hacking and pulling from the off but could



It all kicks off at Lower Mead when referee Waterman (with his linesman, above) awards the third penalty... players hound him to the touchline and then (top picture) argue with their manager after skipper John Ripley (right) led his team off the pitch

## Hastings walk off as third penalty results in second half fracas

By Phil Sugden

Wealdstone 5, Hastings United 2

ONE OF THE most sensational games seen at Lower Mead for many a season saw Hastings United captain John Ripley lead the Sussex side off the field, four minutes after the interval after the club's number seven John Jefferson, had been sent off by referee D. R. Waterman, of Weybridge.

The incident occurred after Hastings full-back Harry Cunningham had handled for the second time in 48 minutes and referee Waterman had awarded a third penalty to Wealdstone — all three awards producing goals from that deadly spot-kick taker George Duck.

All three penalties were obvious, to say the least, but the third offence was the most blatant for Cunningham pulled down a Henderson shot with two hands when a goal seemed certain.

Mr. Waterman immediately pointed to the spot and the garrulous Jefferson protested overmuch. He was at once booked and the third Hastings name to go into the book and then sent off.

For a minute or so the player refused to depart and Mr. Waterman was more than lenient with at least two other Sussex players who pushed and jostled him near the goal line. Eventually, the player

A touchline conference heated argument is perhaps a truer version of the happening — lasted two or three minutes with Wealdstone manager Sid Prosser and substitute Terry Dyson joining those endeavouring to restore sanity.

Eventually, still protesting vigorously, Ripley took his men back on and four minutes after it all started Duck was able to blast the penalty home to establish, at that time, a 3-0 lead.

Hastings, with one of the best away defensive records in the league, had conceded only

beaten 2-1 at Lower Mead in a league game on December 29, and I cannot imagine they added many names to their fan club after this otherwise entertaining second round Challenge Trophy tie.

Allowing for the fact that Hastings played their best football after they lost Jefferson and took advantage of lapses of concentration by 'Stones' back men to notch a couple of goals, they rarely looked like stopping the Lower Mead club's majestic advance to the last 16.

hardly dispute the first penalty after just six minutes. Duck's soaring header beat keeper Arnold and full-back Harry Cunningham scooped the ball over the Cinema End bar with his hand. George blamed his spot kick low inside Arnold's right hand post. Ten minutes later, defender Barry dragged down Duck from behind as he advanced on goal and referee Waterman had another easy decision. 2-0 with an identical Duck spot-kick. Hastings had to respond as the second half kicked off but were stopped dead in their tracks as Duck's rasping shot was blocked by the hands of the desperate Cunningham. It would be hard to

imagine a more obvious penalty but Hastings - and particularly winger John Jefferson - argued long and loud. Referee Waterman at first booked the No.7... and then sent him off. At this point Hastings skipper John Ripley led his team off the pitch and the game seemed certain to be abandoned, until Stones boss Prosser and sub Terry Dyson talked some sense into the irate visitors! Finally, some ten minutes after the award of the penalty, Duck stepped up to complete his spot-kick hat-trick, blasting the ball up the middle. Ironically Hastings then played their best football despite conceding a fourth to Johnny Henderson's extravagant backheel (see picture above). Cunningham and Jones made it 4-2 but Georgie Duck then headed a marvellous fifth to spark those Wembley dreams.

Two days later, with the Trophy draw now national, we were paired with South Shields...





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# 42 years ago, an FA Trophy defeat that still leaves a nasty taste in the mouth..

ON THIS DAY



BY TIM PARKS

**Saturday February 6th 1982, FA Challenge Trophy second round proper: Wealdstone 0 Dagenham 2**

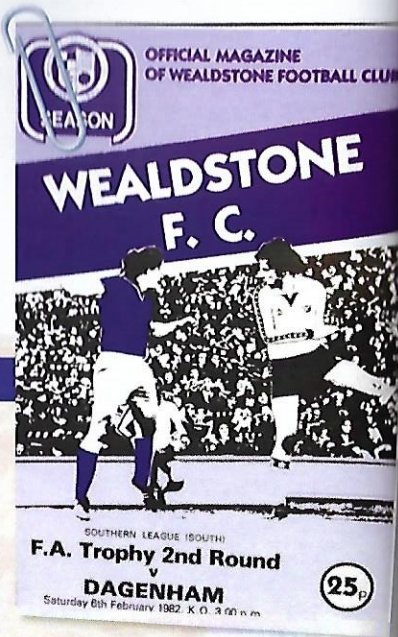
I CAN still feel and taste the anger that this undeserved FA Trophy defeat conjured up 42 years ago.

