

LINE UPS

WEALDSTONE v HUNGERFORD

all royal blue

all red

Jonathan North	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lewis Ward
Eddie Oshodi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhys Tyler
Ryan Sellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Jones
Ciaron Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jon Boardman
Tom Hamblin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Matt Day (Captain)
Sam Cox (c)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Luke Williams
Danny Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	James Clark
Jonny Wright	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ian Herring
Joe White	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stefan Brown
Matt Whichelow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Warren Bentley
Daniel Fitchett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Louie Soares
Ricky Wellard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harry Goodger
Elliot Benyon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nat Jarvis
Nathan Mavila	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Rees
Wes Parker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alan O'Brien
Aryan Tajbakhsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Meechan
David Hunt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kallum Thomas
Scott McGleish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conor Lynch
Liam Goulding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Freddie Gee

Referee: Andrew Laver **Assistants:** Gerry Heron and Craig Robson **Observer:** Andrew Taylor

MATCH SPONSOR: Torben Prestwich

MATCH BALL DONOR: Ron Moore - in honour of all the Stones fans who are no longer with us

NEXT HOME GAME: NEXT SEASON.. OR MAYBE A PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINAL. DETAILS WILL BE ONLINE AT www.wealdstone-fc.com

gpflewis

GREEN FOR GO

Stones' Danny Green leaps to celebrate his stunning goal in the 5-0 whitewash of Bishops Cleeve at The Vale last Saturday. Skipper Sam Cox and Matt Whichelow can only look up to him!

Picture: STEVE FOSTER

STONES

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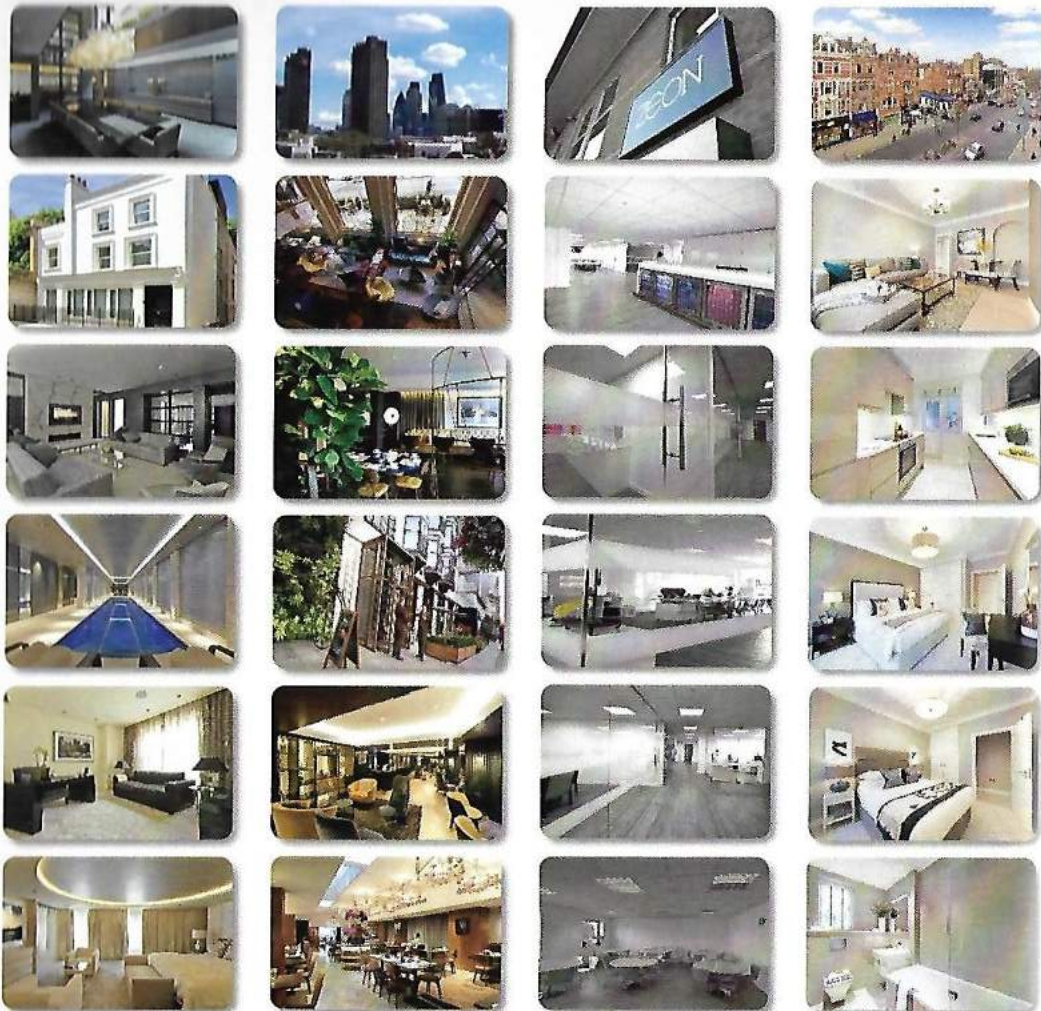
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WRITTEN IN STONE
Mark Hyde



STONES PAGE 3

A warm welcome to the officials, players and supporters of Hungerford Town who this afternoon make their very first trip to play us at Grosvenor Vale.

I have to be honest and say, it is with some relief that the final programme of the season is now finished but as with all things around the club, the off season rarely brings much rest as plans are put in place for 2017/18's issues.

I must, as always take time for a few thanks...

To produce a match day programme takes a very dedicated team and the following work tirelessly every week to help produce the very best product we can for you, so hats off to ..

Tim Parks, Martin Read and Martin Lacey. It honestly would not be possible without them.

We also have a very loyal team of contributors be it for statistics or articles, so thank you to every one of you. Thanks also to Paul 'Fingers' Fruin and Alyson Angelides, who chase their counterparts at our opposition for me.

My final thanks go to the management team (yes that really is the deadline), who whilst trying to run a football team also put up with my repeated requests for articles.... Speak soon guys...

Enjoy today's game

Mark

MATCH SPONSOR

TORBEN PRESTWICH

BALL DONORS TONY, PETER & STEVE DREW, DAVE EDWARDS & RON MOORE

In continuing memory of the following –

Ron Davies, Gordon Howland, John Burrows, Jack Wilkinson, John Willard, Jim Minehane, Dan Helen, Val Shearer, Eric Fletcher, Charlie Walker, Derek Balderstone & Roy Couch.

It barely seems credible that over 20 years have passed since Ron Davies died suddenly in the summer of 1994. Since then, those other named friends and supporters of Wealdstone FC have subsequently passed away.

We grieved their passing but they are not forgotten.

For many seasons now the match ball sponsorship has given us the unique opportunity to keep alive the memory of those no longer with us.

They are especially remembered today.

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY SHIELD

The process for distributing funds raised by The 2016 FA Community Shield for community-based initiatives features the following components:

- The funds available for distribution include the general admission ticket income net of match expenses and all profits from the sale of the match programme.
- The 2016 FA Community Shield contribution to the fund amounted to 36% of the total match day income.
- Each competing club will be allocated an equal section of the fund to donate to community initiatives of its choice.
- A section of the fund will be allocated to the 124 eligible clubs (those clubs that participated from the First Round Proper of The FA Cup last season) to nominate up to three local charities or community based initiatives to receive its share of the fund.
- The remainder of the fund will be donated to charities which include The Bobby Moore Fund, which, following a robust selection process, was chosen by the FA Community Shield Distribution Committee and FA Group staff to be The FA's Official Charity Partner until July 2018. Additional charities that have received donations from the fund include Breast Cancer Care, The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and the Royal British Legion.
- As Wealdstone FC reached the first round of the FA Cup against Colchester United FC the club receives £2000 from the FA Community Shield gate money to distribute to locally based charities.
- The WFC Foundation Trust decided to award £1000 each to Wealdstone FC Youth and Age UK Hillingdon.
- Cheques will be presented today to Julian Lloyd the CEO of Hillingdon Age UK and Jason Hunter and Ronnie Welch of Wealdstone Youth FC.

22 years on.....

I'd like to start by welcoming Bobby Wilkinson and his hard working Hungerford side for our last home game of the season. Their impressive energy levels, team spirit and organisation are the main reason they sit so high up the league table, particularly in their first season at this level and full credit is due to

Bobby, his staff and of course his players for this achievement.

I meet up with some friends last weekend and my managerial reign came into conversation. Today see's the end of my 22nd season in charge at Wealdstone. It's incredible to I think back to 1995 and that 9-0 opening day victory in our Isthmian Division 3 game away to Cove. If by chance we do manage to finish 7th this season, that's a progress of 100 places up the pyramid! I wonder how many of our older supporters actually watched that game, or on the other hand, how many of the younger ones weren't even born 22 years ago!!!

It's been amazing how the club has progressed since then and even the last twelve months has seen enormous change. Today will see the new stand up at the far end which is further proof of the intent and desire that continues driving the club forward. The ups and downs on the pitch make it an emotional journey to say the least and Roger Slater

summed it up pretty well recently when he said, some people pay fortunes for a good rollercoaster ride. Over those numerous seasons, I can look back and I feel privileged that I've not only been lucky enough to ride it, drive it, help build it, re built it on numerous occasions and I still get the same buzz or frustration after every game.

As for this season, it can only be described as frustrating. The dynamics and expectations have changed dramatically this year and consequently I think the enjoyment element has been affected. When you have that underdog tag or the backs against the wall attitude, there is no pressure of winning and it can be much more satisfying when you achieve. I've always maintained we have far too many people who love to over hype the situation when things are looking good, but then become the 'doom and gloom' merchants as soon as things start to go wrong. Forums and social media have been an absolute godsend to this type of so called supporter, especially as they can use an alias and hide behind a keyboard. Win and we will get 2 pages on the forum, lose and we get 6 or 7. Amazing! I'm confident the vast majority of you will know one or two of these fans who probably stand next to you 'moaning' every week. I'd love to meet a couple of them face to face and be able to pick their brains relating to their managerial knowledge, coaching experience and scouting acumen in order to increase the chances of moving our club forward!

Despite the criticism and not feeling like a very positive campaign, I'd just like to remind everyone that actually, it's not

been that bad. We reached the last 16 of the FA Trophy, 4th qualifying round of the FA Cup, two cup finals and as we go into the last week of the season, we are 1 point off a possible play-off place after only one defeat in the last eighteen games.

I totally agree that it has not been great, but we continue to strive to get better and it's so much easier for everyone when we all pull in the same direction and try to work in a positive environment. I'll say it again, that maybe certain people could make it a next season's resolution!

Whatever the outcome of these final couple weeks, I believe we have laid some very positive foundations for next season. We already have the nucleus of a good squad, so if we can recruit well and add a bit more know-how, I believe we can push on once again next season. The

infrastructure and facilities at the club have continued to improve, attendances are up again and I know we are the envy of many clubs at this level.

My usual end of the season thanks go to our management team of, Scotty, Steve, Mick and Jason, along with physios Gary, Chris and James who have continued to give me fantastic support and commitment once again this year. I cannot thank you all enough for your loyalty and support especially through some testing times this season. My gratitude also goes to the whole squad who have shown the character to ride some stormy waters and still give us the chance of achieving something special this season.

A must make a special mention to the Peter, Nick and the rest of the board for their continued backing, especially when things

were not quite going to plan and the 'doubters' were in full voice.

Finally, on behalf of all the management and players, I would like to thank the fans and everyone involved within the club for their hard work and commitment throughout the season. I totally appreciate your frustrations when things go wrong like at Hungerford back November, but it proves why we all stick with it through thick and thin. Who would have thought after that afternoon we would have experienced the scenes of celebration up at Southport after our trophy win and be in the position we are this afternoon.

Thanks again to the vast majority of you for your fantastic support. Enjoy the summer and despite the rumours, I WILL see you next season.

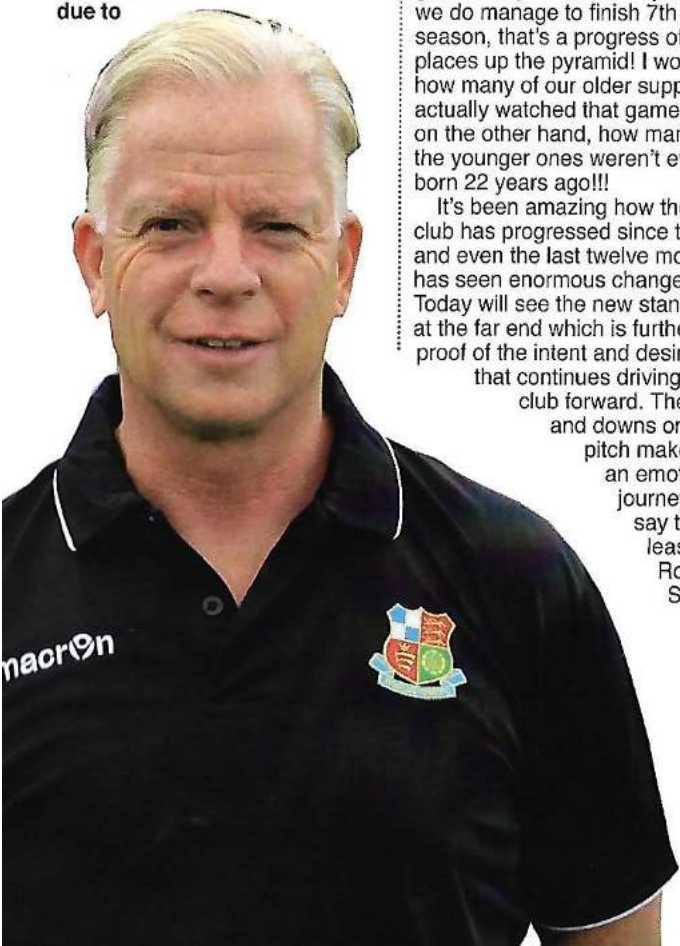
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AND NOW IT IS OVER TO YOU.....

