



# TODAY'S LINE-UPS



## STONES V SPORTS

royal blue & white

red & black

Jonathan NORTH	1	Lewis CAREY
James HAMMOND	2	Sam BEALE
Jack MILLS	3	Ian SIMPEMBA
Carl MARTIN	4	Adam WATTS
Sean CRONIN	5	Richie WELCH
Tom HAMBLIN	6	Matt ALDRED
Joe TURNER	7	Charlie LOSASSO
Luke PIGDEN	8	Simon JOHNSON
Scott MCGLEISH	9	Tony GARROD
Jonny WRIGHT	10	Darren LOCK
Toby LITTLE	11	Gavin McCALLUM
Tom COLLINS	12	Ryan WORRALL
Tom HICKEY	14	Richard PACQUETTE
Elliott GODFREY	15	Dan HUTCHINS
Michael MALCOLM	16	Mateusz SZAFRANSKI
Wes PARKER	17	

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# WEALDSTONE



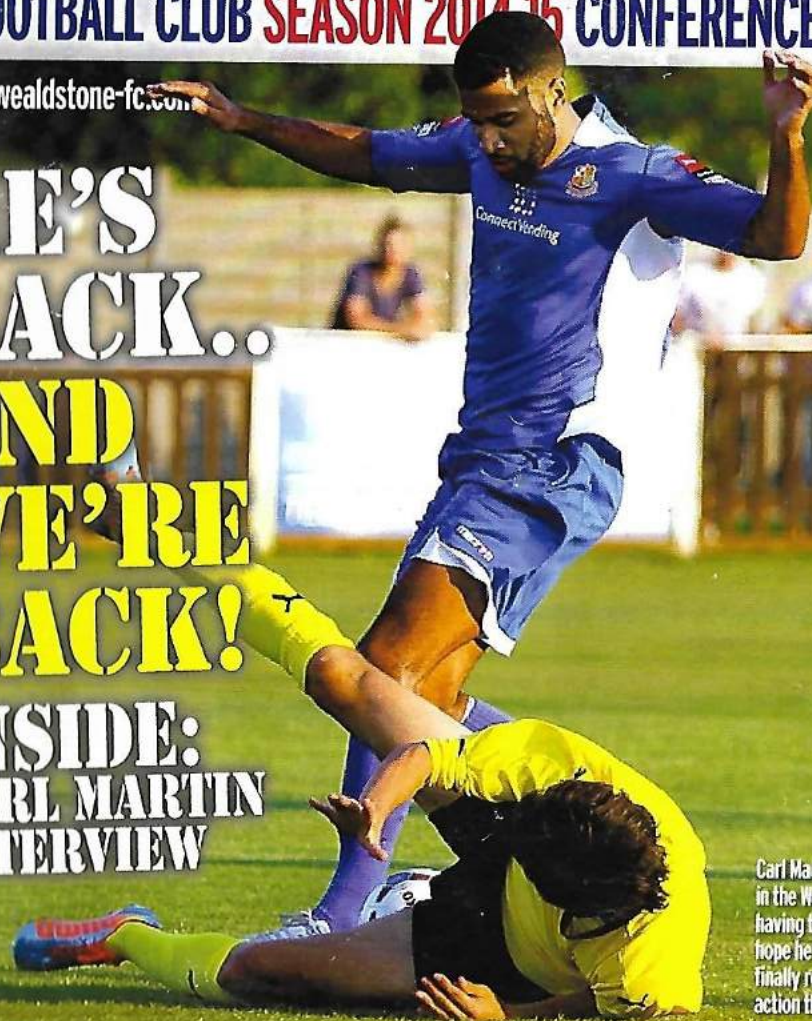
## FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2014-15 CONFERENCE SOUTH

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# HE'S BACK..

# AND WE'RE BACK!

## INSIDE: CARL MARTIN INTERVIEW



Carl Martin imposes himself in the Watford friendly before having to retire injured... let's hope he's fully fit as Stones finally return to Conference action this afternoon

Picture: Afan Palmer

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## Game Time !!!

**THE WAIT IS FINALLY OVER AND OUR CONFERENCE ADVENTURE CAN START.**

A warm welcome to Grosvenor Vale to the officials, players and supporters of today's opponents, Eastbourne Borough and also to today's match officials.

Thanks are due to the ever generous and good friend of the club, Nick Woolford, who has sponsored today's match, as well as donating the match ball. Thanks Nick, your support is greatly appreciated.

As a club we are always looking for sponsorship, so pick a match, ball or kil and do your bit. Don't worry if your choice is taken, we can accommodate multiple sponsors on match days when you can enjoy full boardroom hospitality with the added attraction this season of tasty treats from The Rollin' Kitchen (see pages 26, 36 & 41 for details). I have absolutely no doubt that in true Wealdstone style there will be thrills, spills and following some away games, headaches over the next nine months.

over to Toby's stand next to the players tunnel where he has several new designs available including the two shown below.

Enjoy your afternoon **MARK**



**STOP PRESS....STOP PRESS....STOP PRESS**  
**JEROME OKIMO IN SURPRISE MOVE TO LEAGUE TWO STEVENAGE**

As supporters we are obviously excited at the prospect of a few new away trips or ones to grounds not visited in recent years and the Supporters Club will be running regular coaches to away games throughout the season, so you have no excuse to miss a single minute of the action. One thing we have always done as a club is support in numbers and good humour away from home, so if you haven't joined us on the road before now is the time to start.

On the subject of the Supporters Club, they have a special offer on membership packages at the moment before the planned price rise at the end of September (see page 8) On the programme front, we are looking to be more interactive with you over the coming months and to this end we now have a dedicated Twitter account @wealdstoneProg to enable you to give us your feedback and join in debates raised (see pages 36 & 37). That's all from me for now, all of us at programme towers hope you enjoy the new look, which as ever at this early stage of the season is still a work in progress.

Finally if you have a soft spot for badges get your self

In a surprise late close season move, League Two Stevenage have agreed terms with Wealdstone to take highly talented left back Jerome Okimo to Broadhall Way where he will sensationally link up with former Stones forward Tom Pett and is expected to go straight into their first team squad.

There is no doubt that losing Jerome, particularly just before the start of Stones' Vanarama Conference South campaign comes as a major blow to the club, but this is undoubtedly a dream opportunity for the 26 year old as he joins an ever lengthening list of player developed by Wealdstone that have moved on to the professional ranks over many seasons.

Gordon Bartlett said: 'We are all delighted for Jerome who thoroughly deserves to be a pro. At 26, he probably felt his chance had gone but his attitude, pace, strength and all round qualities were a massive part of our title winning side last season and it was bound to get noticed. Losing two players to the professional ranks is a big blow to the squad and maybe we have have been victims of our own success.'

## Mascots

Today's mascots are brothers Tom & Oscar who support Wealdstone and Chelsea. Tom's favorite player is Sean Cronin and Oscar's is Scott McGleish





# WEALDSTONE

## FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2014/2015

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(07790 038095)  
Match Secretary **Alan Couch**  
Assistant Match Secretary **Alyson Angelides**  
Company Secretary **Andrew Lane**  
Reserve Team Secretary **Alison Moran**

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Safety Officer **Steve Wicks**  
Match Day Staff **Georgia Leaper,**  
**Graham Smith, Pauline Smith,**  
**Emma Leaper, James Klarfeld,**  
**Victor Klarfeld, Ryan Cross**

#### COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT

Directors **Paul Rumens (07710 929692)**  
**Peter Worby (07967 698370)**  
Administration **Andrew Lane**  
Agents **Del Vaughan (07984 111117)**  
**Alan Palmer (07961 872265)**

#### FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT

Manager **Gordon Bartlett**  
Assistant Manager **Leo Morris**  
Coaches **Mark Gill, Mickey Johnson**  
Sports Therapists Team **James Smith**  
**Gary Strudwick**  
Masseur **Chris Elliott**  
Reserve Team Managers **Micky Johnson,**  
**John Moran**

Goalkeeping Coach **Jason Scannell**  
Development Scouts **John Fletcher**

#### CLUB PERSONNEL

Press Officer **Nick DuGard**  
([nickdugard@fsmail.net](mailto:nickdugard@fsmail.net))  
PA Announcer **Peter John-Baptiste**  
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Boardroom Hospitality **Alison Moran**  
Programme Editor **Mark Hyde**  
**Martin Read**  
([wfcprogramme@googlemail.com](mailto:wfcprogramme@googlemail.com))  
Club Photographer **Steve Foster**  
Junior Liaison Manager **Mark Lloyd,**  
**Mark Hyde**  
Web Site Manager **Matt Hill**

#### WFCSC / SOCIAL CLUB

Liaison Officers **Markie Barton,**  
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1981 / 1982 Southern League Southern Division  
1981 / 1982 Southern League Championship  
1984 / 1985 Football Conference (Gola League)  
1996 / 1997 Isthmian League Division Three  
2013 / 2014 Isthmian League Premier Division

#### 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 (Play-Off)

### 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;
  - 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; • Using violence of any nature.
- 2) No spectator ball games.
- 3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar 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.

- Wealdstone FC Board of Directors

## Where on earth did that close season go?

IT DOESN'T SEEM 5 MINUTES AGO WHEN WE WERE CELEBRATING WINNING THE LEAGUE AND HERE WE ARE ALREADY EMBARKING ON THE NEW CHALLENGE OF THE CONFERENCE SOUTH.

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Tommy Widdrington and his Eastbourne team for our first encounter in what I'm sure will be the start of a great nine months experience for all of us. New leagues, new grounds, new opponents and somewhat new look about our own team as well. So much has been going on during the summer it's hard to know where to start. The pitch looks great, the steady improvements have continued around the ground and we now have the rollin' kitchen cuisine to look forward to.

Now for a whinge and on the negative side we have Fingers new 'Tardis' office parked where we normally have our pre match social gathering, we have sky and navy hooped socks for our third kit and 'pink' socks for the GK's kit. Finger's has a lot to answer for!! On the playing front, we have lost Tom, Glen, Peter, Jey, Scott and maybe Jerome by the time you read this. Tom has obviously signed a pro contract at Stevenage and I'm delighted to say he has made an immediate impact and I believe he will start the season in the side. More recently we were approached by Graham Westley at Stevenage again, but this time asking about Jerome. We have allowed him to train and play in two games and although it's becoming a little complicated, we are currently discussing where we go from here.

