

WEALDSTONE v CONCORD

all blue	all yellow
Jonathan North	Tim Brown
Eddie Oshodi	Rob Girdlestone
Jerome Okimo	Jordan Brown
Josh Hill	Harry Lee
Ciaron Brown	Lewis Knight
Danny Green	Taylor McKenzie
Sam Cox (c)	Billy Roast
Elliot Benyon	Lewis Taaffe
Dan Fitchett	Dexter Peter
Matt Whichelow	Amos Nasha
Abobaker Eisa	Jordan Cox
Ricky Wellard	Jason Williams
Shaquille Hippolyte-Patrick	Steve Cawley
David Hunt	Khale Da Costa
Elliott Godfrey	Kyron Farrell
Liam Harwood	Jordan Sanderson
Benjamin Crifley	Adam Topley
Ryan Sellers	Audrius Lauceys

Referee: James Oldham

Assistants: Steve Scott & Harry Moore

MATCH SPONSOR: Ray Corner & Peter Carter

MATCHBALL DONATION: 1. Nick Woolford

2. In memory of Dennis Mills

NEXT HOME GAME:

v HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE (League) on Monday August 14, KO 7.45pm

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WRITTEN IN STONE Mark Hyde



very warm 2017/18 season welcome to all of our supporters, officials, players and supporters of Concord Rangers and today's match officials. We hope you all have an enjoyable afternoon here at Grosvenor Vale.

So, here we are at the start of a new season and along with every other football supporter at this time of year, we dream of success but fear the outcome in equal measure. We have by most people's measure had a cohesive and productive pre-season. Chairman, Peter Marsden and Manager, Gordon Bartlett appear to be happy that we are in a better position as we start this campaign than in previous years.

Today also sees the launch of our brand new funding initiative (see page 9). Please support this and have some fun with your choices....

On the programme front the team have spent our pre-season tweaking with layouts, re-signing columnists and actively avoiding any contact with deadlines. We hope you like what you see, if not let us know at wfcprogramme@gmail.com or @Wealdstoneprog. The same addresses also apply should you wish to join our happy band and submit some words for

DESPAIR, IT'S THE HOPE I CAN'T STAND

publication... don't be shy.

Today's game is kindly sponsored by Ray Corner & Peter Carter. Ray is unfortunately in hospital as I write, so get well soon Ray and enjoy your hospitality on your return. We have two match ball donors this afternoon in Nick Woolford and also from our match day stewards in memory of one of their and our own Dennis Mills ,who sadly passed away earlier this summer.

Our next home game is on Monday 14th August at 7.45 against Havant & Waterlooville, followed quickly on Saturday 19th when we entertain Chelmsford City. Both of these games are pre-dated by trips to St Albans on Tuesday 8th August and then Gloucester City on Saturday 12th. St. Albans is a local trip and the supporters club are running a coach to Gloucester so no excuses... see you there.

Finally, thanks to John Cleese for the headline & enjoy the match.

Mark

MATCH SPONSORS

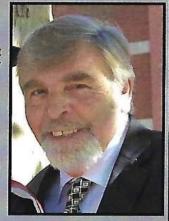
Ray Corner & Peter Carter



BALL DONORS - 1. Nick Woolford
2. In memory of Dennis Mills

OBITUARY - DENNIS MILLS

In memory of Dennis Mills following his recent battle with cancer; our thoughts are with Brenda, Darryl and family. Since the club's move to Ruislip Dennis became a passionate supporter of Wealdstone FC, making his debut as a voluntary matchday steward in the FA Trophy semi-final against Newport County. He went on to make about 150 hi-vis appearances for The Stones, alongside his son and best mate Darryl, Many of you will know Dennis as a larger than life character with a great sense of fun and an infectious laugh. Amongst the steward team he became affectionately known as 'Papa Smurf' and he especially enjoyed the banter over the radios and the post-match pints. Two of Dennis' many highlights were escorting Ginge off the pitch after his hilarious topless sprint to hug goal scorer Peter Dean at the end of the Isthmian winning season, and the fabulous alcohol fuelled celebrations at Maidenhead United in the last match of our return season to National South. Cheers Dennis - thanks for the memories: they'll always guarantee us a smile!





WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2017/2018

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

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Treasurer Barry Benveniste
General Manager Nick DuGard
Press Officer Nick DuGard
(nick.dl@outlook.com)
PA Announcer Ashley Holding
Kit Manager Tony Waugh
Boardroom Hospitality Alison Moran,
Jacky Shore
Club Photographer Freddie Patmore
Web Site Manager Alan & Matt Hill

MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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wfcprogramme@gmail.com

MATCH DAY OPERATIONS

Manager Steve Marshall Safety Officer Victor Klarfeld Match Day Staff Paul Bowley, Tony Waller, Richard Hayward, Russell Greenberg, Adam Clancey, Matthew Impey, John Cahillane

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LIAISON OFFICERS

WFCSC / Social Club Markie Barton WFC / Social Club James Klarfeld

FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT

Manager Gordon Bartlett
Assistant Manager Scott McGleish
Coaches Mickey Johnson,
Steve Newing, James Gray
Sports Therapists Team James Smith,
Gary Strudwick, Chris Elliott
Goalkeeping Coach Jason Scannell

MAJOR HONOURS SINCE 1950

LEAGUE TITLES

1951 / 1952 Athenian League
1973 / 1974 Southern League Division One South
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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)

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

PETER MARSDEN Chairman's Notes



'Gordon and Scott know they have my 100% backing'



irstly on behalf of
everyone at Wealdstone
Football Club I would
like to start by paying tribute
to those of our supporters
who cheerfully gave up
their Saturdays to carry out
improvement works to the
ground.

On the pitch Gordon and I have focused a) on keeping the players we wanted from last year's squad that did so magnificently in the final 3rd of the season (and I think we pretty well kept everyone we wanted to and in the face of a lot of interest from other clubs too) b) bringing in new players who can 'add something different' (only time will tell but the defence and the wing positions already look stronger to me than last season).

As my fellow directors keep reminding me the playing budget is again quite high but if we aim to be a footballing force sometimes you have to 'roll the dice' and this season particularly (with Ebbsfleet now mercifully gone) I feel we are more than capable of at the very least holding our own with any one in this league.

Pre-season training on grass at Harefield Academy has been

excellent and as the evenings get shorter we will be moving on to the floodlit full-size 3G pitch at Harefield which is a top surface. I am very confident that the players are as fit and well-trained as at any time in the history of Wealdstone FC.

Gordon and Scott know they have my 100% backing and I genuinely believe they have the ability (and most importantly the hunger) to make us genuine promotion contenders. I know that all the players some of whom have played at very high levels feel exactly the same.

One thing we have to do this year is substantially improve our points record at home. Last season even if our home form was only 'upper middling' we would have easily been top 5 because of our superb away record but it is at home where we need to be regularly doing the business - this will help swell gates hopefully to around the 1,000 mark and also will get local businesses wanting to be part of the Wealdstone feelgood factor.

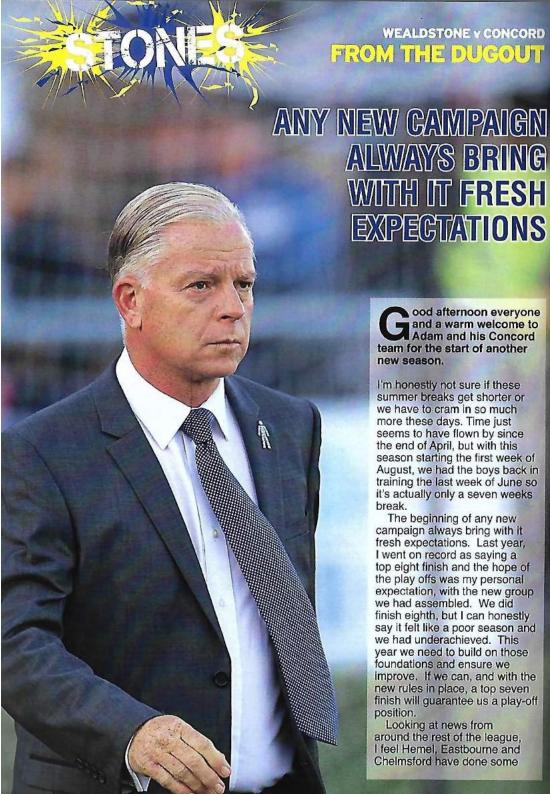
From a personal front I

would like to thank everyone who has me feel so welcome at the club and will do my best to repay your faith by giving you a football team (and a stadium) that you the most loyal supporters in non-league football deserve.

Let's all get behind Coxy and the lads. 3 points please.

Peter





GORDON BARTLETT



good business during the summer and I'll be surprised if they, along with Dartford are not in the mix at the end of the season. As usual, someone has quietly gone about their summer signings and will hit the ground running and you always have to be aware of the experience of the relegated sides. It's probably going to be wide open and if you add Hungerford and Poole, who will probably build on last season and Gloucester who have moved over for the North, I've already mentioned half the teams in the league.

We worked hard to make sure we got pre-season right this vear. Peter and I went over to Harefield Academy at the end of last season and decided their facilities would make preparation for more beneficial than training on the side pitches here at the Vale. The balance of the fixtures needed to be right, training had to be more intense and also ensure personnel could attend sessions on a more regular basis. I'm pleased to say, all the above, despite a couple of set-backs, has helped put us in better shape than previous Conference South campaigns.

Eight pre-season games has given us enough time to whittle the squad down, use various formations and hopefully gain some good match fitness. Good wins against the young professionals of Fulham, Reading and Watford, a win at Bedfont and then competitive draws against Maidenhead and Slough. As I write, we still have a tough test as we go to Hitchin on Saturday. Our only negative was the defeat by Hampton in the County Cup Final with a number of players unavailable and an unbalanced looking squad. We looked very flat and I must say that was a big disappointment, giving the ball away too often and showing a lack of real determination.

Hopefully that we serve as a kick up the backside before the real stuff starts.

The summer has seen the departure of three long serving players in Tom, Wes and Jonny. All three have been a major influence in our Ryman Championship winning season and help establish ourselves in the Conference South. All three are excellent characters and good clubmen who always gave everything to the cause out on the pitch. Tom got an excellent offer to join Hemel, but Jonny and Wes both realised that their personal circumstances had changed considerably since they joined us and could no longer quarantee the commitment we required to be successful at this level. We thank them all and wish them well for the future.