I'd like to take this opportunity give some of you the chance to make some decisions with a few simple questions. Maybe put your answers on the forum and I will venture onto it at the end of the season. If you do, please put your identity on it as well.

1. Out of the current squad who would you have on your retained list for next season?
2. Pick two new players who you would realistically like to see in a Wealdstone shirt next season?
3. I've heard a lot moaning about our recent pre seasons, so what would your perfect schedule of fixtures be?
4. In an ideal world, who would you want to replace me?

So stick to the rules.... real names and Gordon will as promised check the results at the end of the season.. Ed





WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2016/2017

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Assistant Manager Scott McGleish
Coaches Mickey Johnson, Steve Newing
Sports Therapists Team James Smith,
Gary Strudwick, Chris Elliott
Goalkeeping Coach Jason Scannell
Development Scouts John Fletcher,
John Moran, David Murphy

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

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)

Email the programme team: wfcprogramme@gmail.com

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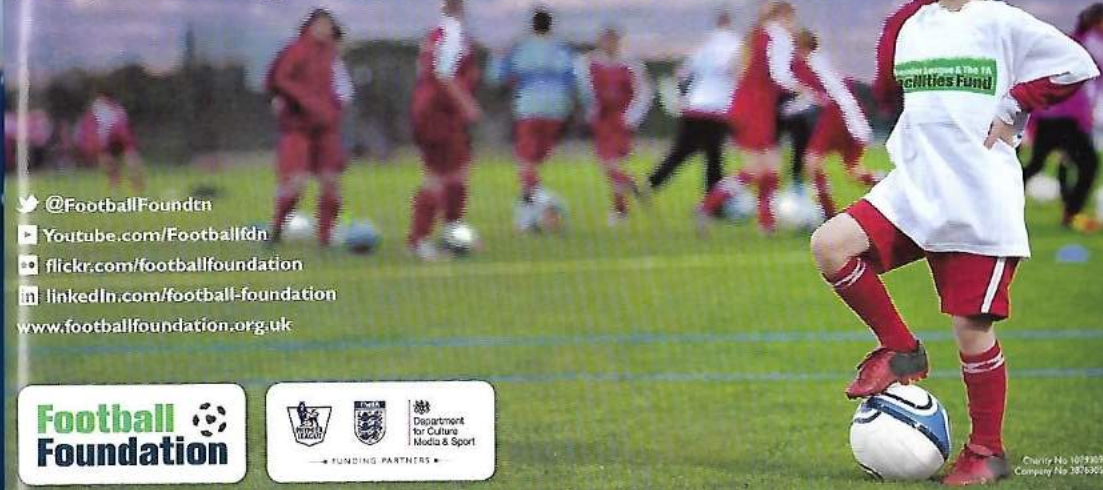
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GROUND REGULATIONS

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

- 1) The club reserves the right to eject from the ground any person who is considered to have committed any of the following acts:
 - Entering the ground through any means other than through the turnstiles or entrances
 - Entering the field of play before, during or after a game without prior authorisation
 - Being drunk, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs • Using violence of any nature
 - Carrying items which may be considered a danger to others, including cans, bottles, or glasses containing alcoholic beverages
 - Throwing any article onto the field of play • Climbing floodlight pylons, fences, stands or any structure or building
 - Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others • Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulla stand
- 2) No spectator ball games.
- 3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar 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



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Wealdstone FC Chairman
Peter Marsden

STONES



We are almost there...

Iwould like to thank all Wealdstone fans for being so welcoming and supportive of me in my first season at Grosvenor Vale.

In many ways this has been a pretty good season - by far and away our highest position in the league pyramid for almost 30 years, average attendances over 750, a couple of home gates over 1,000, a decent run in the FA Trophy and a Middx Cup Final too - but I can't help feeling "what if?"

Before the season started Gordon and I thought we had a team capable of a 4th-5th place finish and at times our passing and technical ability has been breathtaking but it has only been in the last third of the season that we have showed the necessary steel and determination. Something that has surprised me is just how physical to the point of being brutal some of the teams in National League South are. We need to be able to stand up to these teams and stay in the game at all times and then make our superior technical ability count.

Going ahead to next season I do not think we need wholesale surgery of the playing squad just some judicious tinkering around - we need not only to continue but to intensify making Wealdstone a hard-working, very difficult team to beat. As well as continuing our player recruitment we need to make the very best of the excellent players we have. By this I mean more intensive and focused training. In fact more training full stop. I know Gordon has bought in to this too and I full intend Wealdstone to hit the ground running next season (pre-season games included). The players now know each other well (and I think most of them like and 'get' what we are trying to achieve at Wealdstone).

We already have 3 friendlies lined up against opposition from the Premier League / Championship (details to be announced shortly) and we are hoping to secure 1 or 2 more crowd-pulling friendlies. As well as a chance for our players to test themselves against top flight opposition the friendlies are an important source of revenue for the club.

Today should see our very impressive looking 369 seater covered stand unveiled. Whatever the remainder of this season holds the timely installation of these seats is vital to show our supporters, players and the town of Ruislip that we are on an upwards trajectory.

We generally need to increase our capacity and I would like us sooner rather than later to have a

5,000 capacity stadium with 1,000 seated. Such a stadium would see us compete with the bulk of the teams in the top division of the National League and would not be out of place in my old stomping ground of League 2 of the Football League.

I am still extremely hopeful of getting the covered standing terrace of about 900-1,000 from Prince Edward Park / The Hive indeed Tony Kleanthous confirmed the same to me just a few weeks ago but it looks most likely that it will be in the close season of 2018-19 season that the stand will make the short journey from Canons Park to Ruislip.

This season has cost me a lot more money than I bargained for and I must admit there were times (particularly Hungerford away and Brackley at home) when I queried my own sanity. However I like to think I am a positive person and our timely run of good form (coupled with the genuine warmth and encouragement I have felt from our supporters) means that I will continue to underwrite most of the club's finances for 2017-18 season I would also like to put on record my thanks to Vice-Chairman Nick Archer for not only doing his bit with regards to assisting with the club's finances but also his input in to overseeing ground improvements.

In respect of **THE LEASE** at Grosvenor Vale - the renewal of which is arguably of even more importance than events on the field - as previously mentioned by me at the AGM our freeholder has already provided draft heads of terms. Nick Symmons and I are meeting up with the freeholder's managing agent in the coming week to finalise the new lease provisions - we are almost there.

Returning to the football. Wow what great value the £99 season ticket is. For this to work (and not cost the club money) there has to be a reasonable take up. Everyone involved with the club needs to really push this.

A big thank you to all of those who have sponsored games and match balls and players' kit. Thank you to all the countless unpaid volunteers who are the lifeblood of our very special club.

Enjoy the summer and thank you all for your magnificent support.

"We are the Stones, the mighty, mighty Stones".

Peter



Well here we are already at the close of another season, and what a season this has been. We have asked for change, and, it is, and has to happen, if we are to progress as a club both on and off the field of play. Change, however, is never an easy or straightforward process, and, as in the business world (of which we are part), there are those that will fall by the wayside or get left behind for the greater good of the organisation. But we are looking at evolution rather than revolution at Wealdstone and with our new Chairman Peter Marsden I sincerely believe we have the right man to take us forward but he needs our full support at all levels of the club.

Thank you to all those who supported our sell-out Paul Merson event a couple of weeks ago and we were able to raise the excellent amount of £5k profit that will be a contribution to ground development works which are massively expensive projects. Thank you again to everyone that helped out on the night and a special word for Jez Albert who organised brilliantly to ensure a smooth plan and event. We now move on to other projects...

Look out for a major ground development fundraiser to be launched very soon - I am currently working out the details with the Ops team and we will make an announcement - but as ever we will need all your support. Exciting times!

Other events are planned and I am revisiting the Comedy Night event that we ran so successfully so time ago but with a different format in conjunction with RSC.

Season Tickets Update: By the time these notes are published we will be on target to have significantly exceeded last season's s/t sales overall and probably at Adult level by more than 50% but there is time left to do much better. PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU BUY YOUR EARLY BIRD TICKETS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - deadline is 31st May for the fantastic value prices of £99 and £75 for concessions. Out of season you can buy on-line via the Megastore or even post a cheque to the club if you wish. Details are on the website and forms obtainable from the bars at RSC

It always amuses me when people innocently say 'I bet you are glad the season has ended the club can take a rest' Ha ha - it never stops and Fingers will tell you it only get's busier and particularly at Wealdstone things are always happening behind the scenes and the pace of change increases and the demands of running a football club at this level also ratchets up.

Unfortunately I wont be at the game today as my partner Jacky went into hospital for a major operation last evening so will see you hopefully at the Awards Presentation Night on May 6th.

El Presidente's end of term report



Welcome one and all to the Vale today for our last home game of the season where we welcome Hungerford.

It's been a challenging season to say the least for a lot of us!

With a new chairman & vice chairman at the helm, we tried to hit the ground running both on and off the pitch and have had a mixed bag.

On the pitch, it looks like we can finish 7th or 8th which is an excellent turnaround by Gordon, his staff and the team from where we were after the Brackley game. We are now just one loss in 19 games. So Finishing 7th will present the FA and the National league with a few problems over the play offs, so let's try and get there first & this makes today's game take on much more added significance.

In the cups, We were unlucky to come up against the highest ranked team in the 4th Qual of the FA Cup against Dagenham and the same away at Maidenhead in the FA Trophy where we did triumph in a replay and go onto the 3rd round Proper.

Highlights have been Southport, Bath, Maidenhead twice, Hemel & St Albans to name a few. We are also in two Middlesex Senior Cup finals.

However, now we must kick on for next season and mount a better challenge for the play offs if we don't do it this time around. Next season doesn't seem to present us with any teams with huge budgets assuming Ebbsfleet and Maidenhead move up coupled with Chelmsford's financial problems and Billericay not coming up yet.

I'm sure if Torquay and Braintree do come down they will have something to say about the reckoning for next season.

So we are getting more professional on the pitch but more fine tuning will help in this area and we need to do this much more so off it.

Today will see our new 369 seater stand ready for use and more groundworks are planned in the summer and then next summer which will start to give us a stadium to be really proud of.

But to be truly professional, we need to substantially up our game both commercially and in the community. We have made a start.

The clubhouse, under Leo's management, goes from strength to strength but again we can do more.

Ultimately if we are to aspire to the next level, where 17 of the 24 clubs are full time then selling a couple advertising boards and the odd match

hospitality is not going to paper over the cracks.

We are going to need everybody connected with the club to pull their weight even more.

If you think you have skill sets to help the club going forward then please see me or the Chairman or a director.

As we near the end of the season, I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone connected with the club that has done their bit big or small. There are too many to mention!

A special mention does go to all our sponsors and not least of all to Rory & Joe from GPF Lewis our club sponsors, who continue to support us in many ways.

You are the most loyal fans any club could wish for and we are now a family club at the heart of the community and to maintain that I and the board are NOT going to tolerate any more antisocial behaviour going forward.

We do know who you are so best behaviour please.

Don't miss out on the £99 season ticket offer, it's a fantastic incentive by the club to get more of you through the turnstiles so tell your mates!

Up the Stones and have a great summer,

Paul

PASSION NOT FASHION



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You're getting sleepy...

You're imagining you are in the Olympic 100m final...

Eddie seemed to go into a trance as the ball pinged around the Hemel Hempstead goal

When we see our wonderful fans singing and playing their part it truly inspires us to play our part too **SAYS EDDIE OSHODI**

It's the final column of the season from our defensive kingpin Eddie and he pays tribute to our vocal and passionate fans. No doubt Eddie will be back with this brilliant blog next season...

If somebody were to ask me to describe the Wealdstone FC supporters in three words, they would be: consistent, noisy and encouraging. And believe me; I'm not just saying that because it's nearing the end of season awards and I'm fishing for votes LOL!

As this maybe my last blog of the season I just wanted to take some time and give praise to **YOU GUYS and GIRLS**. Every week, home or away, you're there in your numbers singing away invariably in stronger voice

than the opposing supporters, encouraging and pushing us on with positive words. I've played 44 games this season yet many of the supporters outnumber my appearances by ten or more and there are even those who've been at all 56 games this season and will probably not miss a single game up to the end of the season.

That to me is just incredible devotion. I can only speak for myself here but I know many of the other player's thoughts align with mine when I say seeing those same faces as you come out of the tunnel before the game makes you want to give more. You just think, blimey, they're playing their role, I can't let them down by not playing my role well.

In the team talk before the

Hampton game last week Scotty McGleish let us players know that you guys (the supporters) are the life-blood of this club and we owe it to you, ourselves and the coaching staff to push as hard as we can to finish as high as we can because you never know the impossible may become possible. So, what I'm trying to say is thank you for being there through the good times and the bad times.

We've come a long way and I've enjoyed the journey and getting to know some of you personally has been very pleasing for me (and who said men aren't in touch with their emotions).

Now to the people whose hard work goes unremarked at times. Forgive me for just

continued overpage

mentioning three names here but I know many more are involved in these processes so thank you, to you all. But I will like to single out Alan Palmer, Tim Parks and Tony Waugh. Even if we do not reach the playoffs this season - and it isn't off the agenda quite yet - we are at the start of something big here.

I know Wealdstone FC has a long and proud history but if you look back to the start of the season, we had new owners, 12 or more new players, new members of the coaching staff (and even the old man Gordon found new life in him) and now we're in the process of putting in a new stand.

What I'm trying to say is the club has reached a point where it's on stable ground and is ready to make new history and one man is capturing the whole thing on camera, and that man is Alan Palmer. After every game he bombards us with photographs so we can track our progress and smile back at our fond memories. I remember being on the bus on the way back from that epic win against Bath City, the boys singing away and Alan at work doing what he does best snapping away capturing images that will one day tell the story of Wealdstone FC's rise back to where it belongs.