Coming in the opposite direction, we have signed Tobi Little, Warren Carter, Jack Mill's, Tom Collins, Tom Hickey, Joe Turner and re-signed Carl Martin and we wish them all a long and successful stay here at the Vale.

The attitude of the players throughout pre-season has been excellent and the new lads have settled into the group very well. Obviously with so many new faces, it's very much been a learning curve during the friendlies and we all realise it's a work in progress. There have been some encouraging signs and we've been competitive in every game, but we know we have not quite got the balance of the side right yet. We've tried different formations and personnel but it hasn't clicked in the way we want. If it's any consolation we struggled at the end of last pre-season, didn't win for the first three league games and ended winning the league by 11 points. In other words, no panic!!!

Just to clarify, I am not expecting to win the league by



any stretch of the imagination. In fact, this is going to be a huge difference this year and one where we will need to be strong, patient and resolute to ensure a solid start to the season and see where we can go once we have found our feet.

Our support has certainly grown year by year since we moved to Ruislip some six years ago, where the steady progress and winning habit have seen our numbers increase and the positivity grow around the place. This campaign will not only test the players, management and board but the supporters as well. It's easy managing and supporting a winning team, but what happens if things start to get difficult? The simple answer is you work harder, back your players and fight through any the rough patch.

The next nine months will be littered with ups and downs, so no matter what, let's get behind the lads and enjoy this new experience of Conference League football and hope we can create a winning atmosphere here at the Vale.

I often say to the players it's the little things that make a difference, make sure you do your bit to have a positive influence on this season.

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*Steve Wicks, Safety Officer Wealdstone Football Club*

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*John Little, Safety Officer Charlton Athletic Football Club*

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## Trials and Tribulations

**Hello and welcome back to the Vale for our first ever tilt at Conference South football for the visit against former Premier side Eastbourne Borough today and a real shame about the fire on their famous pier most recently.**

Well it's been full steam ahead both on and off the pitch in the close season on four fronts. Firstly with Gordon and his new recruits, whom we welcome into the fold, secondly to Mickey Kane and his lads leading a very determined and successful effort to get the stadium up to scratch for this next level. Thirdly to Leo and Dominic with the planned redecoration/ refurbishments works to the clubhouse which are really starting to make a difference and are still continuing and finally to the commercial team working hard to bring in much needed income to sustain us at this new and more costly level of football.

Last year we had the excitement of getting the Bulla stand built and open for the Chelsea game and again this pre-season we are delighted to welcome and introduce our 2 new Michelin Star trained chefs Bryn and Mat in what we hope is to be a very fruitful partnership with the investment in a new and upmarket match day catering experience with the club's purchase of nearly £40K worth of trailer and 4x4 truck. The greater benefit of this is that not only are the Stones earning money on match days and other events at Grosvenor Vale but also in the week at various street markets throughout the capital. So please enjoy an upmarket beef burger today as it's now ready and open and be safe in the knowledge that you are doing your bit for the team !!

I am sure everyone would agree with me that we are looking to the team to settle into this higher level of football and not be flirting with relegation places at anytime during this season and to do that we need to continually back Gordon financially like never before, so please support us with sponsoring a ball or a game as we now do multiple sponsors for each game so if it's your birthday, stag do or a special anniversary we can ALWAYS Accommodate you. Also if you have a business and would like to have a board around the pitch perimeter then just see me or Pete Worby at any game to discuss the various options available. If you can give us leads from friends and fans you know that can be converted into income then we will reciprocate with great incentives for you like match tickets, hospitality and even replica shirts.

**PRESIDENT  
PAUL  
RUMENS**

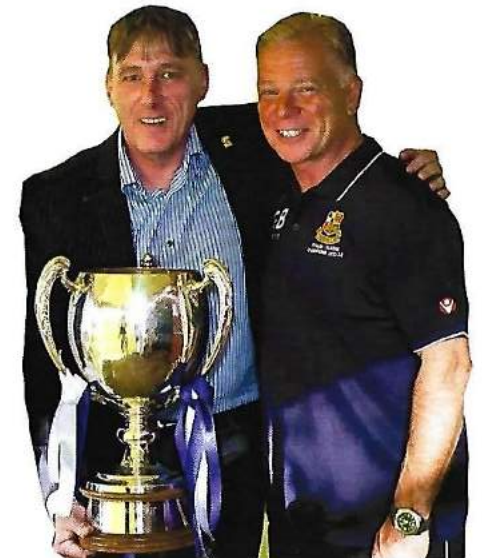


If you can't do any of that, then get a mate or two to come to a game as we are very keen to see more 1000 plus gates down here in this coming campaign. Let's all do our bit as it really makes a difference. Finally look out for some positive announcements from the commercial team soon and news of a new recruit to that end.

Remember at our club.....it'll do won't do!!!

All the best and Up The Stones,

Paul



## Join Up .....

**On behalf of all on the supporters' club committee, welcome along today for our eagerly awaited start of the conference south season. To those making the journey from Sussex we trust you enjoy our hospitality and travel home safely.**

So, we finally made it to the promised land of conference level football after a few recent heart-breaking seasons in the Ryman's league. The summer has been spent mostly locked in high level discussions of how the club will adapt to the differences. Ok most of these were conducted on a Friday afternoon in the Ruislip Social Club at their infamous debating society, however some strategy meetings were organised and scheduled for, consisting of the many different strands of the club which included the supporters club and the question of what we could do to make our forthcoming season another success on the field and off it. We'll find out over the coming weeks and months if our efforts have borne fruit however if it's based on commitment and dedication, I think we'll be ok.

The supporters' club have promised to up our game for getting fans to games this season with travel supremo Jez Albert organising coach travel to all the matches where the first team squad are also going by coach ( at the moment this is to 8 league games). He's linked us up with Hearn's coaches to provide a second coach for fans to travel on, the first of these will be next week's visit to Gosport, the coach leaves the Vale at 10am. If you would like to reserve a seat please drop in to the mega store today, situated by the half way line tea bar, or contact Jez at [jeremy.albert@jetselflights.co.uk](mailto:jeremy.albert@jetselflights.co.uk) alternatively ring 07903805861. Costs is £17 reduced to £15 if you're a WFCSC member, concessions OAP, student and under16s £12 or £10 again if you are a member of the supporters'



club. Annual membership this season will be £10 with life membership rate a one off £40. As an encouragement to supporters considering this we are offering fans the chance to sign up before the end of September a reduced price of £5 and £25 respectively ... get in quick! Our membership secretary is Jeanette\_dalton@hotmail.co.uk, forms are available from the mega store or go online to the [www.wfsc.co.uk](http://www.wfsc.co.uk) website for more details. The megastore continues to expand their range of merchandise and improve year on year thanks to the wonderful team of helpers that Adam and Mark have got assisting them regularly now. One very welcome addition is the all new, yet classic, arrow shaped supporters club badge that we've had made. Special limited edition, be the envy of all your friends and buy one for £3-00. These were on sale at our recent pre season game v Braintree and it's always interesting to see where people point their arrow. The online [www.wfcmegastore.co.uk](http://www.wfcmegastore.co.uk) allows you to peruse all the stock in the comfort and privacy of your own living room. £1 Golden Goals are on sale today and every home game by the turnstiles as you come in normally wonderfully administered by Mim. Pull out the correct time of the first goal and you've won a very handy £50, time of the last goal wins a crisp tenner. If you'd like more details on anything mentioned above - indeed anything vaguely Wealdstone related or maybe have some idea or suggestion to help improve the match day experience then [secretary@wfsc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@wfsc.co.uk) is the address for you or even better, see you at the bar post match for full in depth analysis.

Cheers and Up The Stones,

Clive

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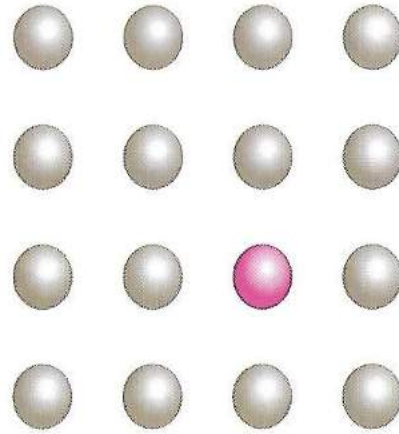
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## A new season already?

**Where has the summer gone? Actually given I'm writing these programme notes over a week before the first match, we're still in July (just) the kids are on holiday and the sun is shining so I suppose it is still summer. But the real football is just over a week away...**

What a summer it's been. Most people agree that (England aside) we enjoyed the best World Cup of recent times. Lots of highlights, including plenty of open football, surprise results and the brilliant vanishing spray! Fair play to the Germans for winning though strange to see so many Brits rooting for Germany in the later stages. Their semi final annihilation of Brazil will go down as one of the most astounding games of all time. For those of us lucky enough to get out there it was even better still. Believe me Rio is a place that everyone should try to visit at least once in their lives but visiting during a World Cup made it that bit more special. Daisy and I also enjoyed having a beer with some of the Wealdstone boys who were there after the England v Costa Rica match in Belo Horizonte, including Tony Maidment, Mark Lloyd, David Lloyd and Neil Rands.

No sooner is the World Cup over but reality returns. I'm not a huge fan of pre-season friendlies but have managed to get to four matches. This might be something of a modern day record. Some new faces, some returning, and many of last year's heroes still around. We welcome all our newly signed players to Wealdstone. I can report there's already a great spirit around the camp and the new players are fitting in very well.

Let me thank all those from last season who have moved on. In particular I want to mention Tom Pett who has moved to League One Stevenage Borough. Tom is the latest Wealdstone player to get his chance as a pro and he certainly won't be the last. I can confirm that while having this production line isn't brilliant from the point of view of building our own team it is a big selling point when we talk to potential new players. I know that some of our new crop of young players have their eyes on a pro career in the not too distant future and see Wealdstone as the perfect place to prove and hone their abilities.

It is still only a few weeks since that night at Margate when we became Ryman League champions. It was a special time for all of us - something we should all be very proud of. We've had plenty of opportunities to enjoy it - and we continue to ride the wave - but we go into a new league with expectations high and the desire to be successful as bright as ever. But we also need to manage those expectations. The Conference South will be a much tougher league. It's full of bigger clubs than we've been used to playing, several with huge budgets and even loftier ambitions. Our first job is to be competitive, and kick on from there.

