

# WEALDSTONE



official matchday programme £3

## HOW THEY LINE-UP TODAY

<b>WEALDSTONE</b> ROYAL BLUE/WHITE/BLUE	
G Dante-Astor BAPTISTE 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
G Marcus DEWHURST 31	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jack COOK © 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charlie BARKER 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alex DYER 5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mason BARRETT 6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tarryn ALLARAKHIA 7	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nathan FERGUSON 8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Immanuelson DUKU 9	<input type="checkbox"/>
Max KRETZSCHMAR 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corie ANDREWS 11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charlie SEAMAN 12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Micah OBIERO 14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jack YOUNG 15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke DREHER 16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dominic HUTCHINSON 17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dillon De SILVA 19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reo GRIFFITHS 20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kallum TRACEY SESAY 21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sam BOWEN 22	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jaiden BARTOLO 25	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aaron HENRY 26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sean ADARKWA 27	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dedan PHILLIPS 28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trae COOK-APPIAH 29	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brandon MASON 32	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sam COX 34	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joe CULLIS 36	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>BROMLEY</b> RED/RED/RED	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Grant SMITH G	<input type="checkbox"/>
31 Kacper ORLOWSKI G	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Callum REYNOLDS	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Deji ELEREWÉ	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Ashley CHARLES	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Sam WOODS	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Josh PASSLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Michael CHEEK	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 Louis DENNIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 Ryan JONES	<input type="checkbox"/>
14 Mitchel BERGKAMP	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 Alex KIRK	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 Kamarl GRANT	<input type="checkbox"/>
17 BYRON WEBSTER ©	<input type="checkbox"/>
18 Corey WHITELEY	<input type="checkbox"/>
20 Jude ARTHURS	<input type="checkbox"/>
21 James VENNINGS	<input type="checkbox"/>
23 Besart TOPALLOJ	<input type="checkbox"/>
24 Marcus SABLIER	<input type="checkbox"/>
27 Tate CAMPBELL	<input type="checkbox"/>
28 Ben KRAUHAUS	<input type="checkbox"/>
29 Olufela OLOMOLA	<input type="checkbox"/>
30 Idris ODUTAYO	<input type="checkbox"/>
40 Myles WESTON	<input type="checkbox"/>
41 Levi AMANTCHI	<input type="checkbox"/>

**TODAY'S RESULT**  
**WEALDSTONE**   **BROMLEY**

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### NEXT HOME GAMES

**v Kidd'minster Harriers**  
 (National League)  
 Saturday March 23  
 kick off 3pm

**v Solihull Moors**  
 (National League)  
 Easter Monday  
 April 1, KO 3pm

**v Southend United**  
 (National League)  
 Tuesday April 9,  
 KO 7.45pm

**v Dorking Wanderers**  
 (National League)  
 Thursday April 11,  
 KO 7.45pm



**Wealdstone**  
**v Bromley**

**VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE**  
**TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024, 7.45PM**



They shait not pass... Solihull Moors' Mark Beck leaps above Stones skipper Jack Cook as the Birmingham side withstood a second-half bombardment in Saturday's FA Trophy quarter-final at The Vale. And then won on penalties. PIC: JON TAFFEL

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BY TIM PARKS

## Written in Stone

**MAYBE it was a mistake last week to re-read Bromley fan Dave Roberts' book about the lifelong dream of his club reaching Wembley for the first time in almost 70 years.**

The heartache he experienced in 'The long, long road to Wembley' was there for us all to taste and feel as the Stones were dumped out by Solihull Moors in last Saturday's quarter-final. And if we felt bad about losing on penalties, imagine his anguish in the 2018 Final when Brackley - our conquerors in the semi-final - equalised in the last 20 seconds and then won the thing.... also on penalties.

It made me feel a bit emotional on Saturday night. But then have a bit of empathy for Dave Roberts, who died just a few years after Bromley's big, gut-wrenching day out at Wembley. It's in this spirit that we welcome The Ravens to the Vale tonight, happy in the knowledge that Dave would have been overjoyed to learn how his boyhood club have progressed on and off the pitch even after his recent demise.

Bromley were the laughing stock of the Isthmian League when he first began watching his local side in 1969. And things barely improved for 40 years.

But they are now firmly planted in the National League play-off zone (currently third in the table) with their eyes firmly on the EFL... and a place in the Trophy Final (again) after beating Barnet 2-0 in last Saturday's last-eight tie. Indeed, they returned to Wembley to finally lift the trophy two years ago, beating Wrexham 1-0 in the final.

You've got to be happy for former Stones Ashley Charles and Olufela Olomola who will likely both be starting tonight. Oly scored the clinching second goal against Barnet.

*Fine margins! Marcus Dewhurst so nearly keeps out Joe Sbarra's effort in the penalty shoot-out drama last Saturday. Pic: Jon Taffel*



Forze becomes the fourth '77-78 Cup giantkiller to leave us... the line-up before the QPR game is (back row left to right) Ian Cranstone, Willie Watson, Alan Fursdon, George Duck, Chris Lightfoot, Bobby Moss, Dave Parratt. Front row: Paul Thomas, Fred Barwick, Steve Brinkman and Bobby Finch

The only (slight) silver lining to Saturday's Trophy exit is to knock one game off our punishing end-of-season schedule. Assuming the weather is kind there will still be at least four successive home games in seven days between April 9 and April 16. We should organise a camp site next door as it'll hardly be worth leaving the Vale!

