

# WEALDSTONE



official matchday programme £3

## HOW THEY LINE-UP TODAY

WEALDSTONE ROYAL BLUE/WHITE/BLUE	SOLIHULL MOORS YELLOW/YELLOW/YELLOW
G Dante-Astor BAPTISTE 1	32 Nick HAYES G
G Marcus DEWHURST 31	23 Jack MYATT G
G Toby BULL 13	2 James CLARKE
Jack COOK © 2	3 Joe NEWTON
Charlie BARKER 3	4 Jamey OSBORNE
Alex DYER 5	6 Kyle MORRISON
Mason BARRETT 6	7 Joe SBARRA
Tarryn ALLARAKHIA 7	8 Callum MAYCOCK
Nathan FERGUSON 8	9 Mark BECK
Max KRETZSCHMAR 10	10 Tyrese SHADE
Corie ANDREWS 11	11 Matt WARBURTON
Charlie SEAMAN 12	12 Gus MAFUTA
Micah OBIERO 14	14 Jack STEVENS
Jack YOUNG 15	16 Max BROGAN
Luke DREHER 16	17 Joss LABADIE
Dominic HUTCHINSON 17	18 Jon BENTON
Dillon De SILVA* 19	19 Richard STEARMAN
Kallum TRACEY SESAY 21	24 Leo WOOD
Sam BOWEN 22	26 Max MARTIN
Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23	27 Kade CRAIG
Jaiden BARTOLO 25	29 Tahvon CAMPBELL*
Aaron HENRY 26	35 Alex WHITMORE
Sean ADARKWA 27	
Declan PHILLIPS 28	
Trae COOK-APPIAH 29	
Brandon MASON 32	
Sam COX 34	
Joe CULLIS 36	

\*Trophy tied today

### TODAY'S RESULT

WEALDSTONE   SOLIHULL M

Main club sponsor: **gpflewis** <sup>plc</sup>

### MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE  
Ruebyn Ricardo  
ASSISTANTS  
Robert Evans and David Hutton  
4TH OFFICIAL  
Aji Ajibola  
OBSERVER  
William Jordan

### MATCH SPONSORS

1) Friends & family in memory of Tony Short  
2) Onick Ltd

### BALL DONORS

1) In memory of Tony Drew  
2) Steve Tuckwell MP and Councillor Richard Mills  
3) Jake Fletcher

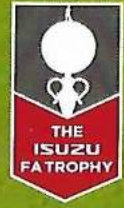
### NEXT HOME GAMES

**v Bromley**  
(National League)  
Tuesday March 12,  
KO 7.45pm  
**v Kidd'minster Harriers**  
(National League)  
Saturday  
March 23  
kick off 3pm



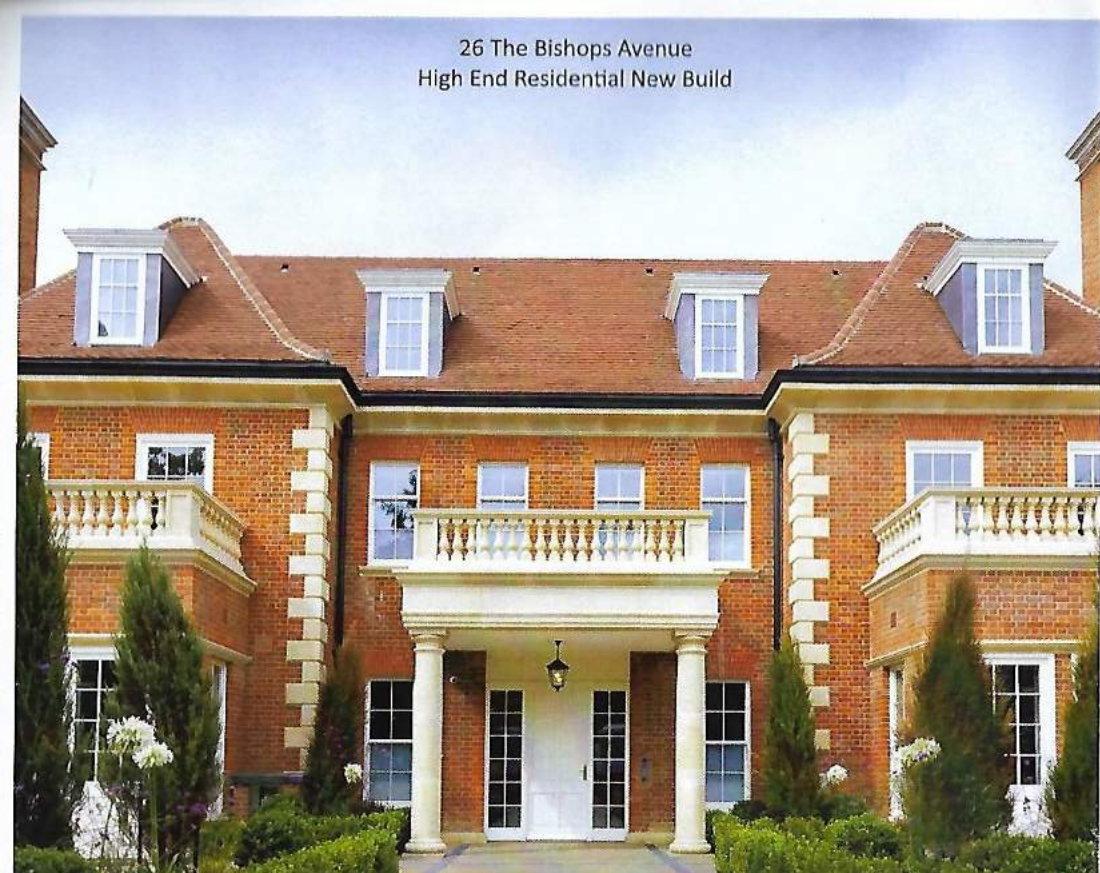
## Wealdstone v Solihull Moors

ISUZU FA TROPHY SIXTH ROUND  
SATURDAY 9 MARCH 2024, 3PM



Max takes aim and.... it's a typical Kretzschmar finish, his fifth of the season, to put the Stones 3-1 up at York City on Saturday. Twenty minutes later the game was over and the new management team had their first National League win! PIC: JON TAFFEL

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## By Tim Parks Written in Stone

**THE magic of the FA Trophy swirls around Grosvenor Vale as we welcome Solihull Moors for today's quarter-final. Yes, the last eight!**

The Wealdstone camp was a happy place to be on the return journey from York City on Saturday, thanks to David Noble's first National League win in the hot seat by 3-2, and coupled with Tuesday night's valuable point at Southend United the NL table doesn't look quite so scary.

We certainly won't be taking Solihull Moors lightly - they are 4th in the table for a reason - and all eight clubs will be fighting tooth and nail for the semi-finals. The quarter-final line-up: Bromley v Barnet, Gateshead v Peterborough Sports, Wealdstone v Solihull Moors and Macclesfield Town v Coalville.

A big thanks to today's match sponsors *In Memory of Tony Short* (long-time supporter, see story right) and Onick Ltd. Also thanks to ball donors *In Memory of Tony Drew* (another long-time fan, pictured right, below) and 13-year-old *Jake Fletcher*. Jake (pictured right) is autistic and a big gaming and football enthusiast - and he and his dad Mark wish good luck to all Wealdstone and Solihull Moors fans involved with caring for kids with special needs, or on the spectrum.

Our final sponsors are South Ruislip Councillors Heena Makwana, Richard Mills and Steve Tuckwell MP (pictured below). The trio say: "We are delighted to support Wealdstone FC and know the tremendous value the club to our community with many families benefitting from the youth team setups to matchday experiences. We want to ensure first class services from Hillingdon Council, putting residents first."



**RIP TONY SHORT**  
Tony's dearest friend Ray Kemp says:  
**'Kindness, humour, integrity, generosity and love... Tony gave it all and we'll miss him**

TONY'S support for Wealdstone has been immense, much of it going under the radar and unrecognised but then he never did things for reward - he did them because he always thought of others first. His friendship has genuinely been a shining light in our lives.

I moved to Harrow when just 13 years of age and my Nan was always badgering me about the great local football team... so eventually I followed her advice and entered this strange ground half hidden behind a cinema whose supporters were led by the iconic Man-In-Blue.

It was there at Lower Mead that I met my oldest and dearest friend Tony. We shared so much together and I was privileged to be his Best Man while his son Matt (who is with us today) is also my Godson.

Following Wealdstone was a passion for both of us. We

know about Tony's legendary attack with his rattle (albeit by accident) on a Hendon supporter at Wembley in 1966 but of lesser renown was our trip to Hitchin Town on a foggy winter's eve on his Lambretta. The reflection from the headlight into the swirling white wall resulted in us veering off course so he decided that we'd travel on with the headlight switched off. Lunacy but we just wanted to get to the game!

We arrived just before kick-off to hear the gateman tell us the game was off!

Normally we would have shared a "sherbet" or two after the game but had to content ourselves with a wee dram from the emergency hip flask contained in Tony's legendary Parka: similar to Doctor Who's Police Box it contained spare bulbs, batteries, a small section of spanners and screwdrivers, Swarfega, assorted and often squashed ciggies and the occasional out-of-date sandwich.

We later played endless games of football for Park-

field, alongside Stones stalwarts like Viv Evans and George Mole. Parkfield's sloping, often boggy and very large pitch was perfectly suited to Tony's combative sliding tackles, initially dissecting an opposing forward, continuing to plough a drainage ditch across the edge of the penalty area and usually terminating close to the bar.

When Wealdstone finally relocated to the Vale we were confronted by endless challenges and again Tony became a key player in assisting the club... all of this because of his love for our club and all for no reward in cash or in kind.

We shall miss his kindness, humour, generosity, integrity and, above all, his love and unparalleled friendship.

-Ray



# WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2023/2024

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

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Club Secretary & Welfare Officer Paul Fruin (07790 038095)  
Company Secretary Andrew Lane

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First Team Manager David Noble  
Assistant Manager Neil Banfield  
Goalkeeping Coach Jason Scanell  
First Team Coach Sam Cox  
Kit Manager Brett Aherne  
Head of Player Development Cameron Mawer  
Academy Coach Kenny Mutsanya  
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Sports Therapist Michael Owen  
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IT Consultant Neil Rands  
Commercial Emin Alibey,  
Richard Hopwood

## MAJOR HONOURS SINCE 1950

### LEAGUE TITLES

1951 / 1952 Athenian League  
1973 / 1974 Southern League Division One South  
1981 / 1982 Southern League Southern Division  
1981 / 1982 Southern League Championship  
1984 / 1985 National League Premier (Gola League)  
1996 / 1997 Isthmian League Division Three  
2013 / 2014 Isthmian League Premier Division  
2019 / 2020 National League South

### NATIONAL CUPS

1965 / 1966 FA Amateur Cup  
1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

### LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

### MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

1958 / 1959 Senior Cup  
1962 / 1963 Senior Cup  
1964 / 1965 Senior Cup  
1967 / 1968 Senior Cup  
1984 / 1985 Senior Cup  
2003 / 2004 Charity Cup  
2010 / 2011 Charity Cup

### NON TITLE-WINNING PROMOTIONS

1997 / 1998 Isthmian League Division 2 (3rd)  
1998 / 1999 Isthmian League Division 1 (3rd, annulled)  
2003 / 2004 Isthmian League Premier Division

The legal name of Wealdstone Football Club is Wealdstone Football Club (2000) Ltd (Registered Number 03953962). Shares in excess of 10% are held by Peter Marsden Property Finance Ltd & Wealdstone FC Supporters Club

## GROUND REGULATIONS

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

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

Wealdstone FC Board of Directors

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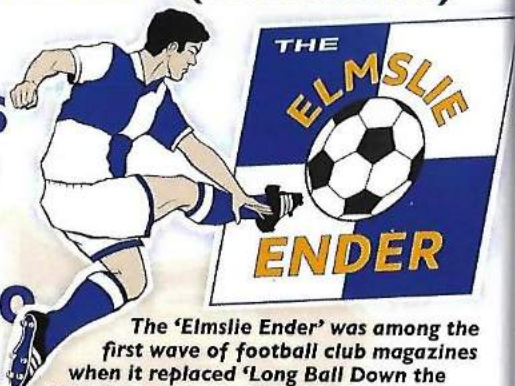


**Robert Barrett**  
Land, Development  
& New Homes

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

# We are enjoying seeing such riches every week...how could the Stones possibly go back to regional football?



The 'Elmslie Ender' was among the first wave of football club magazines when it replaced 'Long Ball Down the Middle' as the Wealdstone fanzine in the mid-1980s. LBDTM's forerunner 'Wealdstone Whispers' was famously the THE very first football fanzine in Britain when it was published in 1971



**BY SUDHIR RAWAL**

**THE dark(ish) clouds hanging over the Vale lifted last weekend as Wealdstone won their first league game in seven matches... and the first under David Noble (pictured below).**

We all know that as a run without wins gathers pace, the noise around the team gets louder. Having lost to Rochdale on the Tuesday night in a pretty abject way, hope was being lost rather quickly that Wealdstone could stay in the National League. Yes, we had games in hand, but where was the next win coming from?