Chairman  
**HOWARD  
KRAIS**



There's been much talk about our new catering operation the Rolling Kitchen. We are all very excited about the potential - especially outside of match days. Having met Bryn a few times now I am sure that we won't be lacking in desire, passion, hard work and - of course - quality. Interesting that these are very similar attributes to those that have made us successful elsewhere around the club. At the same time as welcoming Bryn and Mateusz I also want to thank Pauline for all she to run the catering since we have been at Ruislip.

As always plenty going on at the Club through the close season. Thanks to Mickey Kane and his merry band of volunteers for the usual great job around the ground, with some improvements adding significantly to the capacity of the ground.

In June we held the Club's first strategy day when a good number of people got together and discussed the short and long term future of the club. Due to holidays and other commitments we haven't yet shared the outputs of that day - but together with Darren Linden's expert help, we are working on the next stages and will share this with everyone very soon. My desire is to involve as many people as possible in this process though it is not something that we are in a rush to do.

I want to welcome Steve 'Hughie' Marshall back to the Club as Match Day Operations Manager taking over from Don Cross, and welcome back Tony Waugh who will again be involved on the kit working with Fingers. Believe it or not we are already planning for season 2015/16 here. I also want to welcome Markie Barton as the new Secretary of the Ladies team, which I think is a top appointment.

We are now members of the newly sponsored Vanarama Conference South. This means a mass of learning, especially for Fingers and Alyson, in terms of the processes and procedures of the Conference. It is very different to the Ryman League. We will get used to a lot of new things, from the footballs, to the beachwear to new opponents, starting today with Eastbourne Borough. We welcome them and look forward to making new friends and meeting old ones. I'm sure it's going to be a great season and let's hope it can start with a bang today.

# One game at a time

TODAY IS THE START OF WHAT IS GOING TO BE A VERY DEMANDING SEASON BOTH PHYSICALLY AND, I THINK MORE SO, PSYCHOLOGICALLY AFTER THE SUCCESS OF LAST SEASON.



Last years achievement was fantastic and there are no supporters more deserved of this then you guys following a tough period in the clubs proud history. It has taken a lot of hard work to get through that particular period and promotion was the only real way that it could be well and truly put behind us and start focusing on the future.

This season though will be totally different! It's important that last seasons momentum is maintained however the reality is that last season has to be forgotten about. We need to be totally focused on first of all, staying in this league and building the foundations yet again as a spring board to hopefully push on and into the top half of the table. The old

cliché 'take one game at a time' couldn't be more fitting so first things first lets give a good account of ourselves against Eastbourne today.

Pre season has been a bit hit and miss however all the new lads have gelled nicely and are adapting to the way we try to play and the mentality that has existed the past few seasons. There has been a few games where everything seems to have clicked and then we've followed it up with a lacklustre performance which needs ironing out sooner rather than later, though I think the heat has been a big factor in some of them performances.

As always you guys have been busy improving the stadium and doing a cracking job, and as I have mentioned in the past we need to keep doing our job on the pitch and repay you for all the hard work that is done off it. Along with the stadium improvements fingers seems to be doing his upmost to stamp his mark on the place by dumping a portacabin in front of what is now the Physio room. At least he can keep a look out for foxes and cats while in the warmth I suppose. I'd like to thank Gary's decision to bring the Physio

room closer to the changing room, so much more convenient for myself and Tom Hamlin after reserving personal beds in there for the season. But I'd have to



A shot of Fingers new hut prior to installation last week

The only photos of the players trip to Magaluf that Wes would provide me.



Scope which do amazing work for families and individuals affected by disability.

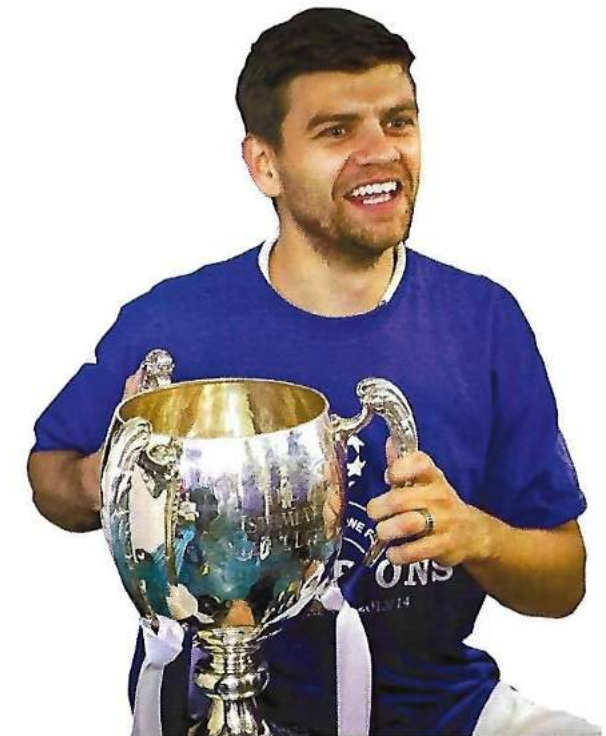
Anyhow, back to the football and let's hit the ground running with 3 points today. COYS

Wes

say most devastating of all is saying good bye to Pauline's sausages! As much of a fine cuisine as it was we've substituted her with a couple of Michelin star chefs and the rollin kitchen. The menu looks immense and I'm sure it will be a great success. You never know, next time Ginge runs topless onto the pitch it could be with a physique like Joey Turner after a season eating this menu!

I'll not mention too much of our end of season trip to Magaluf but it's safe to say that those who can't take their drink were found out! No names of course though ey Jimmy Hammond!

As you will all know by now I have my latest charity fund raising event coming up in 5 weeks with the Ironman Wales. I'd like to thank everyone who has been so generous and supported my journey so far by donating money to my choosen charity scope. If you'd like to sponsor me you can at uk.virginmoneygiving.com/WesleyParker. As mentioned all money is being raised for the charity



I promise I will get all the gratuitous cup shots out of the way asap - Ed.

# Phew!!!

## IT'S FINALLY HERE THE OPENING GAME OF THE SEASON

Good afternoon everyone and welcome back to "The Vale" for the opening fixture of the Vanarama Conference South season, I extend a warm welcome to the officials and supporters of Eastbourne Borough, in what I believe is the first meeting between our clubs. In particular I would like to welcome the Eastbourne officials we met at Celtic Manor and shared a chat and a drink with prior to the leagues Dinner & Presentation Evening I hope you enjoy your stay with us and have a safe journey home after the game.

Phew!!! Just about sums up how Alan, Ally & I will be feeling this afternoon, it's certainly been the busiest closed seasons behind the scenes that I can ever remember.

A change of leagues has bought many new challenges and at times all three of us have been pulling our hair out.

It really has been full on nearly 24/7 since our final home game of the 2013-14 season, hopefully from today we can get into a routine again.

Once again Alan & Ally thanks for all your help and hard work over the past few weeks.

You will noticed that there have been a few changes in and around the ground over the closed season and once again these have been carried out by our hard working band of summer workers. Thanks guys & girls and didn't our "Gaffer" Mickey do well this summer controlling himself, even when some idiot walked though wet cement. "Well I think Mickey called him an idiot, but I might be wrong!"

Another change that you may not have noticed as yet is the return of Tony Waugh as Kit Manager. Seth & I are still around too and between the three of us we'll have the cleanest looking kit in the whole Vanarama. Welcome back "Big Man"

I know many of you have been asking about what happened to our nomination for the Pitch of the

Season Award.

Well the Awards Day takes place later this week at The FA's Centre of St George's Park, Burton on Trent. Unfortunately both Adam & I already have other commitments and are unable to attend the all day event.

**Finally**

After much debate on Friday afternoons, we are pleased to announce that Ray Corner has agreed to carry on his lucrative sponsorship of sweeties in the dugout and has kindly offered to stay behind for an hour each game to pick up all the wrappers dropped on the ground.

Enjoy the Game

**Fingers**



# THE SPORTS

## TODAY WE WELCOME EASTBOURNE BOROUGH TO GROSVENOR VALE AS OUR TEAMS MEET FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME

Langney Football Club was founded in 1964 and entered the Eastbourne & District Football League, competing in Division 2. Prior to season 1968/69 there was a change of name from Football Club to Sports Club when the club affiliated to the Langney Community Association and at the same time a 2nd team was introduced. At this time the club was playing on local recreation grounds before moving to Prince's Park near the Eastbourne sea-front. At the end of season 1973/74 the club won promotion to the Premier Division of the Eastbourne & Hastings League and with it elevation to Intermediate status. The following nine years saw Langney Sports recognised as the most progressive club in the Eastbourne area.

In 1983 the club was elected as a founder member of Division 3 of the Sussex County League. This was despite opposition from an FA Councilor who suggested that Langney Sports 'were and would only ever be a parks side' and moved to its current headquarters at Priory Lane, now recognised as one of the finest in Sussex, covered all four sides, and boasting a 500 seat stand and executive boxes. In recent years the ground has continued to stage the prestigious Sussex Senior Cup Final, and also hosted a Non-League International Tournament welcoming England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales Non-League representative sides.

2000/01 saw the club elevated to the Dr Martens Southern League, competing in the Eastern Division. At the end of the season the Football Committee made one of the most crucial decisions in the club's history: the change of name to Eastbourne Borough FC. Since promotion to the Southern League, it had become increasingly apparent that opposing clubs had little or no idea where Langney was (and often mis-spelt the name of the club). Certainly, very few identified Langney as being part of Eastbourne. In recognition of this, and the desire to both raise the



profile of the town, and increase the potential for sponsorship, the decision to change the name was taken. With so many of the Committee associated with the club since its earliest beginnings sentiment weighed heavily, but the decision was ultimately a pragmatic one. However, in recognition of the past, and continued association with the Langney Sports Club; the club badge and colours remained unchanged, as did "The Sports" nickname.

At the end of the 2002/03 season the club took another enormous stride forward, winning promotion to the Dr Martens Premier Division as runners-up to champions Dorchester Town. Season 2003/04 began with the target of finishing outside of the bottom four in the club's first season in the DM Premier Division. Once again expectations were surpassed and by finishing in eleventh place the club again made history to become founder members of the Conference South in 2004/05, just 20 years after helping found Division 3 of the Sussex County League.