Every great resurgence needs men to immortalise the process of how it took place and another man who's writing the history books (literally) is Tim Parks. Every home game we arrive and go through the ritual of buying a programme to read one of Tim's reports or interviews. He gives voice and acts as a medium between the supporters and the employees of Wealdstone. Tim, thank you for all your hard work mate, it doesn't go amiss, it certainly gives us boys something to talk about in the changing room.

Lastly to the man who designs and makes the kits that symbolises what we stand for as a club. Whether you be on the pitch or in the stands we all wear the same badge on our chest and that is because of the big man (and no I'm talking about the man upstairs), I'm talking about Tony Waugh. He makes everything come together to form the whole, without having to use words or pictures we let the shirt that we wear with pride do the talking. And, it speaks volumes about what we choose to place our faith in.

After we go to battle and our shirts have been muddied and



Kitman Tony demonstrates the technical wizardry involved in choosing a new kit

blooded, they are cleaned and readied to be worn again. It's the metaphor of life really: no matter what happens, get up and dust yourself down, clean yourself up and go again, and that we do thanks to Tony.

I got a bit soppy there, it's all down to coming to the end of the season but let's focus on the football now. Just two games to go and I'm writing this before the game against Stortford on Bank Holiday Monday. We had 58 points, putting us 8th in the table, four points behind Hampton yet rumours are spreading

that Poole and Hungerford are unable to make the playoffs so seventh spot may make it happen.

But how did we get into this situation? Through great resilience and determination, that's how. Through everybody rallying together and playing their part. By facing our challenges head on - and this was exemplified in the performance against Hemel. Down to 10 men, 1-0 down not a problem, we will rise to the occasion and that we did and we were unlucky not to win that game.

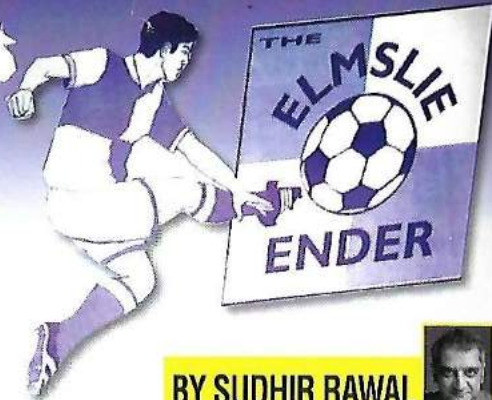
Again, vs Hampton last week it was a poor refereeing decision that led to their goal... almost as if it is not supposed to be our destiny to prosper to the full this season.

What did we do, we rolled up our sleeves and said we are the masters of our own fate and managed to get back on level terms but did not quite have enough energy in the tank to get the win, even though I think we deserved it.

What we have shown over the past few months is that we are as good a side as anyone in this league and we have proved hard to beat. So, if at the end of it all we don't make it to the playoffs we shouldn't look back and say if only. We should be proud of our achievements and see this season as stepping stone, we are now a force to be reckoned with and we also have the belief that we can be future champions.

We have two cup finals to play in which I am confident we will come out on top in. So, we can already start to look to next season with positivity. I implore all of you earnestly to continue to back us boys and get your singing voices ready because we could be walking away from this season with two cups and who knows, maybe more...

UP THE STONES!
Edward Abdullah Oshodi



SCHOOL IS OUT FOR EE THIS WEEK AND HE TAKES A LOOK BACK OVER THE SEASON

Last programme of the season is not only a relief for your embattled and award winning editor but also a creatively struggling contributor. At least with the final one of the season, you can waffle on about the season, the highs and the lows. This season, in many ways the most eagerly waited one for many a year has been a curate's egg. In part there have been moments of high drama and excitement but for long periods it has been one of turgid football and disappointment.

It was known for a while that we would have a new chairman in place but no announcement was allowed due to FA technicalities. Those delays no doubt contributed to some lop-sided recruitment in the summer, as GB didn't really know what his budget was going to be and whom he could afford. However the start that we enjoyed, which saw one defeat in the opening nine games, set a level of supporter expectation that the team haven't been able to sustain throughout. All season we have been truly mid-table

bouncing between 7th and 13th, a level of mid-table mediocrity that no one was really expecting after the start, though we are likely to finish around where most people thought we would be had the question been posed at the start of August.

The targets at the start of the season were for a top half finish,

BY SUDHIR RAWAL



and they have all spent their money wisely. The lesson is that you have to get your recruitment done early and well in pre-season; it is difficult to come back if you don't.

The best and most glorious part of this season was obviously Southport away in the Trophy. The National Leaguers

were at the time a comfortably mid-table side, though are now bottom of the pile, and were deservedly beaten before nearly 300 travelling Stones fans on Merseyside. One of the great away days of our time. What happened subsequently at home to Brackley and Dartford was mystifying and dumbfounding. Two thumping

defeats that had many wondering whether we had the fight to see the season out and avoid the dreaded drop. Many doubted it. The team came bouncing back and have lost only one of the last fifteen games, I write this before Stortford at home, that had us dreaming of a play off spot, though four draws in the last five games has put paid to that. It does feel like a season of what ifs. To be fair we aren't ready for the Conference National, both on and off the



SOUTHPORT HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR SEASON? STEVE FOSTERS PICTURE CERTAINLY GETS MY VOTE FOR SNAP OF THE SEASON

with a push for the play offs and a decent cup run. Well, that's how it was communicated in the press and unless something dramatically changed, that is exactly what we have had, though the play off push has been more around other clubs' perceived failure to get their grounds ready in time. Our budget for the first time in many a year wasn't for a shop in Lidl, but neither was it for one in Waitrose. The top four are the ones with the biggest budgets

the pitch, but the play-offs would have been fun.

The low points for me revolve around two different areas. Firstly our lamentable home form. Fourteen home league wins in near enough three whole seasons in the Conference South is plainly unacceptable. Too cautious at home, one up front, not playing with wingers shouldn't be how you get punters through the door, yet we still do in decent numbers. We could average four figures if we won more at the Vale and then secondly the game at Hungerford. Not the performance or the result, beaten deservedly no doubt on the pitch, but what happened at the end. A small but very vocal contingent of our support abusing a man that has served this club with loyalty and distinction for over twenty years. The day after, when social media caught wind that he might be leaving (false rumour it turned out), showed the true affection that the vast majority of our supporters have for GB. As Jonathan North said in his last programme notes, he commands

and deserves respect. That is not to say supporters can't criticise nor disagree with what is happening on the pitch, with selections and tactics, but there is a way to go about it.

We shouldn't forget that our home gates are now at the highest level for twenty-nine years and depending on our last two gates, could be highest for thirty-two, despite our terrible home form. Our away support, the largest in the division, is now up to the levels of the mid seventies when we would have taken three or four coaches to every away game. However the most positive part of this season has been the emergence of the "yoof", something that as a club we have cried out for many years. Decent numbers of them at home and now travelling away as well.

The club are doing great work off the pitch with the schools locally, with Messrs Oshodi, Koroma, Manvila and Sellers working on numeracy skills with different ages at local schools, with the kids in return are giving Omar penalty-taking lessons!

The more the club can work with local schools, get the players in, the better the connection will be with locals and them wanting to come to games here at the Vale. Ruislip is a football going area; it needs to be cultivated.

Over the next eighteen months or so the ground is likely to be transformed, lease depending of course. There is much to be positive about. The pre-season, starting in May, will be huge for the club. Next season we need to be challenging properly for the play-offs, Maidenhead have proved what can be done, but our recruitment has to be spot on. There are a certain type of players that you need to succeed at this level and we are missing a few of those. Some of the current squad will leave and we thank them for their service. As has been shown with returning players this season, once a Stone always a Stone.

We still have two cup finals to play for. GB might finally win the Senior Cup in Wealdstone blue.

SUD

TEAM DRAW - MARCH WINNERS

- 1. John Moore £125
- 2. Steve Marshall £75
- 3. Alan Couch £50
- 4. Stefan Wilenczyc £25
- 5. Dave Reader £25
- 6. Gerald Jacobs £10
- 7. David Lloyd £10
- 8. John Fairman £10
- 9. Marilyn Bernard £10
- 10. Sally Morris £10

Voucher Brian Ball

Bonus prize of £50 for those with 3 or more entries: Rob Nothman





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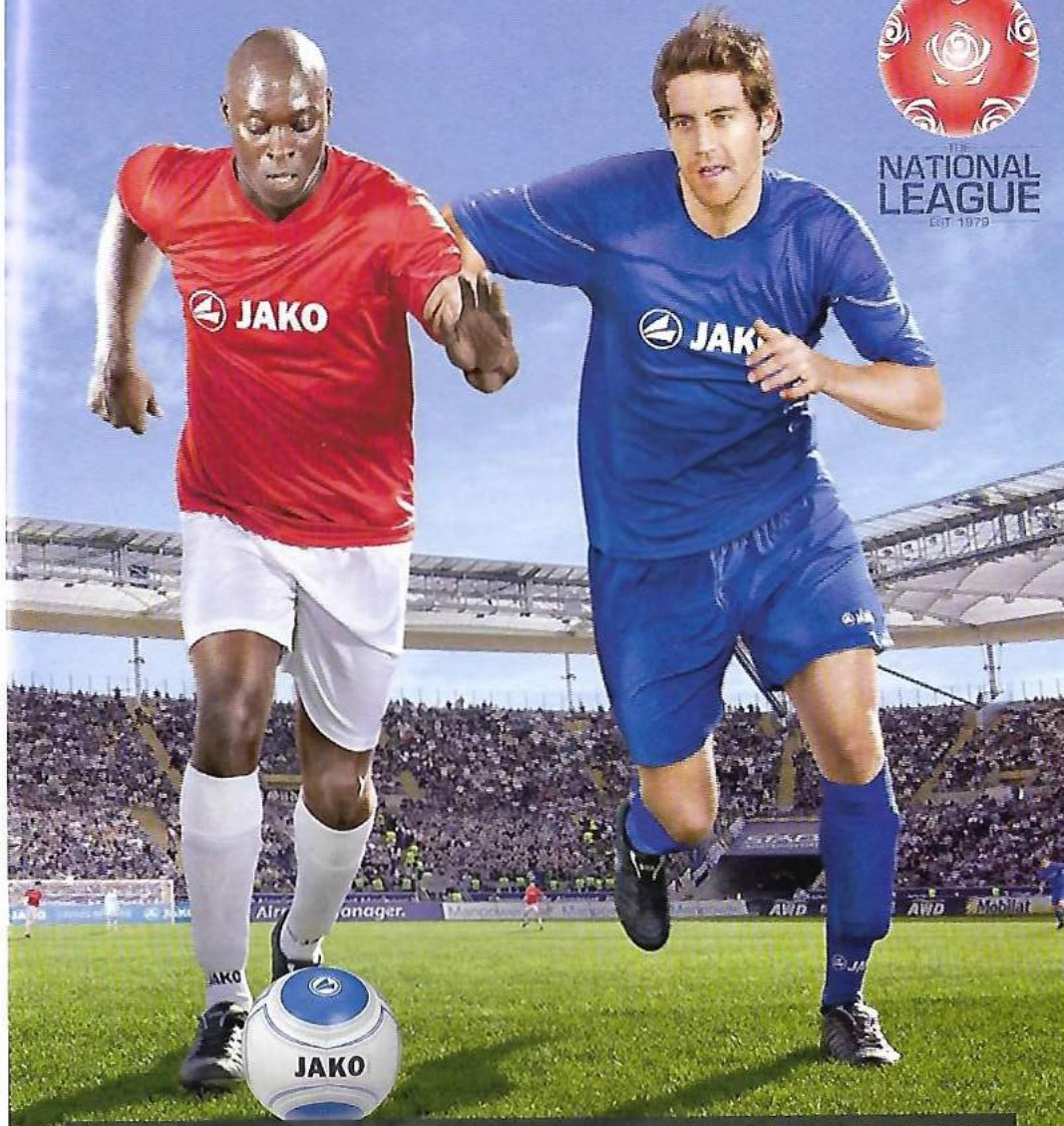
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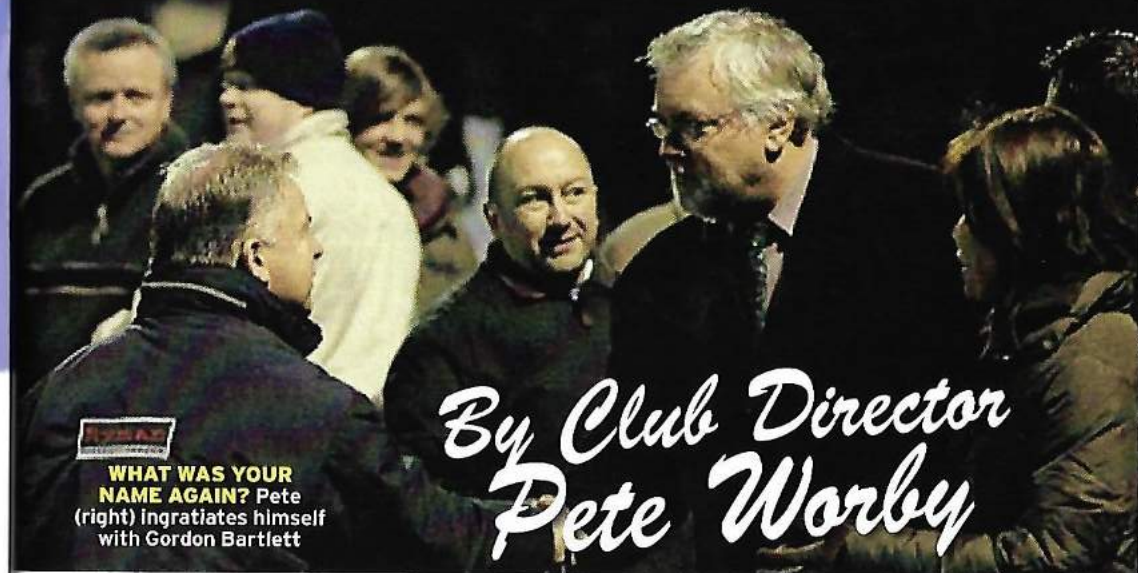
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WEALDSTONE v HUNGERFORD TOWN

FAN IN THE STAND

STONES PAGE 19

The single one thing that would make my matchday experience better? If EVERYBODY would for once turn up before kick-off time and we could close the turnstiles promptly!