York is a happy hunting ground for us and in the same way as last season when they sacked their popular manager John Askey just before we went there, Neil Ardley's services were dispensed with in the days leading up to our game. He was replaced by the highly-rated Adam Hinshelwood from Worthing, a name who was also mentioned when supporters were discussing our job.

I thought the first half was fairly even, York may have had more of the ball, but were not really causing too many problems, until they scored. The goal



was rather disappointing as it seemed to be a long ball through our middle, straight from their keeper, and the chance was easily dispatched.

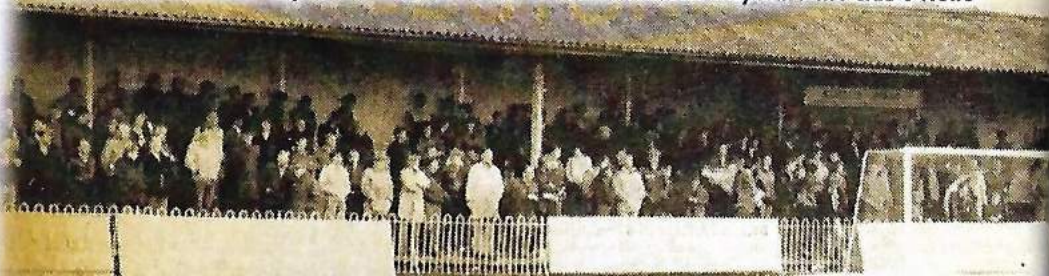
It might have been a catastrophic 2-0 because, ten minutes earlier, Marcus Dewhurst denied the Minstermen with a brilliant fingertip save, pawing away a certain goal. But right on half time - in a goal very similar to last year's injury time winner - Jack Cook headed home to send the teams for their half time cuppa on level terms.

Two goals from Max Kretzschmar in the second period saw Stones home. Yes, York pulled another goal back with twelve minutes left, but we held out pretty well to grab a vital three points. Whilst nearly a third down from last year, Wealdstone's travelling support of nearly 200 celebrated widely at the end.

Four more wins should be enough, maybe three a couple of draws, but it is so tight down there at the bottom, trying to predict how many points will be needed to ensure survival is unclear. A record number may be needed to be safe.

David Noble has had much to contend with

**The iconic Elmslie Stand at the Stones' former ground, Lower Mead in Harrow. Please bear in mind that the views expressed in this column do not necessarily echo the club's views**



since he's arrived. He lost the spine to the team, with Cook suspended, Charles transferred to Bromley (and boy, have we missed him), Aradawka injured, the fixture congestion that we face for the rest of the season, and for the first time managing a part-time team in the full-time world. None of it easy.

**In Stonecast 85 news, the podcast with directors Darren Linden and Dom Whyley was (in my humble opinion) up there with the very best that we have produced.**

Certainly, from the listener figures and the incredibly positive reaction to it, the listeners thought so too. If you haven't listened to the Cast as yet, have a search for it in the places you normally listen to Podcasts or if you don't normally, Spotify is a good place as any.

In the Cast, Darren and Dom chatted at length about a number of subjects ranging from the finances of the club, to the new ground, to how the board continue to seek out new investment.

They were as honest and open as you could hope for them to be, with Dominic brilliantly quoting the line from the song 'Sit down next to me' by James... "If I hadn't seen such riches, I could live with being poor."

Level Five National League football is undoubtedly the riches and we don't want to, indeed cannot, go down.

**AND FINALLY, bizarre goings-on at Slough on Saturday. The Rebels were slaughtering Bath City 4-0 at half time before the play-off chasers pulled two goals back... then a diabetic fan collapsed behind the goal and play was halted with 20 mins to go. The supporter recovered while the teams were off the pitch, but when the referee asked both teams' bosses if they were ready to resume Jerry Gill (Bath) said 'no'!**

You can imagine the reaction of Slough manager Scott Davies as the game was called off. He cited the fact that Christian Eriksen had actually suffered a heart attack on the pitch for Man Utd and the game resumed.. and you have to say it sets a dangerous precedent for football's chancers. Not a good look Mr Gill.

## Oh, so it's not just us, then?

BY TIM PARKS



**If you're reading this you're probably a bit of a programme fan already... but I wonder if you share my view that good ones are few and far between?**

Occasionally though, a little gem appears and such was the case at Rochdale ten days ago. It almost made losing a little more palatable.

The homely Lancashire club do a lot of things very well, from their pies to the cask ale on tap in the social club, but best of all was a programme (pictured left) that was readable and opinionated. Okay, it was a bit out of date having been printed for the game that was postponed on January 20, but they delighted in TWO articles chronicling their famous win over Burnley exactly 34 years earlier.

Premier League Burnley pretend that they are now too grand to have a local rivalry with the Dale, five divisions lower, but the two clubs were bracketed together in League Two between 1985 and 1992 and the Claret's have mysteriously lost all footage of their 1-0 defeat to Rochdale at Turf Moor all those years ago.

The excellent 'Scrutator' column in the programme examines the bitterness of tribal rivalry and explains that Oldham were 'the enemy' before the 1980s. Then suddenly a whole load of 'big fish' were dropping in for League One and Two games at Spotland: Blackpool, Bristol City, Sheffield Wednesday... but Burnley were the biggest to fall from grace.

As *Scrutator* says: "The animosity wasn't just the geography of them being the other side of Bacup. The problem with Burnley was Burnley FC. In the 1987-88 season, the Football League introduced automatic relegation between Division Four and what is, now, the National League. Without this legislation we probably wouldn't be playing Wealdstone today.

"As the season progressed it seemed likely that one of Torquay, Rochdale, Tranmere or Burnley would be the first-ever club to suffer relegation... and ahead of the crucial Easter Saturday clash at Spotland they issued a forlorn plea to the league asking for relegation from the League to be postponed for another year!

"The quote that made the papers came from their then Chairman, Bob Lord, who was reputed to have said: 'The Football League brought in relegation to get rid of the likes of Rochdale, not proud founder League members like Burnley, former champions of England and FA Cup winners.'"

Extraordinary! Sadly, Burnley escaped the drop on the final day and it was actually Lincoln City who went down. Rochdale survived another 35 years. Good on them.





**THE STONES  
INTERVIEW**  
by tim parks

# Player, coach, actor, captain of his country.. Sam Cox on his hectic life and thrilling new challenge at Wealdstone

**SAM COX** couldn't have been more delighted to receive that telephone call from the Stones in the wake of Stuart Maynard's departure seven weeks ago.

He had been a full-time No.2 to Warren Feeney at Welling United last season, while continuing his 'day job' managing Spurs' under-15s at their academy, but became a free agent when Feeney left to manage the Irish club Glentoran.

"I almost hooked up with David Noble at St Albans late last year as I feel I have a lot to offer as a player" said the 33-year-old who of course spent three seasons at the Vale between 2016-2019.

"But this First Team Coach role is perfect for me. I had a few difficult conversations with Tottenham about how to navigate the two when the Wealdstone job came up but the fact we are a National League club helped smooth things and they they are happy for me to find a path around that.

"That's not to say I'm not crazy busy! I work seven days a week, non-stop but I feel blessed to have this life within the game".



Two internationals and Spurs buddies: Kane and Cox



The relief and delight at the final whistle at York is shown by Gaffer David Noble and Sam Cox (right)  
PICTURE: JON TAFFEL

Sam, who also enjoyed a bit of celebrity when he played the part of West Ham's 'Armando' in Series Three of the worldwide hit *Ted Lasso* series, has been coaching and managing the Spurs' under-15 squad for five years.

"It's an age group that I really enjoy. They are beginning to understand what the game looks and feels like. I have a huge love for Spurs and for all they've done for me and my career. I've done my UEFA A-Licence and I'm about to complete my advanced Youth Award, learning from some of the top young developers in the world."

**So what is the dynamic between the Stones' new management team? I asked him. Did you know both 'Nobby' and (assistant manager) Neil Banfield before?**

"No, I hadn't worked with Neil before but obviously he has a wealth of experience and enjoyed amazing success at Arsenal, helping young players develop for the first team.. and then going on to assist at QPR and Glasgow Rangers. It's great for me and Nobby to pick his brains and get so much knowledge and wisdom from him. I'm grateful to be work-

ing with him.. a top, top man with a fantastic reputation.

"I've played against David for years for various different clubs - some great midfield battles! - and known him for a while but the chance to work together came very much out of the blue. I think we are quite like-minded in the way we like to see football being played.

"I think it's a lovely mix between us; the Gaffer with his great playing career; Neil with his wide-ranging experience while I bring my Spurs coaching background and having been No.2 at Welling last season - plus coaching and captaining Guyana.

"As for the dynamic between the three of us, I'm quite vocal and tend to lead a lot on the technical practice while Neil is the wise counsellor; always ready to stop the sessions and chip in with ideas. Nobby makes the decisions and also contributes his ideas and methods.

"We ask the players to play a certain way and have no problems if they carry it out, probing and passing. It's when they don't carry out those instructions that we get frustrated!"

**Had you worked with - or played against - any of the Stones' squad before?**

"I've not actually worked with or played against any of them apart from Alex Dyer, having faced him for Guyana when was playing for Montserrat. Kallum Sesay obviously was in the academy at Spurs.. a good young prospect but he is typical of the path these days for players released by Premier League clubs. Previously you'd find an EFL club relatively easily but now they have to set their sights lower and rebuild their careers in men's football.

"But there is a really good blend in the squad. Young and impressive. We know what the requirements are to stay in this league and young players need to have done some maturing, and quickly. They are really good technical players who have had good backgrounds - but at this stage of the season it's all about getting points on the board."

Off the field, Sam has nothing but praise for the club.

"The chairman, Rory, has been fantastic for me. I'm really grate-

ful. I had a good relationship with him even during the Bobby Wilkinson time which didn't work out well for me - he is doing a fantastic job at the club from the players and staff recruited through to the prospect of going full time next season."

**So what does Coxy remember of his first spell at the Stones nine years ago?**

"I have a lot of fond memories of that first spell: the win at Southport in the Trophy arguably the top one. That was a great awayday, such a good performance from everyone on the pitch, Matty Wichelow, Ricky Wellard, Elliot Berlyon. The fans never stopped singing, I'll never forget that! We made the last 16 I think that year and we're in the quarters this year so we'll hopefully go a bit further.

"I owe a lot to Gordon Bartlett who brought me to the club, off the back of me leaving Boreham Wood in the National League. I made some fantastic friends I still speak to today like Gordon and Scotty McGleish. I had a good connection with the fans and won both player of the year awards during my time at the club but it became difficult once

the change of manager happened.

"My relationship with Bobby Wilkinson wasn't hidden, and it was not the best.

"He tried to make an example of me. Maybe because of a few reasons... that fact that I coached at Spurs (maybe felt threatened) and was on a good contract and the fact that I was a Gordon Bartlett guy. I always gave my best whenever I trained or played for the club but he made it clear I wasn't for him. He said that if I wanted to be his captain I'd have to be drinking and buying pints in the bar after games... bear in mind I'm a Christian and teetotal!

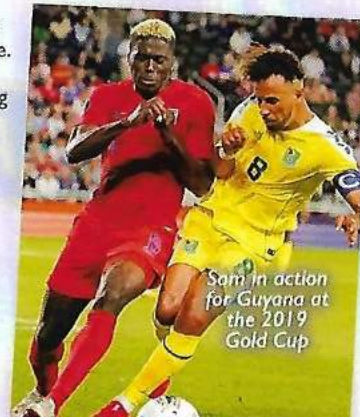
"Things became very difficult for me in the third season when he told me he didn't want me around which was a tough time for me - but that's all in the past and I wish him all the best in his endeavours and hope he's happy in life."

When I last interviewed Sam for the programme almost a decade ago the ex-Spurs youngster named Gareth Bale as the best he'd ever played with or against. Bale played left-back in the Spurs reserves and Sam right back... not a bad combination!

But since his Gold Cup experiences with Guyana, Coxy now names Christian Pulisic whom he faced playing for the US in the opening game of the Gold Cup

**continued overpage >>>**

**Wilkinson tried to make an example of me and it was a tough time.. but that's all in the past**



Sam in action for Guyana at the 2019 Gold Cup



## Stones interview contd from previous page

2019. He'd just got the move to Chelsea and was on fire!

"I'm not ready to retire just yet; I've got my eyes on the Gold Cup 2024-5 for my national team, and I think I'd be content on bowing out then."