As some depart, others replace and we welcome a few new faces to the Vale this season with Josh, Benji, Shaq, Abs, and Liam. I hope they all have a long and most importantly, successful stay at the club. We also see the return and of ex skipper Jimmy Gray coming back on the management team. He has gained great experience as manager of St Albans and Barton and I feel he typifies the desire and mental strength we need to help us succeed.

I feel it only fair to mention to the fans some of the joys of managing. I appreciate how easy it looks and anyone who plays Championship manager will never appreciate the real life situations and problems that arise. I write these notes with just over a week to go and after

Thursday's training before our last warm up game at Hitchin. Ideally, we should now just be putting the finishing touches to our preparations, but just this week has seen Matty, Liam and Coxy sustain injuries and Ryan Sellers has been informed his ankle ligament damage looks like a four week lay-off. Our Cup Final team was decimated with no Ryan, Greenie ill and Abs and Shag cup tied which left us with only 13 signed players. Mustafa's international clearance has continued to drag on and has now turned out to be far more complicated than first thought. Other targets like David Ijaha and Ryheem want to pursue playing at a higher level for now. Finishing on a positive, after interest from numerous clubs Ciaron has decided he will not go on any more trials and concentrate on his Wealdstone playing career.

The roller coaster is about to begin once again and I can assure you the will be some bumpy periods along the way. I really hope we can all enjoy the ride, but remember to keep results in perspective and don't let the negative vibes make the situation worse than it actually is. I know we have a minority group of 'doom and gloom' merchants, but don't let those voices drag the rest of us down. We have something very special at this football club and the envy of many, so let's make damn sure we continue to push it forward and get us back to where we want to be. We are in this together, management, players, board and fans so make sure you do your bit, get behind the lads on the pitch and let's have a real go for it.



NICK DUGARD



General Managers notes

elcome everyone to a brand new season of football at The Vale!
The close season at a football club is never, ever, a time for rest but this summer has been particularly busy with lots of activity both outwardly visible such as the ground works, and much vitally important work behind the scenes.

From my perspective, I have now been in the GM role (combined with my WFCSC duties) for several months and the close season has given me the time and opportunity, with my operations team colleagues, to start to make a difference on the nuts and bolts operational side of the club at this time of change and transition.

Volunteers are the life blood of any club and we have been busy recruiting as some excellent and long-standing volunteers have stepped down at the end of last season in several key areas. We say a huge thank you to all those great volunteers including Tony Waller, Russell Greenberg and Peter John-Baptiste, although you are always very welcome back to duty guys and you have already helped us out during the friendlies!

Over the summer we have recruited several new volunteers in three important areas: stewarding, match day announcements and match photography. So, we welcome:
Stewarding/Match day assistance - Adam Clancy, Matt Impey and John Cahillane
Match day photography -

Freddie Patmore

PA System announcing – **Ash Holding** (welcome back Ash!)

Victor Klarfeld has also taken on the key role of Safety Officer

Please come forward and speak to me, or Steve Marshall by the players tunnel if you would like to volunteer on match days – we always need more help in a wide range of areas. Get involved!

The Season Ticket Campaign launched last April has been an enormous success and our thanks to all our fans, old and new (and there are lots of them!) for the fantastic take up for what was a fantastic early bird offer! We have sold near to 500 tickets (200% increase) so the turnstile dynamics will change somewhat.

PLEASE GO TO THE TURNSTILES A LITTLE EARLIER FROM THE SOCIAL CLUB BEFORE KICK-OFF TO AVOID QUEUING!

Some tickets are still to be collected and these can be picked up before the match today in or outside the RSC. Late season tickets can be purchased on line via our website.

STONES IN THE COMMUNITY

Eddie spent time at RAF Northolt's

Norfest spreading the word.

*NEW FUNDRAISING SCHEME ANNOUNCED! *

The Ops team have been hard at work on devising a new and innovative fan donation scheme for our brilliant new stand, a fundraiser that is linked to your all time favourite Stones player!

SEE ELSEWHERE IN THIS PROGRAMME FOR DETAILS OF HOW TO TAKE PART, PLEASE DONATE, AND HAVE SOME FUN IN DETERMINING WHO HAS THE MOST 'SEAT VOTES'!!

We'll keep you updated as this most important scheme progresses. Please see me, Jez Albert or Alan Hill if you need more information.

We have been stepping up our community work over the summer with Nick Symmons leading on some great schools' work that we will be spot lighting more this season and you will have seen on the website. Feedback has been excellent — as I have heard first hand. Carol Griffiths has been working very hard on key local events, including the excellent Hillingdon

Business Expo that took place at Brunel University and more recently at the RAF Northolt 'Norfest' day in July. We'll keep you posted on more activities

That's enough for now

Up the Stones!

Nick DuGard

CELEBRATE YOUR FAVOURITE STONES PLAYER IN OUR NEW LEGENDS FUNDRAISING SCHEME!

Wealdstone FC have announced an innovative new fundraising scheme that will enable fans and businesses to donate a seat in the new stand for a minimum contribution of £60 in the name of their favourite Stones player* past or present as part of the celebration of the construction of our new facility at The Vale!!

You can donate as many seats as you wish; if you want you can also make up a team of your favourite 11 Stones Legends for just £500...We will provide regular updates on progress and plans for how we will capture and recognise the donations being made for all to see with this exciting fundraising initiative in the match day programme, website and club newsletter throughout the season.

Wealdstone Chairman Peter Marsden said: "I fully appreciate, and it is only right, that the lion's share of the financial costs of keeping our famous old club 'in the pink' fall on the shoulders of myself and the rest of the Board. However, I feel it is vital that as many people as possible support this scheme particularly as this season we are going all out for promotion. These minimum £60's can be the tipping point between us having a very good season and an outstanding one. Every penny will be used on player recruitment. I know in my bones that 2017-2018 season could well be a massive season for Wealdstone Football Club and in years to come I am sure we will all want to say, "I played my part". I also think the idea of everyone choosing their favourite player will provoke a lot of interest and prove just how eclectic our supporters are!"

HOW DO I DONATE?

Donations can be made in the following ways:

- On-line using a credit or debit card via the WFCSC Megastore.

 Visit: http://www.wfcmegastore.co.uk/
- By Electronic Bank Transfer –To WFC (2000)
 Ltd, Act No 43154759 + Sort Code 09-06-66 If you elect to use this Option please send a confirmatory e-mail to webmaster@wealdstone-fc.com with the 'players name' you have chosen.
- Print-out the application form from the website and send it with your cheque made payable to Wealdstone Football Club (2000) Ltd to Wealdstone FC, Grosvenor Vale, HA4 6JQ, Attention of Nick DuGard, General Manager

OR ...in person at any of our home VNLS games at the WFC Supporters Club Megastore in the ground, donations can be made by cash, cheque or debit/credit card.

NOTE: The same Stones player can be named by different contributors!

*If you don't wish to nominate a player, you can nominate yourself or the name of your business or a loved one as the donor!

Further enquiries to: Nick DuGard at: nick.d1@ outlook.com OR VISIT www.wealdstone-fc.com





turn up in numbers both home

and away and get behind the

team. Where we can improve

is to help and support during

the work that goes on behind

match days and contribute to all

the scenes. The supporters club

are always looking for helpers to

aid us in raising funds that can

be put back into the club. We

are trying to run a BBQ for the

Hemel game on 28th August so

if you would like to help with this

club, please see any committee

member or pop along to the me-

Onto Megastore matters and

there have been a few develop-

badges on priced a £10. We

have fridge magnets, both

plastic water pouches, new

mug designs and old ones restocked. We also have

new home and away shirts

These are priced at £35 for

ing one, please come to the

running low on some sizes.

Please feel free to keep the

Vinvl records as these are

el starts soon and the sup-

porters club will be running

the season. This season we

selling really well.

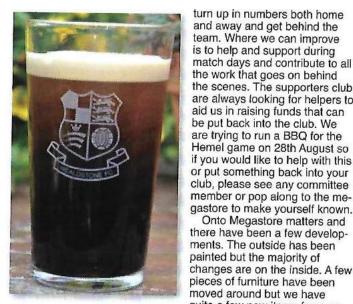
donations coming, especially

megastore as we are already

available and selling fast!

are interested in purchas-

Cheers



Good afternoon and welcome to the first Vanarama League South fixture against Concord Rangers, I hope that the players, officials and supporters have an enjoyable day and a safe journey back to Essex.

Well, it is the first game of the season and I am pleased to say that we can mathematically can win the league, we are still in the FA Cup, the FA Trophy and unbeaten at home. This is the season where we have a great opportunity to improve on last season and reach the play offs. For those that have seen some of the pre-season friendlies this looks achievable, for those at Hampton last week it could prove difficult.

As supporters, we need to do our part and we have proven that week in and week out we

WEALDSTONE v CONCORD SUPPORTERS CLUB **MARK RANDALL**

> WEALDSTONE F.C. SUPPORTERS CLUB

will be using Met Coaches of Watford and the first of these is to Gloucester City (Evesham), on 12th August. There is a flat fee of £20 for adults and £10 for under 14's. Bookings are now being taken by email at victor. klarfeld@btinternet.com or by text to 07881 624890. Don't forget to see Mim at the

gate for your golden goal fix and watch this space for WFCSC events in the coming season. We are already planning a fish and chip supper in November and a much more formal affair to mark the 60th anniversary of the supporters club in February March that might even include a Stones legend.

See you on the terraces (or in the megastore)

Mark



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Since 2000, the Football Foundation has been transforming grassroots facilities across the country thanks to the generous investment provided by the Premier League, The FA and the Government via Sport England.



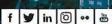
Foundation

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Roberts House, 2 Manor Road, Ruislip, Middx. HA4 7LB S-MINUTE INTERVIEW
CHRIS WOODS grabs a brief chat
with our new memeber of the
coaching staff James Gray



Welcome home Jimmy, it's been a while...

Gordon said you were always welcome back at Wealdstone when you left. Are you happy to be back?

Yeah, I'm over the moon to be honest. I think I've been away about six or seven years now, done my own thing and an opportunity has arisen, Gordon's invited me in and I'm looking forward to a new challenge to be honest.

You was Gordon's captain before, are you happy to be back working with him again? Yeah. I've known Gordon a long time now, I know how he works, obviously I'm coming back in a different capacity but I'm pretty honoured to be honest, to be coming in to a club that's really close to my heart, I had a great three/four years there and I'm looking forward to the challenge of trying to get them to the promised land of the National League Premier.