**NICKNAME - The Sports**

**FOUNDED - 1964 as Langney FC**

**GROUND - Priory Lane**

**CAPACITY - 4,151**

**MANAGER - Tommy Widdrington**

**2013/14 - Conference South 10th**



2004/05 proved to be the arguably the most memorable in the Club's history to date, and certainly as Eastbourne Borough FC. Once again, ambitions were limited to survival in Conference South and, after a dreadful start that saw Borough at the bottom of the table at the end of August, it looked as though fears of the Club's ability to cope at a higher level were well founded. A remarkable turnaround was to follow however, with Garry Wilson twice picking up the Manager of the Month award, and guiding the team to 5th place. In the play-off quarter final, Borough turned around a half-time deficit at Thurrock to win 4-2; before traveling to Cambridge City where the League runners-up were comprehensively beaten 3-0. Over 1,000 Borough supporters made the 500 mile round trip to Stoke City for the North v South Play-off Final against Altrincham, but it wasn't to be, and a last minute Scott Ramsay penalty wasn't enough to prevent a 2-1 defeat.

Buoyed by the previous league season the club started the 2007/2008 season in high spirits and was to prove a most successful campaign that saw the club progress from the parks of Eastbourne to the pinnacle of non-league, the Conference Premier. An unbeaten pre-season saw the club play 23 league fixtures unbeaten featuring a remarkable comeback at Basingstoke Town. As the Conference South campaign continued the club and Lewes exchanged the top spot several times before Boro were finally undone by a combination of injuries, suspensions and the transfer deadline. "The Rooks" eventually claiming the league title. However Boro finished a close 2nd and after defeating Braintree Town 5-0 over 2 legs met Hampton & Richmond Borough in a televised play-off final. As ever the club did

everything the hard way arriving late at Stevenage Borough after the coach broke down and rode their luck during the 1st 80 minutes. "The Beavers" missing several chances to score with the Boro back-five in imperious form. Nathan Crabb and Paul Armstrong scored in the closing stages to seal promotion and complete the journey.

Relegation Comes To Priory Lane - 2010/2011 The Sports 3rd season at National Conference level finally proved too much for the side and the club. Following a great start the season saw the club suffer its first ever relegation after a season ravaged by long term injuries to key players. After three seasons at Non-League's highest level, in a league now dominated by full-time clubs, Borough dropped to the Blue Square Bet South.

Borough returned to the Conference South with much optimism for the 2011/2012 season. The recruitment over the close season looked positive. However after a bright start the season became a struggle after a shock FA Cup defeat to East Thurrock United in October. After 1 league win in 12 the club parted company with management duo Garry Wilson and Nick Greenwood. The decision for the club was difficult and painful. The decade (plus) of their tenure had seen unprecedented success but the decision was made and Tommy Widdrington and Alan Kimble took the reins at Boreham Wood Away on February the 18th (a 1-1 draw). Their remit was to stave off relegation and this was achieved with a game to spare.

2012/2013 was a new start for The Sports. A new management team under Widdrington started a season with their players, and a brief to stabilise and reduce the squad age. The league season ended with a creditable 12th place and with statistical improvements all round (bar goals scored).



# Why did I come back and re-sign for the Stones? Let's just say Gordon the gaffer has a way with words!



**Name and age:** Carl Martin, 27  
**Usual playing position?** Centre half, full back or midfield

**Favourite position?** Centre Half

**Where do you live?** Edgware

**Single, attached?** Attached

**Former clubs?** Wealdstone youth for 3 years, Wealdstone first team for 4 years, Crewe Alexandra 3 years and Macclesfield Town for 2 years.

**What do you see as your major attributes as a footballer?**

Well, it used to be my pace but I can't rely on that anymore (old age!)... so I'm going to go with 1 v 1 defending.

**Have any of your relatives played the game to a good level?**

I had an older brother, Jae, who played for Birmingham, Lincoln City, Leyton Orient and maybe a few others I can't remember. Plus Callum of course who came through the youth teams at Wealdstone and is now coaching.

**Did you know any of the Stones players before signing?**

I only knew of some of the players' names, but not on a personal level, from when Callum played a few years ago. All the players from my previous time at the Stones have moved on.

**What/who persuaded you to join Wealdstone?** Gordon has a way with words...

**Where do you see yourself in five years?** In Las Vegas with cigar.

## THE LAST...

**Goal you scored?** That

**Effort and determination: Just two of Carl Martin's qualities**

was four years for Crewe against Cheltenham... we were losing 2-0 and I went up for a corner. The ball hit someone and dropped to my wand of a left foot and I put it in the bottom corner. Dug up half the of the penalty area in doing so!

**Assist (and description)?** This is how you know I don't get many because I can remember exactly when and where it happened...for Crewe at Morecambe away, I slid the ball down the side to young

Nick Powell who rounded the goalkeeper. It sparked a comeback so I'm taking a bit of credit for it.

**Car you bought?** Smart car

**Film you saw?** Transformers

**Book you read?** The way forward  
**Trophy won?** League 2 Play off final at Wembley

**Time you were sent off?** Against Grimsby in 2010. The ref said I went over the top of the ball (pictured left) - thought it was a clean tackle to be fair.

**Holiday you had?** Las Vegas

## JURY'S OUT

**Luke Shaw or Leighton Baines?** Shaw

**Chinese, Indian, Sushi or Nandos?** Nando's  
**Sky Sports or Match of the Day?** MOTD

**Caribbean with the mis-sus or Magaluf with the lads?** Magga with the lads.



Over the top, or not? Carl's red-card challenge

**TIME ADDED ON**

**Best goal you've ever scored?** Don't have many to choose from but out of the ones I have scored I would have to say a header for Wealdstone against Harlow way back when.

**Most memorable moment in football?** Playing at Wembley in the play-off final

**Best player you've ever played with.... and against?** Nick Powell...Played with him at Crewe. The lad had no limitations to what he could do. He's now back at Manchester United and has played in the first team

**Worst moment in football, and why?** Missing the whole season in 2010-2011 season due to niggling injuries.

**Best moment in football so far, and why?** I haven't had many but I'm gonna have to say lifting a trophy at Wembley tops it.

**Favourite restaurant?** Gusto's

**Favourite meal?** Lamb Kleftiko

**Biggest influence on your career so far?** Dad

**Which World Cup star plays like you?** If any World Cup star played like me they'd be on the first plane home!

**Who's your travel partner?** Me myself and I

**Which newspaper do you buy?** Daily Mirror

**Most visited site online?** I can't say!

**Which radio station do you listen to?** talk sport

**Most-played track on your i-pod?** Biggie smalls - Juicy

**Which five people would you LOVE to have round for a meal?** Jessica Alba, Eva Mendez, Eva Longoria, Zoe Saldana, Salma Hayek (all pictured above). Purely for the great conversation....

**AND FINALLY..**

**Who are your best mates in football?** Danny Andrews and Nick Powell



**'I came on at Wembley but was stuck being drug tested while my mates drank champagne'**

**Carl signed for Crewe Alexandra from the Stones in the Spring of 2008. These are his highlights from his time at Gresty Road..**

'REACHING the League Two play-offs in 2012 was the high point for me. I played in the first leg of the play off semi final, when we beat Southend 1-0 at home - a great occasion made better by the fact that I played one of my best games all season. So everyone understood my disappointment at not being selected for the second leg. Although I was disappointed not to play in that 2-2 draw, it couldn't overshadow that surreal feeling of knowing that we were going to Wembley.

The play off final was a memorable day for obvious reasons. I started as a sub in the final, again I was disappointed but I just wanted to be a part of what was happening at that stage. We went 2-0 up with 15 minutes to go. I was thrown on to help see the game out to the end. And we did.

When the game ended it was an incredible feeling... if I'm honest I'll probably never get to experience that euphoric feeling again. So I made sure I savoured it.

But when the final whistle went our physio came running on to the pitch to tell me I was getting drug tested. Usually this is something that makes me a bit mad but I didn't care... I just wanted to celebrate. After we had lifted the trophy and collected our medals, I was dragged into the drug testing room. As I sat there, necking bottle after bottle of water, I could see on Sky Sports News all my team mates in the changing room popping champagne and celebrating - and there was me thinking about my next p\*\*\*.

I went from that feeling of euphoria to wanting to lay into one of the FA officials. Anyway, three hours later I was on the coach home cracking open a beer. What a day!

**And as for his time under dapper manager Steve King (formerly of Lewes) at Macclesfield...**

'I LIKED my time under Steve King. He wanted to play football the right way, which was on the ground and discouraged us from just lumping balls down the field. This suited me down to a tee. He led us to the fourth round of the FA Cup, the furthest Macclesfield town had ever got. We beat Cardiff City in the 3rd Round - everyone wrote us off before the game, which probably was expected. Cardiff brought down mainly under-21s with a few first team players. I thought this was a risky ploy - and so it turned out. We were 1-0 down and into time added on. But then in the 92nd minute: 1-1. 94th minute: 2-1 up. Game over... we were into the 4th round for the club's first time and my first time. Again it was another surreal feeling.

We massively under-achieved in the league that year, hence the reason for him losing his job. But all in all I enjoyed my time with him. This year of course we will meet again as he is now managing Whitehawk in the Conference South.'



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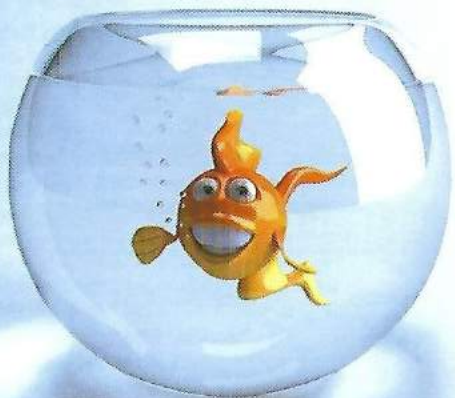
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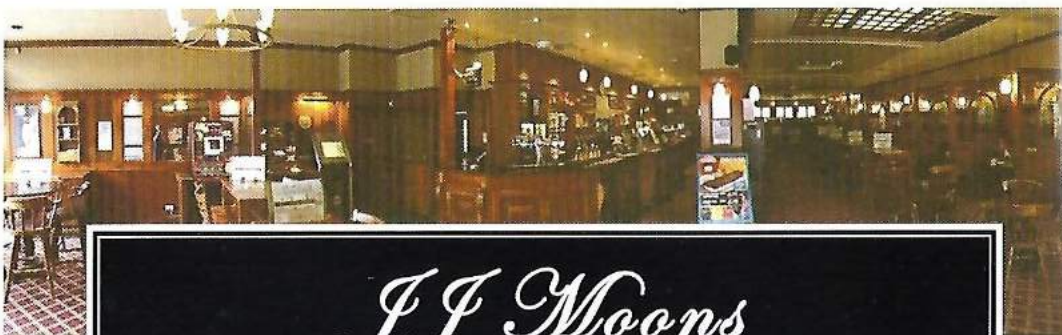


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**MEET THE NEW STONES..... Carl Martin continued**



Carl rampages forward for the Stones, six years ago...