Sam says he's often asked how he manages to fit everything into his crowded schedule. So what is a typical week in the Sam Cox world?

"Wow! Okay, so I work Mondays at Spurs at the academy, plus I have my own private Sam Cox academy too in the evenings. On Tuesday I'll be at Wealdstone, typically training or a game. Wednesdays I'm back at Spurs with the u-15s. Thursday I'll be at Wealdstone while on Fridays, I'll have the Spurs academy and one to ones, and then get around maybe the Spurs under-18s and under-21s too. Saturdays I coach Spurs in the morning and then travel with Wealdstone. Sunday I'll be back again at Spurs for a home or away under-15s fixture, and in the afternoon my Sam Cox academy clients. Phew!

"It's hard to maintain a social life but I'm single and young. Also, I've filmed Season 3 of Ted Lasso and a few adverts in between!"

"Lasso was an amazing experience... and of course there's the international stuff with Guyana when the international window comes around.

"But this is what my mum and dad helped me for; all the travelling, taking me to trials, paying for my subs and equipment. Now this is maximising everything they've done for me."

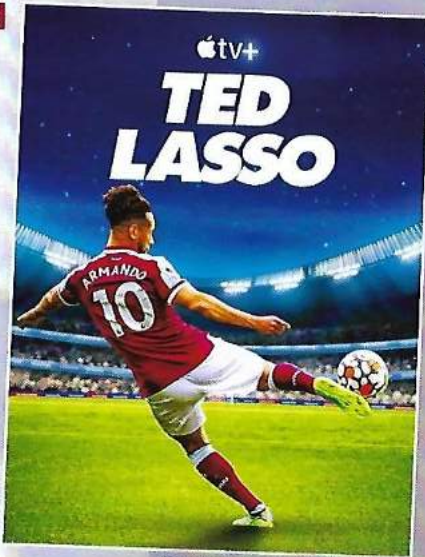
Is your experience with Guyana the highlight of your career so far? I asked him.

"The Gold Cup 2019 was the tipping point, the highlight of my career helping Guyana qualify for its first major tournament. I'm a player-coach now, unbeaten in Group B of the Nations League and having qualified for League A to put us in a good position for the next tournament in 2025.

"This was way beyond my expectations and imagination... captaining my country for nine years, World Cup qualifiers in June, then Nations League next September to play some juggernaut nations in Mexico, America, Jamaica - it's something I love, that I love doing. I have the feeling I have one last campaign in me..."

Sam used to be based in Elstree but he's now living in NW London now, a good location for both Spurs and Wealdstone.

"I've got no kids as yet, not married (not sure how I'd fit that in) but, God willing, one day. I'm blessed with a patient and understanding missus. I'm just enjoying this rollercoaster of a ride called football and very grateful... and I know the best is yet to come"



**'When I scored that goal for 'West Ham' in the Lasso episode I'm not at all surprised everyone got on to me... it was the first goal I've scored since 2017!'**



**Sam won the role of West Ham 'Armando' in Series Three of Ted Lasso and nets an impressive goal against AFC Richmond, breaking from midfield, performing a step over to fool the onrushing keeper (below) before netting what was a very rare goal for the new Stones head coach!**



## Nicola Brown International Women's Day

**Wealdstone FC have always been a club to support and champion Inclusion, they understand the importance it has to them as a football club and their fan base, which is a rich melting pot of race, colour, gender and age.**

It was with great pleasure that the board agreed to appoint myself as the clubs Her Game Too (HGT) ambassador to help ensure that both women and girls can enjoy their footballing experience as much as their fellow male fans.

This season the club also wanted to highlight and support International Women's Day (IWD). A recognized annual event to allow us to consider and influence a world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively we can all **#InspireInclusion**. HGT plays an important role in what IWD want to see and change across our planet. The HGT ambassadors and clubs who drive the HGT initiative in the world of both professional and amateur football are positively helping drive this change and ensuring football is a game for all, football stadia are places that women and girls want to visit and football clubs where they feel accepted rather than discriminated against.

We can all celebrate women's achievement, raise awareness about discrimination and take action to drive gender parity. We believe at Wealdstone FC that IWD belongs to everyone, everywhere and inclusion means all IWD action is valid and worthy.

Myself and my fellow ambassadors are hugely grateful to the clubs they passionately follow are fully behind HGT and IWD and are a force for good for future generations.

**Nicola**



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MAX KRETZSCHMAR

# Taking it to the

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

*Our striker/midfielder Max Kretzschmar looks back on his two-goal contribution at York and why hunger is so important....*

**HELLO and welcome back to The Vale for our FA Trophy quarter final clash with Solihull Moors. I'm expecting a fantastic occasion for both sets of fans.**

I'm writing these notes the day before that stern midweek test at Southend United, our fifth Tuesday night game in as many weeks. The backlog of fixtures caused by the awful rain this winter has caused a schedule which we know won't relent, so it's important that every player is ready to come in and play a starring role.

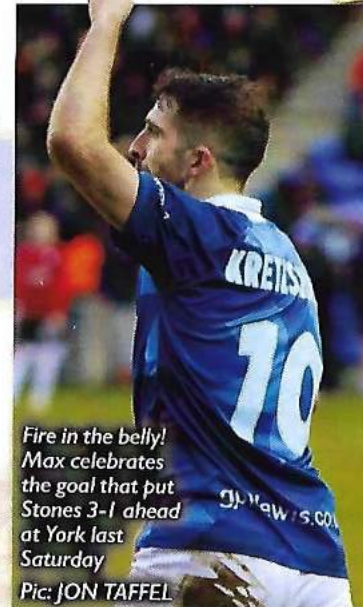
Being benched or left out by a manager altogether is always very tough for players to take. There's eleven spaces every week with sometimes 20-25 players vying for those coveted starting places.

Over the years I've seen so many players really struggle with the limited minutes they get on the football pitch. They sulk in training, their body language is poor and their performance on the training ground therefore gets worse.

I've even seen players launch footballs into trees, bushes and as far as they can kick it - just to show how unhappy they are at the manager's choices (I've never seen this at Wealdstone).

I know how hard mentally it can be to deal with this problem but this particular 'solution' baffles me. I've always thought a manager will look at a player favourably if they're angry about being left out and they're tearing around the training pitch, they're pressing, tackling and doing all the right things to prove to the manager 'Hey look, I'm grafting here and you've made a wrong decision!'

I don't believe a manager has ever gone "Look at him, his shoulders are down, he's quiet and doesn't want to train, I'll put him back into the team next



*Fire in the belly!  
Max celebrates  
the goal that put  
Stones 3-1 ahead  
at York last  
Saturday*

Pic: JON TAFFEL

**Cup ties can be settled by tiny margins... and you fans can be the difference!**

game to the players that the last manager has been sacked for a reason! 'Smell blood'. Thankfully we did either side of half time.

Today is a different test. Having done a thoroughly professional job against local rivals Hendon in the previous round, we welcome a strong Solihull Moors team to The Vale. Solihull sit 4th in the National League, right in the play-off mix. We played out a tight affair under the previous manager, a 1-0 defeat and I expect a similar game today.

Cup games can often be settled by the tiniest of margins and the crowd can make that telling difference. I urge you fans to get right behind us today and to create an incredible atmosphere around the Vale like I know you can.

**Come on you Stones!**

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

# RIP LEW SHEPPARD, 1930-2024

## 'Lew was a lucky man...he saw the great Stones players of the 1950s, 60s and 70s. And he had the best possible 90th birthday present with promotion to the National League. We'll miss him'

TODAY we mark the passing of the much-loved Lew Sheppard, who died just a couple of days after his 94th birthday.

We are repeating the 'Fan in the Stand' feature published in February 2020 for the Dorking home game (which marked his 90th birthday) with some warm words from fellow oldie MICK FISHMAN. How Lew would have loved the occasion today! His funeral will be at Ruislip Crematorium next week and he can happily now join his mate John Knight who featured in a memorable 'double' FIS back in

2012 (for our Trophy semi-final with Newport). Lew and John were possibly our last surviving fans from the club's first-ever foray into a quarter-final of a national competition: In 1949 when 13,500 people packed into Lower Mead for a replay Amateur Cup defeat to Leytonstone. Here Mick recounts his tribute to his (slightly) older pal from four years ago...

It is a genuine privilege to be sponsoring today's match in honour of Lew Sheppard, who turned 90 on 16th February.

Lew attended his first match at Lower Mead on 18th April 1939: a 3-2 victory over Leyton in an Athenian League match (scorers Charlie Bunce 2 and Jackie Wilson). That kick-started his 80-year (so far) love affair with Wealdstone Football Club.

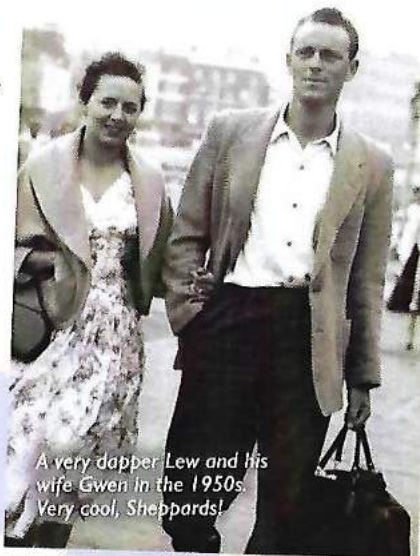
Despite spending his formative footballing years watching the rather unsatisfactory wartime competitions, his enthusiasm wasn't dampened and he was on the spot to see the club emerge after the war as a genuine force in amateur football. He was one of the 13,504 who crowded into Lower Mead on 5th March 1949 to see the Stones thumped 4-0 in an FA Amateur Cup 4th Round replay against Leytonstone. He was not part of the 9,000 plus crowd that witnessed the FA Cup clash with Colchester United the following year as he was doing his National Service... and ironically viewed the match on a tiny TV screen in Colchester where he was based.

Fortunately, Lew had completed his National Service in time for him to enjoy the club's first genuine big season, 1951/52, when the club won the Athenian League championship. His memory of that period remains acute and he is still able to paint pictures in your mind of the players and football of the time. As

Right: Lew's Fan in the Stand (with pal John Knight) 12 years ago for the FA Trophy semi-final second leg against Newport County

a young man in the 1950s, Lew was an active participant in the various ground improvements undertaken at that time and was one of many volunteers who turned the sloping shingled High Mead side of the ground into a fine terraced area that ran the length of the pitch. He and his long-time friend, the late John Knight, were deeply involved in the club throughout the 50s and 60s and regular drinkers in the Lower Mead Social Club.

Lew is a lucky man. He has seen play those who represented the club at the outbreak of war such as goal ace Charlie Bunce and outstanding inside forward Ken Baldwin (both of whom would sadly perish in the conflict). He saw Danny Wiltshire, Tommy McGhee, Henryk Mikrut and Henryk Wegrzyk in the outstanding side of 1952. He was at Wembley in 1966 to see Charlie Townsend and Hughie Lindsay help the club lift the FA Amateur Cup. He saw the incomparable George Duck score just about all of his 251 goals for the club, including the 64



A very dapper Lew and his wife Gwen in the 1950s. Very cool, Sheppards!



he netted in the title winning year of 1974.

He saw the Cordice brothers & Co carry all before them in the Southern League in 1982. He was at Wembley again in 1985 to see Paul Bowgett lift the FA Trophy and claim the non-league double. He experienced all the ups and downs of the Gordon Bartlett years that included two championships and four promotions.

Lew is loved, liked and admired by all who know him. He remains a passionate Stones fan and attends all games, home and away, when the creaking knees of an ex-plumber allow him to do so. The team is flying this season and it would be wonderful if it can maintain its form, win promotion and return the club to its highest point since 1985 and give Lew the best present possible in this his 90th year.

### NO.9 OF THIS CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED SERIES

## THE FANS IN THE STAND



How apt, considering their FA Cup tales, that two of our oldest fans - Lew Sheppard and John Knight - feature in today's bumper programme...

**Names:** Lew Sheppard, 79 and John Knight, 72  
**How you first came to meet?**  
 John: We've known each other since we were kids in West Harrow during the war. I lived in Butler Road and Lew in Drury Road.  
**Why did you first go to watch Wealdstone?**  
 Lew: There used to be good coverage in the papers and on the radio. I think that's why we became aware of Wealdstone. I said to my dad I wanted to go and the Stones were the nearest club, so used to walk to Lower Mead from home. To start with I went with Monty Smith and his brother and their dad - football was suspended for a season when the War began up but the Herts & Middx League soon started up and it was good standard of football. Players used to be queued for the clubs depending on where they were stationed, doing their national service.  
**Have you regularly watched other teams?**  
 John: We used to go to pro games together. There was the "6-5 Special" game at Stamford Bridge when Chelsea beat Newcastle 6-5, that was amazing. My parents were from Newcastle so they are my other team, apart from

Wealdstone

**Lew:** We also went to watch Newcastle at Spurs around the same time, and as we drove past the Manor Tavern on the North Circular I joked to John: If Newcastle win I'll buy the drinks all night (not thinking they would, because Spurs were a great side then) but Newcastle DID win! We had a few that night and then drove home... different days!  
**Lew:** I had a soft spot for Portsmouth then, in the 50s. A great side. League Champions around that time with players like Jack Froggatt and

**avourite ground?** Lew: Lower Mead for atmosphere. We went there before they put in the concrete terracing. The open side, the High Mead side, was just wooden duckboards filled in with clinker. Amazing crowds in those days. Over 13,000 for the Leytonstone cup match but there would regularly be 4 or 5,000, especially for the Christmas matches against Hendon.