When you joined last time the club was close to hitting the play-offs and they came close again last year, do you think you have unfinished business here?

Yeah I think so. Gordon's got together a cracking squad here that had a little dip during the middle part of last season but they finished really strongly and I know quite a lot of the players down there, he's got a lot of experienced players that know that league and I think they can have a good crack

at it this year, obviously I think the expectation from people down there is that they should be pushing at least for a play-off position this year which is exciting for me to come and be part of. I'll bring my experiences of what I've down over the past four/five years in management and hopefully

can add something to it.
You're also working with
Nick Archer again who was
your chairman at St Albans,
is it better being a coach
where the pressure of being
a manager is taken away, can
that help your coaching skills
excel a bit more.

Yeah I think so. When you're a manager at a big club like St Albans like I was, the coaching side of things had to take a little bit of a step back because there's so many day-to-day things that you deal with that are nothing to do with training side of things so to get back into the coaching side of things and see if I can improve the boys along the way with the experience that I've got I'm hoping I can add something. Nick Archer was good to me, was a great chairman when I was down at St Albans and he's a real football man so linking up with people that I know is going to make my transition quite easy really. Do you think you'll fit into the role OK, because vou've been manager elsewhere and had a good season last year at Barton Rovers where you just lost out in the play-off final, is management an option you're looking to return to later?

At this moment in time this role suits me down to the ground because I've got a lot of things going on outside of football where I couldn't commit to full-time management at Barton

Rovers, it was a hard gig for me really, day-to-day, week-to-week down there, it just felt right for me at the minute

Like you said, it's been about six years since you left, what's changed since you were last here?

Oh it's changed massively. Obviously when I was last here in the Ryman League I think we missed out on the play-offs that season quite closely when I left but I've been back down there as a manager and a supporter to watch the boys and also have a look at what's going on down there. The ground and facilities, everything is geared up down there I think, it's looking a lot better, the ground looks a hell of a lot different compared to the first game I played down there when we just moved into Ruislip, it's got three or four new stands, the bar is thriving and the support has grown a lot since them days as well so. I think everything is geared up but it's a tough league to get out of for starters but I think everything is there and in place where we can go on and have a good season this year.



WEALDSTONE v CONCORD 05/08/2017

FOLLOWING BRIEF NEGOTIATIONS AND AT NO EXPENSE WHATSOEVER ELMSLIE ENDER IS BACK FOR A THIRD SEASON.

volution rather than

revolution seems the

order of the day or

certainly pre-season when it

comes to the development of

Wealdstone's squad for the

coming season. Most of last

being wholesale changes to

season's squad have been

retained rather than there

the playing staff.

continuity as any

There is much

to be said for

mass changes

to the playing

staff will mean

the newbies

a huge learning

squad. There is

curve on getting

integrated into the

Dartford onwards.

there was a uptick

in results towards

season and if we

the end of the

carry on in the

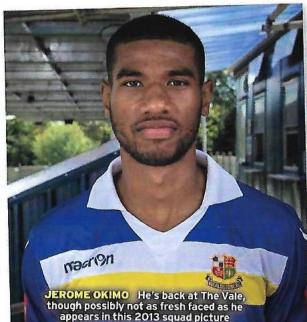
same vein this

year, Stones will

feature in the mix

line-up, we have only lost Tom

this season so the playing field should be leveller for those looking to reach the promised land of the Conference National. That said, what is clear from what both Tony Burman, the Dartford manager, and GB have said in the press is that there is wage inflation in just keeping your squad together, let



no doubt that from up for the play-offs.

alone bringing new players in. The nub being that it is costing more to get/keep the same. The chairman has already stated that there were numerous suitors for our squad and it has been an achievement to keep it together. Of last year's starting

Hamblin who has moved to

BY SUDHIR RAWAL

Hemel. Hamblin will no doubt be missblin who has moved to Hemel, Hamblin will no doubt be missed as he's been a rock at the back since he joined from Gloucester. In one way it is a surprise that a side hasn't "gone for it" with the possibility of a certain circus coming to the Conference South next season. What we saw with Ebbsfleet's financial muscle, is being blown out of the water in South Essex.

I am writing this still three weeks from when this article will see the light of day. so there maybe a

ELMSLIE ENDER



few changes still to our squad. Of the new boys, Abobaker Eisa has been the one that has caught the eye in the two

pre-season games that I have seen. Tricky, pacey and an ability to get the ball into the danger area will certainly see people on the edge when he plays. Whether he will be an impact player or a starter will be seen, but certainly a talented youngster. Our defence may even be stronger that last season with Josh Hill coming in from Chelmsford but also the "star" signing of the summer being Jerome Okimo. the best left back since a certain Stuart Pearce to play for the club, returning to the Vale, after spells at Stevenage and Braintree, A back five of Oshodi. Brown, Hill, Okimo and Sellars looks pretty impressive

on paper. It will be interesting to see how a 5-3-2 will work with our players.

With the advent of social media etc, it is quite easy to pick over the movers and shakers around the league and @ StonesGoals has put together a pretty impressive preview for the season at http://stonesgoals. co.uk/. Reading through it looks like Bath City and Hemel have

both done some pretty decent business, whilst last season's play-off losers, Chelmsford City, seem to have ripped up their

JONNY WRIGHT sadly Jonny has decided to move on this season.. A true fans favourite...

> squad and started again. If I can be indulgent for a moment, as far as we are concerned here at the Vale, a play-off spot really is a must, with a decent run in the two Football Association competitions also would be nice, together with much improved home form. Too much to ask for?

Some players come and go without even leaving a footprint

at football club, but two players left Wealdstone in the summer that will be viewed very fondly and in one case even gain

legendary status. Wes Parker moved onto Wingate and Finchley after seven years at the club, many of those as club captain. Skipper of the title winning side, I think the most obvious compliment you can give him is that the team, the defence, looked far better with him in the side than without and he lead the team with great distinction. The other player of note to move was Jonny Wright. It is fair to say that at times he divided opinion on the terraces with some not seeing his contribution in a favourable way. He came to Wealdstone from Workington and was described as the "complete forward" by his ex-manager. What we got was a hardworking, versatile player that on many occasions gave us a Plan B when one was required. I suspect from a management perspective he was an ideal player in that he seemed happy contributing in whichever way he could rather than cause a fuss if he wasn't starting. Whilst not prolific in front of goal, he certainly popped up with some very important ones. Both gents go with our thanks and gratitude. Finally before I finish,

congratulations to those involved in our season ticket promotion. Nearly 500 sold, probably unsurpassed anywhere in this division this season is a great achievement. The mission to average a thousand at home is certainly on.

Pics - Steve Foster

There is no out and out money team in the division



It's

Simon

Jeffreson

I love the weekends away watching the Stones... Truro, Southport, Bognor and Weston Super Mare were all top trips

Blimey, it's a full set of Jeffresons! Simon

(left) with his brother Phil and dad John

and a suspiciously well-stocked table

at glamorous East Thurrock last season

Do you follow any other team? Yes, my Premier League team is Tottenham and I'm an avid follower. Do you prefer

game I attended but it

was at Lower Mead.

Think it was in the

Beazer Home

league. Seem

to recall Enfield

at home being

What or who

persuaded you to

become a Stones

and my brother (PJ)

- both persuaded me

along and everyone

committed long-term

is aware they are

fans.

fan? My dad (JJ)

memorable.

Do you prefer lower-League football? Yes I do. This is where all football starts as all players progress through non league to major clubs, as has been proved by the likes of Stuart Pearce, Vinnie Jones and Jermaine Beckford at our club, just to name a few.

Any disadvantages? Obviously there are some terrible teams in non league football and the quality of passing / crossing does show but, saying that, have seen some fantastic football by lower league teams.

How do you fit watching

football, and Wealdstone, into your family/working life? Midweek games for me are virtually impossible through work commitments, but Saturday games either home or away are not a problem although certain away games would mean booking the Friday before off to travel up. This was the case for Truro away especially as it was bank holiday weekend and the last game of the season.

How big a part of your life is the game? I regularly volunteer at the ground helping with moving / adding advertising signs including sponsor signage and when possible getting the ground ready for the new season.

Most memorable game/s you've EVER seen? Too many to mention but, Swansea away in the FA Cup when it got postponed 3 times and then eventually got played, Merthyr away purely for the coach journey!!

And most memorable Wealdstone game, and moment? Again, too many to mention

Continued overpage

WEALDSTONE V CONCORD RANGERS FAN IN THE STAND

but, Southport away with Wellard's superb strike to win the game, along with the great set-up of that club. Then of course how can anyone forget the Hemel away game last season when Benyon showed his quality by getting that hat-trick? They were world class goals. Then Glen Little's

run at Dulwich four years ago with that sublime chip to finish the goal off - and there was Danny Green's great volley against Stortford at the end of last season... mot to mention Scott Davies' magical strike against Brockenhurst from the halfway line in the FA Cup two years ago. No doubt I've missed many other moments but for me these five especially stand out.

What really gets your goat watching football? Inept referees, cheating players who deliberately get players booked / sent off which happens regularly. Linesman / women who cant keep up with play and miss crucial offside decisions just to name a few.

Have you ever played the game yourself (to any level) and most memorable moments? No, I've never been fit enough to do so! Any suggestions to improve

l just need to pick out Scotty at the back stick ...



Here at Programme Towers we had our own ironic take, of course, on Glenn Little's fabulous goal at Dulwich...

your Stones -watching experience at the Vale? At present need a exit from the new seated stand as the scaffolding prevents anyone getting out without having to walk all the way round (this has now been fixed -Ed).

Favourite current Wealdstone line-up? Pretty impossible to choose as it's all change in preseason!

Favourite all-time Stones line-up? NORTH / HAMMOND / HAMBLIN / PARKER OR CRONIN / GODFREY / LUCIEN / BALL / PENNY / JOLLY / O'NIEN not forgetting WRIGHT, LITTLE, JEFFERSON (no relation) LOUIS, DAVIS, DEAN. All the above had their own unique playing style.

Best away trips to watch football? Southport, Bognor,

Truro, WSM and purely for those weekends away. Chippenham and Gloucester should be as good this coming season.

What was your highlight of last season? Southport away without question, Everything about that weekend was superb.

Best stadium you've ever visited?. Well, it certainly wasn't Hanwell !! Maidstone has to be up there though.

Where do you like to stand (or sit) at the Vale? Stand obviously! Behind the goal, even in the seats.