Dagenham were flying along in the Conference National (then known as the Alliance Premier League) while Allen Batsford's Wealdstone, having been relegated the previous season, were on their way to winning a Southern League clean sweep and bouncing straight back into non-League's top flight.

We were a very good side - and Dagenham knew it. That's why they were niggling away right from the start of this last-32-of-the-Trophy clash in front of a 1,000-plus

crowd at Lower Mead. After an icy snap, we were behind with our league fixtures and had a pretty threadbare squad. It was about to be further decimated by suspensions as full-back Steve 'Polly' Perkins allowed himself to be intimidated by the Essex side's wind-up merchants - and was sent off right at the start of the second half for complaining to referee David Letts.

Winder-up in chief was the horrible Ronnie Howells, the ex-Enfield midfielder who revelled in his role as a pantomime baddie. It was typical of Howell to poke fun at our keeper Ray Goddard after he had converted the grossly unfair penalty that gave Daggers the lead after 34 minutes - a penalty awarded by referee Letts after Goddard



had punched a corner off the head of Dagenham striker Tony Gibson. The man in black mystified everyone in the ground by pointing to the penalty spot.

As the report overpage shows, Mr Letts then threatened to call the game off when Perkins disputed his red card - saying he had been 'seconds away' from abandoning the tie. Looking back, this

Continued over page >>>

# Uproar as Stones go out

Wealdstone 1, Dagenham 2  
**REFEREE David Letts, the man at the centre of Wealdstone's controversial exit from the FA Trophy at Lower Mead on Saturday, revealed that he came "within a second or two" of abandoning the tie, writes ROGER JONES.**

The second half was only a minute old when he sent off Steve Perkins for swearing at an opponent.

The player, both stunned and incensed by the decision, was reluctant to go until 'Stones' captain Paul Bowgett hustled him towards the touchline with Perkins making audible threats to the referee.

"When the skipper arrived on the scene, I was about to abandon the game because the No. 7 (Perkins) had refused to leave the field," explained Mr Letts who this weekend takes charge of the First Division

match between Arsenal and Notts County.

The Basingstoke referee had already angered and frustrated Wealdstone by booking Dennis Byatt, Paul Bowgett and Ray Knowles in the first half, all for dissent, and then awarding a 34th minute penalty which left even the visitors unable to believe their luck.

It was all too much for 'Stones' boss Allen Batsford who is also being reported to the FA for comments he made to Mr Letts at half time.

Mr Batsford was unrepentant when the tie was all over. "That was the most disgraceful display of refereeing I have ever seen," he told me. "The FA have not heard the last of this. I shall have plenty to say to them about this bloke. He completely ruined the game."

For what it is worth, I totally agree with Mr Batsford's assessment.

## Lesson lost

Having seen Byatt cautioned as early as the fourth minute for speaking out of turn, Wealdstone should have learnt their lesson. And it must be said that Mr Letts was technically correct in dismissing Perkins for using foul and abusive language.

But in a cup tie devoid of real unpleasantness —

Dagenham's Steve Ragan was the only man booked for a foul — the catalogue of names in the referee's notebook says a lot about his own failings.

At best, he demonstrated a singular lack of common sense; it was surely unnecessary to send Perkins packing. At worst, he showed a contemptuous disregard for the importance both sides — and the spectators — attached to the game.

For Dagenham, given that highly questionable penalty and the advantage of playing the final 44 minutes with one more man than Wealdstone, it was a hollow victory. They knew it — and they admitted it.

## Protests

The penalty, according to Mr Letts, was awarded because as Ray Goddard came off his line to punch clear a corner, he had his other arm round Tony Gibson's neck. It didn't look that way to me or anybody else I spoke to, including a Dagenham player or two.

When the protests had died down, Ronnie Howell gleefully thumped home the spot kick and spoilt himself, as he always does, by stupidly poking fun at the hapless Goddard.

The whole incident threw

'Stones out of their stride, but it speaks volumes for their resilience that they bounced back from this setback — and the loss of Perkins — to draw level in the 52nd minute.

Colin Hardman crossed from the right, Dagenham 'keeper Dave Danson couldn't cling on to Robin Wainwright's shot, and Alan Cordice applied the finishing touch to emerge as a clear leader in the Wealdstone goalscoring stakes with his 21st of the season.

Knowles might have headed 'Stones in front from an Alan Cordice cross, but one always suspected that their opponents' extra man would be a decisive factor in the end. And so it proved.