# Carl Martin makes a splash against on form Harlow

**Tim Parks** sees Stones battle back in rain-sodden Essex

A **STORMING** last 25 minutes in torrential rain at Harlow's new Barrows Farm ground last Tuesday saw the Stones grab a deserved point. Gordon Bartlett's side looked as washed-out as the weather in the first half—when Harlow should have been two or three goals ahead—but the manager can take a lot of credit for the second-half turnaround.

After Lee O'Leary had been sent off for allegedly throwing a punch, together with the Hawks' Jordan Fowler who was clearly the instigator, Gordon threw Carl Martin into midfield and brought on Lee Chappell as sweeper to bring extra pace into the back three. It gave the Stones new impetus and began to ask questions of Harlow's quick-thinking midfield.

Harlow Town 1  
Wealdstone 1  
Ryman League  
Premier Division

against the inside of the far post and while the home fans were still celebrating their good fortune, Chapps swung a cross into the far post for Martin to leap and place a great header beyond keeper James Hassell.

It was only Carl's second goal for the first team—his first was in the 2-1 win over Northwood in August 2006—but he'll surely pop up with many more if he's given more outings in midfield.

Either side could have then won the points in the final 10 minutes but Graeme Montgomery



...and back in a Wealdstone shirt last week



Carl's previous incarnation for the Stones came in the early 2000s.. and despite four seasons with the first team (mainly in defence) he understandably only found the net twice, leaving the goalscoring exploits to his brother Callum.

But we managed to find the report on his goal at Harlow back in early 2008. And reference to his other goal, a side-footed winner in the Southern League Prem against Northwood at Chestnut Avenue. Again, you can only think that playing in midfield will yield a few this time around....



# WEALDSTONE

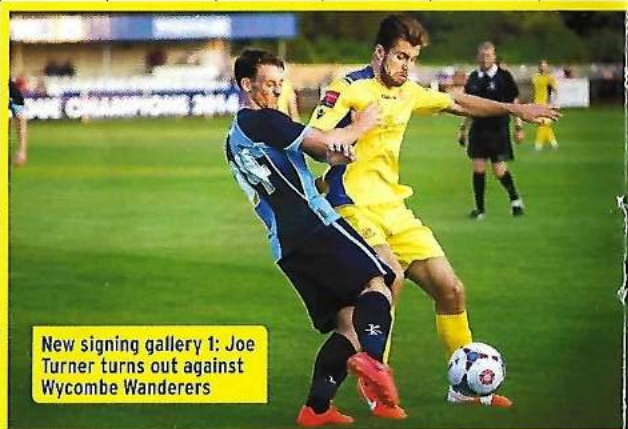
## FOOTBALL CLUB FIXTURES & RESULTS, SEASON 2014/2015

### KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS AND ICONS

- = Yellow card
- = Red card
- = Straight red
- = Goal
- = Penalty
- = Man of the Match
- = First substituted player
- ← = First substitute used
- ⇄ = Second substituted player
- ⇄ = Second substitute used
- ⇄ = Third substituted player
- ⇄ = Third substitute used

VCS = Vanarama Conference South  
 FAC = FA Cup  
 FAT = FA Trophy  
 MSC = Middlesex Senior Cup  
 Date in red = Midweek evening kick-off

AUGUST	Comp	Result	Crowd	Pos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17/GK
9	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	VCS																		
12	Bishop's Stortford	VCS																		
16	Gosport Borough	VCS																		
23	FARNBOROUGH	VCS																		
25	Ebbsfleet United	VCS																		
30	BROMLEY	VCS																		
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>																				
6	Hayes & Yeading United	VCS																		
9	BATH CITY	VCS																		
13	Concord Rangers	VCS																		
16	Whitehawk	VCS																		
20	ST.ALBANS CITY	VCS																		
27	FA Cup (TBA)	FAC2QR																		
<b>OCTOBER</b>																				
4	Weston-super-Mare	VCS																		
6	HAVANT & WTRLOOVILLE	FACS																		
11	FA Cup (TBA)	FAC3QR																		
18	BASINGSTOKE TOWN	VCS																		
25	Chelmsford City	VCS																		
<b>NOVEMBER</b>																				
1	MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VCS																		
8	Boreham Wood	VCS																		
22	CONCORD RANGERS	VCS																		
29	FA Trophy (TBA)	FAT3QR																		
<b>DECEMBER</b>																				
6	STAINES TOWN	VCS																		
13	FA Trophy (TBA)	FAT1R																		
20	Bath City	VCS																		
26	SUTTON UNITED	VCS																		
28	Bromley	VCS																		
<b>JANUARY</b>																				
1	Sutton United	VCS																		
4	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TN	VCS																		
10	Hemel Hempstead Town	VCS																		
17	CHELMSFORD CITY	VCS																		
24	Eastbourne Borough	VCS																		
31	HAYES & YEADING UTD	VCS																		
<b>FEBRUARY</b>																				
7	WESTON-SUPER-MARE	VCS																		
14	Staines Town	VCS																		
21	GOSPORT BOROUGH	VCS																		
28	St Albans City	VCS																		
<b>MARCH</b>																				
7	BISHOP'S STORTFORD	VCS																		
14	Havant & Waterlooville	VCS																		
21	BOREHAM WOOD	VCS																		
28	Basingstoke Town	VCS																		
<b>APRIL</b>																				
4	Farnborough	VCS																		
6	EBBSFLEET UNITED	VCS																		
11	WHITEHAWK	VCS																		
18	Maidenhead United	VCS																		



New signing gallery 1: Joe Turner turns out against Wycombe Wanderers



3: Another new Jack for the squad - this time Jack Smith - files down the right



2: Jack Mills takes on the Wycombe defence in our recent pre-season friendly encounter

### RESULTS, PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES

- Leverstock Green (A) W 3-0 (Goals: Hutchinson, Smith, Thomas)
- Burnham (A) W 3-2 (Collins, Wright, McGleish)
- Rayners Lane SQF 0-2
- Dagenham & Redbridge (H) W 2-1 (Pigden, Malcolm)
- Harrow Borough (A) W 4-0 (Bentley, Malcolm, Pigden, Collins)
- Watford U21s (H) D 0-0
- Wingate & Finchley (A) D 1-1 (Parker)
- Wycombe Wanderers (H) L 1-2 (Ahamed)
- Braintree Town (H) L 0-1

### TAKE ONE FOR THE TEAM!

We all see the great performances put in by the players on the park, but behind that is an enormous amount of work done behind the scenes. We need a few more people to take up just one task on a matchday to relieve the work that others are doing. This will help ensure that everyone who visits The Vale enjoys their time with us. The more volunteers we have the wider we spread the load. Even if you cannot commit on a regular basis, we need people who can cover if someone is not available or if we need extra help. So, if you just want to let us know we can call on you if needed, that would be great. A list is in the club shop for people to put their names down; otherwise, see me on a match day.

**Steve Marshall (Matchday Operations)**



CONFERENCE SOUTH FIXTURES

 <b>Eastbourne Borough</b> Saturday, 9th August <b>Nick Woolford</b>	 <b>Farnborough</b> Saturday, 23rd August <b>Graham Jones - in memory of John Jones</b>	 <b>Bromley</b> Saturday, 30th August	 <b>Bath City</b> Tuesday, 9th September <b>Markie Barton</b>
 <b>St Albans City</b> Saturday, 20th September	 <b>Havant &amp; Waterlooville</b> Monday, 6th October	 <b>Basingstoke Town</b> Saturday, 18th October <b>Caretta Apps</b>	 <b>Maidenhead United</b> Saturday, 1st November
 <b>Concord Rangers</b> Saturday, 22nd November	 <b>Staines Town</b> Saturday, 6th December	 <b>Sutton United</b> Friday, 26th December	 <b>Hemel Hempstead Town</b> Sunday, 4th January
 <b>Chelmsford City</b> Saturday, 17th January	 <b>Hayes &amp; Yeading United</b> Saturday, 31st January	 <b>Weston-super-Mare</b> Saturday, 7th February	 <b>Gosport Borough</b> Sunday, 21st February
 <b>Bishop's Stortford</b> Saturday, 7th March	 <b>Boreham Wood</b> Saturday, 21st March	 <b>Ebbsfleet United</b> Monday, 6th April	 <b>Whitehawk</b> Saturday, 11th April <b>Markie Barton</b>

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Vanarama.co.uk, the market disrupting van leasing business is the new title sponsor of the Football Conference. The partnership was launched today in the presence of member clubs and will see the commercial vehicle specialists take the naming rights for all 1,476 games a season across the three divisions in 2014/15.

To mark the launch of the partnership, Vanarama will bring back the competitions traditional name after a 7 year absence. From the start of the new season the league shall be known as the Vanarama Conference, Vanarama Conference North and Vanarama Conference South.

The deal is a statement of intent for Vanarama joining Barclays Bank plc and Sky Bet as one of only three title partners of the top tier of English football. Vanarama will use the Vanarama Conference platform to further build rapid UK wide awareness and understanding of the Vanarama business via the League's established national; regional and social media platforms.

Vanarama.co.uk is part of the Autorama Group of companies. Vanarama are specialists in van, pickup truck and car leasing, where customers lease their vehicles instead of buying them.

A company of football fans, Vanarama will support the sponsorship with a series of fan-based initiatives. The first of these initiatives is for each club's community scheme to earn from every car or van leased from Vanarama, or one of its sister companies through a special Club offer.

The partnership was negotiated by sports marketing agency SportQuake who will also assist in managing and delivering the national sponsorship

campaign. SportQuake specialise in helping consumer brands and rights owners to deliver commercial and cultural value through sport. This year SportQuake has already completed over 100 football partnership deals including major transactions with all 20 English Premier League clubs.