What are your expectations for the Stones for this season? Well, to be promoted of course but, to get into the play-offs (especially with six clubs now involved) would be expected.

How does the current programme compare with others you see? We've been rated the top 3 in the programme status in non league football so that says it all.

Finally, where do you see the Stones in five years' time? Ideally in the Football League - but that's still a long way off yet.



... and on Scott Davies's equally stunning goal at Brockenhurst from 50 yards, linking it with the long-ranger Wales conceded in Bosnia



CONCORD RANGERS

The Beachboys

P 15 W 6 D 4 L 5 F 26 A 23

oncord Rangers
originated from a team of
boys headed by Steve
Lant. They played friendly
matches during 1966 on a pitch
along the Canvey Island
seafront close to the Concord
Beach hence the name
Concord Rangers and the
nickname The Beach Boys.

1967 – Albert Lant, Steve's father and current Club President became the team manager and took the club into competitive football. The Club joined the Thundermite Boys Football League.

1973 – Concord joined the Vange and District League and during this period they won several league and cup honours.
1979 – Concord became the first winners of the Essex Sunday Junior Trophy managed by current Secretary Chris Crerie with a 4 – 0 win over Bishops Park from Brentwood.

Saturday football was introduced



to the club when Concord joined the Mid Essex League and played their home games at Waterside Farm on Canvey Island. 1985 - Concord secured some land at Thames Road, Canvev Island, the club developed the clubhouse and ground with Jack Smith, current club treasurer being the mastermind behind the project, he organised the funds, labour and materials and worked many hours himself on the site. A special mention goes to the late Clive Smith (Jack's brother) without Clive's machinery and labour Concord's pitch would not exist also Martin Gill, Steve Barnes, Brian Godfrey, Lee and John Slater, Rob Fletcher (Electrics) all contributed. 1988-1989 Concord joined the Essex Intermediate League and was Divisional League and Cup Winners. 1991-1992 Concord joined the

1991-1992 Concord joined the Essex Senior League and achieved the following.
1996-1997 Essex Senior League Cup winners defeating Ford Utd 1 – 0.

1–0.
1997-1998 Essex Senior League Championship winners
Manager – Lee Paterson
1999-2000 Harry Fisher Memorial Trophy winners defeating
Burnham Ramblers 3 – 2
2002-2003 Essex Senior League Runners-up
2003-2004 Essex Senior League Championship winners
Manager – Ben Embery
Danny Heale is the winner of the Don Douglas Trophy this season

for the Leagues top scorer with a

tally of 32 goals.

Founder Albert Lant retired after 25 vears as Chairman in 1992 to become the Club President, Current Club Treasurer Jack Smith then held the Chairman position for two years, Grant Beglan who is the CEO at Aspect Contracts, Concords main sponsors, then became Chairman and also held the position for two years. Antony Smith is the current Chairman and is very hands-on in his approach, under Antony's guidance the Club has seen fantastic progress these past few seasons both on the playing side and also on the development of the ground. 2007-08 Concord Rangers 40th Anniversary season

Danny Scopes and Danny Cowley become joint managers and managed the team in this

important year for the Club and they had a magnificent year, Concord ended the season winners of the Essex Senior League. Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy winners and were Essex Senior League Cup Finalists. Concord also reached the Qtr-final of the FA Vase this season before losing 1-0 to Lowestoft Town who went on to reach the final which was played at Wembley Stadium. Concord's Danny Heale won the Don Douglas Trophy for the second time as the Leagues top marksman scoring a magnificent 46 goals and setting an Essex Senior League record. Club President, Albert Lant won an outstanding achievement award from the Essex County Football Association for 40 years unbroken service to Concord Rangers. 2008-09 Having gained promotion

AT THE VALE TODAY



rom the Essex Senior League we would have been happy with a mid table position at the end of our first season in the Ryman League Div 1 Nth. The Management team of Danny Scopes and Danny Cowley managed to get the best out of our players and we achieved a Play-off position having finished 5th. We then went on to beat East Thurrock Utd. who had finished in 2nd spot 1-0 in the Play - off semi-final, Danny Heale scored a magnificent goal to put us through to the final and play Waltham Abbey. Concord was only 10 minutes away from playing in the Ryman Premier League this season having gone one up through Fabien Batchelor but Waltham Abbev's Harry Elmes scored in the 80th minute to take the game to penalties which Concord finally lost 5 - 4.

2009-10 Concord win the Ryman League Div 1 Nth Play-Off final 3-1 against Enfield Town to gain promotion the Ryman Premier Division. 2010-11 Concord had a very good first season in the Ryman Premier Division, finishing in 8th position, our aim at the start of the season was to avoid relegation therefore reaching 8th spot was very creditable but just missing out on a Play-Off position by two points was a great team effort. 2011-12 After a poor start to the season with some key players

great team effort.

2011-12 After a poor start to the season with some key players unavailable due to injuries,
Concord did not manage to play their normal style of football for several months into the season but after being in the bottom four for quite a while Concord put in an undefeated run of twelve games

and at one time managed to

get into a play-off position but unfortunately tailed off towards the end of the season and finally finished in 14th position.

2012-13 A remarkable season for Concord winning the Ryman League Cup Final 3 – 2 against Dulwich Hamlet and winning the Ryman Premier League Play-Off Final 2 – 1 at Lowestoft Town to gain promotion to The Conference South, Concord reached the Essex Senior Cup Semi-Final losing 2 – 0 to Grays Athletic

2013 -14 Having been promoted last season, Concord was looking for a position that would enable them to

stay in the Conference
South after seeing both AFC
Hornchurch and Billericay Town
relegated after just one season.
Manager Danny Cowley, his
Assistant Glen Alzapiedi and the
Players surpassed the Clubs
expectations by finishing in a
very respectful 9th position
and to cap a very good season
Concord won the Essex Senior

Concord won the Essex Senior Cup Final against Conference Premier, Braintree Town, the

final was played at Dagenham & Redbridge's ground. 2014 - 15 A fine achievement in winning the Essex Senior Cup for 2nd successive vear winning 5 - 0 against Billericay Town in the final and finishing 7th in the

Conference South, the only negative this season was to see the Manager Danny Cowley and Danny's brother Nicky his assistant move

on to pastures new with Conference Premier Braintree Town, both had done brilliant jobs for Concord taking us from Essex Senior League to the Conference South in six seasons.

2015 – 16 Adam Flanagan became Concords new manager and did a good job in his first season at National League South level having guided Brentwood Town to the Ryman League Premier Division

to joining Concord. Adam achieved a 10th position in the National League South which was a respectable position for the Club as well as winning the Essex Senior Cup for the 3rd year in a row.

2016 -17 Concord had their most difficult time in the National South but managed to avoid relegation by finishing in 18th position.





CONCORD RANGERS AT THE VALE TODAY

Jordan Brown -

Left back signed by Concord Rangers this summer for the second time, having first spent time at Thames Road on loan last season from Welling United (who themselves signed Brown despite interest from The Beachboys). Brown is a former West Ham youth who spent time on loan at Aldershot before joining Crewe, and can count Barnet, Boreham Wood, Whitehawk and Dulwich Hamlet as former clubs.

Steve King-

Dominant centre-back who became an integral part of The Beachboys defensive unit after signing initially on loan from Welling United back in late 2009. As well as being a key figure in the Concord side, Steve has also represented both the regional & national Fire Brigade team. Kingy recently reached 300 club appearances, he weighs in with his fair share of goals (usually from set pieces), and is widely regarded as one of the strongest headers of the ball in non league football.

Billy Roast -

A highly sought after young defender, Billy captained Maldon & Tiptree through their Ryman League Division One North season last year, and will be looking to make an impact as he steps up to National League South level with Concord Rangers. Billy has previously captained the U21 side at Colchester United, leaving them for The Jammers in 2015

Tom Stephen-

25 year old defender who joined Concord in the summer of 2015 after spending the previous 5 seasons at the heart of East Thurrocks defence, and for a period of time as their club captain. Prior to his time with the Rocks Tom spent time playing for

Redbridge as a teenager. A quality left back who became a firm fan favourite with his performances. Tom suffered a severe leg injury last preseason causing him to miss the entire season, and now at full fitness he'll be looking to regain his starting spot in the back four

Rob Girdlestone -

Former West Ham youngster, Rob returned to Concord Rangers for the 2016/17 season having spent a short time here on loan when on the Hammers books back in 2014. The centre-back has spent 2 years at the heart of the Chelmsford City defence and the Beachboys pulled off a great bit of business in bringing Rob to the club, with his performances earning him the Supporters Player of the Year award last season.

Taylor McKenzie -

22 year old defender signed for Concord Rangers at the start of February 2017 from Chesham United. Taylor spent his youth career at Norwich City and Sheffield Wednesday, and after a loan period at Gainsborough Trinity he was picked up by Notts County, making 4 first team appearances for the club. Loans at Wrexham and Corby Town followed before joining Chesham in 2016.

Amos Nasha - Signed for Concord Rangers in January 2017 from Dever Athletic Nasha is a 21

from Dover Athletic, Nasha is a 21 year old midfielder who started his career in the West Ham youth set-up, making 4 appearances in Europa League qualifying matches for the first team. Amos is pacey and determined, always chasing down a tackle and has already won over the Beachboys faithful fans with his strong, committed displays.

Europa League qualifying matches for the first team. Amos is pacey and determined, always chasing down a tackle and has already won over the Beachboys faithful fans with his strong, committed displays.

Jordan Sanderson -

Centre midfielder Jordan signed for Concord Rangers this past June, a product of the Colchester United Academy. He spent time on loan at Chelmsford City and has 23 appearances for Chania in Greece. Jordan joined Braintree at the start of 2017 but has made the jump to the Beachboys ready for the 2017/18 National League South season

Bayley Newell -

Graduate of the youth set-up here at Concord Rangers, Bayley was a focal part of the under 18s side over the last two years and thanks to his continued impressive performances was named on the subs bench a number of times towards the end of last season. This season Bayley has dual-signed with Southend Manor to gain further first team experience.

Tom Ranger -

23 year old striker who signed for Concord Rangers in November 2015 after continually making standout performances for neighbours Great Wakering Rovers. Ranger set the Ryman One North alight with a series of sparkling performances for Wakering, scoring 11 goals last season before the Beachboys snapped him up. Injury knocked Tom out for the last season, but he will be looking to break into the starting line-up at Concord this year.