**Most memorable game from that era?**  
**Lew:** It was a game I never actually saw! I was on national service at Colchester Barracks in Essex when the Stones were drawn at home to Colchester United in the FA Cup - talk about irony!  
 I slipped in a request for a weekend pass but it was refused... I was pretty upset but the game was shown live on the BBC because they were experimenting with live outside broadcasts in those days.  
 So I rushed to the NAAFI (canteen) after my shift and there were dozens of blokes all crowded round the 9-inch TV. Black and white of course, in those days you had a big magnifying glass to put over the TV screen to make the picture bigger, so that is how I saw our great 1-0 win. And Colchester were a damn fine side in those days, a strong professional Southern League outfit while we were amateurs in the Athenian League.  
 I'd seen some of their home games while I was stationed at Colchester and knew how good they were... funny, I don't know how good the Cup game I was on duty at the gate of the players' came past with their kit bags, on the way to the station. I called out: "You're up against it today lads" as a joke, but it turned out to be true!

**What's your best all-time team?**  
**Lew and John:** Danny Wiltshire (excellent keeper), Roy Marshall (very composed, good leader), Johnny Ashworth (FA Amateur Cup captain, great centre half), Tommy McGree (was at Portsmouth before Stones, excellent), Stuart Pearce (fantastic player), Charlie Townsend (very accomplished, great shot too), Fred Barwick (very tenacious, great tackler), Robin Wainwright (superb passer, stylish), Ray Filton (excellent left foot, gives balance), George Duck (amazing goalscorer), Alan Cordice (unstoppable).  
 In the squad we'd have Richard Jolly and Jermaine Beckford (very dangerous), Paul Bowgett (Trophy-winning captain), Carl Martin (very talented), Peter Parfitt (also Middlesex & England cricketer and hard as nails, played quite a few times for the Stones).  
 Parfitt put a player through the millings one afternoon at Walton & Hersham and they had to lock the changing room door when the Walton players came after him - got a bit ugly but he would have taken them all on single handed. Hard but true!

**Most memorable Stones games:** The 1-0 win at Braintree ten years ago when our promotion chances were slipping away. Dennis Greene got the goal. Plus: The semi-final of the Amateur Cup at Stamford Bridge when we beat Abchurch; not a great game but the realisation that we were going to be playing at Wembley in the final was fantastic. Can still remember that feeling. Oh, and the 6-5 Stevenage game in 1965... sensational stuff with us 5-3 down in the final stages. Then the play-off game at Dulwich a few years ago. The drama!

**Best Wealdstone teams:** The double side of 1984-5 was very well-organised with some great talents. But possibly my favourite side was the Athenian League Championship side of 1951-52 with the two Poles, Henryk Mikrut and Henryk Wegrzyk - a great partnership in attack.  
 (Editor's note: I looked up this period in Roger's historical book and the attendances are mind-boggling: 7,300 at Lower Mead for a Christmas Day match against Hendon, when several women at the match passed on messages to find out the score (!) and 9,200 for an Amateur Cup replay against Watlington Avenue when their goalkeeper, another Pole called Grula, saved the day. There were a lot of good Polish players serving in the forces in the London area at the time, many of whom stayed on in England) **Tim Parks**

Next time: It's the man behind the...





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All you need to know about... Solihull Moors

# Opposition in focus



**S**olihull Moors FC is a merger between the former Solihull Borough and Moor Green football clubs.

Solihull Borough was formed in 1953 by Joe McGorian and the Club was originally known as Lincoln FC. Borough progressed through the local leagues before joining the Midland Combination

in 1969, where they spent 22 seasons, eventually resulting in promotion to the Southern League. In 1989 the club was forced to sell it's Widney Lane ground to property developers but after a proposed relocation fell through, a ground-share was agreed with local neighbours Moor Green - this was to last for ten years until the purchase of Damson Park in August 1999.

Moor Green was formed in 1901. The first ground was on a part of a farm in Moor Green Lane, Moseley. Their ancestral home, The Moorlands, was acquired in 1930, and was situated in Hall Green, a suburb of south Birmingham. The 2003/4 season was a momentous one for Moors gaining a place in the newly formed Nationwide Conference North; However, the inaugural season was to prove a traumatic one with the devastation caused by two arson attacks at The Moorlands in January 2005, when the main stand and clubhouse were gutted leaving the club homeless. Moors thus became tenants of Solihull Borough at Damson Park.

With both clubs struggling to secure gates big enough to sustain the two teams, the

merger of both seemed an obvious forward and formed

in the summer of 2007, Solihull Moors Football Club became one of the youngest clubs in senior English football. The new club took the place of Moor Green in the Blue Square Conference North. Bob Faulkner, the Moor Green manager was given the job to take the new club forward, but Borough Boss Mickey Moore would return in the new club's hour of need.

For their first season Bob Faulkner ran with much the same team as the last Moor Green outfit and the Moors first competitive game was a 1-1 draw at home to Barrow AFC on August 11th, 2007, with a 90th minute equalizer from Darren Middleton, earning him the accolade of scoring the first league goal for Solihull Moors. The first win came two weeks later with a 3-1 home victory over

Gainsborough Trinity, but the remainder of the campaign proved a struggle with the team rarely out of the bottom six in the league table. Survival was confirmed after the 40th league game of the season with a memorable 2-1 victory at Blyth Spartans on the penultimate Tuesday of the season.

Birmingham and Solihull Bees became tenants of the club during the 2010 close season and would play their rugby matches on either Fridays or Sundays.

During the summer break before the 2011/12 season Mickey Moore decided to take up an offer from Mansfield Town and Marcus Bignot,

**THE MOORS**  
**HOME GROUND DAMSON PARK**  
**CAPACITY - 5,500**  
**2022/23 - 15TH NATIONAL LEAGUE**



ex Crewe, Bristol Rovers, QPR and Millwall was announced as his replacement a week later. 2015/16 saw 11 new signings with Vanarama National League experience and it was clear as early as the pre season friendlies that this could be the squad to take us up to the National League and did so winning the title three weeks before the end of the campaign.

2016/17 and our first season in The National League saw a different looking squad than the one expected following the winning of the National North and at the end of October Marcus Bignot suddenly quit

the club to take over at Grimsby. The void was filled by Liam McDonald a 31 year old who had successfully cut his managerial teeth at Redditch and Hednesford. There was much to learn and the path was rocky but survival was ensured in the penultimate game of the season which saw Moors finish in sixteenth spot with 54 points. Off the pitch The Automated Technology Group Stadium was brought up to National League standard.

2017/18 saw a miserable start to the season as we dropped up the league. Liam McDonald made way for Richard Money, but he quit after just 20 days before Mark Yates took over the reins with Tim Flowers as his assistant.

2018/19. Before a ball had been kicked in anger Mark Yates left to take over at League Macclesfield. Seamlessly Tim Flowers stepped up to the lead role and Gary Whild as his assistant. Several key signings have been

made to strengthen the squad and there was an air of expectancy around the club as it embarked on its third year in the top-flight. Indeed, it turned out to be quite the season, as Solihull Moors made club history by gaining their highest ever league finish. The team finished second, just three points behind eventual champions Leyton Orient. The season didn't quite have the fairy tale ending as AFC Fylde defeated Flowers' side in the play-off

semi-final. Moors ended on 86 points, narrowly missed out on an FA Cup third round tie against Blackpool and reached the FA Trophy quarter-finals.

In January 2020, Tim Flowers departed with the club sitting just outside the play-off places. Gary Whild and James Quinn took temporary charge of the side while the hunt for a new manager began.

In February 2020, Jimmy Shan was appointed as the new manager of Solihull Moors with Richard Beale coming in as his number two but as we entered 2021, Moors went on a poor run of form and dropped down the table. In March 2021, this signalled the end of Jimmy Shan's reign as he departed the club with assistant Richard Beale. Moors wasted no time in appointing former manager Mark Yates on a short-term contract until the end of the season.

Solihull finished the 2021/22 season in 3rd place when despite a 3-1 semi final victory over Chesterfield, the Moors lost 2-1 to Grimsby after extra time in the Play Off Final.

**ALL TIME**  
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# OPPOSITION IN FOCUS

## Solihull Moors

### MANAGER. ANDY WHING



Andy Whing arrives at Solihull Moors following a successful spell at Banbury United, having resigned from his position at the club in May. The 38-year-old led the Puritans to the Vanarama National League North for the first time in the club's history in what was a record-breaking season. Whing guided his side to the Southern League Central title, winning the league by 23 points with four games to go. The Birmingham born coach started his footballing career at Coventry City where he made 106 appearances for the Sky Blues before his move to Brighton & Hove Albion where he made 103 appearances during his time on the South Coast. Whing went on to represent Chesterfield, Leyton Orient and Oxford United before retiring in 2015. The former Coventry City defender kick-started his coaching career at Kidderminster Harriers in 2017 with their under 23s, before joining up with Russell Slade at Hereford in 2019.

### GOALKEEPING COACH KEVIN POOLE

Poole made over 500 senior appearances throughout his playing career, featuring in between the sticks for the likes of Aston Villa, Middlesbrough, Leicester City, Birmingham City and Burton Albion. After hanging up his gloves, Kevin made his mark in coaching as part of Gary Rowett's set-up at Burton and in the Championship with Blues and Derby County. Most recently, he has been the goalkeeping coach at Kidderminster Harriers. He joined Jimmy Shan's coaching team in the summer of 2020.

### 2. JAMES CLARKE - DEFENCE

Moors were delighted to welcome Mansfield Town defender James Clarke to the club on a short-term loan. The 21-year-old right back has recently extended his stay at the ARMCO Arena until the end of the season. Clarke joined the Stags from Burnley prior to the 2019/20 campaign, where he was included in the first team squad during pre-season. His impressive performances led to him

making a handful of first team appearances in his maiden season with Mansfield. Clarke had appeared 20 times coming into the current campaign and has since added to that – he currently has seven appearances to his name this season, four of those coming in League Two fixtures in October 2021. His last appearance came in a 6-3 victory over Newcastle United under 21's in the EFL Trophy on 9th November. The defender also has two caps at international level for Republic of Ireland under 18's.

### 3. JOE NEWTON - DEFENCE

### 4. JAMEY OSBORNE - MIDFIELD

Solihull-born Osborne came through the youth ranks at Hednesford Town and was promoted to the first team towards the end of the 2009/10 season. After a spell at Redditch United, he joined Moors in April 2016 and was an integral part of the Moors squad that retained its Vanarama National League status in the subsequent season. He moved onto Grimsby Town halfway through the campaign, signing a two-and-a-half-year deal, but happily for Moors returned on loan and then permanently at the beginning of 2018. A fans' favourite for his wizardry in midfield, Osborne's goals are usually sublime. He was named in the National League Team of the Season for 2018/19. At the end of 2019, Jamey signed a new long-term contract with Solihull Moors. Although injuries have disrupted his rhythm in a Moors shirt, Osborne has 138 appearances and 24 goals to his name.

### 6. KYLE MORRISON - DEFENCE

### 7. JOE SBARRA - MIDFIELD

Sbarra began his footballing career through the youth academy of West Brom before becoming an academy graduate at Burton, making his senior debut on the final day of the 2016/17 season. In total, Sbarra made 76 appearances for the Brewers, featuring in both the Championship and League One for the club. His solitary Burton goal came when he opened the scoring in a 2-2 draw away to Portsmouth in League One in September 2019. The diminutive midfielder first joined the Moors on loan, playing six times for the club during the 2018/19 campaign. A season where Moors narrowly missed out on promotion to the EFL, finishing second, three points behind Leyton Orient in the National League table. Sbarra was on loan from Burton Albion in that campaign and, following his departure from the Pirrelli Stadium in the summer of 2020, Sbarra made the SportNation.Bet stadium his permanent home. He initially signed on a two year deal with the option of a third year.