● A big Wealdstone welcome, meanwhile, to all our recent permanent signings: Dillon De Silva (featured in an interview in this issue), Manny Duku, Kallum Cesay and Reo Griffiths. And I hear a whisper that another loan star is headed our way.

This is a seriously talented squad that David Noble & Co are assembling, and you could see the front-foot, forward-thinking philosophy coming to the fore in the Solihull game... not to mention the impressive displays at York and Southend. See you all at

AFC Fylde on Saturday (it's only a short hop up to Blackpool) as we try to secure our second league 'double' of the season.

● After the tributes to two of our older fans last Saturday (Tony Short and Lew Sheppard) today we will be observing a minute's applause for 1970s full-back Alan Fursdon who died a fortnight ago at the age of 76. He was a hugely effective full-back (think Mundle-Smith without the pace) and widely respected in the Southern League. See picture above, and more details on *Elmslie Ender* page.

# WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2023/2024

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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

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1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

### MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

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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 Bulls 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.

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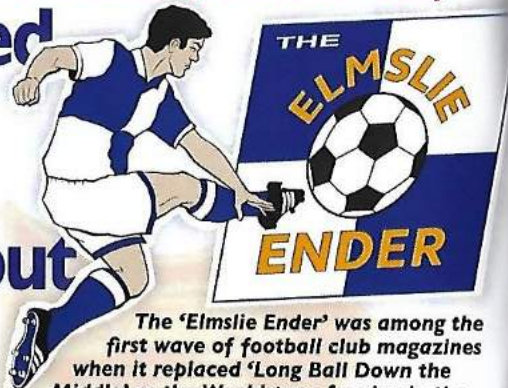
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Britain's longest-running fanzine column (and it shows it)

# Just disappointed after our first defeat in a 'big' penalty shoot-out...oh, and bitter, very bitter!



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

Alex Dyer, but there was still plenty of opportunities to clear the ball that weren't taken, before the ball was played back into our box. I am still not sure what happened thereafter...was it a deflection that took the ball past Dewhurst or was it a misjudgement? Either way the tie was level. I believe it was an unlucky deflection.

From then on, we were really on the front foot and were the far better team, but as I said earlier, for all of our possession, we didn't create anything meaningful to trouble their keeper.

Moors are a strange side. Every time you see them, they look nothing more than functional. Very solid in defence, fairly route one, but have quality in the final third. Despite us having more of the play, they looked more likely to score with their limited

opportunities and once again Dewhurst earned his corn in goal.

**Then onto penalties. To spout a cliché, it's a lottery.**

On another day, Marcus Dewhurst would have saved two of their first three penalties. I am sure that Max Kretschmar has never missed a penalty in competitive action (I think he has, for Woking - Ed).

On another day, we, like our visitors tonight in Bromley, would have been contemplating our third semi-final in ten years. I know from the

**BY SUDHIR RAWAL**

I HAVE seen the word 'gutted' used quite a lot on social media and WhatsApp groups after our FA Trophy quarter final defeat at home to Solihull Moors.

I wouldn't use the word gutted...

but rather 'disappointed'. Disappointed that we didn't win, as for the last hour or so of the game we dominated possession but in reality, we didn't have too many "oooh" moments or 'how did that not go in?' exclamations, as the Moors keeper didn't really have to make a save of note. Disappointed is the right word.

As with the league match in the outskirts of Birmingham, the game was decided by small margins. In the league game, neither side created a meaningful chance until an error saw Moors

squeeze home. On Saturday, both goals came from errors. Stones took the lead when their defender misjudged a ball over the top, their keeper came rushing out and Duku got there first (pictured above) to leave Kretschmar to slot into an empty net.

Their goal originally came from poor control by



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

Stonescast we recorded with directors Darren Linden and Dominic Whyley, that much of the catalyst for Bromley's success in the National League comes from their Trophy final appearances. New exposure, new investors, new memories. There is no doubt it was a missed opportunity. That word disappointed comes to mind.

Thinking back at other penalty shoot-outs that Wealdstone have featured in (and I mean meaningful ones not county cups and the like) our record is now won two, lost three.

The famous wins are the Southern League Championship versus Nuneaton Borough at Lower Mead in 1982 when the great Alan Cordice slotted home the winner; then there was the epic Ryman League play-off win at Dulwich Hamlet in 2004, with Richard Jolly banging home the final penalty to spark massive celebrations in South London from the Stones masses.

The defeats are probably in less "important" play-offs. In the 84-85 Alliance League play off (between the League and Cup winners) we lost to Runcorn at Lower Mead; and much later came the Ryman League cup final at Met Police in 2010 where Stones were massive favourites but lost to Leatherhead. The defeat to Solihull was far more important than those two losses.

**A week or two ago there was a lot of gloom and doom at the Vale.**

But then in the league win at York, the point at Southend (where they equalised in the final moments) to even the defeat v Solihull, I have seen



plenty to give me renewed hope that we will win enough of the twelve cup finals that lie ahead of us to stay another season in this league.

We have been much more on the front foot, getting the ball in behind opposition teams sooner and taking more risks going forward, but still retaining our style of play.

I am not sure under the previous management team, we would have thrown on two attacking substitutes so early in the second half as we did in Saturday's quarter-final.