*By Club Director
Pete Worby*

WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN? Pete (right) ingratiates himself with Gordon Bartlett

Name: Peter Worby

Where do you live? Croxley Green, near Rickmansworth. Since 1991.

Are you working? After working in the Insurance Industry as a Claims Inspector for 37 years I was fortunate to be able to retire early at the young (I think) age of 55.

First Stones game attended:

I know I saw earlier matches but I definitely know that my dad took me to Wealdstone v Barking on Saturday 22/11/69 because I wrote the scoreline 0-4 on the front cover. I wish I knew for certain the very first Wealdstone game that I saw but sadly I don't. I do know my very first away match though and that was an FA Cup match

at Harrow Borough on 18/9/71 - a glorious 1-0 win thanks to the lumbering Gary Townend (who was probably a good player about 6 years and 3 stone before we signed him). **What or who persuaded you to become a Stones fan?** It was my dad who took me along to Lower Mead and here I am some 50 years later, completely addicted.

Do you follow any other team? Not really. I keep an eye out for Millwall's results as I have a soft spot for them but it's basically Wealdstone, Wealdstone, Wealdstone.

Do you prefer lower-League football? Be honest! I suppose I must do as I've been watching games at various

levels of the non league pyramid (including Southern League South Division and Isthmian League Division 3) for a long time. At an assumption of 60 matches a season that's nearly 3,000 instances of lower league football, County Cup games, Preliminary/Qualifying rounds of FA Cup and FA Trophy. I wouldn't say that I "prefer" lower league football - I'm just happy to watch the team that I support play at whatever level/competition they happen to be competing in.

Any disadvantages? I think there have been occasions when the standard of football being served up by both teams

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has been so bad that you question your sanity. Equally, being at an away ground which is little more than a field with minimal facilities, on a wet/cold evening again makes one pine for a higher level of football.

Having said that, I do seriously like the whole atmosphere/ethos of non league football. It's great being so close to the action that you can actually clearly see what is going on, and so close

that you can hear what is being said. Equally, knowing that the players and match officials can hear what's being said to them. It's nice being able to park your car, stand where you want, talk to whoever you want to talk to, buy a cuppa or a burger with ease, have a drink in the clubhouse if you want to - all these things are not so easily enjoyed as you move up the pyramid.

How do you fit watching football, and Wealdstone, into your family/working life?

With ease really. I was already addicted to football and Wealdstone when my wife Pauline and I started seeing each other back in 1986 and so she knew what she was getting into. She knew that I played on Sundays and watched on Saturdays and midweek and she let me get on with this. For years, Saturday afternoons were her chill out time for seeing her friends/shopping or whatever. Since the move to Grosvenor Vale though in 2008 Pauline has really got the bug too.

How big a part of your life is the game? To be honest, I sometimes think it's too big a part of my life. I joined the Board of Directors in 2005 and there have been many occasions since then when I've put Wealdstone FC before family - and looking back I was probably wrong to do so. The move to Ruislip in 2008 meant the



start of an immense project as I and my colleagues worked to regenerate the whole site, and Social Club as well as run a football club. Without the support of Pauline who worked extremely hard as Catering Manageress (as well as running the Tea Bars for 4 years) I would not have been able to spend the thousands of hours that had to be put in over the years.

Most memorable game/s you've EVER seen? I don't know whether it really is the most memorable game that I've ever seen but the Leeds v Chelsea FA Cup Final of 1970 has always stuck with me. As has the England v Poland match of 1973.....

And most memorable Wealdstone game, and moment? I have to mention that the Woking v Wealdstone FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round replay match of 1975 is still one of the most memorable matches that I have ever seen. We were 1-3 down with about 10 minutes to go - and ended up winning 5-3 after extra time. Obviously, I was only 16 at the time but the impression of a fantastically exciting match still remains.

I think the FA Trophy semi final 2nd leg match v Enfield in 1985 also has to be one of my top matches. I was on the tannoy that day, and

spent most of the 90 minutes nervously chewing my fingernails as Enfield laid siege on our goal. The match itself was a shocker (we lost 0-1) but the excitement and relief when the referee blew for full time was massive as I knew that we had reached a Wembley final. Happy Days.

Finally, for similar reasons, the FA Trophy match at Cambridge Utd where we won 2-1 to reach the Trophy Semi Finals was top notch. Not only the match itself where the Tinpot Army upset the big boys but the knowledge that we had made the FA Trophy semi final which was a truly impressive feat.

What really gets your goat watching football? I get very frustrated by what I perceive as poor refereeing decisions. We get to see the decisions of the top referees being scrutinized to the nth degree on Match of the Day - can you imagine what Lineker and his cohorts would make of some of the officials that we see?

Have you ever played the game yourself and most memorable moments? A trial (unsuccessful) at Watford, a short spell at Hillingdon Boro (along with Tim Parks), followed by 20+ years at SFC Wealdstone initially as a player and then as team manager.

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Numerous memorable moments but I was reminiscing with Tim just last Saturday about a referee who penalized me for appealing for offside (he felt my appeal was "ungentlemanly conduct") and then sent off Pete Moran (at the time Wealdstone's Commercial Manager) for attempting to strangle him. Amongst the many strange decisions this referee made was a famous free-kick against Potsy for "bum over the ball". Perhaps we should have allowed ex QPR player Moran to strangle him properly.....

Any suggestions to improve your Stones -watching experience at the Vale? It would be absolutely wonderful if EVERYBODY arrived and entered the ground before kick off so that Andrew and I could simply close the turnstiles and watch the game from 3pm. On a slightly more serious note, I'd love there to be some raised terracing on the main stand side of the ground roughly level with the edge of the penalty area.

Favourite all-time Stones line-up? Really difficult here so I'm going for a mix of guys that were my heroes and guys that I just like as decent blokes. Northy in goal. Just gonna have 3 at the back with Fergus Moore taking the left side (just edging out Stuart Pearce), Dennis Byatt taking the right and Fred Barwick taking the sweeper role just in case one of the Twin Colossi get done for pace.

In midfield there'll be Hughie Lindsay on the left, Willie Watson and Chris O'Leary holding the middle together and Charlie Townsend on the right.

Up front, there's George Duck scor-

ing headers and dribbling around keepers, Mark Graves popping them in from close range and Alan Gordice chasing after Dennis's clearances and winning penalties left right and centre.

On the bench we'd better have Glen Little (for when Hughie gets tired), Peter Dean to cover Charlie, Elliott Godfrey to come on if/when it looks like Willie or Chris are close to being red carded, Richard Jolly in case George or Mark Graves are having an off day and finally Kurtney Brooks because we all loved Kurtney's Nan.

Best away trips to watch football? For many years my regular travel companions were Steve "Ziggy" Johnson, Ken Wiggins, Jon Irvine and sometimes Jon Taffel - every trip was fun. Very difficult to pick the best one out from the hundreds I've done. I must say that I did enjoy both Welling and Southport this season so they're the best trips for me in 2017 (so far).

What are your expectations for the Stones for this season? We've ended up exactly where I thought we would - top half, but not good enough for a top 5 finish.

How does the current programme compare with others you see? It's absolutely fantastic. I've collected home

and away programmes ever since I was 12 years old - why I still bother with away ones is beyond me as 95% of them are embarrassingly poor.

Any articles or features that you'd like to see? Maybe a fold out poster in the centre page once or twice a season with team photo/classic action shot.

What's your Wealdstone claim to fame? Maybe history will remember me for 3 reasons when I'm dead and gone: firstly, those on Coach 2 to Aldershot will always remember the cans of piss rolling about the coach (sorry); secondly I might be remembered for being one of the gang of four that brought Wealdstone FC to Grosvenor Vale; thirdly I might be remembered for co-writing the recently published detailed 1945 - 2015 Wealdstone FC Club History along with Mick Fishman.

Finally, where do you see the club in five years' time?

This is a really difficult question to answer. I know the question relates to where in the football pyramid do I think we will be plying our trade but it could equally apply to our location. If we are still at Grosvenor Vale at a reasonable rent with a guaranteed future then I will be a happy man and I really don't care whether we

are in the National League, National League South, or Isthmian Premier as long as we are operating within our means. I subscribe to our Vision Statement which sets out our objective to play at the highest level that is financially sustainable.



Good afternoon and a warm welcome to our final home league game of the season. I wish the supporters, players and officials of both clubs a good day out at Grosvenor Vale and a safe journey home.

Remember to buy your Golden Goal ticket from Mim by the turnstile before the game. There is a £50 prize for the first goal and £10 for the last if there is one. Prizes can be claimed in the Megastore.

Have you voted for your player of the season? Voting closes at midnight tonight. Fill in your voting slip and give it to Mim at today's game or send her a message via the forum so that your opinion counts.

The Supporters Club are organising the End of Season Presentation evening which will be on Saturday 6th May regardless of when the Middlesex Senior Cup Final is played. The event will start at 7:30pm incorporating the Ladies team and the U18's team awards as well as the first team. There will be a hot buffet provided free of charge for everyone to enjoy.

Tomorrow, Sunday, we are entertaining around 700 Manchester City fans at The Vale as they travel to and from Wembley. If anyone has a spare half an hour or so to help it would be greatly appreciated. This raises much needed funds for the Club as well as being a great day.

Have you thought about joining the supporters club? Annual membership is only £10 for the season and Life membership is £40. This enables you to benefit from discounted travel on the supporter's club coach, discount in the Megastore and much more.

You can purchase this via the Megastore or see me in the office for an application form. The Megastore will be open before, at half time and after the game for you to have a look around and buy our Wealdstone branded clothing and memorabilia. The End of Season Sale is going strong for you to pick up a bargain.

Thank you to everyone who has donated their unwanted items so far. We sell them on our Ebay shop which is very popular. Any more donations of anything sellable can be left in the Megastore. Any vinyl records are greatly appreciated together with CD's, DVD's books etc.

You will see that the Club is putting in a new seated stand to reach the minimum ground grading to play in the playoff finals. Hopefully we still have a chance of reaching the playoffs this season when you read this. There will also be a lot of work going on over the summer to improve the ground further. Please watch out on the forum and twitter for the call to arms. There will always be a job that is designed for you.

Finally, we are hoping to



run a coach to East Thurrock next Saturday, 29th April, for the final game of the season. If you would like to travel then please contact Victor Klarfeld on 07881 624890. The fare will be £20 and leave The Vale at Noon. You need to book by midnight on 23rd April to ensure a place.

If you have any questions then pop into the Megastore where Adam and Mark may be able to help, or call in to the office in the ground and I will try to help.

We are the Stones, the Mighty Mighty Stones.

Alyson



WEALDSTONE FC SOCCER IN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

Prior to the Easter holidays Wealdstone FC recommenced the innovative Numeracy and Football Course aimed at Year 3 primary school pupils. We were delighted that 90 children participated each week for 5 weeks in numeracy and activity lessons. The numeracy lessons are being run by the school teachers and the activity sessions are being led by Wealdstone FC players Eddie Oshodi, Omar Koroma and Nathan Mavila.

The Numeracy and Football programme is a maths and football related course for primary school Year 3 children that links numeracy maths lessons to activity sessions run by Wealdstone Football Club coaches. The aim is to create an add-on teaching mechanism that, by linking football based activity sessions to the application of mathematics helps enthuse young schoolchildren to assist them in absorbing the basics of maths in an enjoyable setting. It involves 45 minute football skills/coaching sessions being complimented by 45 minutes of football themed numeracy lessons.

After the Easter break the pace hots up with sessions being run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the morning for a six-week period with former Wycombe Wanderers defender and Stones player Ryan Sellars also joining the coaching team. Wealdstone FC will be running the sessions at **Aylward School** in Stanmore, **Roxeth primary school** at Harrow on the Hill and **Lady Bankes school** in Ruislip Manor.

In each of those schools the club will be working with 90 children so a total of 270 children for the six week period.

As a new initiative to their expanding community activities, Wealdstone FC have submitted a grant application for 'TEA

DANCING at the Vale' and the club should hear the outcome of the application in early May. The club is confident that the application will be successful and is looking to commencing these sessions.

Wealdstone are continuing with the successful **WALKING FOOTBALL** sessions at Botwell Green Leisure centre on a Thursday lunchtime.

Walking football on a Wednesday evening progresses and we were delighted to announce that a team from this group won the regional final in the FA People's Cup for Walking Football but unfortunately just losing out in the semi-final of the tournament.

The Wealdstone FC Foundation Trust is funding participant entry fees for the first six weeks of a new joint Hillingdon Stroke Association/Middlesex FA/GL Leisure and WFC Foundation Trust walking football session at Botwell Green Leisure Centre on a Tuesday



lunchtime for recovering stroke sufferers. Wealdstone FC Foundation Trust Director Nick Symmons said: "Wealdstone FC has always been a club immersed in the communities it has served. With the formation of the Wealdstone FC Foundation Trust we are now privileged to be able to offer activities directly to members

of the local community, both young and old and those who have suffered the debilitating effects of a stroke, that have both physical and social benefits. Although early days for the Foundation Trust we look forward to being able to continue to expand our activities in the future"

Wealdstone Football Club is fully committed to working in the community via its Foundation Trust and continues to work closely with local authorities and many local charitable groups and associations.