Kyron Farrell -

A left sided midfielder who can play in the middle of the park or at left back, the ex Ireland youth international has been on the books at Millwall prior to joining Concord Rangers this past summer. The 19 year old Kyron has spent time on

AT THE VALE TODAY



MEET THE OPPOSITION CONCORD RANGERS

loan at Braintree Town over the last season prior to signing for the Beachboys.

Khale De Costa -

Signed in the summer of 2017, the 23 year old winger joins Concord Rangers having previously played for both Hendon and Harlow Town last season. The pacy, direct winger has had success going forward in the past and will be looking to add a number of key goals to the Concord tally this coming season as he tests himself at National League South level for the first time.

Adam Topley -

Auail Topies Another graduate from the
Beachboys youth system, Adam
scored regularly for the under 18s
during 2015/16 and on the back of
those performances made a
number of appearances on the first
team bench towards the end of the
year. Toppers made a number of
appearances off the bench for the
first team last season, and will look
to establish a starting place for
2017/18.

Steve Cawley -

A determined and hard working midfielder/centre forward, Cawley joined Concord Rangers during the early part of the 2013-14 season from fellow Conference South members Bishops Stortford. Steve had previously played for Hoddeston Town and Waltham Abbey before joining Stortford, who at the time were in the Conference North. Steve consistently scores goals and works well whoever he is paired with on the Concord frontline, having won 3 consecutive Golden Boot awards at the club

Jason Williams -

21 year old Jason joins the Beachboys having left Southend United this summer. Williams is an exciting and powerful forward who has spent time on loan at Chelmsford City, Welling United and most recently Boreham Wood. During the spells at Chelmsford and Welling Jason notched up 14 goals in 27 appearances, and will be looking to replicate and improve on that form for Concord Rangers

Lewis Taaffe -

The energetic, determined striker returned to Concord Rangers this past summer after spending a season playing for Hemel Hempstead Town and then big money Billericay Town. In his previous spell, the 25 year old striker had spent just under 3 seasons as a Beachboy, notching up over 150 appearances. Lewis' never say die attitude and ability to seemingly chase balls down constantly for 90 minutes, along with his keen eye for goal, have ensured that he is a firm fan favourite.

Jordan Cox -

Signing for Concord Rangers this past summer, the powerful striker returns to the Aspect Arena having had a successful spell here on loan from Braintree during the 2015/16 season. Cox joined Maidenhead United prior to 2016/17 and ended up playing a huge part in their National League South title winning campaign and subsequent promotion. Jordan left the club as the season ended and returns to the Beachboys citing unfinished business from his previous spell here.

Meet the Manager ADAM FLANAGAN S

A vastly experienced non league stalwart, playing for (and captaining) Dartford FC for three seasons. Adam also played for Hastings United, Maldon & Tiptree, Billericay, Concord Rangers, Aveley and Brentwood Town before joining the coaching set up at The Millers. Adam spent just 3 months there before stepping up to become the Brentwood Town manager in November 2013. During his time there Flan took Town from relegation candidates that season to playoff contenders in the following one. Adam led his Brentwood team through the Ryman Division One playoffs and into the Ryman Premier this past summer. Following that success Adam emerged as a clear favourite to replace the recently departed Danny Cowley at Concord, and took the job this past May. Adam came to the Beachboys knowing the set-up at the club, already being familiar with the players and committee from his playing time with the team, and built on the success that the Cowleys left behind, leading the side to a 3rd consecutive Essex Senior Cup victory.



MATCH **SPONSORS**

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 quests. 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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8	FULHAM VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 8th July In Memory of Karl Schmitt												
COHCORD BOSIN	CONCORD RANGERS VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 5th August	Ray Corner & Pete Carter											
HU	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Monday, 14th August	Wealdstone FC Supporters Club											
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HERE'S WHAT MATCH SPONSORS GET:

4 admission tickets, each with a seat in the directors' area of the main stand

4 match day programmes
Full hospitality prior, during (half time) and after the match in the board room

You or your organisation's name featured prominently here in the programme

You or your organisation's name announced over the PA to the crowd

. 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.





WEALDSTONE FC

= Yellow Card = Red Card

S = Straight Red

= Goal : = Penalty → = 1st Player Substituted

= 2nd Player Substituted = 2nd Substitute Used

 □ = 3rd Player Substituted

NLS = National League South MCC = Middlesex Charity Cup FAC = FA CUD

FAT = FA Trophy MSC = Middlesex Senior Cup

FIXTURES	Si	RFSI	2TII

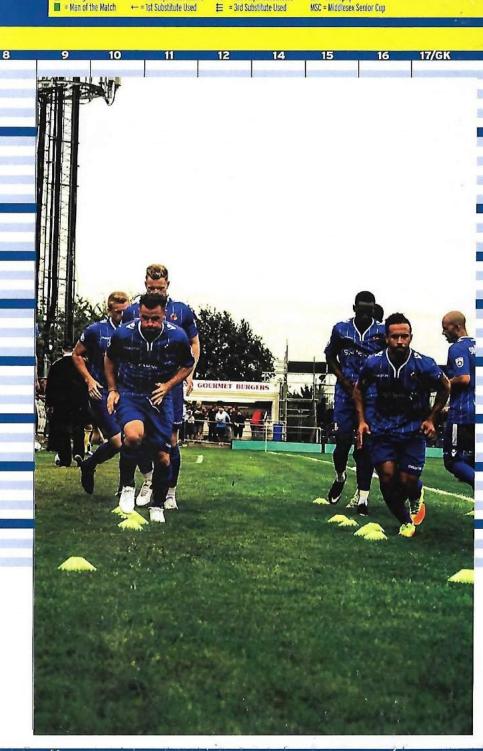
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Our club's excellent progress on the pitch and ever increasing attendances mean we are now looking to strengthen our matchday support team. In particular, we are looking to add to our matchday steward team, with the possibility of gaining nationally recognised qualications (such as Level 2 or 3 NVO in Spectator Safety) through our partners Total Hospitality Training.

You'll be contributing to the progress of your club and learning transfer- rable skills in health and safety, security and customer services; while strengthening your CV at the same time.

It doesn't have to be every match, but it would be great if we could increase our pool of available people to ensure our spectators have an enjoyable matchday experience and enhance our club's growing reputation for professionalism. If you're interested to learn more about what is involved and how you can benefit, please speak to me.

Steve Marshall, Matchday Operations Manager



wonderful world of football. (Email us to have your say.)



A brand new season – and a blast from the back pass's past

big World of Ball welcome to season 2017-18! But before we think about today's game, let's just pause to cast our minds back a quarter of a century and reflect on - and give thanks for - the perfect storm of foresight, innovation and sheer box office gold that saved football from itself and made it what it is today. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls - the back pass rule is 25 years old!

Pass performance

A basic change preventing goalkeepers from handling a ball kicked to them by a team mate might look routine on paper, but back then the impact of this simple amendment to the laws of the game was seismic.

For goalkeepers themselves it was the biggest change in their job description for decades, since the 18yard box was invented to end the days when they could handle the ball anywhere in their own half. Overnight, men who were almost universally characterised in the media as a slightly unhinged breed apart had to become footballers as well.

The actual instigator of the rule may remain uncertain, but it's not difficult to guess the inspiration for it – Italia 90.

I hate to whinge about a competition that still represents England's best performance on foreign soil, but outside the exploits of Gazza, Lineker and David Platt, the tournament was so monumentally tedious that Ireland reached the quarter final despite winning zero games. They scored two goals in eight hours of playing time. In a sizeable number of the 36 group games, a goal before half time was considered a result.

Then came Cameroon v Colombia. Rene Higuita against Roger Milla. Goalie against striker.

Higuita has achieved legendary status for his scorpion kick, but he was ahead of his time

Platt, years before that. Not for him the fripperies of us picking up a back pass. The As Milla moved towards winhim, he went to dribble round his opponent, only eight to lose the ball, a goal, and ultimately Colomfithe bia's World Cup place.

As he said himself, it was a mistake as big as a house. For the rest of us, it was history in the making. Someone saw the entertainment value of this happening on a regular basis, and the back pass rule was born.

Which was where the

problems began. And the further down the scale you went, the worse the problems became. This new idea might liberated the likes of Higuita, but it was never going to work in the Beazer Homes League. Pub team secretaries, whose efforts to find a decent custodian were usually about as successful as attempting Rubik's cube while standing on their head in a snowstorm. found their hands tied

still further. As for school PE lessons, where the keepers were chosen precisely because they couldn't play football, they were changed forever.

But it wash't just goalkeepers who suffered - it was horrendous news for defenders as well. The Liverpool duo Lawrenson and Hansen may have been far more elegant with a football than they ever were with a microphone, but they were an exception. The average member of an early nineties back four was about as likely to play a perfectly weighted back pass to the keeper's favoured foot and make an angle for a one-two as he was to arrive at training riding a unicycle and juggling chainsaws.

At this point you are invited to pity the match officials. For the men in black, and particularly the more mature members of the profession, the occasionally enjoyable, sometimes challenging but always rewarding 90 minutes

as ref or lino became like watching an entire season of Cambridge United v Wimbledon. How many careers ended prematurely in May 1993, or even sooner, is anyone's guess.

There were back pass based own goals before 1992, of course. Anyone of my vintage will appreciate Scotland's Willie Donachie booting the ball past an AWOL Alan Rough against Wales in 1978, the first puncture in the balloon of hype and bombast that fuelled his country's infamous World Cup campaign that year. Years later. Lee Dixon knocked home a blinder to give some first division nonentity an unexpected score at Highbury.

Half-passed attempt

Modern equivalents, though, are so much better. Gary Neville bobbling the ball past Paul Robinson in Croatia is a more enduring image than the rest of his England career put together. Graham Alexander played hundreds of

league games and had a record from the penalty spot second to none, but it's his blooper for Preston against Norwich that earns him the most repeat fees.

After 25 years, it's tempting to add goalies legally handling back passes to the list of things that have gone forever, like indoor smoking or realistic house prices. But in football 2017 style, I can see someone deciding we can't have megabucks international players embarrassed and trophies decided by freak goals, and reverting to the old system.

Before that can

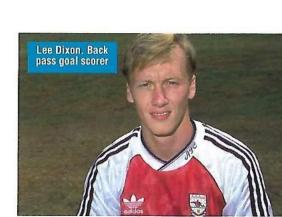
happen, let's celebrate things as they are. This season, somewhere in this division, a goal will result directly from the noble and magnificent piece of legislation that is the back pass rule.