The first game in the new Vanarama Conference will take place on Saturday 9th August 2014 seeing Bristol Rovers FC host Grimsby Town FC at 12.45pm live on BT Sport.

Andy Alderson, Vanarama.co.uk's Managing Director, said: "With the Construction sector predicted to play a major role in the growth of the UK economy over the next few years Britain's van drivers, our customers, will be at their busiest since the peak of 2007. Our research shows a clear fit between our customers and football fans UK wide and as soon as I became aware of this unique opportunity to become such an important part of the national game I just had to get involved."

Brian Lee, Chairman of the Football Conference said: "I am sure I speak for the whole of the Football Conference family, in welcoming such a competitive and innovative brand as Vanarama, to become our new Title Sponsor. We all look forward to working with Andy and his first class committed team to establish a partnership going forward which will be of major benefit to both over the next few years. Branding is a key element in this sponsorship for Vanarama, who will now be able to link their rapidly growing name, allied to our national sport through our position in it, backed with vibrant media coverage".





# 'I was told I'd be hung by my scarf from the crossbar if I followed the Boro... Wealdstone was an easy choice!'

**Where you live and for how long:** Enfield since 1990; before then West Harrow

**Where you work:** I am Operations Manager at Jetset Flights, based in Enfield

**First Stones game attended (and when):** Harrow Borough away FA Trophy in November 1977 after we had beaten Hereford in the cup.. we lost 3-0 to the scummers !!

**What or who persuaded you to become a Stones fan?** My brother Dave started going in the early 1970's and once my parents allowed me to go I started to go with him. At my first game at Harrow Boro I was also threatened that if I ever supported Boro I would be strung up with a blue and white scarf from the crossbar - I was hooked, this is the club for me I thought!!

**Do you follow any other team?** Yes the mighty Tottenham Hotspur for my sins, living in Enfield gives me the opportunity to go when the Stones aren't playing. I also follow England and have been to many major tournaments as well as some interesting qualifiers at the likes of Azerbaijan and Kazakstan. Following your national side is a fantastic experience.

**Do you prefer lower-League football?** Yes as it's all I have really known, lots of friends through football who I have known for over 30 years, we have some top blokes at this football club

**Any disadvantages?** Not getting



**Jez claims he has good reason for looking even more glassy-eyed than usual: This was taken after the Ryman title-winning game at Margate. And blimey doesn't Sudhir look rough!**

a chance to watch your team in Europe (yet!)

**How do you fit watching football, and Wealdstone, into your family/working life?** It's sometimes difficult as being on the supporters club committee means lots of time given to the football club, however my home life and to a certain extent my working life allows me to dedicate the time to this great club.

**How big a part of your life is the game?** A very big part and has been for most of my life, and although Wealdstone, Tottenham and England have given me plenty of misery over the years, the good times still outweigh the bad times

**Most memorable Stones game/s you've EVER seen?** Has to be Wembley 85, growing up as a kid to see your team win at Wembley was the ultimate, for me 11 May 1985 was the day of all days. My club was the best non league club in the country.

**And most memorable game involving other clubs?** Probably England beating Spain on penalties at Euro 96, very tense and to see Stuart Pearce score that penalty was awe inspiring

**What really gets your goat watching football?** Watching Arsenal (Woolwich!) win trophies in the last minute and being the luckiest team in the world !

**Have you ever played the game yourself and most memorable moments?** Yes, I was lucky enough to play for SFC Wealdstone in the 80's, a great time to be involved, only got as far as the reserves as like, Glenn Hoddle, I was very skilful but I couldn't tackle !! Used to enjoy playing against other non league clubs fans - Stafford, Maidenhead etc etc

**Any suggestions to improve your Stones -watching experience at the Vale?** Not really , now the Bulla has been built I have stopped moaning. I just love the place.



**Favourite current Wealdstone line-up (1-11, with reasons)?** Based on last season 1) Jon North 2) James Hammond 3) Tom Hamblin 4) Sean Cronin 5) Jerome Okimo 6) Tom Pett 7) Glen Little 8) Like Pigden 9) Scott McGleish 10) Devon Malcolm ! 11) Elliot Godfrey Best Wealdstone side for many a year and true Champions !

**Favourite all-time Stones line-up (with reasons)?** 1) Bob Iles - Always so solid .2) Stuart Pearce - Just sheer class and a top bloke. 3) Roy Davies - So reliable. 4) Paul Bowgett - Captain Fantastic. 5) Dennis Byatt - Complimented Bowg brilliantly and again such a top bloke. 6) Nigel Johnson - My first hero at the Stones , I thought he was very under-rated. 7) Glen Little - Sheer Class and a privilege to watch him. 8) Willie Watson - A proper hard man. 9) Alan Cordice - My favourite all time player, his speed and skill was exhilarating. 10) Simon Garner - Again class. 11) Tom Pett - One from recent times , will go onto bigger and better things.

**Best away trips to watch football?** I always used to like Boston United, more recent times Bury Town , anywhere following England (Portugal 2004 ..the best!) The ultimate was Cheltenham Town away in FA Trophy in the early 90's - A game I thought we had drawn but in fact lost 3-2!! The

## 'Alan Cordice is my favourite all-time player.. his speed and skill was exhilarating'

most drunk I have ever been at a game !!!

**Best non-League ground you've visited?** Always for me York Street, Boston United (pictured below), ahead of its time back in the 70's /80's

**Best stadium you've EVER visited?** I love the Bernabau ,home of Real Madrid , excellent atmosphere. I also like Benfica's ground and the Nou Camp (Barcelona)



**What are your expectations for the Stones for this season?** Just outside the play offs would be fantastic for our first season in Conference South, keeping our crowds up as well would be a great achievement.

**How does the current programme compare with others you see?** Simply the best at Ryman level , will see how good the programmes at Conference South level are...

**What has been the most readable/least readable Fan in the Stand so far?** All of them good, I do like reading about the newbies as am always interested in what keeps them coming to the Vale

**What do you think of the bars and catering at The Vale?** The Social club is top notch, the manager is quite moody though !! The catering has been ok and lots of effort to improve this season

**Have you visited the clubshop?** Yes all the time - Is the best but I am biased !!

**Finally, where do you see the club in five year's time?** I would love to say at The Vale and in the Conference South, hopefully the lease will be sorted, and would love to see Gordon and Leo still in charge... top top people.

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# Wealdstone 1 Wycombe 2

Another decent performance from Stones and a valuable test against League Two side Wycombe Wanderers. Wealdstone were certainly not at full strength though, with Sean Cronin, Tom Hamblin, Jerome Okimo and Scott McGleish all unavailable for this friendly encounter.

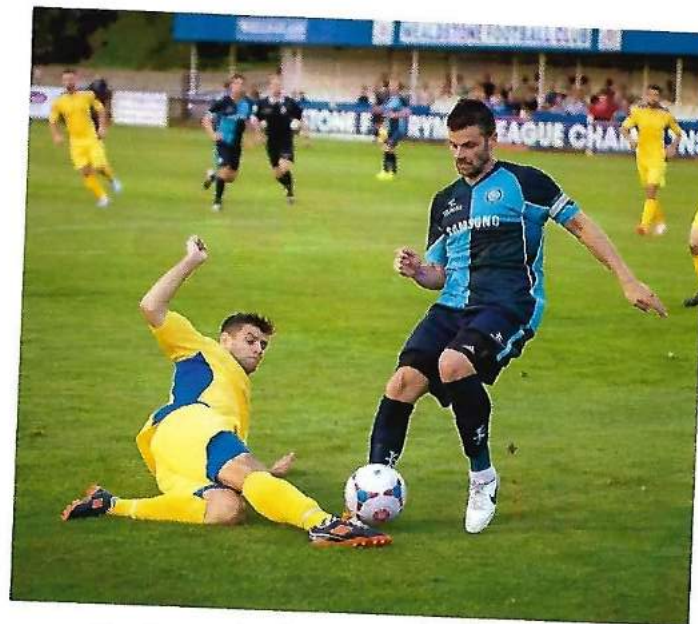
Wycombe too struggled for numbers as they are in the midst of a wholesale transition following last season's flirtation with relegation. But this was not a weak Chairboys line up.

Nikki Ahamed made a surprise appearance from the bench having left the home side three seasons ago and the ex Chelsea Youth player scored Stones equalising goal before Wycombe grabbed a late winner.

It was the away side that almost took the lead after 8 minutes play when 'keeper Jonathan North could only parry a fierce strike but Steven Craig hit the loose ball against an upright.

Stones soon started to take some control over proceedings and a great save from Charlie Horlock prevented Luke Pigden's powerful free kick from entering the net. An excellent move involving Johnny Wright and Michael Malcolm saw the lively Joe Turner shoot just over after Tom Hickey had broken free only to see his strike blocked by the excellent Horlock.

Wealdstone were far less dominant in the second period and the away side perked up considerably with several changes, notably ex Stones



**Wes inspects Fingers workmanship**

stole in to grab a soft goal from a corner a few minutes into the half after a rare defensive lapse.

Match Report - Nick DuGard  
Pictures - Steve Foster

Stones also rung the changes and Daniel Wishart caught the eye with some strong runs although the ex Alfreton forward needs far more playing time to regain full fitness.

**Wealdstone:**

North, Mills, Little, Parker, Hammond, Godfrey, Wright, Pigden, Malcolm, Hickey, Turner. Subs used: Collins, McCluskey, Wishart, Ahamed. N/u: Carter (UK), Smith.

North pulled off some good stops before Ahamed's neat finish 5 minutes from time, made by Wright's excellent run, was usurped by a late winner from sub Sam Wood.





# Faulty logic behind FIFA's 40-team logic

This year's World Cup was rightly lauded for its exceptional group stage. Robin van Persie, Arjen Robben, James Rodriguez et al contributed to an outstanding first fortnight and an enjoyable if slightly less goal-frenzied knock-out phase.

Despite the well documented problems with Qatar and the surreal prospect of Russia spending ten times as much on their hosting of the tournament as Brazil, most commentators agree that, if nothing else, the current format of the tournament works. 32 countries are divided into eight groups. The top two in each progress to a knock-out phase, and that all conveniently crunches down, match by match, to a final after which a champion is crowned. The eventual World Cup holders will have battled past seven of the tournament's 31 opponents to end up with that little star on their shirts. And what's more, all of it takes place in little over a single month. All good stuff – which is doubtless why FIFA fancies cocking it up and increasing the size of the finals tournament further still.