### 8. CALLUM MAYCOCK - MIDFIELD

Born in Birmingham, Maycock was given his first-team opportunity by Coventry City after initially joining the club as an apprentice in 2014. The 23-year-old made his professional debut for the Sky Blues in November 2016, coming on as a substitute in a 1-1 FA Cup draw with Morecambe. He played 32 times whilst on loan at League Two side Macclesfield Town in 2018/19, before playing regularly for Leamington in the National League North last season. Maycock departed League One Champions Coventry in June 2020 following the expiry of his contract, with 12 senior appearances to his name. In his inaugural season with Moors, the midfielder was a regular in the centre of the park as he made 44 appearances.

### 9. MARK BECK - FORWARD

### 11. MATTY WARBURTON - MIDFIELD

Callum Powell joined Southend United in January 2022 from Kettering Town for an undisclosed fee. The 26-year-old forward signed terms on a two-and-a-half-year deal at Roots Hall. Formerly of Northampton, Wrexham, Tamworth and Stourbridge, the forward enjoyed a very successful 2021/22 campaign for Kettering in the National League North before joining Blues.

### 12. GUS MAFUTA - MIDFIELD

Jack Wood signed for the Shrimpers from Kings Langley in January 2022. He joined the seventh-tier side in 2019 at the age of 16, and signed for Southend on a two-and-a-half-year deal. Wood spent time on loan at National League South side Tonbridge Angels in 2022/23, netting eight goals.

### 14. JACK STEVENS - FORWARD

### 15. CONNOR HALL - FORWARD

### 16. MAX BROGAN - MIDFIELD

### 17. JOSS LABADIE - MIDFIELD

### 18. JON BENTON - MIDFIELD

### 19. RICHARD STEARMAN - DEFENCE

### 22. MORGAN OWEN - MIDFIELD

Midfielder Morgan Owen is captain of the club's Elite Academy and was allocated a first team squad number for 2022/23. He came on to make his first team bow on the opening day of the season, coming on as a late substitute in the 4-1 victory at Aldershot

Town. Owen became the first player from the academy to appear in a National League fixture.

### 23. FINN HOWELL - DEFENCE

### 25. KIAN RYLEY - MIDFIELD

### 27. KADE CRAIG - DEFENCE

### 29. TAHVON CAMPBELL - FORWARD



Born in Birmingham, Campbell started his career at West Bromwich Albion, joining the club in 2006. Ahead of the 2015-16 season, Campbell signed for National League side Kidderminster Harriers on loan until January 2016. Having made 15 appearances for Kidderminster, Campbell was recalled to West Brom in October 2015. In January 2016, Campbell joined Football League Two side Yeovil Town on a one-month loan deal. In August 2016, he returned to Yeovil on a further sixth-month loan deal. In January 2017, Campbell joined Notts County on loan until the end of the season then in January 2018, Campbell joined Forest Green Rovers in League Two for the remainder of the 2017-18 season. Campbell was released by West Bromwich Albion at the end of the 2017-18 season. Following his release he subsequently joined Forest Green on a permanent deal. He was released by Forest Green Rovers at the end of the 2018-19 season and has subsequently represented Gillingham, Cheltenham, Halifax, Woking and Rochdale, from who he spent a loan period at Aldershot and then Wealdstone before joining Solihull in February.

### 32. NICK HAYES - GOALKEEPER

### 35. ALEX WHITMORE - DEFENCE





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## SOLIHULL MOORS

# MANAGING TO SUCCEED

**Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS Profiles ten leading Solihull Moors managers**

### BOB FAULKNER



Bob Faulkner became the Midlands' longest-serving football manager. Appointed Moor Green's boss on Boxing Day 1985, he guided them to promotion as Southern League Midland Division runners-up in 1987-88 and steered the Moors back to the Southern League Premier Division in 1999-2000. They became founder members of the Conference North in 2004 and when Moor Green merged with Solihull Borough to form Solihull Moors in 2007, he was given the job to take the new club forward. He had spent over 25 years in the club's hot-seat, earning the tag of 'Non-League Alex Ferguson', before his death from cancer in February 2011.

### MICKY MOORE

Micky Moore managed Solihull Moors to the Birmingham Senior Cup final in 2011. A former striker, he played for Derby County, Swansea City, Cradley Town, Stafford Rangers, Moor Green, Telford United, Stourbridge, Rothwell, Redditch, Bromsgrove, Gresley, Stratford, Stourport Swifts, Hednesford and Cradley again. He coached football at North Birmingham College and assisted Bob Faulkner at Solihull Moors before replacing him as manager from February 2011 until July 2011. Later assisting Paul Cox at Mansfield, then Marcus Bignot at Grimsby Town and Cox again at Barrow, he became Cheltenham's head of recruitment in

September 2018.

### MARCUS BIGNOT

Former England Semi-Pro right-back Marcus Bignot managed Solihull Moors to the Conference North title in 2015-16. Initially a Birmingham City trainee, he played for Telford, Kidderminster, Crewe, Bristol Rovers, QPR and Rushden & Diamonds, featuring in their 2002-03 Third Division title triumph. He rejoined QPR in March 2004 and helped to clinch promotion, then played for Millwall, Oldham Athletic and Solihull Moors. Managing them from July 2011 until November 2016, also plotting their 2016 Birmingham Senior Cup final triumph, he then managed Grimsby, Barrow, Chester and Guiseley. He has since coached Cheltenham and Shrewsbury.

### KEITH BERTSCHIN

Former England U-21 striker Keith Bertschin was Solihull Moors' caretaker-boss in November 2016. Starting with Barnet, he joined Ipswich Town in October 1973 and moved to Birmingham City in July 1977. He was top scorer in their 1979-80 promotion success and repeated the feat with Norwich City in 1981-82. Stoke City's leading marksman in 1985-86, he later played for Sunderland, Walsall, Chester City, Aldershot, Evesham United, Barry Town, Worcester City, Tamworth and Stafford Rangers. He assisted Steve Bruce at Birmingham, Wigan, Sunderland and Hull, then assistant-boss at Solihull Moors and coached Solihull Moors Ladies team.

### LIAM McDONALD

Liam McDonald managed Solihull Moors' 2016-17 FA Cup victory over Yeovil Town as the club reached the second round for the first time. A much-travelled midfielder, he played for hometown Worcester, Bromsgrove Rovers, Boldmere St Michaels, Halesowen Town, Sutton Coldfield, Cradley Town, Barwell, Stafford Rangers, Kettering Town and Tamworth before entering management with Redditch United. He then had a spell in charge of Hednesford Town, becoming Solihull Moors' boss in November 2016 after Marcus Bignot's departure to Grimsby Town. Remaining in charge of Solihull until October 2017, he has since managed Rushall Olympic

### RICHARD MONEY

Former England B international central defender Richard Money briefly managed Solihull Borough during the 2017-18 campaign. Initially with Scunthorpe United, he then played for Fulham, Liverpool, Luton Town, Portsmouth and Scunthorpe again. He managed Scunthorpe, AIK, Vasteras and Newcastle Jets before leading Walsall to the League Two title in 2006-07. After a spell as Luton's boss, he managed Cambridge United back into the Football League and FA Trophy success in 2013-14, then took Manchester United to an FA Cup fourth round replay in 2014-15. He managed Solihull Moors for 26 days in October 2017, then Hartlepool United.

### MARK YATES

Former England Semi-Pro midfielder Mark Yates had two spells as Solihull Moors' manager. He played for Birmingham, Burnley and Doncaster, then Kidderminster in the 1995 FA Trophy final. Helping Cheltenham to clinch the Conference title in 1998-99, then win promotion in 2001-02, he rejoined Kidderminster in February 2004 and managed them to 2008 FA Trophy final. Later managing Cheltenham and Crawley, he was Solihull Moors' boss from November 2017 until June 2018, guiding them to safety. He then had spells in charge of Macclesfield, Kidderminster again, Stourbridge and Solihull Moors again from March 2021 until June 2021.

### TIM FLOWERS



Ex-England international goalkeeper Tim Flowers managed Solihull Moors to Conference National runners-up in 2018-19. Initially with Wolves, he joined Southampton in June 1986 and appeared in the 1992 ZDS Cup final. He was ever-present in 1992-93 and joined Blackburn Rovers for a record £2,400,000 in November 1993. Starring in their

1994-95 Premier League title triumph, he moved to Leicester City in July 1999 and was a League Cup winner in 2000. He has since been a goalkeeping coach at various clubs and managed Stafford, Solihull Moors from June 2018 until January 2020, Macclesfield, Barnet, Stratford Town and Gloucester City.

### JIMMY SHAN



Jimmy Shan managed Solihull Borough's wins over Wrexham and Scunthorpe United en route to the FA Cup second round in 2020-21. A former Walsall youth player, he then appeared for Paget Rangers. He started his coaching career at Birmingham City's Academy, then worked across the age groups at West Brom, including U-18s, U-21s and U-23s. Joining their first-team coaching staff in 2017-18, he had a spell as caretaker-boss in the wake of Darren Moore's dismissal. Following a stint as Kidderminster's interim manager, he managed Solihull Moors from February 2020 until March 2021. He has since coached at Rochdale and Sheffield Wednesday.

### NEAL ARDLEY

Former England U-21 midfielder Neal Ardley managed Solihull Moors to the Conference National play-off final in 2021-22. Initially with Wimbledon, he helped them finish sixth in the Premier League in 1993-94 and reach the semi-finals of the FA Cup and League Cup in 1996-97. He joined Watford in August 2002 and was a semi-finalist again in the FA Cup in 2003 and League Cup in 2005. After spells at Cardiff City and Millwall, he rejoined Cardiff as Academy manager. He became AFC Wimbledon's boss in October 2012, plotting promotion in 2015-16, since managing Notts County, Solihull from June 2021 until June 2023 and recently York City.

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# FIRST TEAM RESULTS 2023/2024

AUGUST	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers	Dante BAPTISTE	Jack COOK	Charlie BARKER	Ashley CHARLES	Deon WOODMAN	Alex DYER	Mason BARRETT	Tarryn ALLARAKHIA	Nathan FERGUSON	Olufela OLOMOLA	Max KRETZSCHMAR	Corie ANDREWS	Charlie SEAMAN	Jed WARD	Toby BULL	Micah OBIERO	Jack YOUNG	Luke DREHER	Dom HUTCHINSON	Kyle SMITH	Charles CLAYDEN	Brooklyn ILUNGA	Dillon DE SILVA	Abdul ABDULMALIK	Kallum CESAY	Sam BOWEN	Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH	Jaiden BARTOLO	Aaron HENRY	Sean ADARKWA	Declan PHILLIPS	Tahvon CAMPBELL	Trae COOK-APPIAH	Marcus DEWHURST	Brandon MASON	Eric NEGRARU	Joseph CULLIS		
5 YORK CITY	VNL	2-1	1,805	680	6	Kretzschmar (F), Mundle-Smith	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
12 Eastleigh	VNL	0-0	2,030	172	8		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
15 Bromley	VNL	1-1	1,810	159	8	Campbell	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
19 AFC FYLDE	VNL	3-2	1,145	20	5	Campbell 2, Ferguson	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
26 Aldershot Town	VNL	1-3	1,860	149	9	Adarkwa	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
28 DAGENHAM & RED.	VNL	0-2	1,513	275	12		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
SEPTEMBER																																													
2 Hartlepool United	VNL	1-2	4,072	115	15	Allarakhia	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
9 EBBSFLEET UNITED	VNL	2-1	1,422	186	11	Campbell 2 (1 Pen)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
16 ALTRINCHAM	VNL	0-0	1,302	70	11		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
19 Dorking Wanderers	VNL	1-3	1,389	150	12	Bowen	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
23 Chesterfield	VNL	2-3	7,301	140	15	Smith, Adarkwa	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
26 WOKING	VNL	1-0	1,310	250	13	Bowen	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
30 OLDHAM ATHLETIC	VNL	1-1	1,640	385	15	Bowen	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
OCTOBER																																													
3 Gateshead	VNL	1-2	896	54	16	Allarakhia	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
7 Kidderminster Harriers	VNL	0-1	2,546	190	15		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
14 Bromley	FAC4Q	2-3	1,933	195	15	Kretzschmar, Ferguson	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
21 BOREHAM WOOD	VNL	1-1	1,505	73	16	Allarakhia	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
24 OXFORD CITY	VNL	3-1	1,029	35	15	Smith, Bowen (2)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
28 Solihull Moors	VNL	0-1	1,281	108	16		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
NOVEMBER																																													
11 ROCHDALE	VNL	3-2	1,470	220	12	Cook (2), Adarkwa	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
18 FC Halifax Town	VNL	0-1	2,119	92	16		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
25 BARNET	VNL	3-2	2,515	556	13	Cook (2), Barker	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
DECEMBER																																													
16 Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL	2-0	1,318	173	13	Adarkwa, Allarakhia	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
20 Billericay Town	FATR3	4-1	310	100	13	Ferguson, Obiero, Campbell, Bowen	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
23 HARTLEPOOL UNITED	VNL	4-4	1,457	105	13	Adarkwa (3), Kretzschmar	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
26 Maidenhead United	VNL	2-0	1,709	250	12	Adarkwa, Kretzschmar (Pen)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
JANUARY																																													
6 Ebbsfleet United	VNL	0-2	1,511	300	12		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
13 Chelmsford City	FATR4	1-0	865	300	13	Campbell	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
27 FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL	2-0	1,519	111	13	Henry, Campbell	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
30 ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL	3-3	1,411	332	12	Adarkwa, Ferguson, Obiero	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
FEBRUARY																																													
3 Barnet	VNL	1-1	2,861	921	12	Andrews	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
6 MAID																																													