The last three games have also coincided with some social media non-league content creators saying that we are going down! As MK said, stick that up on the dressing room wall.

But one final comment on the Solihull heart-break: It's a crying shame that it isn't us in the semi-finals. I don't want to sound bitter (of course I am going to) but Moors only brought 132 fans to a quarter final, on a subsidised coach, for a relatively short journey down the M40.

The last quarter final we were in, we took 500 to Billericay when our crowds were way smaller than they are today. It's wasted on them.

**Bitter and envious? Certainly not!**

## Gone far too soon... Furze joins the heavenly band of Stones brothers

FOLLOWING on the mention in tonight's programme, Alan Fursdon - signed from fellow Southern League Prem side Dover in 1976 and who stayed for five years - becomes the fourth member of the FA Cup 3rd round side to pass on.

Back in 1977, we reached the 3rd round for the first and only time (line up, left) and the modest and unassuming left back

played in every game... 4th Qual win over Maidstone, the 3-2 replay win at Hereford in the 1st round, and then the 2-1 eclipse of Reading at Lower Mead in Round Two which earned the trip to face QPR. Marking Stan Bowles and Leighton James, Furze couldn't be blamed for the 4-0 defeat. And now he is pulling on the blue shirt upstairs with Steve Brinkman, Bobby Moss and Bobby Finch from that famous squad.

RIP Furze

Scorers	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	WEALDSTONE
	<b>QUEENS PARK RANGERS</b> Colours: Red & White Halved Shirts Black Shorts Manager: Frank Bilsby Assistant Manager: Derek Healy Substitute:	
	1 PHIL PARKES 2 DON SHANKS 3 IAN GILLARD 4 JOHN HOLLINS (Captain) 5 ERNIE HOWE 6 TOMMY CUNNINGHAM 7 GERRY FRANCIS 8 STAN BOWLES 9 LEIGHTON JAMES 10 PETER EASTOE 11 DON DIVENS Linesmen: Mr. G. Rigby Yellow Flag Mr. E. Hooper Red Flag	
Referee:	Mr. R. Crabb	
	11 BOBBY MOSS 10 GEORGE DUCK 9 FRED BARWICK 8 DAVID PARRATT 7 PAUL THOMAS 6 KEITH FURPHY 5 STEVE BRINKMAN 4 JOHN WATSON 3 ALAN FURSDON 2 CHRIS LIGHTFOOT Manager: Alan Fogarty Substitute: Ricky Griffin Colours: Yellow Shirts Yellow Shorts	
RESULT-OPR	WEALDSTONE	



**THE STONES INTERVIEW BY TIM PARKS**

**ten minutes with...**

# DILLON DE SILVA

**DILLON De Silva was disappointed not to play a part in the trophy clash with Solihull Moors last Saturday – being cup tied while at his previous club Torquay United – but the winger is eager to be involved in the Stones' crucial National League run in.**

He certainly made an impact on his Wealdstone debut in the entertaining 1-1 draw at Southend last Tuesday, providing balance on the right flank and opening up the home defence on several occasions.

"I haven't got a bad word to say about Torquay and I enjoyed both my spells there, but it was a no-brainer to sign for the Stones after Neil Banfield had sent me a message asking if I'd join up with him again. I want to play as high a level as I can.

"I had played for Neil at QPR and I rate him 100%, he's a great guy."

Dillon, who has signed a short-term deal until the end of the season, has worked and played with several of the Stones squad. Sean Adarkwa was a former team-mate at Rangers while he's encountered Brandon Mason in games and close-season training, and he was impressed by Alex Dyer and Sam Bowen in the Southend game.

"It's a really welcoming squad at Wealdstone and I think I'm going to fit in well. I'm not quite 100% at the moment though, and that's why I had to come off for the last 15 minutes at Southend".

*Right: Dillon celebrates goals for QPR under-23s and for Torquay in their FA Trophy win over Yeovil this season*