WEALDSTONE FC

FIRST TEAM, SEASON 2016/17 at 17th April 2017

A = STARTING APPEARANCES • S = APPEARANCE AS SUBSTITUTE • G = GOALS SCORED * = HAS NOW LEFT CLUB

	NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH			FA CUP			FA TROPHY			MIDDX SENIOR CUP			MIDDX CHARITY CUP			2016/2017 TOTALS			WEALDSTONE CAREER		
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G
Benyon, Elliot	24	7	16	3	2		5	2					32	8	22	32	8	22			
Brown, Ciaran	25	2	1	3			5	1		2	1	1	3			38	4	2			
Cadmore, Tom	5												5			30		1			
Carter, Terence									1	1		1			2	1	2				
Corkery, Nathan												2	1		2	1	2				
Cox, Sam	27	3		3			4	1		1			1		36	4	36				
Fitchett, Dan	5	2								1	1	1	6	3	6	6	3				
Francis, Adam									1			1	1		1	2	1				
Freeman, Nick *	2	1					2						4	1	4	1					
Gibson, Billy		1							1	1		2	2	3	2	9	5	4			
Godfrey, Elliott	24	7	2		1		5			3			2	2	34	8	2				
Gordon, Dillon												1			1		1				
Goulding, Liam	8	1	1				4	1				2		14	1	2					
Granger, Billy *												2		14	1	2					
Green, Danny	37	3	6	3			3	2	3	1	1		1	1	44	7	10				
Hamblin, Tom	25	2	3	2	1		1			2	1				30	3	4				
Hunt, David	14	1		2			3			2	1		2		23	2	23				
Hutchinson, Josh		5			1	1								6	1	12					
Jones, Ben									1				1		1		1				
Kabba, Sahr	2	10		1	2	1			1	1	2	1	1	5	12	4					
Koroma, Omar	11	11	4	1	1		1	3		3	2		2	18	15	6					
LaFleur, Alex									1	1		1	1	2	2	2	2				
Mavila, Nathan	5	7						2		2			2	9	9	18	19				
McGleish, Scott		7					1	2		2	2		3	1	6	9	3				
Njie, Aliou *									1					1		1					
North, Jonathan	39			3			6			1				49		287	1				
Oshodi, Eddie	33		4	2			6	1		3	1		3	1	47	1	6				
Parker, Josh *									1					1		1					
Parker, Wes	11				1				2				2	15	1	224	10	26			
Rodrigues, Orlando												1		1		3	1				
Sambou, Solomon									1					1		1					
Sellers, Ryan	9											1		10		10					
Sheckleford, Ryheem *	7						6							13		13					
Sheldrick, Luke									1	1		2	1	3	2	3	2				
Smith, Jack	4	1								1				5	1	16	3				
Tajbakhsh, Aryan	11		2						1		1	1		13	1	2					
Thomas, Andrew *	1								1				1	3		3					
Urquhart, Josh	20	1		3			5			2				30	1	76	2				
Walker, Josh *	2	2	1						1					3	2	1	3	2	1		
Wellard, Ricky	30	4	2	3		1	2	2	1	2		1	1	38	7	4					
Whichelow, Matt	27	3	3	3		1	4	1			1	1	1	36	5	7					
White, Joe	13	2	5						1			2	1	15	3	6					
Williams, Dylan *	6	3			1									6	4	6	4				
Wright, Jonny	13	16	4	1	1		3	1	1	3		1	1	21	19	6					
Xanthos, Paschalis					1				1					1	1	1	1				

epilepsy action

DANIEL BEDEAU

At last Monday's game Wealdstone FC supported Epilepsy awareness day and raised £206. Today we highlight Daniel's story to continue our support for Epilepsy awareness



Daniel Bedeau is a keen footballer and currently works as a performance analyst for Watford FC.

Sport is in his veins and he took part in the Ealing Half Marathon to raise vital funds for a cause close to his heart: Epilepsy Action and, in particular, the West London branch which Daniel has been attending for about 18 months.

Daniel, 26, was first diagnosed with epilepsy when he was seven years old. He has a mixture of seizures, including tonic clonic where he falls to the floor and focal seizures. When Daniel was a teenager and his epilepsy was at its worst, he sometimes had five seizures a day. He had brain surgery in 2009 to treat his epilepsy and has seen a drastic improvement in their frequency since – but they still happen, unfortunately.

He said: "My epilepsy meant that I missed a lot of school. I even had to redo a year of college. It had a huge impact on my life and this didn't go away after my surgery – it meant my seizures were more controlled though. I think a lot of time people worry that epilepsy will limit their life."

Epilepsy hasn't limited Daniel's life – hence his job and the half marathon, for example, which he ran in two hours and five minutes, smashing his target of two hours and 20 minutes!

Daniel said that joining the West London branch of Epilepsy Action has helped him a lot psychologically and boosted his confidence in day-to-day life. It also gave him the spur he needed to take up running in the first place. He takes up the story:

"Attending the branch gave me the confidence to take up running which is something I've always wanted to do. I found that I didn't have a seizure during my first run and it grew from there. Running really puts me in a good mood and this helps me to have fewer seizures."

"I wanted to set myself a running challenge which I why I decided to take on the Ealing Half Marathon and to raise funds for the West London branch of Epilepsy Action. I have found the support of the branch so valuable that I wanted others to continue to be able to experience it too."

The West London branch meets on the first Monday of the month in the evening in Ealing and also, for a more informal get-together, on the third Tuesday of the month, also in Ealing but during the afternoon. For more information you can contact the branch chairperson, Helen Lane, on 07932 774503.



**WEALDSTONE 5
BISHOPS STORTFORD 0**



Wealdstone emphatically disposed of relegated Bishop's Stortford in a 5-0 drubbing at Grosvenor Vale on Easter Monday.



Stones had five different scorers, Eddie Oshodi and Dan Fitchett had Wealdstone two ahead after five minutes before Jonny Wright capped a man of the match performance with a goal, Danny Green scored a spectacular 30-yard half-volley and Elliot Benyon returned to the scoresheet at the death.

Gordon Bartlett made only one change from the side that drew 1-1 with Hampton & Richmond Borough, Joe White returned to the side in place of Elliott Godfrey.

After 46 seconds the Stones had the lead, Wright picked out Oshodi with a low cross, his touch took him past Rian Bray and his second was slotted past

Richard Walton.

Five minutes in the Stones were 2-0 up. White picked out Wright in acres of space out wide, this put him through on goal and 'unselfishly' he scuffed his shot into the path of Fitchett who tapped in.

Stones were nearly three ahead on the 10 minute mark. Wright nodded a diving header



toward goal from a Green corner, which Walton stopped on the line to the calls of players and fans alike who thought the ball had crossed the line, but referee Elliott Kaye was unconvinced.

Tom Hamblin struck the woodwork after half hour. Green whipped in a free kick which, the defender rose highest and arrowed a header toward goal but it came off the post and was cleared.

Wright grabbed a deserve goal 11 minutes into the second half. Matty Whichelow played him the ball in a wide position, he seemed to prepare for a cross but instead placed an excellent shot into the far bottom corner.

Despite Wealdstone's dominance the visitors almost grabbed a goal. Evans Kouassi cut inside and placed a cross to Sam Ford, Jonathan North was beaten but Ciaron Brown got across quick enough to block his goal bound effort.

Benyon was introduced on 71 minutes and he almost returned to the scoresheet just six minutes after coming on. Green whipped in a free kick and

Benyon headed over from just two yards out.

On 88 minutes Green scored the pick of the bunch. Fitchett headed a ball down to the midfielder and on the bounce he smashed it past Walton into the top corner from 30-yards out.

There was still time to add to Bishop's Stortford's woes.

Oshodi made a forward run playing a one-two with Whichelow before crossing to Benyon at the far post who nodded home the easiest of finishes.

With Poole Town and Hungerford Town being denied a place in the play-offs subject to appeals, the Stones moved to one point behind the next best team Hampton after they lost 3-1 to Dartford making Saturday's clash against Hungerford a potentially very important game indeed.

Wealdstone:

North, Oshodi, Sellers, Brown, Hamblin (Goulding 46), Green, Wright (Mavila 71), Cox, Fitchett, White (Benyon 71), Whichelow

Subs not used: Hunt, Godfrey

Attendance: 620

Words - Nick DuGard

Pictures- Steve Foster

Man of the match



Jonny Wright

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What better way to celebrate an occasion or advertise your company's support of Wealdstone? Our comprehensive match day sponsorship involves you or your company in every aspect of the match. To find out more, contact club president Paul Rumens paulrumens59@gmail.com, (07710 929692) or Peter Worby (07967 698370). Specific requests can be negotiated, and prices start from £295 +VAT for four guests. Matchday partner packages are available from £59 per person, and tailor-made packages from five up to 30 persons are available on request.

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 Poole Town NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 3rd September	Ray Corner & Peter Carter	
 Weston-super-Mare NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Monday, 5th September	Wealdstone FC Supporters Club	
 Histon FA CUP 2ND QUALIFYING ROUND Saturday, 17th September	Pete Worby & Mick Fishman	
 Truro City VARA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 24th September	Stuart C, Stuart D, Sam, Ginge, Richard & Paul H	
 Banbury United FA CUP 3rd QUALIFYING ROUND Saturday, 1st October	The Half Way Line Tea Bar	
 Welling United VARA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 29th October	Markie Barton	
 Eastbourne Borough NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 12th November	In memory of Naomi Benveniste	Preston Manor Century Boys
 Bath City NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Monday, 14th November	David Leigh	Harrow Sales & Marketing
 East Thurrock United NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 3rd December	Multipest	
 Maidenhead United VARA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Monday, 28th December	Martin Seacombe	Anthony Cole-Johnson and Family



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- You or your organisation's name featuring prominently on the club website leading up to the game
- A meeting with the manager post match
- A memento of your special day.
- Your nomination of the 'man of the match' announced over the PA at full time.
- Your picture taken in the boardroom with your chosen man of the match.

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 Dartford VARA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 28th January	Wealdstone FC Youth		
 Brackley Town BUILDBASE FA TROPHY THIRD ROUND Saturday, 4th February	Darren Linden	Barry O'Sullivan	
 Oxford City VARA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 11th February	Ray Corner & Peter Carter		
 Gosport Borough NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 4th March	Markie Barton		
 Chelmsford City VARA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 18th March	In memory of Derek Reader	In memory of Darren Hooker	In Loving Memory of Richard Robbins
 Concord Rangers NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Monday, 20th March	Steve Hayes	Brian Downard	
 Hemel Hempstead Town VARA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 8th March	Martin Allen, Phil Jeffreson, John Jeffreson & Simon Jeffreson		
 Bishop's Stortford NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 17th April	ProKit UK		
 Hungerford Town VARA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 22nd April	Torben Prestwich		



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The Crusaders Hungerford Town



Hungerford Town Football Club has come a long way since its formation in 1886. The club first played on Hungerford Marsh field but soon moved to the present ground at Bulpit Lane.

Initially playing at Intermediate level (Newbury & District League and also the Swindon & District League), Senior status was consolidated in the ranks of the Hellenic League in 1958 and in 1961 the club won the Hellenic League Benevolent Cup. After a period of team rebuilding in the 1960's Hungerford won the Division 1 League and Cup double in the 1970/71 season.

The 1970's were memorable times as the club reached 3 Berks & Bucks Senior Cup Finals in four years losing to Chesham Utd in 1976 and to Slough Town in 1977 (though only after a replay at Elm Park, Reading). The 1977/1978 season, Hungerford's last in the Hellenic League, saw them finish third in the league and win the League Cup. The club also produced a fairy tale run in the FA Vase eventually losing out to Barton Rovers in a semi final replay. These achievements enabled the club to gain election to the

Isthmian League in 1978. In addition to the action on the field, the current clubhouse was opened in 1974 and new changing rooms and floodlights were added in 1975.

The 1978/79 season, Hungerford's first season in the Isthmian League, ended with a twelfth place finish in Division 2 and another Berks & Bucks Senior Cup final visit (the third in 4 years - this time it was the mighty Wycombe Wanderers who narrowly won after a replay).

In the next two seasons the club narrowly missed out on promotion finishing in 3rd place each time, though some consolation was gained in 1979 when the club reached the 1st round proper of the FA Cup for the first and only time, losing 3-1 to Slough Town. The same season the FA Vase semi-final was again reached, only to lose this time to Guisborough Town 5-3 on aggregate. 1980/1981 brought more disappointment with another 3rd place finish but there was some consolation when Hungerford Town was invited to compete in the Anglo Italian Semi-Pro tournament.

1982 brought further success when Hungerford defeated Wycombe

Wanderers 1-0 to win the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup. Promotion was again narrowly missed in 1984/85. However this was also a turbulent period for the club as, after 9 successful years as manager, Jim Kelman left the club.

1988/89 saw a return to prominence under joint managers Gary Goodwin and David Dodds who guided the club to sixth place in the table and a third FA Vase Semi Final appearance. This time it was Sudbury Town who denied Hungerford its much deserved trip to Wembley. The 1990-1993 seasons saw the club finish 9th, 9th and 10th under Gary Goodwin and later ex Man Utd player, Wilf Tranter, before a dismal start to the 1992/93 season saw the departure of Tranter at Christmas. Former Hungerford goalkeeper Jimmy Greenwood briefly returned to the club as manager and achieved Division 2 safety though he departed 5 months later to rejoin Thatcham Town.

The club then secured the services of two ex players, Gerald Smith and his assistant Norman Matthews from the Hellenic League club, Kintbury Rangers, and the two together

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v HUNGERFORD TOWN
P4 W1 D1 L2 F5 A6

Despite achieving a respectable fifth place finish in the league on top of a great FA Cup run into the third qualifying round, the decision was taken, for the long term benefits to the club, to rejoin the Hellenic League for the 2003/04 season, they finished the season in a creditable sixth place and winning the Hungerford Cup defeating AFC Newbury 2-0.