## Format flaws

Of course, the World Cup has seen plenty of format changes over the years. In 1950, it was three four-team groups and then another, four team group – the group winner, Brazil, taking the title. When England won it in, ooh, whenever it was, there were just 16 countries in four groups contesting the finals. However, pressure to increase the number of entrants was understandable



Colombia's James Rodriguez in Brazil back in July. (I've asked. He's not interested. Told me to get back to him when we make it to the national Conference.)

and led to the introduction of a 24 team tournament in 1982. Unfortunately, there's no easy way to have 24 divide down into two finalists unless you have four groups of six and a tournament that might never end. So, compromises were needed, and the 24-team tournament formats were far from perfect. The first, in 1982, was an organisational nightmare in which the top two teams in six groups of four progressed to a second group stage comprising four groups of three, each of these providing one semi-finalist. The format stank, so for the next three tournaments – 1986, 1990 and 1994 – the four "best" third-placed teams in each of the six four-team groups progressed to the knock-out rounds. That wasn't particularly sensible either, because really poor teams could still make the knock-out rounds. In 1990, it took a late Mark Wright goal to prevent England having to draw lots in order to progress, and in 1994 Italy were able to lose to Ireland in their first game, finish third in their group and still go on to

win the bloody thing. Absurd, but apparently not absurd enough to prevent UEFA from introducing this 24-team format for Euro 2016. (In this case, the nonsense carries on into the qualification process. I mean, there are only 53 countries in UEFA competing for those 24 places. You've effectively a 50% chance of playing in the finals from day one! So much for Platini's idea of a nerve-jangling "week of football" – you're going to need to be a pretty average team indeed not to make the finals in France. And as a result, the qualification campaign is going to be a mildly diverting one and no more. Well done everybody.

## 32 into 1

Back with FIFA, and the 24 team format proved inefficient at adequately representing the world's top sides. Eventually, the only way was up. France hosted the first 32-team World Cup Finals in 1998. Another big

**"The current format is the joint longest serving in World Cup history, with Brazil 2014 being the fifth consecutive 32-team tournament."**

increase with eight more teams, yes – but now we were back to just the top two countries in each of eight groups progressing to the knock-out rounds. And it works. It's clean, easy to follow and acceptable – just as the original 16 team format had been all the way up until 1978. The current format is the joint longest serving in World Cup history, with Brazil 2014 being the fifth consecutive 32-team tournament.

There are downsides, though. The need for the host nation to have advanced stadium and transport infrastructure is such that it would be difficult for, say, Belgium to host the tournament on its own. That's a shame, and even more so when you consider how many potential African and Asian countries are also unlikely to be able to bid to host the tournament.

Indeed, hosting the tournament is an entirely different kind of problem. Instead of Russia 2018 and – I still can't believe it – Qatar 2022, we should be preparing for World Cups in England and Australia respectively.

## 40 love?

So what's next? Rumours abound of an increase to 40 countries in order to accommodate more Asian entrants. Michel Platini thinks the current arrangement remains too overbalanced in terms of European entrants. Rather than further restrict European countries – difficult, given the continent's recent success in finals relative to other FIFA federations – the additional

teams would be accommodated by placing a fifth country in each of the eight groups.

What would such a tournament look like? How long would it last? I've had a go at working it out – and it's not pretty.

Everything about the knock-out rounds would remain as-is – all of the problems are caused by the enlarged group stage. You could, possibly, have the tournament lasting no more than one extra week, but still:

1. There could be as many as eight days between the start of the tournament and the last of the forty countries taking part in its first match.

2. Because each round of matches leaves one of the competing countries out, the team not taking part in the last round of group matches could, if they've already qualified, have as many as six additional rest days prior to facing their opponents in the second round.

3. There's more potential for 'dead rubber' matches towards the end of the group stage.

4. You'd have no fewer than 95 competitive matches in the tournament, up from 63 at present. (I don't count the third-place play-off. Seriously, who counts the third-place play-off?)

5. You'd need four group matches a day – so to balance it out, that would be games kicking off at 12:00, 15:00, 18:00 and 21:00. Now, I enjoy a "feast of football" as much as the next man, but that's full-on gluttony. Even armchair enthusiasts will lose track of who's playing who,

and when, and what it means.

So, all in all it's an absolute nonsense, up there with Brazil being invited into the Euros (Platini was thinking about it), or each 45 minutes of the 2020 Euros being played in a different time zone (or whatever it is Michel Platini's visions have decreed).

Keep it as it is, I say. There comes a point when things done in the name of progress just aren't that progressive. And anyway, even a 40-team tournament will do nothing to improve England's chances of winning the thing.

## HAVE YOUR SAY!

In each edition of the Wealdstone programme, 'World of Ball' will confront one of the large issues facing the world of football – or, as is more likely, one of the rather less consequential ones.

Naturally, this being 2014, you'll find that 'World of Ball' has been designed as a comprehensively interactive, immersive experience. Accordingly, you can have your say on this piece by taking issue with it or suggesting other potential World Cup formats via our swish new Twitter feed, @WealdstoneProg

We'll publish your thoughts in this column next time out. Thanks in advance – see you back here for the Farnborough game.

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## TEAM DRAW

ROLL UP ROLL UP

The winners of the June draw are listed below. Thanks to Ginger, Attic and the various Ground Crew members who made the draw one Saturday. Roger Slater (being an incredibly lucky bloke) won the quarterly bonus prize for the second time in 3 draws - hopefully he will remember me when he buys his winning lottery ticket!

- Barry Benveniste (£125)
- Nick Symmons (£75)
- David Croombs (£50)
- Terry Dolman (£25)
- Anthony Drew (£25)
- Steve Foster (£10)
- M Bennett (£10)
- Nicky Burleigh (£10)
- Geoff Ranger (£10)
- Peter Wilkinson (£10)
- Del Vaughan (Special Mystery Prize)



**A HAPPY LOOKING ROGER SLATER  
COLLECTING HIS PRIZE**

The winner of the quarterly bonus draw for a flatscreen television (all people with 3 or more memberships were entered) was Roger Slater. Congratulations Roge.

The July draw has just been made and the winners were:-

- Steve Yearly (£125)
- M Hobbs (£75)
- Dave Burgess-Allen (£50)
- James Klarfeld (£25)
- Quentin Fox (£25)
- Mark Chamberlain (£10)
- B Woolford (£10)
- T Dixon (£10)
- Paul Stanton (£10)
- Marilyn Bernard (£10)
- John Young (Special Mystery Prize)
- Gerald Jacobs won the bonus £50 prize for people who have 3 or more memberships.

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**TEAMDRAW** remains a vital part of our income generation and I and my fellow Board Members are genuinely grateful to everyone who contributes. We do need more members to join though so please support the Club if you can.

One membership costs just £4.33 a month and once you sign up and commit to a monthly direct debit you barely notice the payment - it's not much more than the cost of a pint and you will be helping the Club.

Our current prize structure is such that Teamdraw members are winning more than £6,000 a year.

UTS

Pete Worby

# This is our joint earliest league kick-off EVER, which is why this column has a sort of 'friendly' feel



MY OLD DAD always used to complain that football's closed season seemed to get shorter every year. And the first time I remember him uttering that phrase was back in 1969 when the Stones' first Isthmian league game happened to be on this very Saturday: August 9. I think the excuse that year was that the season had to start and finish early because of the 1970 World Cup, held in Mexico. Not that the England side was likely to feature many Isthmian League players (although our amateur international keeper Andy Williams couldn't have done worse than Peter Bonetti when England threw away their World Cup quarter-final lead ten months later).

But today we **won't** be featuring the 3-0 win over Maidstone United on that opening Saturday 45 years ago - instead we time-travel back to a midweek pre-season friendly when the Stones were preparing for their first tilt at the Southern League...

**Monday, August 9 1971: Wealdstone 2 Hillingdon Boro 2** NOW, back in the day Hillingdon Borough were big cheeses in the non-League world. Currently performing in front of a few dozen fans in the Spartan South Midlands League, just around the corner from here at Breakspear Road, it was a different story at their old Leas Stadium in West Drayton in the late 60s and early 70s. Borough were pulling in 2,000-plus fans every week as they finished



**Trevor Watson 'The Human Dynamo' soon found the rigours of Southern League football draining his battery. Watson is pictured above (right) in a Southern League Cup tie with Stevenage at Lower Mead at the end of August, which we lost 1-0. His hairstyle never really fitted the Swinging 60s. Or the Seventies come to think of it.**

Southern League Premier Division runners-up to Cambridge United in 1968-9 (Cambridge winning their place in the Football League a year later), and were then beaten FA Trophy Finalists at Wembley in 1971.

This pre-season warm-up came just a few months after Boro's Wembley jaunt against Tottenham United (who pipped Colin Meldrum's side 3-2), and it would be a stern test for the new-look Stones who had just one player remaining from the final amateur season - right back Tommy Mahon. Our new manager for the 'profes-

sional' era, Alan Humphries, had seemingly scoured the home counties for creaking old ex-pros with the result that we fielded the likes of former Chelsea Reserves centre-back Derek Gibbs (who lived next door to my school chum Graham Peacock and was pronounced as 'looking a bit long in the tooth' even in back garden kickabouts with his kids); Trevor Watson (an ex-Hillingdon regular laughably nicknamed 'The Human Dynamo'); Dave Bielkus (crazy name, crazy defending); and the large-arsed striker Gary Townend, whose turning circle was wider

# Wealdstone hold power of Wembley finalists

Wealdstone 2, Hillingdon Boro' 2

WEALDSTONE have every reason to be satisfied with their display in this pre-season clash with near neighbours Hillingdon Boro' from the more exalted heights of the Southern League Premier Division, writes Phil Sugden.

Hillingdon were able to field a side which included eight of the team narrowly beaten in the F.A. Challenge Trophy at Wembley last season, and nine who have played together for several campaigns.

Stones, on the other hand, were playing for only the third time in a competitive game. Yet they were never overawed or outclassed and seldom put out of countenance.

Manager Alan Humphries expressed himself as being "reasonably satisfied" after the game, an understatement in my opinion, for most of the 840 who paid to watch (a gate reduced no doubt with Watford's Wednesday visit in mind) went away in optimistic mood.

It could, indeed, be argued that Hillingdon adopted a "come and show us what you can do" attitude in the first half, themselves attacking only in bursts as though to say "look, this is what we can do", but certainly Wealdstone had a slight edge for the first 45 minutes.