## Dillon's back in London... and planning on making a real impact in the Stones side

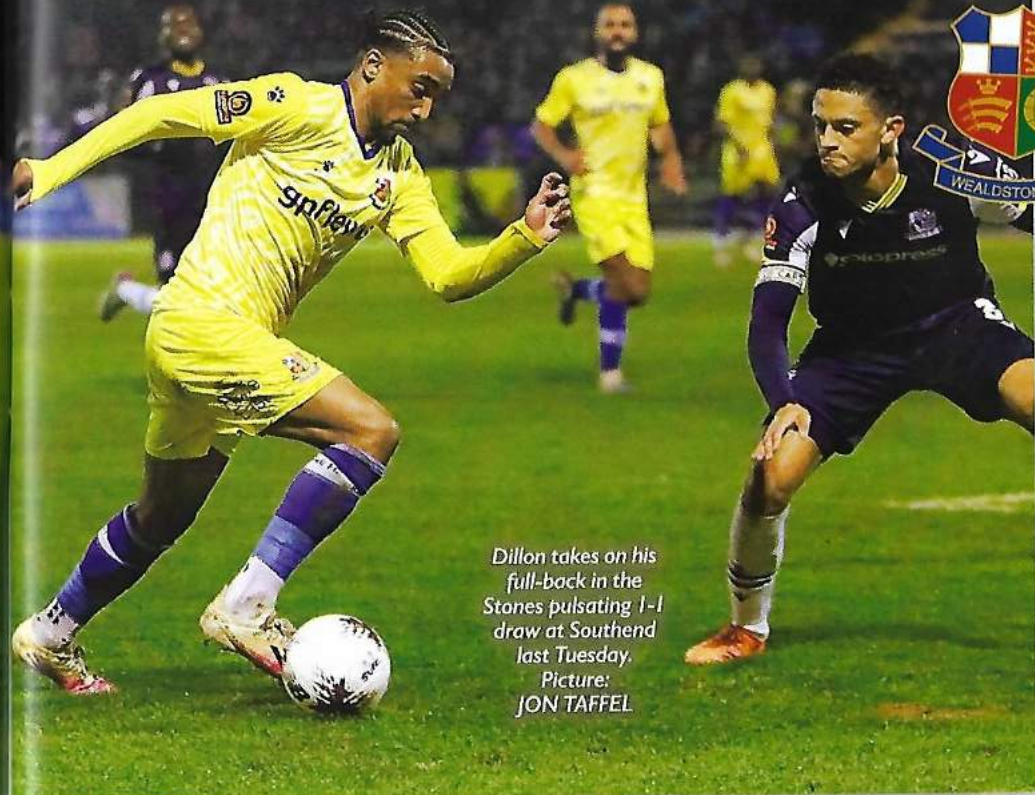
Dillon is also going to be missing for a couple of games later this month due to international duty (in the FIFA Series) for Sri Lanka! He flies out to play against Bhutan and Papua New Guinea after the AFC Fyde game but could well be back for the Altrincham away trip on March 26. The 21-year-old won his first Sri Lanka cap at the age of 18 and has played against South Korea – Heung-min Son and all – and Lebanon in World Cup 2022 qualifiers.

"International football is a really different experience, tactically and technically, and not least because of the weather. Playing in 30-degree heat is a bit different to eight degrees in this country!"

The winger started off at Tottenham, staying three years, before moving to the QPR academy in 2017 and seeing his contract extended until 2023.

He went out on loan to Torquay – then in the National League – from October 2022 to March 2023 – to gain experience in men's football before he was recalled ... but then returned to The Gulls last summer on a permanent basis when he was released by the Championship club.

Torquay, having just suffered relegation to the Na-



*Dillon takes on his full-back in the Stones pulsating 1-1 draw at Southend last Tuesday.*

*Picture: JON TAFFEL*



tional League South, were delighted to have him back but things turned a bit sour after they departed with manager Gary Johnson. And then a couple of niggling injuries saw him sidelined until that contact with Neil Banfield....

"I enjoyed my time at Torquay, sharing accommodation at The Lodge with several other players, but to be honest it's good to be back with my family in Woodford, in Essex. I prefer going to the gym and running on my own as I know what my body needs".

Dylan became a fans' favourite at Torquay after a spectacular FA Trophy goal at Taunton – similar to his narrow miss at Southend – and he repeated the trick this season with a trophy strike in the 2-1 win over local rivals Yeovil.

"I was buzzing after that goal – it was one of my favourite games in men's football – especially as I had just recovered from injury. We had lost to Yeovil in the League but then bounced back in the Trophy." Torquay had a run to the First Round Proper

after beating the Glovers and Frome Town, before going out 2-0 at Hereford

His QPR career was also interrupted with injury problems, suffering a hamstring injury soon after he'd been called up for the substitutes bench in the championship three years ago.

"I damaged my hamstring and then suffered MCL and PCL injuries to my knee which knocked me back."

Dillon has played at wing-back but he feels his best position is on the wing, where he can go inside or outside - being strong on both feet.

"I really enjoyed my Stones debut game at Southend, and we created enough chances to be 3-0 ahead at half-time. But a point away from home was a good result in hindsight."

None of Dillon's relatives have shone at football but his uncle (a bowler) played cricket for Sri Lanka before moving away to Australia.

I've got a feeling Dillon is going to be bowling us over if he can establish himself in David Noble's entertaining Stones side.



*...and he's on the spot to celebrate Sean Adarkwa's opener with Max Kretzschmar. Picture: JON TAFFEL*

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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 a heartbreak of a defeat... and the run-in in prospect.

**Hello Wealdstone fans and welcome back to The Vale.**

It was a painful ending to proceedings on Saturday. Penalties is the toughest way to exit a competition - and it feels ironic I'm saying that as I normally love to take penalties.

Despite missing mine in the shootout, I will continue to love the feeling of penalty-taking as it is a sure way to boost your goal scoring numbers. I've watched that penalty back and it's actually a decent one - the Solihull goalkeeper dived strongly and made a great save.

I thought Manny Duku was tremendous on debut despite his penalty miss too. He stretched the Moors backline well and was a constant threat all afternoon... and I'm certain Manny and Sean will cause defences plenty of problems over the next twelve games, and it will be surely required as Corie will be out in the short term.

On a personal note, I've always played well with a 'big man'. I can use their physical strengths to my advantage and make good runs and take up intelligent positions whilst they attract the main attention of the centre halves. That was on show for my goal versus Solihull Moors. Hopefully there's more to come and this form I'm in can continue for the rest of the season.