If the Stones score it, enjoy it that bit extra. If they concede it, shrug it off as being for greater good of the game.

good of the game.

And if it comes in
April from an opposition goalie scuffing
a clearance Coco the
Clown style and leaving
Elliott Benyon to walk
a promotion winning
goal into a gaping onion
bag... well, you won't
need any advice about
enjoying that one!







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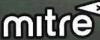
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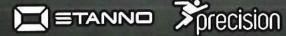




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5-MINUTE INTERVIEW

Eisa good Eisa good, he's Abobacking

TIM PARKS grabs a chat with our new wing wizard

bobakar Eisa is a young man with burning ambition A man with burning and to of he wants to play a lot of games this season, score a lot of goals, create a lot of goals and make a name for himself and for the Stones.

'I got 19 goals for Uxbridge last season and 18 assists - those are the sort of numbers I want to repeat at a higher level 'says the 21 year old whose older brother. Mohamed, has just earned a deal with League Two Cheltenham town after netting 57 goals in two years at Greenwich Borough.

Abs, as Abobakar likes to be know ('it's a bit less if a mouthful!' he jokes) certainly caught the eye in his first few appearances for the Stones. He got both goals in 2-1 win at Bedfont Sports in the opener, ran Fulham's under-23s a merry dance for 45 minutes in the next game and was a similar handful at Slough.

up with that late. sensational solo winner against a strong Watford side at the Vale three weeks ago.

It was his slippery, direct wing play that brought him to Gordon Bartlett's attention when the stones played Uxbridge in the Middlesex cup last season- and new coach James Gray was also aware of his explosive talent when he took him on trial at St Albans City three years ago.

'my family arrived in this country from Sudan when I was seven' says Abs.

'we were living near the Holloway Road and me and my brother went to the Pro Touch Academy when we were teenagers... a mate of mine was at St Albans when they were holding trials and they signed me up. But I didn't get enough game And then, of course, he popped time in the first team so moved

Above: Freddie Patmore's picture of Abs (yellow shirt) in action against Fulham. Inset: Winning a trophy as a teenager for local side Regent Rovers

WEALDSTONE v CONCORD

to Uxbridge.

'I'm 21 now so this is my moment!'

He lives with his parents and two little brothers at Regents Park and can't wait for the season to start today against Concord Rangers.

'Gordon told me all about the history of the club and I've seen the videos of how good the fan base is. It's impressive support and I want to make things happen for Wealdstone. My ambition is to go pro, but one step at a time."

Meanwhile, over at Cheltenham.



Abobakar's older brother Mohamed scored on his debut (left) for League Two Cheltenham Town, but it was not enough to prevent a shock 2-1 friendly defeat at our NLS rivals Oxford City. The local paper described the lively Eisa (signing for boss Gary Johnson, right) as being one of the few bright spots of the display.



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WEALDSTONE v CONCORD
RUISLIP SOCIAL CLUB
DOMINIC WHYLEY

Thanks for the record year.

Welcome back to the start of a new season. Firstly thanks to everyone who has continued to support the social club throughout last season and over the Summer. Last year was a record year for Ruislip Social Club from a revenue perspective and this helped towards a significant contribution to the main club to help fund the new stand and support the playing budget.

The club continues to be well used throughout the week however we'll always look to accommodate a booking enquiry if we can so if you or anyone you know might have a need to use any of our facilities for an event, speak to Leo Morris who will help try and find an approach that works for you. Equally just popping in for a drink with friends to watch a televised game or encouraging fellow supporters to use the club house on match days will all help towards delivering even more revenue for the club.

Hopefully everyone who used the bar at home games last season noticed the benefit of the improved matchday staffing. Matchdays are really important to the social club this season and we're always looking at ways to encourage supporters to use the bar before or after games so let us know if you have any ideas.

Don't forget that we also have a stand inside the bar which allows you to buy your match ticket and programme in advance and pre-order your half time drink to avoid the rush. Thanks to Clive Leaper and his merry band for running this so successfully.

Drink Season Tickets

After last season's success We have re-launched our 'Drink Season Tickets'. For £80 you can buy 25 drink vouchers which cover pints, bottles and Bulmers and can be used at any time until 30 April 2018. These are available behind the bar from a member of staff. It would be great if as many fans as possible could support this initiative.

Live Music

Friday 11th August.

The club continues to host the brilliant Tropic at Ruislip on Friday nights and every Saturday in August. Forthcoming gigs are as follows;

Straighten Out (The Stranglers)
Saturday 12th August
The ELO encounter
Friday 18th August.
The Beached Boys
Saturday 19th August
SNOG (Kiss Tribute)
Friday 25th August.
Bootleg Blondie
Saturday 26th August
The Alter Eagles
Friday 1st September.
Bravado play Rush
Friday 8th September.
The Small Fakers

All of the above are amazing bands to have on our doorstep in Ruislip and provide great entertainment so try and get along if you can.

Club fundraisers

Wealdstone supporters Club are hosting a fantastic Saturday night fundraiser in the coming months. First, the Ska Faces play on Saturday 23rd September when we host the Ultimate 90s with tickets available now from behind the bar for £15. This is arguably one of the best bands we will host down here and the event is highly likely to be a sell out so don't leave it until the last minute to get your tickets.

Please support these gigs where you can as they generate much needed funds as part of the Supporters Club and Social Club's annual contribution to the football club.

Live Football

The club runs both Sky Sports and BT Sports and we'll be showing live Premier League, Champions and European games throughout the season. Games will always be shown before and after our home matches (subject to scheduling) so please do what you can to catch a game at the club and help justify the subscription fees!

We'll be showing a live game before today's game and Aston Villa vs Hull City at 5.30pm after the game. Tomorrow we have Arsenal vs Chelsea in the charity shield at 2pm.

Twitter and Website

You can follow Ruislip Social Club on Twitter (@RuislipSC) and the website address in www.ruislipsocialclub.co.uk

Thanks for all your support and we look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks.

Dom



Match

Fulham

Watford

Nick DuGard

Nick Woolford

8TH JULY . PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY

15TH JULY • PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY

Concord Rangers

Peter Smallwood



Poole Town

IITH SEPTEMBER • VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE S

- . Your name and details here
- Your name and details here



Whitehawk

7TH OCTOBER • VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOU

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Truro City



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Havant & Waterlooville

5TH AUGUST • VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUT

• In memory of Dennis Mills, aka Papa Smurf

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28TH AUGUST • VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOI

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- Your name and details here



9TH SEPTEMBER . VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE S

- Frank Funnell
- . Your name and details here





- · Alan Couch

Hungerford Town

11TH NOVEMBER • VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SO

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Braintree Town

2ND DECEMBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SO

- Tony & Peter Drew
- . Your name and details here

St Albans City

23RD DECEMBER • VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SC

- . In memory of Roy Couch
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Hampton & Richmond

IST DECEMBER • VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOL

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Weston-super-Mare

27TH JANUARY - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE S

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29TH JULY • VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOU

- Your name and details here
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29TH JULY • VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUT

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 Ron Moore - "In memory of all fans who have passed away"



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3RD FEBRUARY . VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

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Mike Vincent

17TH FEBRUARY • VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE :

- In memory of Jim Klarfeld
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Oxford City

29TH JULY • VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUT

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Eastbourne Borough

29TH JULY • VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUT

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29TH JULY • VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOU

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Club President Paul Rumens rpaulrumens59@gmail.com 07710 929692

matchball, please contact:

OF Vice Chairman **Peter Worby** pworby@hotmail.com 07967 698370)







WEALDSTONE FC

FIRST TEAM, SEASON 2016/17 FINAL STATISTICS

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

	1	NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH			FA CUP			FA POPH	ΗY	SI	IIDD ENIO CUP	R	MIDDX CHARITY CUP				6/20 TAL			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	9	16	3		2	5		2			Y		2	2	32	11	22	32	11	22	
Brown, Ciaron	27	2	1	3			5	-1		2	1	1	4		1	41	4	2	41	4	2	
Cadmore, Tom	5		7													5			30		1	
Carter, Terence										1		1	1		26	2		1	2		1	
Corkery, Nathan				160						2.75			2		1	2		1	2		1	
Cox, Sam	29	3		3			4	1		1			2			39	4	-	39	4		
Fitchett, Dan	7		3									2-16	2		1	9		4	9		4	
Francis, Adam			12,71								1		1	1	9	1	2		1	2		
Freeman, Nick *	2	1		9 10			2									4	1		4	1		
Gibson, Billy		1								1	1		2		2	3	2	2	9	5	4	
Godfrey, Elliott	24	7	2		1	1	5			3			2			34	8	2	171	18	10	
Gordon, Dillon			1000							100				1			1			1		
Goulding, Liam	8	1	1	1			4		1				2			14	1	2	14	1	2	
Granger, Billy *													1			1			1			
Green, Danny	39	3	6	3		177	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	47	7	10	47	7	10	
Hamblin, Tom	27	2	3	2		1	1			2	1		1		1.0	33	3	4	124	8	13	
Hunt, David	14	1		2			3			2	1		2		- 2	23	2		23	2		
Hutchinson, Josh		5			1	1									7		6	1	12	16	4	
Jones, Ben											1						1			1		
Kabba, Sahr	2	10		1	2	1				1		2	1		1	5	12	4	5	12	4	
Koroma, Omar	11	11	4	1	1		1	3		3		2	2			18	15	6	18	15	6	
LaFleur, Alex										1	1		1	1		2	2		2	2		
Mavila, Nathan	5	8				100		2		2			2			9	10		18	20		
McGleish, Scott		7					1	2		2		2	3		1	6	9	3	97	32	48	
Njie, Aliou *						-				1						1			1			
North, Jonathan	41			3			6			1						51			289	1		
Oshodi, Eddie	35		4	2			6		1	3	1		4		1	50	1	6	50	1	6	
Parker, Josh *			11000							1						1		- 11	1			
Parker, Wes	11		- 1		1					2			2			15	1		224	10	26	
Rodrigues, Orlando													1			1			3	1		
Sambou, Solomon										1						1			1			
Sellers, Ryan	11												2			13			13			
Sheckleford, Ryheem *	7						6								100	13			13			
Sheldrick, Luke										1	1		3	1		4	2		4	2		
Smith, Jack	4	1				-				1						5	1	2.1	16	3		
Tajbakhsh, Aryan	11		2							1			1	1		13	1	2	13	1	2	
Thomas, Andrew *	1								18	1			1			3			3			
Urguhart, Josh	20	1		3			5			2						30	1		76	2		
Walker, Josh *	2	2	1			-4				1			150			3	2	1	3	2	- 1	
Wellard, Ricky	30	6	2	3		1	2	2	1	2			2	1	1	39	9	5	39	9	5	
Whichelow, Matt	29	3	3	3		1	4		1		1	1	3	1	1	39	5	7	39	5	7	
White, Joe	15	2	7								1		2	1	1	17	4	8	17	4	8	
Williams, Dylan *	6	3			1							304				6	4		6	4		
Wright, Jonny	15	16	4	1	1		3	1	1	3			2	1	1	24	19	6	100	51	30	
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There's always a bit of spice when we take on Concord Rangers!