After a disappointing start to the next season Ackling resigned in October and was replaced by assistant Tim North. The club ended the 2004/05 season by winning the Hellenic League Supplementary Cup by beating Ardley Utd 3-2 after extra time.

The 2008/2009 season began with the election of a new chairman, Nigel Warrick a local businessman who stated he wanted to improve the club both on and off the pitch. He immediately set about a refurbishment program for the club including both bars. On the pitch despite a sticky start in the league and a disappointing early exit in the FA Cup, the club went on a 22 match unbeaten run which took the club to the top of the league and after a period where the lead swapped between ourselves and Shortwood United, a last day draw at Hook Norton enabled the club to clinch the Hellenic League championship on goal difference and promotion to the Southern League. There was disappointment for the team in both the Floodlit Cup final where we lost 2-3 after extra time to Marlow United, and also the FA Vase 5th round where we lost 3-4 also after extra time after

leading twice in normal time.

2009/2010 saw the team promoted to the Zamarretto League Division One South & West and after an early spell where the team was challenging for a play-off spot, the second part of the season was not so good and the team ended in the bottom third of the league. There was some consolation for the club, when the newly formed Reserve side won the Hellenic League Reserves Division One title and were also runners-up in the Reserves Cup.

2011/2012 was a landmark year as the club celebrated it's 125th anniversary and despite a great start in the league which saw the side stand at the top until November, we eventually ended up in 5th position. This allowed us to qualify for the play-offs where we lost 1-2 to Poole Town in the semi-final.

2012/2013 began with disappointing early exits in both the FA Cup and the FA Trophy and indifferent results in the league but a consistent run of results from October took the side to the top of the table where we remained until being overhauled by the eventual champions Poole Town in March and had to make do with the runners-up spot and the dreaded play-offs again. This time their was to be no heartache for the club, as after an excellent semi-final win over Paulton Rovers, we eventually clinched promotion on Bank Holiday Monday beating Merthyr Town 3-1 after extra time. The club also gained more silverware, winning the Basingstoke Senior Cup for the first time beating Fleet Town 3-0

In 2014/2015 season the

side started slowly and included early exits in the FA Cup and FA Trophy but a strong second half to the season saw the side finish in 4th position and qualified for the Play-Offs. Sadly there was to be no happy ending, losing to eventual winners Truro City (1-0) in the semi-final. There was to be some consolation as the club again won the Basingstoke Senior Cup.

Last season began indifferently with an early FA Cup exit and some inconsistent performances in the League but a change in the second half of the season saw the side make the FA Trophy 2nd round losing to National League side Chester FC (0-4) and better still was the League where we eventually finished in fourth place and qualified for the play-offs again. The semi-final away to Hitchin Town was dramatic to say the least as the side were 2 down on the hour but came back to win (3-2). The final on a rainy Bank Holiday Monday at home to Leamington FC saw the side trailing at half-time but another great come back saw the team win 2-1 and achieve the target of promotion to the Vanarama National League South.



MEET TODAY'S OPPOSITION

LEWIS WARD
Goalkeeper
Age 20

Lewis joined the side in March on a Youth loan from Reading FC and had previously been on loan at Margate.

FREDDIE GEE
Goalkeeper
Age 19

Freddie is a member of the Hungerford Academy and has joined the 1st team squad. He was previously at Newbury FC

JON BOARDMAN
Defender
Age 35

Jon joined the club in August 2010 from Kingstonian and is a fans favourite, having won the Supporters Player of the Year for three out of the last six seasons. He has football league experience with Rochdale and Dagenham & Redbridge.

MATTIE DAY
Defender
Age 30

Rejoined the club in March 2010 after a short spell at Eastleigh and was previously at both Portsmouth, Oxford United and Oxford City. He was voted as part of the Southern League team of the year by the Non-League paper in 2014 and 2016.

JAMES RUSBY
Defender
Age 27

James joined the side last summer from Marlow and was previously at Binfield and offers a steady influence to the team

RHYS TYLER
Defender
Age 24

Rhys joined the side in August 2015 having been playing professionally in Germany and was formally at Reading as a youngster. He cleaned up at the end of season awards by winning 4 trophies.

MIKE JONES
Defender / Midfielder
Age 27

Mike joined the side in August 2015 from Canvey Island following a move to the area. He will go down in the club's history as the scorer of the winning goal in the play-off final.

IAN HERRING
Midfielder
Age 32

Spud is an experienced competitive midfielder who rejoined the side from Cirencester Town in December 2015 having left mid-way through the season before. Scored vital goals in the end of season run in.

SCOTT REES
Midfielder
Age 27

Scott is a competitive midfielder who joined the side in August 2012 from Thatcham Town. Will battle for every ball and look to bolster the midfield at every opportunity.

LUKE WILLIAMS
Midfielder
Age 26

Luke joined the side in August 2016 from Hayes and

Yeading and was previously at Woodley, Binfield and Margate

LOUIE SOARES
Midfielder
Age 31

Louie joined the side from Oxford City after a short spell on Loan. He has Football League experience with Barnet and Aldershot Town and has also been capped at International level with Barbados.

JAMES CLARK
Midfielder / Forward
Age 26

James joined the side in December 2012 from Didcot Town and was previously at Thatcham Town and Reading Town. He offers the side balance where ever he plays.

WARREN BENTLEY
Forward
Age 26

Warren is a prolific goalscorer, who joined the side from Gosport Borough in January and was previously at Winchester City.

NICHOLAS BIGNALL
Forward
Age 26

Nicholas joined the side in August 2016 following a spell out of the game through injury and will be looking to re-establish himself at this level

STEFAN BROWN
Forward
Age 26

Stefan returned to the club in August 2015 having played at Maidenhead United the season

before and quickly established himself in the team.

HARRY GOODGER FORWARD

Age 31
Harry is a robust forward who joined the side in August 2011 from Newbury FC, having previously played in the Kent area. Despite limited appearances last season, he still managed to score some vital goals for the club. He always offers the team a different dimension.

NAT JARVIS Forward

Age 25
Nat joined the side from Cirencester Town in August 2015 and was previously with Cardiff City as a youngster. He has also played International football for Antigua and Barbuda. Last season's top goalscorer.

TOM MEECHAN Forward

Age 26
Tom joined the side in February

on Loan from EFL side Newport County, he was previously with St. Neots Town

ALAN O'BRIEN Forward

Age 31
Alan is a pacy wideman who joined the club in August 2012 and has football league experience with Newcastle United, Swindon Town and Yeovil Town

JAMIE LEACOCK Assistant Manager

Jamie joined the side in August 2014 having spent the season before assisting Thatcham Town.

Meet the Manager BOBBY WILKINSON

A young manager with a wealth of experience having worked under Scotland's assistant manager Mark McGhee as a player; he was also involved with current Liverpool manager Brendan Rogers and

former Leeds manager Brian McDermott. He was part of the Reading backroom staff that went to the Wembley play-offs. Played professionally for Reading & also had a spell with Fulham but his career was cut short by injury. At a young age, he switched to coaching and found more experience at Didcot Town Reserves, Kintbury Rangers & Milton United, before taking the manager's position at Hungerford in May 2010. In his third season as a manager Bobby won the Basingstoke Senior Cup and made history for the club when he won the play-off final against Merthyr Town taking Hungerford to the Southern League Premier Division and three years on he has steered the club to it's second play-off win against Leamington FC, to take the side into the Vanarama National League South, the club's highest ever position in the Non-League Pyramid.



Before we were valiant, we were lions

We 'go again' with another few hundred words inspired from our glorious club's competitive first team statistics. This week? A tale of 2 grounds...

THE VALE VERSUS THE WHITE LION

Incredibly, next season will be our 10th here at The Vale. It's astonishing to think that so much time has elapsed, but then the facts in black and white. When we moved to Ruislip, it followed three years of ground sharing at Chestnut Avenue, home of Northwood FC, a venue that - it's probably fair to say - was never likely to end up as our new spiritual home. It didn't help that we went from Isthmian Premier to Southern Prem and back to Isthmian Prem again in that turbulent three year spell, but more than that the Chestnut Avenue

arrangement was our fourth temporary home. We were all pretty tired of shuffling around the boroughs of Harrow and Hillingdon without finding a permanent address, and after ten full years at Edgware's White Lion Ground the move to Northwood felt (to this correspondent at least) like an unwelcome move back to a nomadic state.

Of course, The Vale has become, quite thrillingly, our true home since then. But for the purposes of this piece,

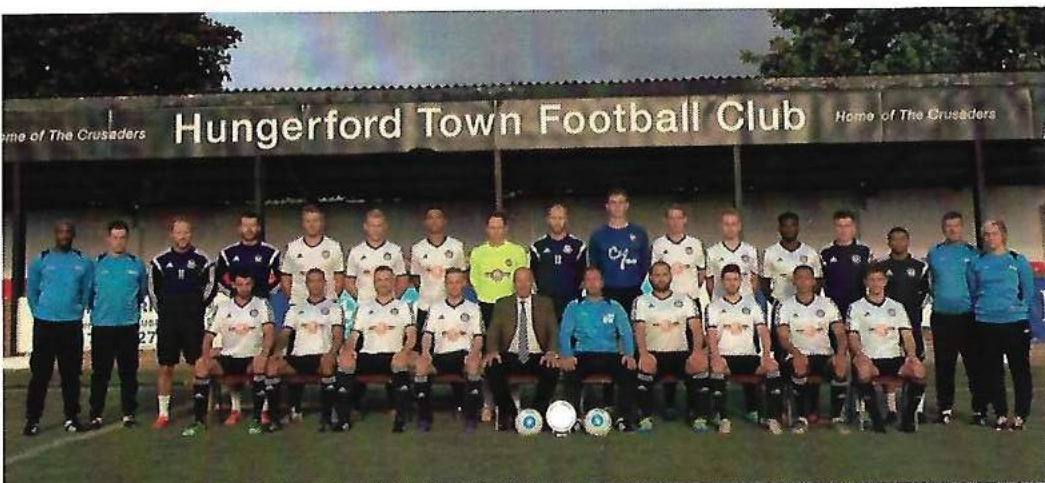
let's put those Chestnut Avenue years to one side and make the better comparison with our nine years at The Vale - the White Lion Ground (WLG), and specifically the full ten years we spent there climbing the Isthmian League's various divisions.

9 seasons here vs. **10** at the WLG? Yup, OK, I should have waited until this time next year. But I'll be frank, it's the last piece of the season, I'm utterly spent and somehow I've got to get **800** words written.

Anyway, we arrived in Edgware following the most turbulent time in the club's history. Two frankly bizarre seasons at Vicarage Road, followed by two more at that distant atmospheric void, The Warren - home to the then Hayes-free Yeading Football Club.

Wealdstone's years sharing Edgware Town's former home will forever be associated with the club's enforced relegation to our lowest non-league status, and the appointment - with subsequent success - of one G. Bartlett esq. But just as much, those years will be associated with the club gradually getting its mojo back and looking upwards instead of into the abyss. But yes, this was meant to be a stats feature - what do the figures suggest?

Well, after today's final match of season **2016/2017** against Hungerford, the number





of people who've come through the gates for competitive matches across all of our nine seasons here at The Vale will total in the region of **131,500**. For our ten seasons at the White Lion Ground we totalled **80,601**. So, given a likely **17,000** coming to games here in **2017/2018** (and possibly many more given our amazing season ticket offer - order yours today!), we're likely to end our first decade at The Vale having very close to doubled the size of the crowds we enjoyed in Edgware. That, I venture to suggest, is progress - and I'm sure

we've plenty more to come. Perhaps surprisingly, although certainly no more interestingly, we've averaged more wins per season here at The Vale than we did at The White Lion - **14.8** per season here, **14.1** per season at the WLG. We have of course won the Isthmian Prem in our time here in Ruislip. But remember that we came fourth in our first season at The White Lion (Isthmian League Division) before winning the division in **1996/1997** and going on to two more consecutive promotions. (Let's not mention the annulling of that last



promotion, it makes me feel ill even now.) In terms of draws, we averaged **5.4** per season at the White Lion, **7.7** thus far at The Vale. We averaged **7.7** defeats per season in Edgware, and so far **6.8** at The Vale.

We scored considerably more per season at the WLG, mind: **93.2** as a per-season average, compared to **88.2** here at The Vale. Naturally, much can be put down to our move to the second tier of non-league, whereas the WLG only ever saw us at the fifth, fourth and third.

What does all this tell us? Not much. But

it was interesting to evaluate our WLG years through the figures. Today, the White Lion Ground - with all its pretty decent sight lines and tremendous Kennel covered side - is just another anonymous housing estate with a bland hotel 'on the side', devoid of character and soul and a shameful replacement for the White Lion. In many ways our decade at the WLG is strange to look back on, but it served us well did the White Lion.

Have a great summer, everyone - here's to season ten at The Vale in **2017/18**.



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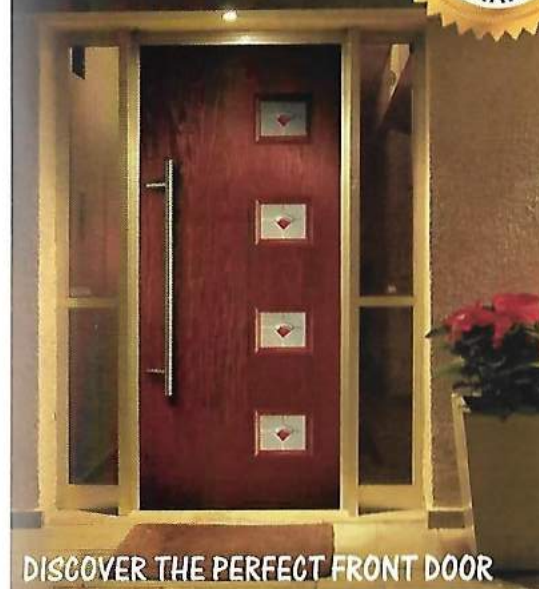
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32 years ago: Who'd believe it.. on our way to the Conference title and a groundshare with Fulham!