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 <b>AFC FYLDE</b> Saturday 19th August Vanarama National League	<b>Harrow Windows</b>	
 <b>DAGENHAM &amp; REDBRIDGE</b> Monday 28th August Vanarama National League	<b>Danny Kindell – NBM Technology</b>	
 <b>EBBSFLEET UNITED</b> Saturday 9th September Vanarama National League	<b>Rolfe-East</b>	<b>The Bugler Group</b>
 <b>ALTRINCHAM</b> Saturday 16th September Vanarama National League	<b>Ruislip Windows &amp; Doors</b>	
 <b>WOKING</b> Tuesday 26th September Vanarama National League	<b>Rolfe East</b>	
 <b>OLDHAM ATHLETIC</b> Saturday 30th September Vanarama National League	<b>OSMO UK</b>	
 <b>BOREHAM WOOD</b> Saturday 21st October Vanarama National League	<b>Barry Eynon in memory of John O'Connor</b>	
 <b>OXFORD CITY</b> Tuesday 24th October Vanarama National League	<b>The Bugler Group</b>	
 <b>ROCHDALE</b> Saturday 11th November Vanarama National League	<b>Clear Insurance Management Ltd</b>	<b>Rolfe-East</b>

 <b>BARNET</b> Saturday 25th November Vanarama National League	<b>Ruislip Windows &amp; Doors</b>	<b>Rolfe-East</b>
 <b>HARTLEPOOL UNITED</b> Saturday 23rd December Vanarama National League	<b>Harrow Windows</b>	<b>The Ambassadors</b>
 <b>FC HALIFAX TOWN</b> Saturday 27th January Vanarama National League	<b>Keith Davies</b>	<b>Jim Sorrell</b>
 <b>ALDERSHOT TOWN</b> Tuesday 30th January Vanarama National League	<b>Michael Nutt</b>	<b>Rolfe East</b>
 <b>MAIDENHEAD UNITED</b> Tuesday 6th February Vanarama National League	<b>Written in Stone</b>	
 <b>HENDON</b> Saturday 10th February FA Trophy 5th Round	<b>Harrow Windows</b>	<b>The Ambassadors</b>
 <b>GATESHEAD</b> Saturday 17th February Vanarama National League	<b>Rolfe-East</b>	
 <b>SOLIHULL MOORS</b> Saturday 9th March FA Trophy Quarter Final	<b>Friends &amp; Family of Tony Short</b>	<b>O'Nick Ltd</b>
 <b>BROMLEY</b> Tuesday 12th March Vanarama National League	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>KIDDERMINSTER HARR.</b> Saturday 23rd March Vanarama National League	<b>Rolfe-East</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>SOLIHULL MOORS</b> Monday 1st April Vanarama National League	<b>Dom Wong</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>SOUTHEND UNITED</b> Tuesday 9th April Vanarama National League	<b>Allday &amp; Miller Estate Agents</b>	
 <b>CHESTERFIELD</b> Saturday 13th April Vanarama National League	<b>The Old Gits Club</b>	<b>The Forest Green Five</b>
 <b>EASTLEIGH</b> Tuesday 16th April Vanarama National League	<b>Harrow Windows</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
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- Sat 9 Mar Motown Soul Disco
- Fri 15 Mar Who's Next
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to take part in up to five qualifying rounds against NW London neighbours and weren't accorded automatic status into the last 32 until 1931, when we had become a leading light in the Athenian League. But we were hammered 6-1 by Isthmians Kingstonian and had to start at the bottom all over again!

### What happened after the defeat to Leytonstone?

The East Londoners were shocked 2-0 by Bromley in the semi-final replay at Stamford Bridge... and Bromley won the final against Romford 1-0 at Wembley in front of a heaving 93,000 crowd! Well, I said these were the glory days, attendance-wise.

### Game Two: Saturday Feb 24 1966, FA Amateur Cup Round 4: Leatherhead (H) Won 2-1

SEVENTEEN years had elapsed since we had made decent progress in the Amateur Cup... even being knocked out in the qualifying rounds after a decade of being handed automatic entry to the First Round Proper. But in 1965-66 we had assembled a brilliant side and made history by reaching the semi-finals of a national competition for the very first time!

But it was an agonising afternoon for the 5,837 crowd at Lower Mead. Five days earlier we had beaten Isthmian League table-toppers Leytonstone 4-1 on their own ground (yes, them again) and the fans streamed into the stadium expecting more of the same against the Athenian League underdogs. But Wealdstone were woeful!

Seemingly beset by nerves, everything they tried



A section of the Wealdstone support at Stamford Bridge as the Stones got lucky again to beat Alvechurch 1-0 and reach the Amateur Cup Final for the first time

went wrong with England amateur internationals Charlie Townsend and Hughie Lindsay having afternoons to forget. And it was a horrible debut for goalkeeper Arthur Paisley... called up from the reserves to deputise for the injured Andy Williams, his first touch of the ball was a tame 40-yard strike by Leatherhead skipper Brazier. The ball squeezed through his grasp and bounced into the net!

To be fair, Paisley had to have pre-match painkillers for a broken bone in his hand, and he was immaculate after this (and in the next half a dozen games) as the Stones went unbeaten. And he even saved a penalty kick in the 1-0 semi-final win over Alvechurch at Stamford Bridge.

But back to Leatherhead. The crowd were getting agitated as Stones laboured to break down the banks of defenders and the equaliser after 70 minutes came out of the blue at the Cinema End. Townsend's low shot from the edge of the box, from an angle, went through several pairs of legs and found the corner of the net past the unsuspected keeper O'Malley. The crowd were now buying for a winner and with four minutes remaining Townsend floated a diagonal pass beyond the defence for the big battering ram, Jim Cooley, to flash his shot past the static keeper and into the net.

**What happened next?** We beat Birmingham side Alvechurch, who had knocked us out the previous season, 1-0 at Chelsea thanks to a shot-cum-cross from winger Brian Allen. And of course we lifted the Amateur Cup at Wembey on April 16 with that dramatic 3-1 win over favourites Hendon.

### Amateur Cup

## LAST-GASP GOAL TAKES 'STONES' INTO SEMI-FINAL

Wealdstone 2, Leatherhead 1

APPARENTLY bearing the burden of half a century of failures in the competition heavily on their shoulders, Wealdstone made a terribly laborious task of beating Leatherhead 2-1 to reach the semi-final of the F.A. Amateur Cup for the first time before a stunned crowd of just over 5,000 at Lower Mead on Saturday.

So what is it, until the last 10 minutes of the game, during which Wealdstone's last drew level and then to the climax to some dramatic last attacks, scored the winning goal with barely a minute left to go.

For the crushing goal by Townsend, who also made the second goal for us, it seemed the odds were to put them out of the competition with a goal just more than 10 minutes before the curtain falls on the curtain.

### Shock

Leatherhead had certainly earned slightly the better of the early exchanges but it was a right-out of the blue when Townsend, their captain, left-half, and outstanding player tried a shot from some 40 yards. It was powerful enough but straight at Paisley who, however, caused



Arthur Paisley, Wealdstone reserve goalkeeper, who gallantly stopped

Further forward into the attack, once finding himself offside as he chased a centre from Bremer.

Paisley was now having the quietest of times but there was a sudden scare for Wealdstone as, undetected by the referee, Goodall punched the ball over Doyle's head and dashed clear to square the ball across an unguarded goalmouth.

Luckily for Wealdstone no one was following up and their response was to launch a series of even more desperate attacks.

At last Lindsay, sleeves rolled up and driving hard, tried a new tactic with one of Leatherhead's probably conceded free-kicks. This time he slid the ball through a gap to Bremer.

### On terms

As Bremer turned towards



### Game Three: Saturday Feb 24 1968, FA Amateur Cup Round 4: Barking (H) Won 3-1

THIS was probably the most straightforward of all the Wealdstone wins in the quarter-finals. Barking, who had been beaten on their own ground on our march to winning the trophy in '66, were the plum draw as they sat in lower mid-table in the Isthmian League and our fans were quietly expecting the Stones to finish close to the top of the table... and probably win the Amateur Cup again too.

Dave Underwood's side had only lost once in 22 competitive games between August



and December, and come the new year had navigated past Torpoint Athletic (Cornwall) and Eastwood Town (Nottingham) along with Kingstonian to make the last eight. And despite the shock of Barking taking an early lead to silence the 3,246 Lower Mead crowd, Hughie Lindsay, below, rifled in a free-kick (helped by a dummy from Bernie Bremer) before Dave Swain gave the Stones a half-time lead by drifting past three defenders and hitting an oblique shot into the Elmslie End net.

Fellow striker Keiron Somers, soaring like an eagle, met a Bremer corner with his head for 3-1 and that was that.

**What happened next?** Do you really want to know? Well, the semi-final against Athenian League Div Two side Chesham United - who had played about a dozen qualifying games in their heroic effort to reach Wembley - was a total disaster from the moment the supporters coaches turned up late at Craven Cottage (where the semi-final was staged) to the moment our excellent keeper Andy Williams inexplicably fumbled a shot into the path of our ex-reserves striker Kent to set up possibly the biggest shock in Amateur Cup history.

We caved in 2-0 on a horrible, blustery afternoon in tangerine shirts and to my knowledge the club had never played in those colours again.

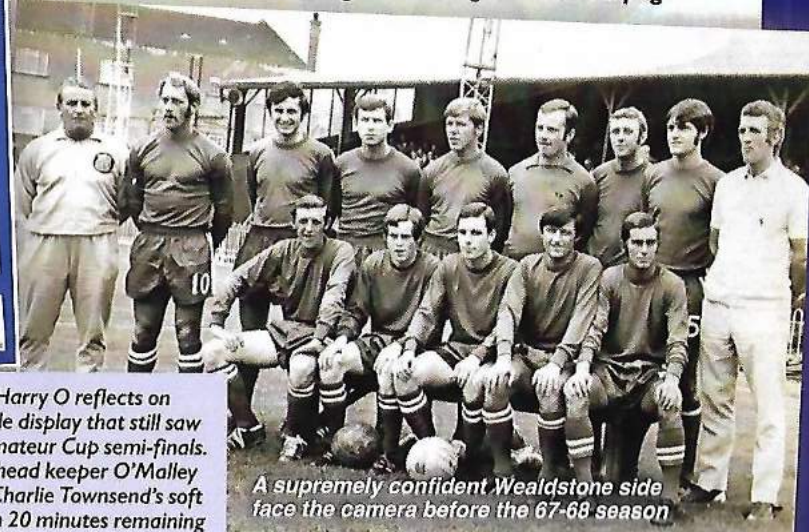
Chesham, to their credit, gave the mighty Leytonstone team a run for their boot money in the final and were only beaten by a sole Ken Gray goal in front of a 52,000 crowd shamelessly backing the underdogs. **Contd overpage>>**

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Far left: The Harry O reflects on Stones' terrible display that still saw us into the Amateur Cup semi-finals. Left: Leatherhead keeper O'Malley is beaten by Charlie Townsend's soft equaliser with 20 minutes remaining