The second half on Saturday was a real positive I thought. Our performance levels were high but we just couldn't find that second 'killer' goal. It was reminiscent of parts of the Southend game too. Again, we were solid in our defensive shape yet posed a real threat when we had the ball particular-



Joy and pain... Max is mobbed after his goal but (below) is consoled together with Manny Duku at the final whistle

**'The gaffer said that we have 12 cup finals left... the noise from you fans on Saturday was just tremendous & we need that more than ever'**

ly in transition. Our success from now until the end of the season will be defined by how 'cut throat' we can be in the final third. I sensed it on Saturday in the second half as a few of us, as I like to say, 'smelt blood.' But unfortunately the breakthrough didn't come.

**I'd like to welcome Bromley today fresh from their FA Trophy success over rivals Barnet.**

They are having a magnificent season and it's good to see Olufela Olomola and Ashley Charles doing so well there. These two boys typify the culture which

has been created over the past few years at Wealdstone. Hard working and honest lads who are devoted to becoming better everyday. I wish them all the best in their most probable playoff campaign at the end of the season. But my best wishes begin after the ninety minutes tonight!

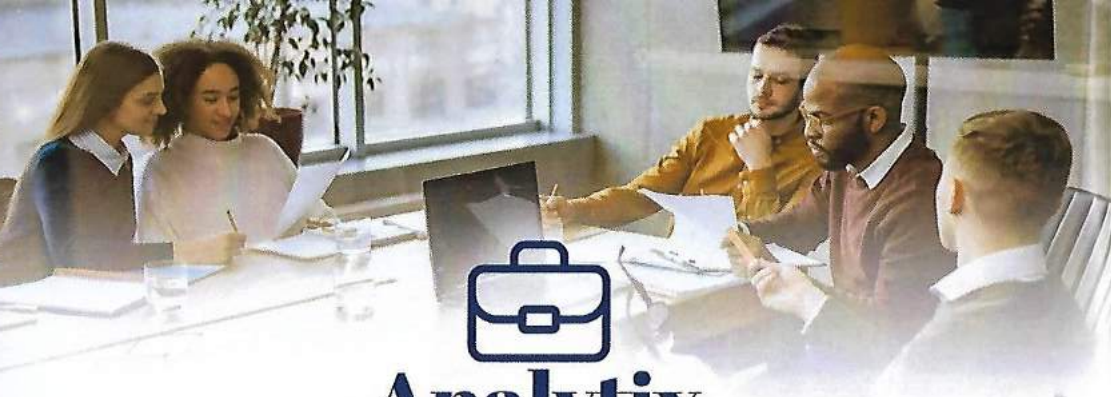


For us, the gaffer mentioned in the changing room on Saturday that we have twelve cup finals left. A minor positive from Saturday is that we won't have anymore games rescheduled and can fully focus on the league with an already pretty thin squad. With one Thursday game already in the diary, (It will be my first Thursday night game I have ever played in) the squad will be tested

and every player must be ready to play their part. We need you fans more than ever now. The noise on Saturday was tremendous and let that be the minimum standard. Trust the manager, trust the players and trust the process. We are in this together!

**Enjoy the game. UTS!**

>>> [youtube.com/@maxtalksfootball](https://www.youtube.com/@maxtalksfootball)



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## WFCSC Update

Mark Randall



**Good evening and welcome to tonight's league match against Bromley; the third time we have played them this season. We also get the chance to welcome back to the Vale for the first time Olufela Olomola and Ashley Charles having sold both to the Ravens this season.**

From a megastore perspective when we think of Bromley we think of Dave Roberts, the author most notably known for the book (and film), The Bromley Boys. Dave was always a great supporter of the megastore and often gave us free copies of his books for us to sell. Dave sadly passed away in 2021 but his memory lives on.

I must thank everyone who continues to support our 50:50 draw. So far this season we have paid out over £3500 in prize money with the same being raised for the club. Many winners come forward the same day, but we have a few prizes unclaimed. Check your wallets and coat pockets as if you have the following numbers then you can spring into March with a smile on your face. Ticket number 14060 sold at Barnet will get you £373, 14912 sold at Maidenhead nets you £125 and finally 14417 sold at Solihul wins £255. Our policy is to hold these prizes until the end of the season at which time they will be absorbed and put towards fundraising

projects.

We have just launched our Easter Raffle which will be drawn after the game on Easter Monday. Tickets are £1 each with the chance to win lots of great prizes. 1st Prize is a BBQ and £50 meat voucher to get you in the mood for summer. There is a £100 theatre voucher, outdoor pizza oven, ladies bracelet, outdoor log burner, spirits hamper and lot more. Tickets can be purchased from our 50:50 sellers plus will be available online shortly.

Finally, it was great to have Dominic Whyley attend our most recent committee meeting where we got the chance to ask him lots of important questions and were very grateful for his very open answers. One of these points was about the AGM and 'meet the manager' and it was great to hear that these are being combined and will be face to face at the club. The date will be announced shortly but if you can make it, please support these events as you get to ask the board questions in a formal setting and also get your first opportunity to get the know the management team.

Up the Stones

Mark

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APRIL

All you need to know about... Bromley

# The opposition in focus

**Bromley Football Club were founded in 1892 when they were playing in the South London League, and then they became founding members of the Southern League in 1894.**



The Ravens play their home games at Hayes Lane, but this wasn't always the case; the Club played at Queensmead Recreation Ground before moving to Glebe Road and then Plaistow Cricket Club, before they moved to Hayes Lane in 1938.