Monday April 22 1985, Gola League: Wealdstone 1 Kettering Town 0
THIS scrappy Monday night win at Lower Mead 32 years ago was the catalyst for the Stones winning the non-League double - in my opinion.

Brian Hall's side had forced itself to the top of the table after the sensational five-wins-in-eight-days episode a month earlier (Weymouth W3-2, Altrincham W2-1, Gateshead W2-1, Runcorn W1-0, Scarborough W1-0) but, despite then beating Enfield over two legs to reach the Trophy Final, Stones had stuttered and stumbled into a run of two draws and two defeats. Not title-winning form.

We were desperate for victory to hold off the challenge of Nuneaton and Altrincham - and the own goal from Kettering Nigel Thrower that settled this game was hugely important. The roar of relief from the Elmslie End was testament to that fact.

Two weeks later, after draws with Frickley and Dagenham and a terrific 3-0 win at Kidderminster, we beat Kettering again at Rocking-

Players told to forget about Trophy 'Stones go top'

WEALDSTONE moved back to the top of the Gola League with a one goal victory over Kettering on Monday night.

And although it took a Nigel Thrower own goal after 14 minutes to put Stones back on top, manager Brian Hall said: "We are top of the table and I don't care how we got there."

He is now hoping that his side will go to Wembley for the FA Trophy final as Gola League champions, writes William Ball.

Hall has had a "heart to heart" with his players and told them to put Wembley out of their minds and concentrate on the title.

"I had what I would call an honest talk with the players," he said. "Wembley had been getting to the players but our meeting has flushed that out of their system."

"The Trophy is a bonus. The league is the business, it is what we are all about."

With just five games left, Wealdstone will never have a better chance of lifting the title. Top, and with games in hand, they do not have to worry about what their challengers do.

Stones simply have to do their job properly and the title is theirs.

"I would like to have the cham-



Brian Hall — heart to heart with his players.

pionship sewn up long before we go to Wembley," says Hall.

And it is easy to see why. If the championship race goes to the last match at Barnet, Hall would have a weakened squad to pick from with several players serving pre-Wembley suspensions.

With the Kettering match brought forward to Monday and the Barnet match, originally scheduled for last night (Thursday), put off until May 6, any suspensions would be served before the Trophy final.

Robin Wainwright assured himself of a Wembley date on Monday night when he was put in the referee's notebook for an innocuous looking challenge.

Paul Bowgett made absolutely

sure he won't miss out on the Wembley trip, too. Already facing a ban, he picked up some extra disciplinary points for needlessly having a go at Kettering keeper Godwin.

Hall's only doubt for the Trophy final now is Dennis Byatt. On the brink of a suspension he now has to either steer clear of trouble, or get sent off against Dagenham on Saturday.

In the first half of Monday's match, most of the action was concentrated in the Kettering penalty area.

Brian Greenaway was just wide with a long range effort after just nine minutes, with Stones taking the lead five minutes later.

Alan Cordice's through ball saw Mark Graves and Thrower chasing the ball, with the hapless Kettering defender lobbing his own keeper as he attempted a back pass.

Kettering opened the second half with a brief flurry, Bob Iles twice being forced to fine save by Jenas.

Former Watford player Ian Bolton was sent off 12 minutes from time for a nasty foul which launched Cordice into touch.

There were second half bookings for Kettering's Fee and Billy Jeffrey and Wealdstone's Steve Perkins and Greenaway.

Wealdstone: Iles, Perkins, Davies, Ryan, Bowgett, Wainwright, Greenaway, Holmes, A Cordice, Graves, Donnellan, Subs: N Cordice, Johnson

BY TIM PARKS



ham Road with an absolute belter from Andy Graham and the Conference title was ours! **Wealdstone: Bob Iles, Steve Perkins, Roy Davies, Dennis Byatt, Paul Bowgett, Robin Wainwright, Brian Greenaway, Lee Holmes, Alan Cordice, Mark Graves, Gary Donnellan, Subs: Neil Cordice, Nigel Johnson**
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SEASON 84-85 OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
WEALDSTONE
Football Club
THE GOLA LEAGUE
MONDAY 22 APRIL
v KETTERING TOWN
GOLA LEAGUE 30p

THE Stones' programme for the Dagenham game is a personal favourite as it pays tribute (right) to the Sunday morning footballers of SFC Wealdstone (the supporters' football team that played between 1978 to 2005) who fulfilled the Capital League match at Dagners a week or so earlier. Of the eight SFC players who wore the blue shirts with distinction that night, Jon Taffel, Don Cross, Gordon McKay, Tim Parks and Martin Allen still go to every Stones game while Paul Williams and Neale Harvey make it to The Vale when they can. SFC rose from the fifth Division of the Marathon League in 1979 to the Premier Division by the year 2000 - and won the title in 2001. Next year there are plans for a 40th Anniversary...

SFC Wealdstone did us proud . . .

DUE to the welter of excitement this past 10 days or so, I feel not nearly enough attention has been focused on the recent Morrill Homes Capital League match when we went down so narrowly to Dagenham, 3-2.

I intend to set the matter right now, for I don't suppose many people are acquainted with the full facts. Wealdstone, for that match fielded six players from SFC Wealdstone FC, the Supporters' team, plus Paul Cotter in goal, Lee Holmes, Hughie Dow and two trialists. They went 2-0 down by the interval and in the second half, with Holmes and one of the trialists off, we had EIGHT SFC players. Incredibly they pulled back to 2-2 and the Dagners winner looked palpably offside! Altogether a tremendous achievement against a Dagenham side which included seven first team regulars and a sprinkling from their successful reserve team side.

The SFC Wealdstone players were Paul Williams, Jon Taffel, Don Cross, Gordon McKay, Justin O'Brien (Capt), Neale Harvey, Tim Parks and Martin Allen.

This sets the record straight and gives deserved credit for a fabulous display by a team of Sunday morning footballers against a team of semi-professionals . . .

Incidentally, SFC Wealdstone, who top the Marathon Sunday League's Div 4 have now won 14 and lost but one of their 15 games, scoring 70 goals and conceding only 11! Leading scorers are Parks (29), O'Brien (27), Harvey (26), and McKay (20), while Parks and Trevor Davies have appeared in all 35 games this season.

Tremendous, lads, and good luck . . .

COLIN POPE

Funny-shaped balls at Lower Mead..

A week before the aforementioned Kettering game in April 1985, Lower Mead staged its first ever rugby league match when Fulham RFC hired the ground for its Second Division game against Whitehaven (the Cumbrian town, incidentally, from which Jonny

Wright hails).

Fulham RFC had been in existence for four years, since the Football Club chairman Ernie Clay decided to add an extra income stream at Craven Cottage - and their first season saw the club won immediate

promotion to the top flight.

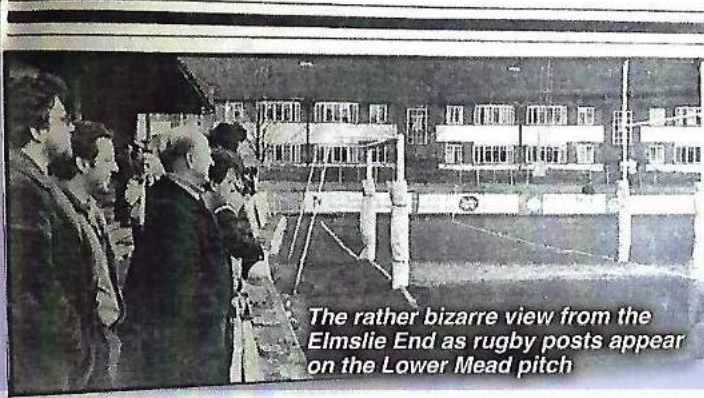
But they came straight back down and problems stacked up - the pitch at the Cottage had disintegrated in the wet winter following the collapse of the main drain to the River Thames under the Miller Stand and despite winning the Divi-

sion Two Championship in 1982-83, a second immediate relegation in 1983-84 coupled with continuing financial losses saw Fulham pull the plug at the end of their fourth season. Most of the players had moved on as free agents and a new team began life at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.

Apart from Lower Mead, Fulham also played at Hendon,

CONTINUED OVERPAGE>>

Page 72 OBSERVER Friday, April 19, 1985



The rather bizarre view from the Elmslie End as rugby posts appear on the Lower Mead pitch

Fulham bring in the fans

Big welcome for arrival of rugby stars

Fulham 10 Whitehaven 10
RUGBY League came to Wealdstone for the first time on Sunday and proved so popular that it will be back.

A crowd of 796 was at Lower Mead to see Fulham take on Whitehaven and they were treated to an exciting feast of attacking rugby, writes William Bull.

In the end the match finished all-square but Fulham can consider themselves unlucky not to have taken full points, with Whitehaven snatching the draw with a last minute drop goal.

Fulham's points came from three penalties by man-of-the-match Adrian Cambriani and a superb solo try from Steve Mills. Wealdstone chairman David Morrilt, who makes no secret of his ambition to see Fulham playing at Lower Mead on a permanent basis, said:

"I thoroughly enjoyed the game. It was a fabulous start and I would love to have Fulham at Wealdstone full time.

"We are still talking terms and I want them to come here. We had not problems today. There were 10 policemen here and they had nothing to do at all. There was not even any swearing from the crowd."

Fulham secretary John Rathbone was "delighted" at the response to the Rugby League venture at Lower Mead.

"The hospitality of the Wealdstone people was marvellous," he said. "The ground staff worked really hard and put a lot of effort in and for them to accommodate us after such an important football match was superb.

"It was a very encouraging attendance and the potential here is good, there were several new faces in the crowd and the atmosphere was terrific."

The preparations for Sunday's game were made by Alan Clifton, who brought the posts over from Chiswick.

He was out on the ground on Sunday with groundsmen George Perkins and Colin Saxby, rolling the pitch, painting on the lines and putting up the posts.

"I was well pleased with the way everything went," he said. "The standard of play and the

behaviour of the spectators was excellent.

"If some of our football supporters came down to watch a game I think they would be pleasantly surprised and enjoy it."

Fulham manager Roy Lester hopes that his side will move to Lower Mead.

"The ground itself has a Rugby League feel about it," he said; "I was very pleased. This place is ideal for Rugby League.

"The finer point have got to be sorted out between the powers that be and let's hope that they come up with a favourable decision — one that will bring us here.

"We feel there is scope for both football and rugby here. If we can see both teams doing well I do not think there will be any problems whatsoever."

Lester is rapidly becoming a Wealdstone fan: "The first result I look for on a Sunday morning is Wealdstone's I am delighted that they are going to Wembley. They are a successful side and I hope we can go along with them."

He said that critics feared that Rugby League would ruin the Lower Mead pitch but added after the game:

"It does not look as though it has been played on. I was impressed with the playing surface and so were all the players. We would love to play on a pitch like that all the time.

"I was amazed that there was so much grass on it at this stage of the season, it was a credit to the groundstaff."

Even Wealdstone's tight ground did not affect the playing area. The rugby posts were put on the six-yard box and there was still plenty of room.

Lester was disappointed that Fulham failed to win but thought that a draw was a fair result.

"The bonus was that it was a good exciting game and the sort of match that will bring people back," he said.

Fulham's next match at Lower Mead will be on Sunday, April 28 when they take on Bramley in another Slalom Lager Division Two match.

Fulham: Bryan, Cambriani, Mills, Townsend, Oiler, Davis, Supposon, Heatsey, Garner, Key, Kelly, Webster, Duffy. Replacements: Kinsey, Hoare.

Brentford and even Stamford Bridge. Despite making the right noises about playing at Wealdstone, Fulham only played three games at our ground and were off again. The struggling club eventually returned to Crystal Palace in 1990.

Since then, however, the club has enjoyed success since changing its name firstly to London Crusaders and then to London Broncos after the owners of Australian RL club Brisbane Broncos bought the London outfit.

When Super League was launched in 1994, the Broncos (despite playing in the second level) were invited to compete as it was felt that a 'London presence' would boost the competition.

Thus Fulham RFC, in its new incarnation as London Broncos found itself playing at Charlton's Valley Stadium in front of crowds finally matching the early attendances at Craven Cottage. They were Super League runners-up in 1997 but eventually interested again dwindled - especially after another name change as the Broncos merged with Harlequins and moved to play at The Stoop.

The club clung to its Super League status, even after yet another name change back to London Broncos and a move to Griffin Park, but was eventually relegated to the RL Championship in 2013 after moving to share with Barnet at The Hive.

Now, in 2017, the club are pretty much back at the same level as 1985. They play at the Trailfinders ground in Ealing in front of crowds of 500-600 - and narrowly missed out on promotion last season when losing a play-off to Leeds Rhinos at Ealing in front of 1,800.



FULHAM (dark shirts) gave an exciting display in their first appearance at Wealdstone Football Club.

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Seven years ago, our first brush with the play-offs but it was a game too far

Thursday April 22 2010, Ryman League Premier Division: Wealdstone 2 Tonbridge 1

WHAT a crazy end to the season this was! We played 20 games in 54 days, about one every two and a half days, as a long FA Cup run and a long wet winter - forcing postponements - forced the Stones to shoehorn just too many games into the last couple of months.

Gordon Bartlett's excellent book about that season, 'Off the Bench', highlighted the week of this Tonbridge game in particular.

An unexpectedly long run in the Ryman League Cup added to the problems. We actually reached the final (in another week of four games) and had to play 120 minutes against Leatherhead before losing on penalties. And then had two players red-carded in the final just when we dreaded suspensions to our flagging squad!