Equally, it is probably right to believe that player manager Colin Meldrum voiced some dissatisfaction during the break for, alien to their nature, Hillingdon fairly surged into attack on the resumption.

This was the moment of truth, for as Wealdstone temporarily lost control of the middle of the field we wondered whether Hillingdon's strength, knowledge of each other's ability and more drilled professional aim would swamp the home side.

Nothing could have been further from the truth. Sensing the danger the Wealdstone lads collected themselves, held on and fought back until at the end they were having as much of the game as their opponents. Their confidence must have improved by 100 per cent.

Although they missed the driving force of Dixie Hale (a true professional if I ever met one) there was little in the matter with Wealdstone at the back.

Jim Barr had an excellent game in goal. If he is a little

adventurous at times he at least makes his intentions known loud and clear, his handling was always first class and if he has a worrying habit it is turning towards his line as he makes his many prodigious leaps.

Tommy Mahon looked competent, tackled well and distributed concisely. This young one should develop well. His partner, Bielkus, was steady, less personified, unspectacular but safe.

Furie, though out of position, did everything asked of him and a little more at times and Gibbs (skipper for the night) may well prove an awkward stumbling block to many an ambitious forward.

Young Bill Bailey, a 20-year-old from the Orient camp, took the eye with a particularly good first half when he always appeared in the right spot at the right time. Another one to watch.

## SHREWDSIGNING

Perhaps one of Humphries' shrewdest signings is the former Hillingdon and Fulham wing half Trevor Watson. They called him the "Human Dynamo" for some seven years at Hillingdon and that name was catching on at Lower Mead Stadium during this game.

The balding Watson, not yet 33, covered acres of ground and was constantly preying the visiting defence with telling passes.

It was Watson who nail up morale by aiding the second half fight back after Hillingdon had made their take-over bid.

Cooker was another who remained steady under pressure and made a full contribution.

Perhaps the only slight question mark hanging over this night's 4.5.3 display was whether there was quite sufficient punch.

We had all the touches of magic one expects from Cliff Jones (although there were times when he was two moves

and five seconds ahead of his colleagues).

Time and again he "lost" the Hillingdon defenders as he ghosted to the far post or weaved a bewildering pattern through the middle.

Gary Townend, another ex-Hillingdonite, was also effective, scoring one and making another. He is a little slow on the turn but can still give the ball a tremendous whack and his distribution was excellent.

## ENIGMA

Brown is something of an enigma. In possession he looked sharp and quick and when he worked his way onto the flanks he was beating his men with consummate ease.

He is an opportunist, too, as his goal showed, but off the ball he often appeared a little static, a situation which no doubt can be remedied.

This rectified he could prove a big asset if he can control the petulance which was revealed in a couple of flashes of disagreement with the official in charge.

In a game which was always entertaining and full of flowing football, with most of the players trying hard to use their skills, Wealdstone went ahead after 12 minutes.

Man caught the defence napping with a long, swinging ball and as everyone watched Townend raced through, sidestepped Lowe and scored.

Hillingdon might have had two in reply from tremendous efforts from leading scorer Reeve before Ryan equalised with a close in header as Wealdstone appealed for a foul on the keeper.

One great Cliff Jones header was superbly saved by Lowe who then beat out a Brown shot, but Reeve realigned with another power drive which Barr steered over the top.

Hillingdon brought on Butler for Hugginson and Carter to replace Maynard in the second place Maynard was a fiery half and resumed with a fiery burst for Barr to save well twice.

Immediately Wealdstone hit back to again go ahead. Townend finished a midfield move with a cracking drive, Lowe parried, but could not hold and Brown swept the ball in after 50 minutes.

Hillingdon now showed their Premier Division football and deservedly equalised when Ryan overlapped on the right and crossed for Carter to shoot in from close range.

Thereafter neither side gave anything away, although Fairchild, unmarked, missed from three yards shooting straight at Barr and Watson headed inches over from Jones' cross.

**Wealdstone:** Barr; Mahon, Bielkus, Furie, Gibbs; Bailey, Watson, Brown; Townend, Cockell, Jones.

**Hillingdon Boro:** Lowe; Ryan, Moore, Hugginson (Butler), Newcombe; Meldrum, Fairchild, Doyle; Reeve, Maynard (Carter), Knox.

## Continued...

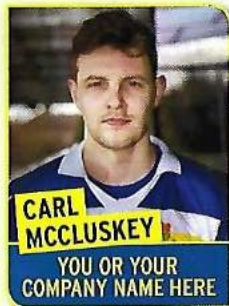
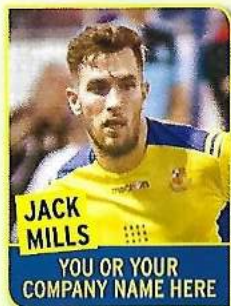
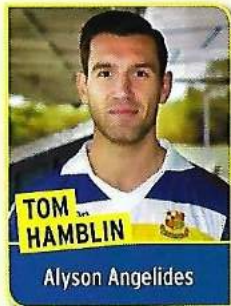
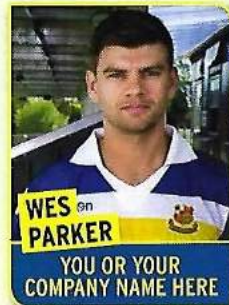
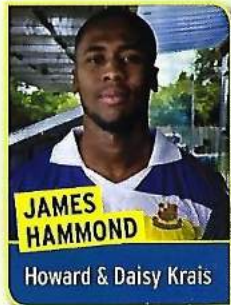
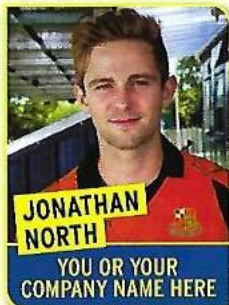
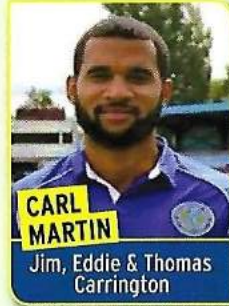
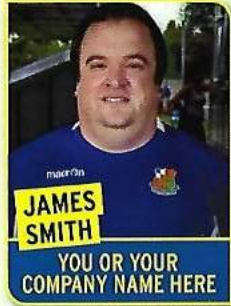
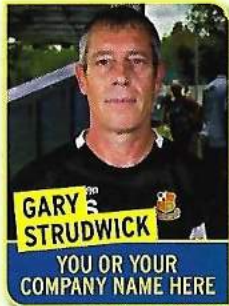
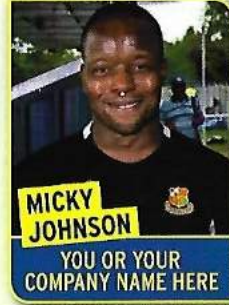
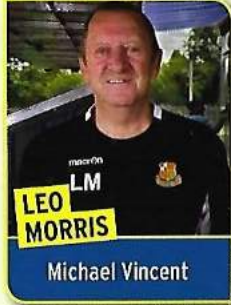
than the Queen Elizabeth (unfair on ocean-going shipping). All had their moment in the Lower Mead sun. All were quickly recognised as being well past their sell-by date - although not former Spurs and Welsh international winger Cliff Jones, who was fantastic in his few short months until he was sold to Cambridge City. Boss Humphries was also moved on when someone better became available - St Albans much-heralded Sid Prosser - who took over the reigns early in 1972 and was the driving force behind the club's rise to Southern League prominence by the time he left for Chelmsford City two years later. Interesting times. Some pretty dire football on occasion but, yes, interesting times!

Sorry about the quality of the cutting!

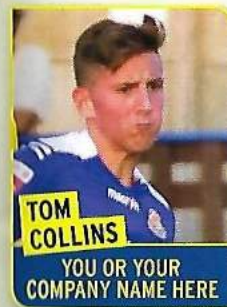
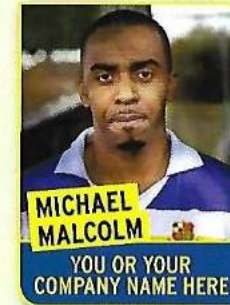
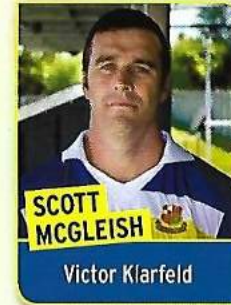
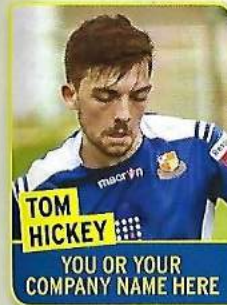
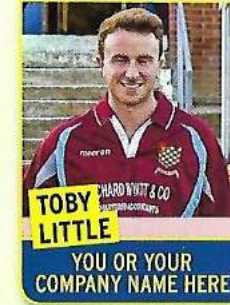
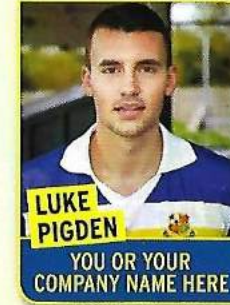
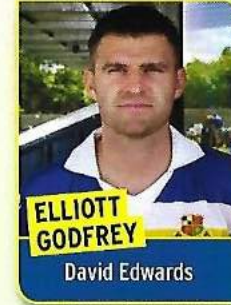
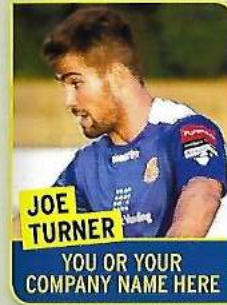


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**2014/2015 LEAGUE TABLE  
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	P	Home			Away			Overall			F	A	Dif	Pts	Results	
		W	D	L	W	D	L	W	D	L					H	A
1 Basingstoke Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
2 Bath City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
3 Bishop's Stortford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
4 Boreham Wood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
5 Bromley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
6 Chelmsford City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
7 Concord Rangers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
8 Eastbourne Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
9 Ebbsfleet United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
10 Farnborough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
11 Gosport Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
12 Havant & Waterlooville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
13 Hayes & Yeading United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
14 Hemel Hempstead Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
15 Maidenhead United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
16 Salisbury City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
17 St Albans City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
18 Staines Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
19 Sutton United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
20 Wealdstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
21 Weston-super-Mare	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	
22 Whitehawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	

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