Byatt, getting tired like the rest of his colleagues, failed to clear on the edge of the box after 76 minutes when there seemed no real danger, and Chris Maycock buried a low drive just inside Goddard's right-hand post. Splendid saves by Goddard prevented Maycock again, and Gibson from giving the scoreline a distinctly distorted look in a tie in which the real villain of the piece was Mr Letts.

Wealdstone: Goddard, Hardman, Pearce, Byatt, Bowgett, Harwick, Perkins, Wainwright, A. Cordice, N. Cordice, Knowles. Sub: Whites (not used).



Wealdstone keeper Ray Goddard can only stare in dismay as Dagenham's Ronnie Howell (No. 6) sends him the wrong way to score from the hotly-disputed first-half penalty in Saturday's explosive FA Trophy clash.



The following week's Harry O pictures the crowd packed in behind the Cinema End goal for the Dagenham game. How many current faces can YOU identify?



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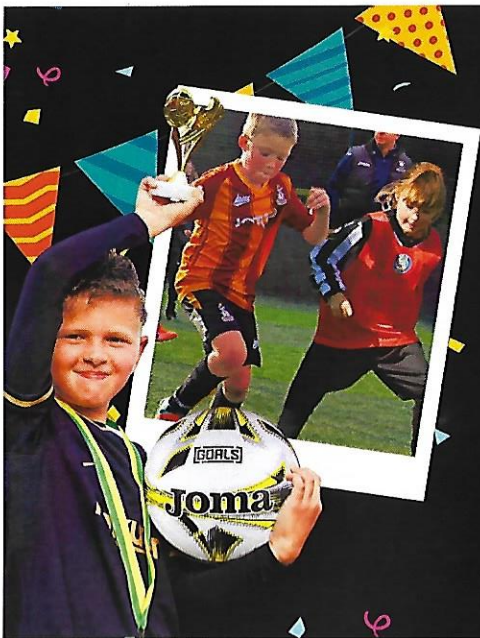
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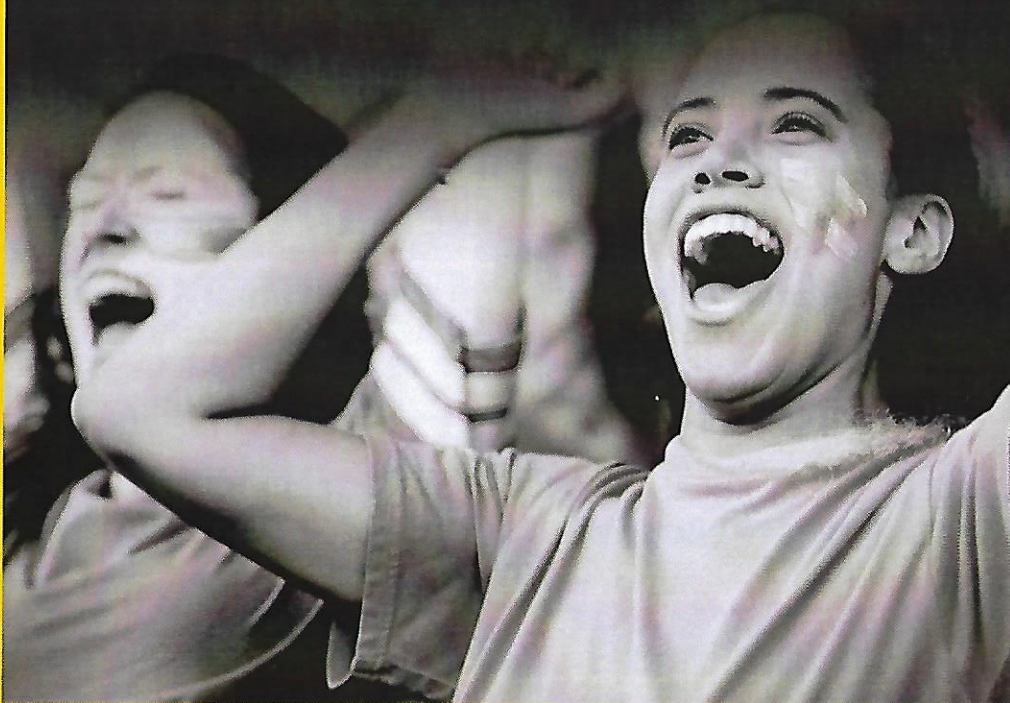
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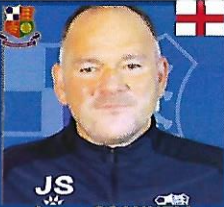
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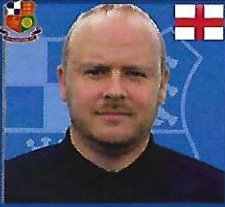
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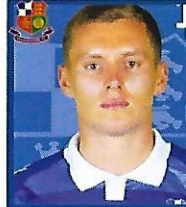
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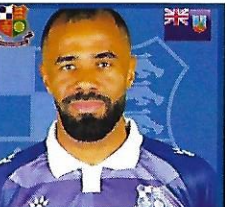
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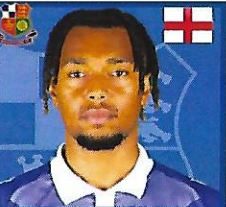
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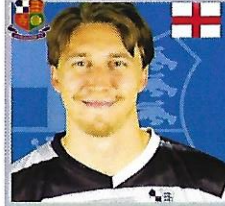
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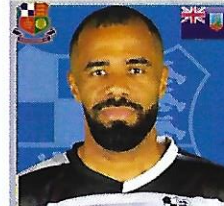
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1 Chesterfield	29	24	2	3	72	34	16	15	1	0	48	19	13	9	1	3	24	15	38	74	2-3
2 Bromley	31	16	10	5	52	33	15	10	3	2	32	16	16	6	7	3	20	17	19	58	1-1
3 Barnet	30	17	4	9	58	44	14	10	2	2	29	16	16	7	2	7	29	28	14	55	3-2