Fortunately, the astute GB had captured 18 year-old striker Matt McClure (right) on loan from



Wycombe Wanderers and his goals revived our play-off hopes. He netted twice at Horsham in a 3-1 win and bagged both in this Thursday night win over play-off rivals Tonbridge at the Vale. Two days earlier we had snatched a point from Champions Dartford in a valiant show at Ruislip, thanks to a late Alan Massey goal. Tonbridge were on a great late run and we were almost out on our feet! They took the lead but McClure levelled with a volley from a Lee Chappell long throw.

And as Gordon describes in his book (above right) it was another Matty Mac strike of pure quality (similar to Danny Green's goal here last Saturday) at the bottom end of the Vale that saw us take all three points and kill off Tonbridge's play-off dreams. We then had to win our final



Then a long throw from Chaps, knocked down and Matt McClure equalized from yet another volley. The fans were fantastic, really getting behind us as they knew exactly what was at stake. Then, three little incidents that helped us. Chaps gave the ball away in his own half and Tonbridge squandered the opportunity. A free header from a corner crashed against the crossbar and finally, we presented them with a breakaway from our sloppy throw in and we got away with that too.

Three basic errors in the last ten minutes of the half which thankfully didn't cost us. We used them to highlight the importance of concentration at half time. I have to mention half time as it was so important to the rest of the game. We left their bench very uptight and it was transmitting the pressure and anxiety onto the players. We tried to be exactly the opposite. As we came in at half time I wanted everything to be nice and relaxed so I took my time and let all the boys sit down. It was all quiet - except that we could hear their manager ranting and raving. I slowly poured and sugared my tea then said 'just listen to that. That's desperation. They are under so much pressure. With their run, they are expected to do well tonight. We are going to relax, keep things tight and maintain our discipline.' I highlighted the problems at the end of the half and then added that we should look to get strikes in early on goal as their keeper was spending a lot of time off his line.

Well, blow me down, the first ten seconds of the second half, young Matt McClure picked the ball up from the kick-off ran a couple of yards and drilled one into the top corner. We were 2 - 1 up. Ten seconds. It was very early to score and I wondered if we could hang on but we did. We defended superbly with great discipline. The anxiety from Tonbridge became more and more evident and they went from playing the ball wide and forcing us back to lumping the ball down the middle. It was a valuable lesson. You want people to be 'up for it' but sometimes it can go too far the other way. We were totally drained but delighted with the result. On to Saturday, one game, ninety minutes, could we do it again? Carshalton needed to win to ensure safety, we needed to win and hope one of three other sides dropped a point to get us into the play-offs.

game, two days later and again at the Vale v Carshalton - and hope fifth placed Kingstonian failed to win their last game - to extend our season.

But it was a game too far. Carshalton had a week to prepare for the match and they were 4-1 up at half time with a hat trick from Byron Harrison (who we had tried to sign) and another from a certain Richard Jolly.

But we still remember that McClure strike. He scored four times in eight games in a blue shirt and went on to have a decent career at Wycombe, netting 24 goals in 101 games before being sold to Dagenham & Redbridge. He scored a goal in every four games for the Daggers and is now scoring regularly for Aldershot Town.



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1	Tony Drew	39	4=1	31	Greedy Pig	25	1=0	61	SENCO	20	3=1
2	Hubert McHubert	38	3=1	32	Mim's Goodies	25	3=0	62	Duncan Hadland	19	2=0
3	NED	36	2=1	33	Mark Lloyd	25	2=1	63	Guy Edwards 2	19	3=1
4	Alex Corner	35	3=0	34	Barry Benveniste	25	3=1	64	Ron Moore	19	3=1
5	Munk	33	3=0	35	Roger Slater2	25	2=1	65	Clare Kemp	18	2=0
6	Ray Corner	32	3=0	36	Quentin Fox	25	3=2	66	Ellezbellz	18	2=2
7	John Banks	31	3=0	37	Steve Paul	25	1=2	67	Paul Harvey	18	2=0
8	Platty	31	3=0	38	AMugPunter	24	2=2	68	Lew's Blues	18	2=0
9	Lacey Corner	31	4=0	39	Barbara Robson	24	1=0	69	Sonny Boy	18	4=1
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12	Sprouthead	29	3=1	42	Sutton Stones	23	3=1	72	Stuart Elder	17	2=0
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15	Nick Symmons	28	2=1	45	Robert Platt	22	4=1	75	Keith Harris	16	4=2
16	Duncan Penman	28	3=0	46	Lapels	22	3=1	76	Micheal Burns	16	3=2
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18	James Klarfeld	27	3=0	48	Hamish Clark	21	2=1	78	Bankzzy's Boyz	15	2=0
19	Balblair Girl	27	2=1	49	Rich Clay	21	2=1	79	Balblair Boy	15	3=0
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26	Tom Coulson	26	2=1	56	Guy Edwards 1	20	2=0	86	Lord Arthur	9	4=1
27	Alan Couch	25	3=0	57	Roo Roo	20	2=1	87	Munkey	9	2=2
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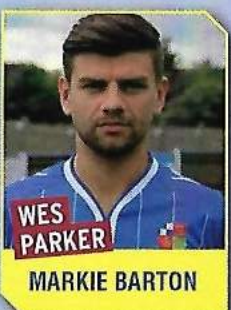
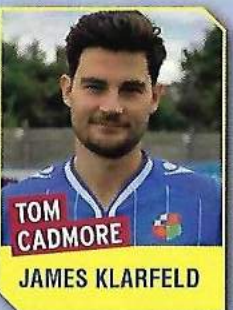
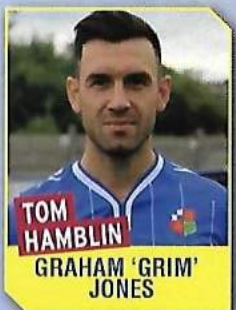
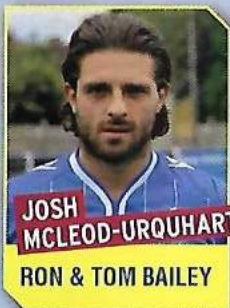
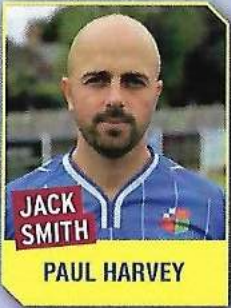
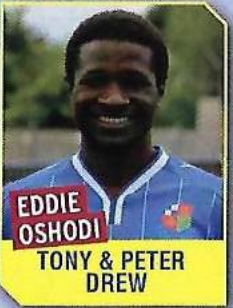
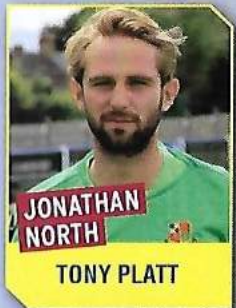
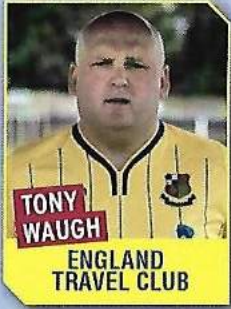
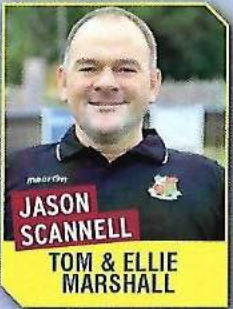
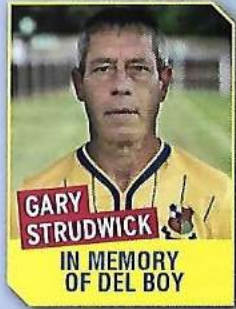
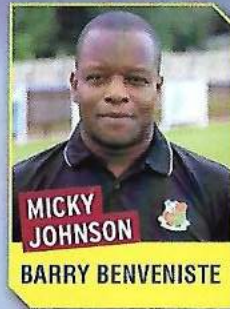
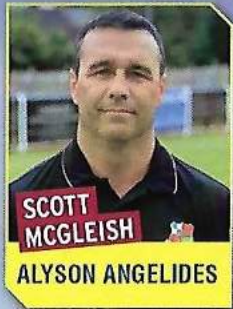
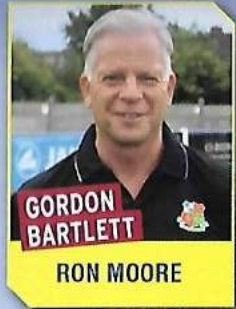
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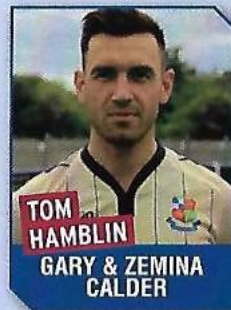
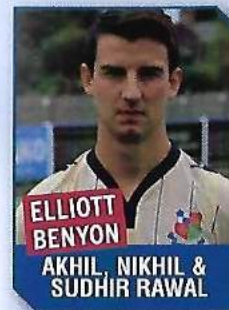
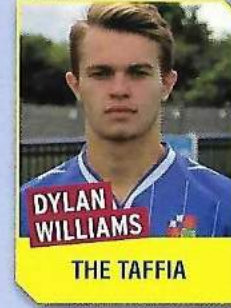
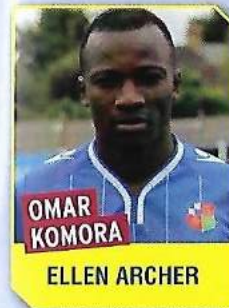
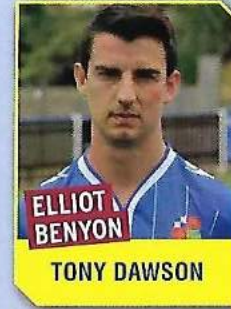
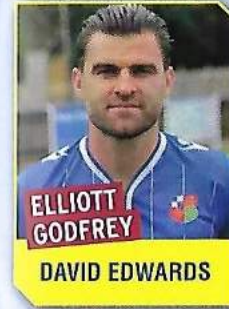
STONES

The cost of kit sponsorship for the whole of Season 2016/17 is £130.



KIT SPONSORS - Season 2016/2017

To sponsor your favourite speak to Peter Worby (07967 698370)



STONES LEAGUE TABLE

Vanarama National League South 2016/17 @ 19th April 2017

	All					Home					Away					+/-	Pts	Stones' results				
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A							
1 Maidenhead United	40	29	8	3	89	27	20	16	4	0	52	9	20	13	4	3	37	18	62	95	2-1	0-2
2 Ebbsfleet United	40	27	9	4	93	29	20	16	3	1	61	15	20	11	6	3	32	14	64	90	2-4	1-4
3 Chelmsford City	40	22	12	6	85	45	20	13	6	1	51	22	20	9	6	5	34	23	40	78	1-1	1-4
4 Dartford	40	23	9	8	76	43	20	15	3	2	45	20	20	8	6	6	31	23	33	78	0-4	2-2
5 Poole Town	40	20	11	9	61	44	20	12	6	2	36	16	20	8	5	7	25	28	17	71	2-2	1-1
6 Hungerford Town	40	19	12	9	66	45	20	12	5	3	36	16	20	7	7	6	30	29	21	69		0-2
7 Hampton & Richmond	40	17	12	11	78	55	20	8	5	7	35	28	20	9	7	4	43	27	23	63	2-4	1-1
8 Wealdstone	40	17	11	12	58	57	20	6	7	7	27	31	20	11	4	5	31	26	1	62	--	--
9 Bath City	40	17	8	15	68	48	20	9	5	6	39	23	20	8	3	9	29	25	20	59	0-1	2-1
10 St Albans City	40	16	10	14	68	61	20	11	3	6	41	29	20	5	7	8	27	32	7	58	2-2	2-1
11 Hemel Hempstead Town	40	15	12	13	73	76	20	9	6	5	34	31	20	6	6	8	39	45	-3	57	1-1	3-1
12 Eastbourne Borough	40	15	10	15	79	66	20	11	4	5	48	28	20	4	6	10	31	38	13	55	1-4	1-5
13 East Thurrock United	40	14	12	14	70	62	20	7	8	5	36	24	20	7	4	9	34	38	8	54	1-0	
14 Oxford City	40	14	7	19	47	72	20	7	5	8	20	32	20	7	2	11	27	40	-25	49	1-1	3-0
15 Welling United	40	12	7	21	62	65	20	9	2	9	35	24	20	3	5	12	27	41	-3	43	0-1	1-0
16 Weston-super-Mare	40	12	6	22	56	69	20	5	4	11	31	35	20	7	2	11	25	34	-13	42	1-0	2-1
17 Concord Rangers	40	10	11	19	55	72	20	6	6	8	26	35	20	4	5	11	29	37	-17	41	0-0	1-0
18 Whitehawk	40	10	7	23	46	70	20	5	5	10	22	32	20	5	2	13	24	38	-24	37	0-0	0-0
19 Truro City	40	10	7	23	51	94	20	6	5	9	27	40	20	4	2	14	24	54	-43	37	1-2	2-1
20 Gosport Borough	40	9	8	23	41	96	20	6	3	11	21	44	20	3	5	12	20	52	-55	35	2-1	3-1
21 Margate	40	7	4	29	26	77	20	6	2	12	17	38	20	1	2	17	9	39	-51	25	2-1	1-0
22 Bishop's Cleeve	40	7	3	30	25	100	20	2	1	17	10	51	20	5	2	13	15	49	-75	24	5-0	3-0

FOLLOW THE STONES AWAY

East Thurrock United

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 29th April, 3:00pm

www.pitchero.com/clubs/eastthurrockunited - @1EastThurrockFC

Opposition to be determined

MIDDLESEX SENIOR CHARITY CUP FINAL 2016/2017

Monday, 1st May, 7:30pm

GAME TO BE PLAYED AT HANWELL TOWN FC - CHECK WEB SITE FOR OPPOSITION DETAILS

Hampton & Richmond Borough

MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP FINAL 2016/2017

Saturday, 6th May, 3:00pm

DATE PROVISIONAL - GAME TO BE PLAYED AT HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH FC - CHECK WEB SITE FOR DETAILS

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good luck for the
2016-17 season

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