WE'VE MET BEFORE BY TIM PARKS

The first time...

...we met Concord Rangers was a remarkable Saturday afternoon at the end of January 2011. It had certainly been an unremarkable season thus far, with the 2011: Stones languishing 13th in the **CONCORD 1** Ryman Premier STONES... 6 League, but Gordon Bartlett had lit the fuse for a late charge for the play offs by persuading Ryman high flyers Sutton to allow our former hotshot Richard Jolly to return to the Vale on loan.

What an inspiration! Jolls started with a goal against Hastings, a fab four in this game at Concord and then another five in the final five games of his loan spell to totally transform our season. Five wins and two draws!

It wasn't a bad team looking back: Northy in goal, in his first season, James Hammond and Alan Massey penetrative full backs; Wes Parker and Sean Cronin in the middle: Alex Dver and Kurtney Brooks in midfield with Danny Spendlove and Lee Chappell out wide; and Jolls and Peter Dean up front. Deano netted the other two goals and in fact Jolls would have become our first-ever player to net five on a competitive match since

we turned pro had he not allowed Deano to tuck away a penalty when he himself was brought down by Rangers' keeper Dale Brightley (Mark Graves had scored five against Wimbledon 30-odd years ago but that was in a friendly).

The 6-1 win was all the more impressive because Concord - in their first season since promotion - were eight games unbeaten. But as it was, once Jolly returned to Sutton we lost our impetus and had to settle for a place in mid-table after several defeats (including a 3-1 defeat by Concord in the return at the Vale) at the close of the season.

The last time....

...we met Concord was on a Monday night here at the Vale last March, when our long spell unbeaten was threatened by a Concord goal on

2017: the hour mark. STONES...1 just after Stones' CONCORD 1 midfielder Aryan

Tajbakhsh had been red carded for an innocuous challenge on Rangers' James White.

There seemed no way back. Taylor Miles had put Concord ahead with a speculative 30-yarder that flew over JonaAbove: Tom Pett has just netted a late, late winner against Concord in 2013 and the Stones can't contain their iubilation. Lee Chappell is on top of the celebrating mass

than North and into the net off the far post - but Gordon Bartlett went for broke in the last ten minutes, throwing on Elliot Benyon and Matt Whichelow and it was the ex Watford winger who rescued a point with a stunning 25 yarder that sent the Bulla Stand into ecstasv.

The previous September we had travelled to the Aspect Arena and returned with all three points thanks to Tom Hamblin's header from a corner.

The most memorable encounter...

...was a bad-tempered clash at the Vale in March 2013 as both

2013: STONES...2 **CONCORD 1**

teams battled for a place in the Ryman Premier League play offs.

The Stones were third in the table and concord fourth but it was the Essex side who (largely) silenced the home crowd with a terrific performance for an hour, holding a

1-0 lead... only for two very late goals from sub Esmond James and Tom Pett to snatch the points in a 2-1 win. Concord were bitterly disappointed and their players hurled back the jubilant comments of the home fans as they left the pitch.

The last laugh was with Concord though. We met again a month later in the semi-finals of the play offs and 1,055 watched open mouthed as it was Rangers' turn to be played off the pitch, somehow clinging on for extra time and

WEALDSTONE v CONCORD REWIND>>>>>>>>

then winning the tie with a late goal. Concord won the final at Lowestoft to clinch a place in the Vanarama South, and since then honours are pretty much even.

There is still an undercurrent between the teams, however, that makes every clash a spiky

42 years ago we met the Borough..back in the days when we struggled to beat them

Seventies heroes:

(left) and George Duck. Look at those hairstyles!

John Henderson

ON THIS DAY BY GORDON MCKAY

Here's a treat... a new column by long-time Stones fan Gordon McKay...

oday sees the earliest-ever start to a league season for us, and as such there isn't a great deal of choice to be had but I've managed to unearth a couple of competitive fixtures from August 5 in the past.

v Harrow Boro (Middx Charity Cup 1975) Drew 2-2

WE HAD just endured a long hot summer and in those days an even longer wait to see the Stones back in action. We had just finished a decent first year in the Southern Premier coming 8th so expectations were high as we approached the new campaign.

Things were a lot different in those days - we only had in effect three warm up games before the serious business got underway with the first of those not until August 2nd, a far cry from the current situation. That August 2nd game saw us journey up to Boston (not United but their lesser known Midland League rivals) to be stuffed 4-2.

However, Boro at home in the Middx Charity Cup the following Tuesday would give us the opportunity to get a win - or so we thought.

The Charity Cup format was in a group basis with just one club out of ourselves, Boro and Hendon going through and with Harrow's status at least two levels below us in those days nothing less than a win would do. We began well and took an early lead through Johnny Henderson and everyone sat back expecting a comfortable victory. However the defensive frailties that were to become a regular feature that season soon reared their ugly head and we found ourselves 2-1 down going into the dying embers of the game. Stones turned the screw in their hunt for an equaliser and Henderson was on hand to smash home the late leveller at the Elmslie End.

It was the first ever Stones v Boro game I had witnessed and the first time I became aware of the rivalry between the clubs...

well, at least on their part. There were over 600 at the game that night with probably 10 from Boro celebrating wildly, with someone playing the Bugle at the prospect of a win against us. Even at the age of 14 I considered it to be over the top - and I think others did too because from what was a fairly low key game it was quite noticeable that the atmosphere and noise from the Stones fans increased considerably and the equaliser was met with thunderous applause.

What happened next? Well, we travelled to Hendon the following Saturday and lost 2-1 so were eliminated from the cup. We actually started the season surprisingly well, particularly at home where we remained unbeaten until Boxing Day and reached the 1st Round of the

FA Cup before losing at Aldershot (who were then in the 3rd tier of English football). However post Christmas we absolutely fell apart and actually finished in a relegation spot, only to be reprieved by Dunstable's demise.

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



v Rayners Lane (away) (Harrow Cup) 1995: Won 3-1

HIS was the inaugural Harrow Cup - and I think the only time it was played. It was a 4-team tournament played over a weekend with Harrow Borough and Edgware completing the quartet.

This was in fact Gordon Bartlett's first competitive game as manager having taken over in the summer, joining from Yeading. Whatever happened to him?!

That summer of 1995 saw the club beginning to emerge from its darkest days. Four years after leaving our beloved Lower Mead, we had suffered two miserable ground-share years

at Watford and then went into chronic depression the following two years, playing at the wilderness which was Yeading with unquestionably the worst Wealdstone side ever.

However, August 1995 saw us back in Harrow with a groundshare at Edgware. GB came on board as a well respected up and coming manager and things started to look a lot better.

A comfortable 3-1 win was achieved over Rayners Lane with two goals from Paul Sheldrick and one from Troy Birch and a new dawn had begun.

What happened next? Well, we played our 2nd game of the tournament the following

day against Boro and lost 3-1. We had a whole new team that displayed plenty of grit and determination but ultimately the extra quality of Boro told. Of course, by this time we had slipped so far down the pecking order that it would have been a shock had we beaten

them. This game was during a

period where Boro were able

and we just had to swallow it.

to dominate us on the pitch

WEALDSTONE v CONCORD

REWIND>>>>>>>>

Our financial struggles had made us easy prey for those looking to turn over what was still a big name in non league football and it was incredible to think that only 10 years earlier we were the top non league side in the country.

However we survived, and the story continues....

Remembering John McCormick.. Stones' sensational signing in the summer of '73



here was some sad news at the start of July for Stones fans of a certain age: John Mc-Cormick, captain of the Southern League Div One South title winners of 1974, had passed away in his native Scotland at the age of 80.

Overpage we reproduce an article I wrote 15 years ago when the Stones faced Crystal Palace - McCormick's previous club - in a friendly at Edgware. Big Mac was the only link I could think of between our two clubs... but what a link! He signed for us because he was disenchanted with the pro game, despite having played half Palace's matches in Division One

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

WEALDSTONE V CONCORD REWIND>>>>>>>>

(against legends like Peter Osgood John Radford, George Best and Denis Law) the previous season. He wanted to get involved in the licensed trade but recognised that he would miss the game and, at the age of 36, still had something to offer. He therefore contacted his old Palace team mate and friend. Stones full back Eddie Presland, and volunteered to sign for us and PLAY FOR NOTHING!

Yes, you read that right. John McCormick, the experienced First Division centre-half, was prepared to step down into non-League and travel to Harrow from his Croydon home, just for expenses. John McCormick, who would be on around £50,000 a week if you miraculously transplanted him to today's Palace team in the Premier League.

Two of the stars of that mid-70s vintage Wealdstone team, goalscoring legend George Duck and goalkeeper John Morton, immediately replied to a request for their memories of the big

George Duck said...

ex players with regard to the loss of Johnny Mac. Morty has a a few funny stories involving JM but on a personal note let me say a few words. John was a 100% competitor every time he put his boots on - he just hated losing.

He may not have been the most skillful on the park but his level of performance was outstanding. His assets were a long stride, deceptively quick and he never shirked a tackle... and won most of them. He possessed a forehead like a brick wall. don't think he understood the word losing, he was just a born winner.

John made some 225 appearances for Crystal Palace with Eddie Presland in the same team and of course this is the reason why Eddie persuaded John to sign for the Stones. He signed for his travelling expenses from Croydon only, didn't want any wages he just wanted to play, somehow i couldn't see that happening today! I feel so grateful to have had big John playing behind me at centre half instead of opposing

me with those boney knees & elbows crashing into me at every challenge - boy he was a hard man. Off the field though he was a very quiet unassuming character who turned into a warrior on the pitch. I'm not sure that they make em like Johnny Mac any more. In a nutshell John was a top professional. I am happy to say at this sad time that it was an honour & privilage to play in the same Wealdstone team as John "Granite" McCormick.