Bromley's first piece of silverware came in 1896 when they were crowned London League champions shortly after becoming founding members. They then switched to the Kent League before returning to the division.

In 1907, the Club were founder members of the Spartan League before joining the Isthmian League the following season, winning back-to-back titles.

They won the FA Amateur Cup in 1910/11, beating Bishop Auckland 1-0 in the final; they'd go on to repeat their success in this competition,

as they beat Erith & Belvedere 1-0 in the 1937/38 season. During the time between both FA Amateur Cup victories, the club saw themselves win the Athenian League in 1922/23.

In the same season as their second FA Amateur Cup win, they also reached the FA Cup for the first time, beating King's Lynn in the first round, but losing 4-1 to Scarborough in the second. They'd go on to repeat this feat the season after as they played Football League opposition for the first time, losing 8-1 to Lincoln City in the second round.

1948/49 was yet another successful season for The Ravens, winning the Athenian League title and the FA Amateur Cup.

They rejoined the Isthmian League in 1958, in which they finished runners-up in their first season, and winning the league in their second. They'd also go on to win the league again in 1960/61.

In the 1974/75 season, Bromley found themselves in Division One, however, they finished bottom that season. Two seasons after relegation, The Ravens played in the FA Cup first round for the first time in over twenty years, losing 7-0 to Swindon Town.

Bromley started their rise into the Conference Leagues in 2006/07, after yo-yoing between the Premier Division, Division One and Division Two since 1976. In 06/07, they finished runners up in the Premier Division. They went onto beat AFC Wimbledon 1-0 in the play-off semi-finals and then coming out on top against Billericay Town on penalties in the final, which saw them promoted to the Conference League South.

In the 2014/15 season, Bromley were crowned champions of the National League South, earning them promotion to the National League, where they have been everpresent since.

Bromley also visited Wembley in 2018 for the FA Trophy Final against Brackley town, which they lost 5-4 to Brackley Town on penalties after the game finished 1-1.

With the EFL firmly in their sights during the 2020-21 season, it was a play-off finish for the Ravens. However, it wasn't to be as they fell to defeat at the hands of eventual

winner, Hartlepool United.

The following season ended in silverware as Andy Woodman's side managed to erase the heartbreak of 2018 by winning the Buildbase FA Trophy. Going into the game off the back of a tough run of results and coming up against a strong Wrexham side who were eyeing promotion through the play-offs, the Ravens went into the game as underdogs. However, it would be the BR2 side who came away victorious under the Wembley arch, thanks to a 63rd minute Michael Cheek winner.

## League Honours

In the early day's Bromley switched Leagues on a



regular basis and, after finishing top of the South London League in 1894 they changed to the Southern League Division 2, which they ended two years later as bottom club.

London League Division 2 was joined in 1896/97 season and they promptly became Champions at the first attempt, as they did when they became founder members of the Spartan League in 1907. This led to joining the Isthmian League one year later, which saw Bromley top the table in their first two seasons in their new surroundings, meaning that they had secured a hat trick of League titles.

After the end of the First World War, Bromley joined the Athenian League and, in their fourth season in that competition, they became League Champions in 1923. They were successful again in the 1948/49 season, and were Champions for a third time two seasons later.

They were then elected back to the Isthmian League in 1952 and were to win that competition for a third time in 1954, finishing ahead of Walthamstow Avenue and reversing the positions of the two Clubs one year earlier.

The same two Clubs made the running for the 1961 title, and Bromley came out on top by one point with a final day victory over St Albans City to

leap frog the East London side by one point, who had lost their final game the previous evening at Wimbledon, who finished in third position.

Bromley did not win another League title until 2015, when they topped the Conference South League table, which gave them promotion to their present status.

However, following promotion and relegation being introduced to Non-League Football in 1973, and the setting up of the various Steps 1 to 7 by the Football Association at the turn of the Century, Bromley have been promoted several times.

In the 1970s and 80s Bromley were relegated three times, only to regain promotion as Runners Up on three occasions.

Another relegation in 1999 was followed by promotion to the Premier Division of the Isthmian League via the newly introduced Play Off system, before ending the 2006/07 season in Runners Up position and as a consequence of that, Bromley had to play through the play off system again and got their just reward with promotion to Conference South where they were to stay for eight seasons.

Words . Josh Hardy & John Self

## THIS SEASON

SAT 14TH OCT 2023 FAC (A) L 3-2

TUE 15TH AUG 2023 NL (A) D 1-1

## LAST SEASON

SAT 10TH DEC 2022 NL (A) D 3-3

SAT 6TH AUG 2022 NL (H) W 3-2

## ALL TIME

P 81 W 33 D 18 L 30 F 179 A 160





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# OPPOSITION IN FOCUS

## Bromley FC

### 1. GRANT SMITH - GOALKEEPER

Bromley secured the signing of Grant Smith following his departure from Yeovil Town. The 29-year-old, who spent the past two seasons in the National League with the Glovers, began his career in the youth setup at Reading and Fulham before joining Brighton & Hove Albion's development squad. HAS also had spells with Bognor, Hayes & Yeading, Farnborough, Borham Wood, Lincoln, Maidstone, & **Wealdstone**

### 2. CALLUM REYNOLDS - DEFENCE

Callum Reynolds joined Bromley in the summer of 2022 after leaving fellow National League side Dagenham & Redbridge. Our summer signing began his career in the youth set-up at Portsmouth where he would spend time on loan at Luton Town before eventually joining Basingstoke, Tamworth, Hinckley, Corby, Aldershot & Barnet.