4 Solihull Moors	29	13	8	8	45	40	15	6	5	4	24	16	14	7	3	4	21	24	5	47	0-1
5 Altrincham	28	12	10	6	53	38	14	8	4	2	34	16	14	4	6	4	19	22	15	46	0-0
6 Oldham Athletic	29	12	9	8	45	39	15	5	5	5	23	17	14	7	4	3	22	22	6	45	1-1
7 Aldershot Town	30	13	6	11	54	56	15	8	5	2	32	22	15	5	1	9	22	34	-2	45	3-3 1-3
8 Gateshead	28	12	7	9	52	40	14	6	4	4	27	20	14	6	3	5	25	20	12	43	1-2
9 Rochdale	29	11	8	10	47	42	14	6	4	4	25	17	15	5	4	6	22	25	5	41	3-2
10 Halifax Town	29	10	11	8	32	31	13	4	7	2	15	12	16	6	4	6	17	19	1	41	2-0 0-1
11 Eastleigh	29	10	8	11	50	58	14	7	4	3	28	24	15	3	4	8	22	34	-8	38	0-0
12 Wealdstone	27	10	7	10	39	39	14	8	5	1	28	20	13	2	2	9	11	19	0	37	
13 Hartlepool United	31	11	4	16	47	57	16	7	1	8	23	27	15	4	3	8	24	30	-10	37	4-4 1-2
14 Maidenhead United	29	8	11	10	30	37	16	5	7	4	14	14	13	3	4	6	16	23	-7	35	2-0
15 Southend United	28	13	5	10	44	31	13	9	0	4	29	11	15	4	5	6	15	20	+13	34	
16 Dagenham & Redbridge	30	9	7	14	37	42	15	5	0	10	18	24	15	4	7	4	19	18	-5	34	0-2 2-0
17 Boreham Wood	30	7	13	10	39	51	16	4	7	5	20	22	14	3	6	5	19	29	-12	34	1-1
18 Dorking Wanderers	29	10	4	15	35	47	15	5	2	8	17	22	14	5	2	7	18	25	-12	34	1-3
19 York City	29	7	12	10	39	47	13	3	6	4	21	21	16	4	6	6	18	26	-8	33	2-1
20 Woking	29	8	6	15	29	38	13	2	3	8	13	20	16	6	3	7	16	18	-9	30	1-0
21 Ebbsfleet United	31	8	6	17	38	56	15	5	2	8	19	19	16	3	4	9	19	37	-18	30	2-1 0-2
22 Fylde	29	7	8	14	42	52	16	5	6	5	25	26	13	2	2	9	17	26	-10	29	3-2
23 Kidderminster Harriers	31	7	8	16	26	39	15	3	5	7	14	17	16	4	3	9	12	22	-13	29	0-1
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Wealdstone FC's first team travel is sponsored by Osmo, specialists in the supply of wood finishes

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

# Follow Stones on the road:



**Altrincham**

National League  
Tuesday  
13th February  
7:45pm

[AltrinchamFC.com](http://AltrinchamFC.com)



**Woking**

National League  
Saturday  
24th February  
3:00pm

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



**Rochdale**

National League  
Tuesday  
27th February  
7:45pm

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