RIP Johnny Mac No.5. Please raise your glasses to Johnny Mac. From GD No.10.

John Morton said..

JOHN McCORMICK

ery sad to hear of Johnny Mac's passing. John was quiet on the pitch and led by example. Great timing of headers in the air, a typical old fashioned centre half who loved playing.

Rarely lost his cool except when Willie and Ginger hid his socks

after training! There was one famous

> occasion at Bath when he decided to attack the crowd in the stand at the end of the game. We managed to restrain him. Still not sure to this day what the problem was.

The word 'hard' is iokingly used about some of today's players. John was seriously hard.

At Dover he went into a tackle and you could hear the crack all round the ground. After some treatment he carried on playing. After the game we asked him if he was ok. He stamped his foot, connected to the offending limb on the ground and declared

himself fit to play the coming Saturday. Needless to say that on the weekend we learned that he'd broken his leg and was encased in plaster.

I had the good fortune to play behind some terrific centre backs and Johnny Mac was certainly one of them. A lovely man. RIP John.

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

the legend of john mccormick

EALDSTONE and Crystal Palace would not, on the face of it, seem to have much shared history. The statistics on the opposite page bear that out. But let me take you back 30 years to August

1973. The Stones were about to start their third season of Southern League Division One foot-

ball and, although the attack and midfield were potent (George Duck went on to score 64 goals that year) it was the Blues' defence that had leaked goals badly the previous season.

And with skipper and centre-back Eric Burgess away on holiday until the end of August there was a pressing need for a dominant central

defender. I was a mere sip of a lad in those far-off days, but clearly remember returning from a family holiday to find the Harrow Observer lying on our doormat (along with a rainforest of the usual letters and bills) with the back page headline ... "Stones snap up Palace star McCormick". Yes indeed, our little club had audaciously

landed the signature of stylish 36-year-old centre-back John McCormick, who had been ever-present for the Eagles in the old Division One just a year before, appearing week in, week out against household names like Peter Osgood, Martin Chivers, Joe Royle, John Radford, Frannie Lee, George Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton.

He had even found himself fading Italian World Cup stars Luigi Riva and Domenghini of Cagliari, and the great Inter strikers Mazzola and Boninsegna when Palace played in the

1971 Anglo-Italian tournament!

Admittedly the Stones in those days had a bit more sway and financial dout. But we were still two steps removed from the Football League. and six steps away from the players we idolsed on Match of the Day and Sunday afternoon's The Big Match. It was like Gordon Bartlett and

Nick Symmons per-suading Tony Adams to come and play at the White Lion.

Every big gun in those days had a big. muscular No.9 and. for Palace, John McComick was the man to keep them quiet. To quote the Palace website:

"If a player is described as 'craggy', the chances are that he's a tall red-head

ed Scottish centre half, and John McCormick was a perfect example of the species. Big Mac was ever present in the 1968-69 promotion side, along with Jackson and Kember, and kept his place until being dropped to accommodate Bobby Bell in 1973, at the age of 36. Although physically very tough, he was by no means a dirty player, and set an example to his colleagues

with his supreme application to the job. When heading a ball either in defence or attack he seemed to use every musde in his body for maximum power, and was the last player ever to let his head drop if things were going badly. No one would claim that he was the most skiful of players in possession, but his timing in the tackle was always accurate and efficient, and his positional sense compensated for the occa sional waywardness of his partner, Mel Blyth. As a traditional stopper he was one of

DAYS OF HIS LIFE: John McCormick (right) is beaten by a shot from Manchester United's Brian Kidd at Old Trafford 32 years ago

From the Stones programme in pre-season 2003: Our article in praise of Johnny Mac. Rather poignant now ... and as George Duck says, there won't be another No.5 like him



from page 11

the best, and would have deserved a place in any Palace side since."

So how did McCormick fit in at Lower Mead? He was absolutely brilliant for us, as you might expect! He may have been classed as a stopper in top fight terms, but in the Southern League Division One South he was like Pio Ferdinand meets Franz Beckenbauer, carrying the ball out of defence and spraying passes wide to our excellent full-backs Chris Kinnear and Willie Watson.

That pair, with McCormick and the debonair Eric Burgess (brother in law of Anthea Redfearn, Mrs Bruce Forsyth, the Posh Spice of her day) bottling up the middle, helped the Stones win the league at a canter. His professional, uncompromising attitude was the perfect balance to the flair players we had at that time - and Paul Fairchugh, the current

England non-League team boss who was a 'Stone in the 70s, recalls in the Wealdstone Book how "Big Mac" taught him to deal with players who were giving him verbal grief.

continued on nec

"He said, at the next corner just stick your elbow in his mouth. I did, there was a crack, and the player never bothered me again".

John was a rock for the next two seasons in the Southern Premier Division, but suffered a bad leg injury when we went down 4-3 at Third Division Aldershot in the FA Cup 1st round in November 1975 (another great day, another great story) and never fully recovered.

We would have liked to have tracked him down for this article but he was last heard of in his native Glasgow some years ago, where he was in the licensed trade. He'd be 66 now but stil a top man, and hugely respected by fans of both clubs.

Tim Parks



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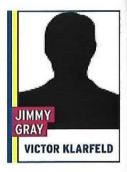
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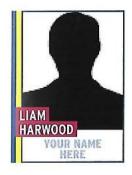


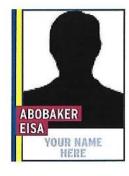


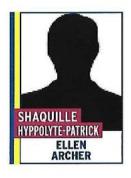




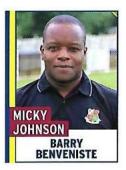


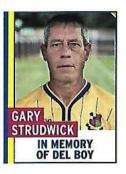






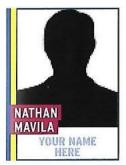


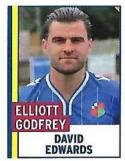




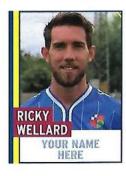




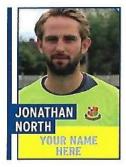


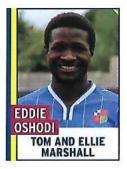














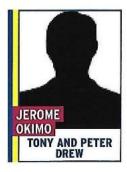


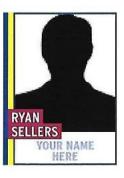


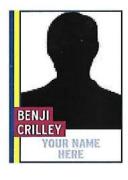






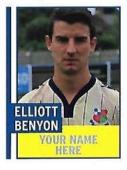


















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HALF PRICE ADMISSION FOR PREMIER / FOOTBALL LEAGUE SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

Chelmsford City

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 19th August, 3:00pm
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Hemel Hempstead Town

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Monday, 28th August, 3:00pm
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Bognor Regis Town

Saturday, 9th September, 3:00pm
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St Albans City

Tuesday, 8th August, 7:45pm

Gloucester City

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 12th August, 3:00pm www.gloucestercityafc.com

Eastbourne Borough

Saturday, 26th August, 3:00pm

East Thurrock United

Saturday, 2nd September, 3:00pm www.pitchero.com/clubs/eastthurrockunited

Vanarama National League South 2016/2017 - FINAL TABLE

Opposition	All									HO	me			Away								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts	Res	ults
1 Maidenhead United	42	30	8	4	93	29	21	16	4	1	53	11	21	14	4	3	40	18	64	98	2-1	0-2
2 Ebbsfleet United	42	29	9	4	96	30	21	17	3	1	62	15	21	12	6	3	34	15	66	96	2-4	1-4
3 Dartford	42	25	9	8	83	45	21	16	3	2	49	20	21	9	6	6	34	25	38	84	0-4	2-2
4 Chelmsford City	42	23	13	6	89	47	21	14	6	1	54	23	21	9	7	5	35	24	42	82	1-1	1-4
5 Poole Town	42	20	11	11	63	49	21	12	6	3	38	19	21	8	5	8	25	30	14	71	2-2	1-1
6 Hungerford Town	42	19	13	10	67	49	21	12	6	3	37	17	21	7	7	7	30	32	18	70	3-0	0-2
7 Hampton & Richmond	42	19	12	11	81	56	21	9	5	7	36	28	21	10	7	4	45	28	25	69	2-4	1-1
8 Wealdstone	42	18	12	12	62	58	21	7	7	7	30	31	21	11	5	5	32	27	4	66		
9 Bath City	42	18	8	16	71	52	21	10	5	6	41	24	21	8	3	10	30	28	19	62	0-1	2-1
10 St Albans City	42	16	11	15	72	66	21	11	4	6	43	31	21	5	7	9	29	35	6	59	2-2	2-1
11 Eastbourne Borough	42	16	10	16	82	70	21	12	4	5	51	30	21	4	6	11	31	40	12	58	1-4	1-5
12 Hemel Hempstead Town	42	15	12	15	74	83	21	9	6	6	34	36	21	6	6	9	40	47	-9	57	1-1	3-1
13 East Thurrock United	42	14	14	14	73	65	21	7	9	5	37	25	21	7	5	9	36	40	8	56	1-0	1-1
14 Oxford City	42	15	7	20	of the latest	73	21	8	5	8	21	32	21	7	2	12	27	41	-25	52	1-1	3-0
15 Weston-super-Mare	42	14	6	22	63	69	21	6	4	11	33	35	21	8	2	11	30	34	-6	48	1-0	2-1
16 Welling United	42	12	7	23	200	69	21	9	2	10	36	26	21	3	5	13	28	43	-5	43	0-1	1-0
17 Whitehawk	42	12	7	23	51	72	21	6	5	10	24	32	21	6	2	13	27	40	-21	43	0-0	0-0
18 Concord Rangers	42	10	12	20	57	75	21	6	7	8	28	37	21	4	5	12	29	38	-18	42	0-0	1-0
19 Truro City	42	11	7	24	53	99	21	7	5	9	29	41	21	4	2	15	24	58	-46	40	1-2	2-1
20 Gosport Borough	42	9	9	24	45	101	21	6	3	12	23	47	21	3	6	12	22	54	-56	36	2-1	3-1
21 Bishop's Stortford	42	8	3	31	29	104	21	3	1	17	14	51	21	5	2	14	15	53	-75	27	5-0	3-0
22 Margate	42	7	4	31	26	81	21	6	2	13	17	41	21	1	2	18	9	40	-55	25	2-1	1-0

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