### 3. DEJI ELEREWÉ - DEFENCE

Deji signed from Charlton having previously been on loan with the Ravens & **Wealdstone**

### 4. ASHLEY CHARLES - MIDFIELD

Ashley recently signed from **Wealdstone**

### 5. COLE KPEKAWA - MIDFIELD

Cole signed for Bromley following his departure from Maidenhead United. Cole began his career at QPR, and enjoyed loan spells across the EFL, including stints at Colchester United, Portsmouth and Leyton Orient. His next permanent move in 2016 was signing for Barnsley before going on a second loan spell with Colchester United; Cole would then swap England for Scotland in 2018, briefly joining St Mirren before signing with Billerica Town. In 2020, Cole would make another move outside of England to the Slovakian side AS Trenčín before spells to Chelmsford City and Hemel Hempstead ahead of his move to Maidenhead United.

### 6. SAM WOODS - MIDFIELD

Bromley signed midfielder Sam Woods following his departure from fellow National League side Barnet. Sam began his career at the Crystal Palace youth set-up has also represented Hamilton, Plymouth and Cheshunt.

### 7. JOSH PASSLEY - DEFENCE

Bromley signed defender Josh Passley from National League South Side Havant & Waterlooville for an undisclosed fee. Passley began his career with Fulham and spells in League Two would follow at Shrewsbury Town, Portsmouth & Dagenham. Josh also had spells

with Whitehawk & Dover.

### 8. KIDO TAYLOR-HART - MIDFIELD

Kido Taylor-Hart has experience of training and being around the first team at Arsenal and would go on to sign a professional deal at The Emirates. In January of this year, 20-year-old Taylor-Hart joined Derby County's U21's side on loan for the remainder of the season after impressing for Arsenal's youngsters. On the international stage, our new signing has one England U17 cap under his belt.

### 9. MICHAEL CHEEK - FORWARD

Cheek made his mark at Heybridge Swifts before moving to Chelmsford City. After a successful one-and-a-half season spell with the Claréts he made the move to Braintree Town. Cheek remained with the Iron for two seasons before a move to fellow Essex outfit Dagenham & Redbridge, where he spent a single season. In the Summer of 2018, Cheek signed for Ebbsfleet United. The 2020-21 season saw the prolific striker pick up the National League Golden Boot award, bagging 21 goals, nine more than his first campaign with the club.

### 11. LOUIS DENNIS - MIDFIELD

Dennis started his career in the youth ranks of Watford, before making the move to Dagenham & Redbridge. During his time with the Daggers, Dennis spent time on loan at no less than five clubs, those being Bedfont Town, Welling United, Grays Athletic, Canvey Island, as well as Hayes & Yeading United. It was then that Dennis would arrive at Hayes Lane, signing in 2014. Dennis attracted the attention of a number of League One and Two sides, and eventually signed for Portsmouth before Dennis moved on to Leyton Orient.

### 12. RYAN JONES - MIDFIELD

21-year-old midfielder Ryan Jones joined on loan from Sky Bet League One side Bristol Rovers. Jones, who spent last season on loan at Hungerford Town, began his career at Weston-super-Mare before making the move to Bristol Rovers in 2020. He would go on to return to the Seagulls before another loan spell followed, this time at Bath City.

### 14. MITCHEL BERGKAMP - MIDFIELD

The 24-year-old arrived at Hayes Lane with previous experience of playing in England, spending five months with Watford's U21s before leaving in the summer of 2021. Bergkamp, the son of football legend Dennis, spent the beginning of his career in the Netherlands, playing for Almere City and was also a recent trialist at Arsenal.

### 15. ALEX KIRK - DEFENCE

20-year-old Kirk is labelled 'an imposing and technically-gifted centre-back' by his parent club and was part of the first team squad that travelled to Dubai in January 2022 before being named on the bench in the Gunners' Premier League victory over West Ham in May later that year. Kirk has been at the North London side since the age of eight and has also spent time on loan at Scottish Championship outfit Ayr United. This spell will be the defender's first taste of men's football in England.

### 16. KAMARL GRANT - DEFENCE

### 17. BYRON WEBSTER - DEFENCE (C)

The 35-year-old centre back arrived at Hayes Lane having played for Carlisle United last season, and brought a wealth of Football League experience with him. Webster started his career in the youth ranks of York City before spells with Harrogate Town & Whitby Town. Webster moved to the Czech Republic and spent two seasons with FK Baník Most before joining Doncaster Rovers in 2009 and loan spells with Hereford United and Northampton Town. A permanent move to Yeovil in League One followed, 5 years at Millwall followed before a move to Scunthorpe in 2019 and Carlisle the following campaign.

### 18. COREY WHITELY - MIDFIELD

The 29 year-old previously joined the Club on loan from Newport County in 2020. Whitely began his career with Boreham Wood, before a string of spells with Waltham Forest, Cheshunt and Enfield Town. A move to Dagenham & Redbridge in 2016 preceded a spell with Ebbsfleet United then a permanent move to Newport County.