A supremely confident Wealdstone side face the camera before the 67-68 season





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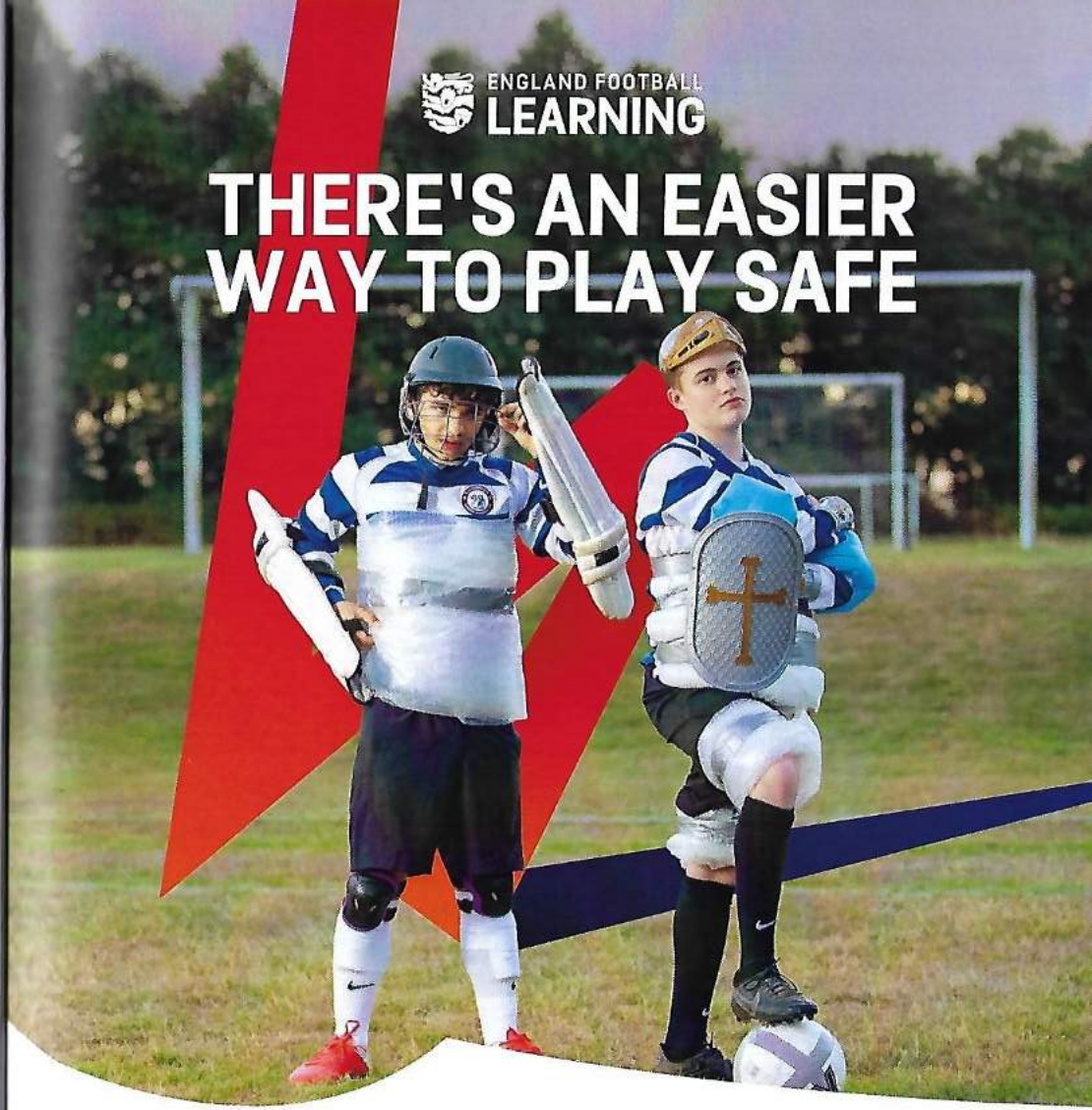


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# GOALKEEPER SENT OFF IN SORRY AMATEUR CUP QUARTER-FINAL

NORTH SHIELDS (0) 1, WEALDSTONE 0  
Attendance: 5,118

**NORTH SHIELDS moved into the semi-finals of the Amateur Cup at Middlesbrough on Saturday week a team without right, and a sad, sad reminder to all that a bad side can always out-clog a good one.**

For this match at Appley Park on Saturday was an absolute travesty of what the Amateur Cup is meant to be about.

## Just bizarre

In an opening half of sustained and rarely penalised violence and with some 6,000 voices making the ground a bull ring, they clobbered Bernie Bremer with a crude tackle by John Twaddle — with a hamstring injury he hobbled off on 27 minutes. Three minutes later Brian Joicey, their centre forward, charged straight into Wealdstone keeper Andy Williams who needed treatment while the cost to North Shields was a free-kick instead of a goal-kick and so it ranged on.

But the match blew up on just three minutes past the hour with a bizarre episode in the Wealdstone area. A long ball sliced into the crowded box, hit Tony McGuinness's hand and referee Eric Foukes, from Sheffield, awarded a penalty.

After protests, he asked

his linesman, stuck to his decision and sent off Williams.

When Williams had left the field, Wealdstone had no Bremer, the usual substitute keeper, left to help, so Charlie Townsend took over and George Thompson blasted the penalty over the bar, dashing in, bull-like, with his head up.

And here is where the match became quite amazing. With ten men, Wealdstone kept rolling the tough North Shields side back until 17 minutes from the end.

Micky Lister, on the Shields right, took a corner and as it curved into the area, Joicey obstructed Townsend, Cassidy pushed Dave Bromley (who was dashing in to cover) away and Richie Hall bundled Townsend, ball and all, into the net.

## Then a trip

This time, despite protests, Mr. Foukes gave a goal without asking the linesman and fled back to midfield. It

Williams was twice in action against Rutherford and Ray Wrightson with just a promising Searle-Swain raid in between, to be followed by Bremer's departure and Williams' injury.

The speed of Searle and Hutchinson had North Shields in real trouble as their slow backs were unable to turn and it was Cassidy, back in defence, who stopped the danger by pushing Hutchinson in the back.

Townsend tried the kick, but sent it too far. Wealdstone kept going and a series of defence errors had Hutchinson making a final pass that Swain blasted wide.

Back came Shields with Wrightson to Lister and back again, but Wrightson crashed his shot against the post. Franks came into action with a shot over the bar after a mistake by Thompson and then another Lindsay free-kick bounced across goal and away.

## Great chance

Franks had another great chance coming to half-time, but once more messed around with Mick Morgan stretched and the opportunity was wasted. Bromley ended the half by a neat, clean tackle on Wrightson.

Montague went down to an ankle-tap (the language of love in these parts, it seems) and Wrightson crashed across goal for Williams to gather.

Twaddle brought down Franks on the edge of the Shields area, but once again the Lindsay kick went wobbling away as indeed did his cross ball with Searle and Leonard up waiting for it two minutes later.

Then followed the penalty and all the other sad, sorry things that happened on St. David's Day.

One must add in closing that when players have come down to Lower Mead to train against doctor's orders, when they have refused to leave the field after injury, when a whole squad of 14 had worked so hard to make this a season to achieve something better than the M1 Floodlight League trophy, one really feels that this is a sad contest to report.

North Shields: M. Morgan, A. Driver, J. Twaddle, R. Hall, E. Tatum, G. Thompson, R. Wrightson, M. Lister, B. Joicey, T. Cassidy, J. Rutherford. Sub: Drisk. Wealdstone: A. Williams, C. Townsend, C. Leonard, D. Montague, T. McGuinness, D. Bromley, B. Bremer, M. Lindsay, G. Swain, K. Searle, J. Hutchinson. Sub: Franks.

## Game four: Saturday March 1, 1969, FA Amateur Cup Round 4: North Shields (away) Lost 0-1

WEALDSTONE'S sole defeat - to date - in the quarter-finals of a national cup competition came 55 years ago in the distant North-East. And the few remaining Stones fans present that day will never forget the injustice

Actually, forget the fans and just ask Charlie Townsend and Hughie Lindsay, octogenarian ambassadors for the club who will no doubt be at today's game. I've talked to Charlie, particularly, about it many times as he was at the centre of the controversy and he is still wondering why he was chosen to take over in goal when our keeper Andy Williams was sent off for arguing a clearly inaccurate penalty decision!

Charlie, many inches short of the 6ft-plus demanded by goalkeeper coaches these days, was handed William's sopping wet, muddy jersey and faced the penalty kick in front of a baying 6,000 crowd. But Shields' George Thompson blazed the ball over the crossbar.

"I was trying to put him off by standing to one side of the goal but it was a terrible penalty. We couldn't hold out though... their fella just bundled me into

the net from a corner as I tried to fight through the crowd and the referee was happy to give it".

The match report (opposite page) is alive with the vitriol that fuelled everyone from North London after the game. The final paragraph lays bare the frustration of the (anonymous) reporter as he adds his pride in watching the Stones fighting against all the odds, against injury and blatantly partisan refereeing but now having nothing left to play for except the M1 Floodlight League trophy. Bitter indeed!

## What happened next?

Well, the Stones recorded their best-ever finish of fifth in the Isthmian League (the amateur Premier League of its day) while their over-physical conquerors North Shields actually went on to win the Amateur Cup... the last time that a Northern League side was to do so before the competition expired in 1973-74.

The period of NE dominance was nearly over but Shields provided the last hurrah by overcoming Skelmersdale United in the semi-final at Southport (2-1 after a 1-1 draw) and then Sutton United 2-1 in the Wembley final before a 47,500 crowd.

# On to the professional era and the FA Trophy... and glory was ours in 1985

## Game five: Saturday March 16, 1985, FA Challenge Trophy Round 4: Frickley Athletic (home) Won 3-1

THIS historic win - the first time the Stones had reached the last eight of the FA Trophy in 14 years of trying - was almost overshadowed by the titanic few weeks that succeeded it. We were on track for an unprecedented Gola Conference League and FA Trophy double and there is no doubt that this stirring win over the awkward South Yorkshire side (who finished mid-table in the Gola League) was the catalyst for the famous five-wins-in-eight-days that carried us to the title.

It was also the day that transformed Andy Graham from an occasional choice as striker to our main man. The tall and powerful history teacher - who had moved to

the area from Lancaster just a few months earlier - was the perfect foil to the live-wire, slippery-as-an-eel Alan Cordice and the pair combined to give Stones a 16-second lead!

Talking about it at the club's 40-year Trophy anniversary, Graham said it was down to pre-match planning and the knowledge that the Frickley left back always wanted to shift the ball onto his favoured foot. Straight from the kick-off, Graham closed him down and blocked his pass; the ball ran

Continued overpage>>

# What happened — by Williams

**WEALDSTONE goalkeeper Andy Williams talked on Sunday afternoon about the incident that resulted in his being booked and then sent off for the first time in his seven years of top amateur soccer.**

"I was protesting about the penalty award and so were the rest of our players because the ball hit Tony McGuinness' hand but the referee wouldn't have it.

I was so sick that I didn't notice him consult the linesman but he came back to me and took out his book and seemed to book me. I did give him a shove on the shoulder, I suppose, so then he said 'Off' and I went.

"All I saw of the rest of the match was the last minute as I still feel sick."



Goal machine Alan Cordice sweeps in the clinching third as Frickley were beaten in front of a 962 crowd at Lower Mead

## THE QUARTER-FINALS CONTD

loose to Alan Cordice and the winger set off up the right flank. When the cross arrived, there was Graham leaping to convert with the perfect header.

Vinny Jones, making a rare start in midfield, had a storming match alongside Neil Cordice, Robin Wainwright and Nigel Johnson and even losing skipper Paul Bowgett - elbowed in the face by non-nonsense Frickley striker Reed - failed to prevent a second goal.

Graham flicked the ball into the path of Alan Cordice and the *Non-League Player of the Year* ran on to slide his shot past keeper Tommy Meehan.

Paul Wilson pulled a goal back with 20 minutes to go and Frickley might even have taken the game to a replay when the same player shot straight at Bob Iles. But from the keeper's clearance Stones wrapped the game up: Graham somehow got his head to the long ball down the middle and there was Super Alan Cordice, with the anticipation and pace of a cheetah, leaving three defenders for dead as he again finished expertly past Meehan.

The Harrow Observer match report concluded with the observation: "When referee Mr Seville blew his final whistle the Wealdstone fans streamed onto the pitch to begin their victory chorus of 'Wember-ley'.

**What happened next?** The unbelievable, as it happens. The awesome Enfield side stood between the Stones and the final but a display of mettle and counter-attack saw us race to a 2-0 win in the first leg, and Eddie McCluskey's Es were only able to win the second leg at Lower Mead by 1-0.

And in the final, of course, a 20,000 crowd saw the man for the big occasion, Andy Graham, and Lee Holmes score first half goals to ruin Boston United's big day out by a 2-1 scoreline. One day, it will happen again...



The 500 or so Stones fans erupt as Richard Jolly puts the Stones ahead in front of a 2,034 crowd

## Cambridge 2012: Stones' once-in-a-lifetime event

**Game six: Saturday February 26, 2012, FA Challenge Trophy Round 4: Cambridge United (a) won 2-1**

BEFORE you even get to the unlikely drama of Wealdstone's quarter-final at the Abbey Stadium against former EFL Championship side Cambridge United (now National League) 14 years ago, you have to absorb the journey that brought us there.

A few pages ago we mentioned Chesham's 'giant-killing' of the Stones in 1968, and how they reached Wembley after playing ten rounds and with six replays. SIXTEEN games in total! Well, the Stones played TEN games in total in reaching the semi-final, battling through eight rounds and nobody would have guessed that we'd get to within 90 minutes of Wembley when the marathon started at home to Tooting & Mitcham in October 2011.

The Stones were then in the Isthmian Premier Division and we navigated qualifiers with Tooting (3-0), Margate (2-1 after a replay), Banbury United (4-0 after a replay) and Uxbridge (5-0) before it began to get really interesting in Round Two. National League side Barrow were beaten 2-1 at The Vale - the club's first win over a full-time outfit since beating Reading in the FA Cup in 1977 - to give us an away tie at National League South high-fliers Dartford. A sensational header from Chris O'Leary, making it 2-2, brought the Darts back to the Vale and a sole Lee Chappell goal won the game despite finishing with nine men!

That delayed game was on Tuesday February 21 and just four days later we were off to Cambridge, without the enormity of our task really sinking in. Maybe that's why I got there



late, blaming traffic in the City and I ended up running the final 50 yards to the ground only to hear a mighty roar. Oh brilliant, I thought, 1-0 down already. Then I realised that I was hearing the 'J-O-L-L-Y' song and all the noise was coming from the away end!

Sure enough, Richard Jolly had put us ahead inside four minutes (Kurtney Brooks' and Chappell's header across the six-yard box) and I happily made my way into the packed stand. A truly Herculean hour ensued with Cambridge dominating the ball and Stones standing firm, while looking for the occasional break. And, astonishingly on the 69 minute mark the J-O-L-L-Y song was reverberating around the Abbey Stadium again! Former Watford youngster Brooks was the architect again, and when his low cross arrowed to the near post you just knew Jolls would get across his man and pop the ball, gloriously, into the net for 2-0. Cambridge skipper Jennings pulled one back from a 20-yard freekick (unfairly awarded against Sean Cronin) in the very next attack but we hung on!

**What happened next?** Drawing Conference National side Newport County in the two-legged semi-final was a bit of a 'meh' moment (with York or Luton the other possibilities) and we were beaten 3-1 away in the first leg. A 0-0 at home didn't save the day. York won the final.

Richard Jolly (No. 10) shocks the home crowd with our first goal and salutes his winner (left) Pictures: STEVE FOSTER



## Brilliant Bradley tore them apart ...three times!



**Game seven: Saturday February 24, 2018, FA Challenge Trophy Round 4: Billericay Town 2 Wealdstone 5**

IF YOU believe in good luck paving the way to Wembley then 2018's run to the semi-finals was even more blessed than this season.

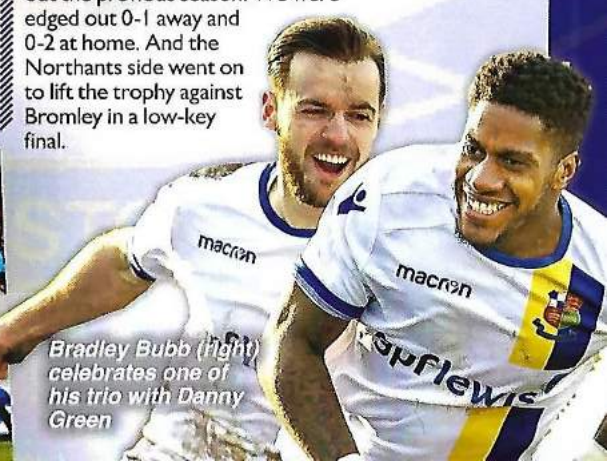
This year we've faced two clubs from two divisions below (Billericay and Hendon), one from one division below (Chelmsford) and now Solihull from the same level... while our path six years ago took in wins over Chelmsford (same level then, National League South) in a replay followed by three home draws against clubs from the division below in Wingate & Finchley, Hereford and Warrington Town. Then we pulled the most glamorous of all, Billericay from the Isthmian Prem who were in the national news due to the Glenn Tamplin Circus.

The owner had sacked his latest manager and appointed himself, claiming that he would resign if high-flying Riccay from level three failed to beat the mid-table Stones, from level two.

He had reckoned without the inspired 11th-hour signing of Bradley Bubb from Ebbsfleet United. It was Bradley's first start since the previous April - almost ten months - following a ruptured achilles tendon but he became an instant folk hero to the 550 travelling Stones among the 1,823 crowd at New Lodge. He scored twice to help Stones to an astonishing 4-1 lead at half time - Ricky Wellard, from a tight angle at the near post, and then Matty Whichelow straight from a corner putting the fans in dreamland. Bradley's final strike, on the volley, led to the glorious realisation sunk in that we were again in the FA Trophy semi-finals.

**What happened next?** Bromley, Orient or Brackley would be our opponents and of course we drew the awkward and unglamorous Brackley - who'd knocked us out the previous season. We were edged out 0-1 away and 0-2 at home. And the Northants side went on to lift the trophy against Bromley in a low-key final.

Bradley Bubb (right) celebrates one of his trio with Danny Green





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

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



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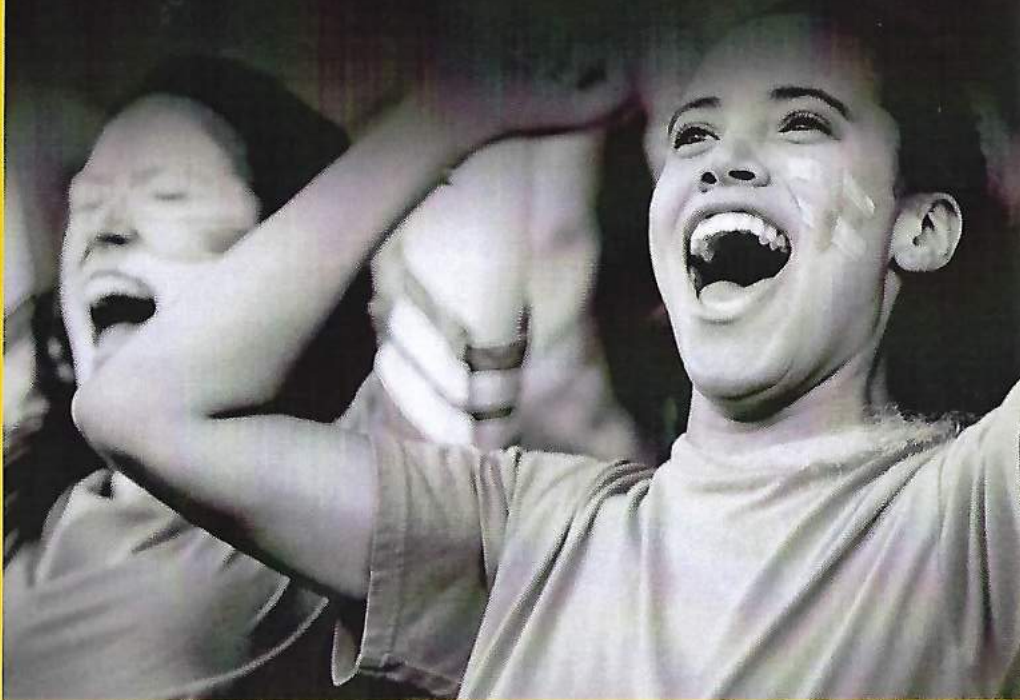
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 <b>CHESTERFIELD</b> Saturday 13th April Vanarama National League	<b>Peter &amp; Steve Drew, Ron Moore &amp; David Edwards - in memory of fans no longer with us</b>	
 <b>EASTLEIGH</b> Tuesday 16th April Vanarama National League	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</b>	<b>Sponsor 2 Available</b>
 <b>DORKING WANDERERS</b> DATE TO BE ADVISED Vanarama National League	<b>Sponsor 1 Available</b>	



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To donate, contact Richard Hopwood on **07799 077816** or at [richardhopwood@wealdstonefc.com](mailto:richardhopwood@wealdstonefc.com)

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23 17.12.99 | 1.83m LB  
GARY SMITH

Dom HUTCHINSON  
17 17.11.01 | LW  
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14 22.2.01 | 1.77m CF  
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TOM MARSHALL

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ADAM ROWLAND

Rachel HILL  
CS CS  
JON TAFFEL

Charlie BARKER  
3 12.2.03 | CB  
SUDHIR, AKHIL, NIKHIL, SARIN AND KAMRAN RAWAL

Dante-Astor BAPTISTE  
12 7.02.02 | GK  
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2 16.9.99 | 1.85m CB  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN & CHRIS JEFFRESON

Alex DYER  
5 11.6.90 | 1.80m DM  
IC PROPERTY

Jaiden BARTOLO  
25 10.02.06 | 1.84m CF  
ROGER SLATER

Declan PHILLIPS  
28  
JIM SORRELL

Sam BOWEN  
22 14.01.01 | 1.8m CM  
WEALDSTONE WELSH

Sean ADARKWA  
27 11.10.00 | 1.8m CF  
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36  
THE WEALDSTONE FC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deon WOODMAN  
4 01.12.02 | 1.8m CB  
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10 20.09.97 | CF  
WEALDSTONE FC SUPPORTERS CLUB

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# Next up at The Vale:



**Bromley**

National League

Tuesday  
12th March  
7:45pm



**Kidderminster Harriers**

National League

Saturday  
23rd March  
3:00pm



**Solihull Moors**

National League

Easter Monday  
1st April  
3:00pm

For all Vanarama National League fixtures:

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

## VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLE AS AT TUESDAY 5/3/2024

	ALL						HOME						AWAY						RESULTS		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	(H)
1 Chesterfield	36	27	4	5	87	48	18	15	3	0	52	23	18	12	1	5	35	25	39	85	2-3
2 Barnet	37	21	5	11	69	51	18	12	3	3	34	19	19	9	2	8	35	32	18	68	3-2 1-1
3 Bromley	37	18	12	7	61	42	19	12	4	3	41	23	18	6	8	4	20	19	19	66	1-1
4 Solihull Moors	37	17	10	10	60	52	18	7	5	6	26	19	19	10	5	4	34	33	8	61	0-1
5 Oldham Athletic	37	15	13	9	55	46	19	6	7	6	27	21	18	9	6	3	28	25	9	58	1-1
6 Gateshead	36	16	9	11	69	50	17	7	5	5	34	24	19	9	4	6	35	26	19	57	2-4 1-2
7 Aldershot Town	36	17	6	13	62	67	18	10	5	3	35	27	18	7	1	10	27	40	-5	57	3-3 1-3
8 Altrincham	36	15	10	11	64	52	17	10	4	3	40	20	19	5	6	8	24	32	12	55	0-0
9 Halifax Town	36	14	11	11	42	41	17	6	7	4	21	19	19	8	4	7	21	22	1	53	2-0 1-1
10 Hartlepool United	37	14	5	18	58	66	19	9	1	9	30	32	18	5	4	9	28	34	-8	47	4-4 1-2
11 Southend United	36	16	8	12	54	38	18	11	1	6	36	16	18	5	7	6	18	22	16	46	1-1
12 Eastleigh	37	12	10	15	64	74	19	8	5	6	36	34	18	4	5	9	28	40	-10	46	0-0
13 Dagenham & Redbridge	37	12	9	16	53	51	19	7	0	12	29	29	18	5	9	4	24	22	+2	45	1-2 2-0
14 Rochdale	36	12	9	15	55	55	17	7	4	6	30	21	19	5	5	9	25	34	+0	45	3-2 0-3
15 Fylde	37	12	9	16	63	66	19	6	7	6	33	33	18	6	2	10	30	33	-3	45	3-2
16 Boreham Wood	36	10	14	12	48	57	19	6	8	5	26	23	17	4	6	7	22	34	-9	44	1-1
17 Ebbsfleet United	37	12	8	17	50	60	19	8	3	8	25	20	18	4	5	9	25	40	-10	44	2-1 1-3
18 Wealdstone	34	11	10	13	47	52	16	8	5	3	30	25	18	3	5	10	17	27	-5	43	---
19 Maidenhead United	37	10	12	15	39	51	18	5	7	6	16	19	19	5	5	9	23	32	-12	42	0-1 2-0
20 Woking	37	11	8	18	39	47	19	5	5	9	22	26	18	6	3	9	17	21	-8	41	1-0 1-1
21 Dorking Wanderers	36	12	5	19	44	60	19	6	2	11	24	33	17	6	3	8	20	27	-16	41	1-3
22 York City	37	8	15	14	46	59	19	3	9	7	27	31	18	5	6	7	19	28	-13	39	2-1 3-2
23 Kidderminster Harriers	37	10	9	18	33	46	18	4	6	8	17	21	19	6	3	10	16	25	-13	39	1-1
24 Oxford City	37	7	7	23	48	79	19	5	3	11	27	34	18	2	4	12	21	45	-31	28	3-1

# Follow Stones on the road:



**AFC Fylde**

National League  
Saturday  
16th March  
3:00pm



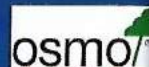
**Altrincham**

National League  
Tuesday  
26th March  
7:45pm



**Oxford City**

National League  
Good Friday  
29th March  
3:00pm



Wealdstone FC's first team travel is sponsored by Osmo, specialists in the supply of wood finishes

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



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