### 19. LEVI AMANTCHI - FORWARD

### 20. JUDE ARTHURS - MIDFIELD

A product of the Bromley Academy, Jude Arthurs is proving to be a role model for our young Ravens.

### 21. JAMES VENNINGS - MIDFIELD

James Vennings initially joined Bromley on loan for the remainder of the 2021-22 season and played a massive role in our FA Trophy-winning side. His performances meant he was offered a contract after his release from Charlton Athletic. The midfielder, who has three Championship appearances, arrived at Hayes Lane, having spent most of the 2020-21 season on loan at fellow National League side Aldershot Town.

### 23. BESART TOPALLOJ - DEFENCE

Bromley Football Club confirmed the signing of 21-year-old defender Besart Topalloy from Millwall on a 28-day loan in December. Our newest recruit, who has progressed through The Lions' Academy, already has National League experience under his belt after joining Dagenham & Redbridge at the end of September.

### 27. TATE CAMPBELL - MIDFIELD

### 28. BEN KRAUHAUS - FORWARD

Ben Krauhaus is a product of the Academy and U23's set-up at Hayes Lane and has a bright future ahead. The youngster made his first team debut in December 2021, coming on as a sub in our 1-0 win over Dover Athletic in the FA Trophy.

### 29. OLUFELA OLOMOLA - FORWARD

Olufela has previously represented Southampton, Yeovil, Scunthorpe, Carlisle, Hartlepool & **Wealdstone**

### 30. IDRIS ODUTAYO - DEFENCE

### 40. MYLES WESTON - DEFENCE

### MANAGER. ANDY WOODMAN

Andy Woodman holds 15 years of coaching experience, most of which has been in the Premier League. In his playing career, Woodman started out at Crystal Palace and went on to play for Northampton Town, Brentford, Southend United and Colchester United among others. He started his coaching journey in 2006 with Football League outfit Rushden & Diamonds, where he was assistant manager. Following this, he reunited with former team mate Alan Pardew as goalkeeping coach at West Ham United. The pair then moved onto Charlton Athletic, where they spent three years together, before being appointed at Newcastle United. Following a five year stint at St James' Park, Woodman then returned South with Pardew to continue his Premier League coaching career, becoming a coach at Crystal Palace. Woodman arrived at Hayes Lane from Arsenal, where he was appointed Head of Goalkeeping in 2018, working alongside some of the country's top goalkeepers and professionals. With his breadth of experience at the very top level in the professional game, Andy has all the necessary skills and knowledge to progress the Club further on its journey and guided the Ravens to FA Trophy glory in 2022.



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## TRIBUTE TO THE BROMLEY BOY

# Dave Roberts, the man who revealed the passion, truth and humour of non-league football

**BACK** in December 2021 - the first season back watching football live after the dreadful bleakness of the Covid season - we found ourselves mourning the early death of Bromley superfan Dave Roberts. And it was an eerie coincidence that the first visitors to the Ravens' Hayes Lane ground after his passing were the Stones, who had played a significant part in his seminal book. Here, we reproduce a feature from the Halifax programme that season that I doubt any Bromley fans have seen....

**T**he death of Dave Roberts struck me as hard as the passing of a much-loved family member or close friend.

His book about Bromley FC, 'The Bromley Boys', published 14 or so years ago, was as close an accurate portrayal of my own teenage years following the Stones - all the angst, fervour and incomprehensible devotion - as it was possible to get.

It was as if he was inside my own head.

The whole gist of his book was the hard-to-believe support of 'the worst team in amateur football' during the Isthmian League season of 1969-70 when Bromley achieved the rare distinction of finishing below the hapless Corinthian Casuals. In other words, hopelessly adrift.

There were other amateur leagues (the Athenian, Delphian,



BY TIM PARKS

Dave Roberts @thebro... · 10h ...  
Dave's wife Liz here. We lost this wonderful man last night. He passed peacefully and knowing how much he is loved. We're all heartbroken.



## CHAPTER TWO

I pulled on my 'ELLIS MUST GO' t-shirt, and then, despite it being a sweltering hot summer day, also wore my thickly padded anorak. I wanted to dramatically unveil the protest message when I got to the ground.

As the stand was virtually empty when I arrived, I got the perfect spot to watch from - my seat was right on the halfway line at the front.

There was a small crowd - significantly reduced since the previous Tuesday - and as the teams ran out, the applause was distinctly half-hearted. It was time to take my anorak off and commence my one-boy protest.

Which I would have done, if a familiar figure hadn't chosen that moment to sit down beside me. It was Dave Ellis, who had come to watch the game from a different vantage point. He even asked me if anyone was sitting there and I admitted that there wasn't.

Now I had a dilemma.

The heat was making me extremely uncomfortable. I could feel the sweat making the nylon lining of the anorak cling to me and I was starting to feel light-headed. On the other hand, there was a man under extreme pressure sat right next to me and if I removed my coat, he would see that I wanted him to lose his job.

The anorak stayed on.

Because of extreme discomfort, I can remember very little about the game. Bromley lost, obviously.

The good news was that Roy Pettet scored a great goal from outside the penalty area, to make him Bromley's joint

Hellenic) of a lower standard but all doggedly stuck to their abiding rule of 'no promotion and no relegation'. It would be another three or four years, and the abolition of the 'amateur' tag - which be pretty much all clubs were abusing - before the leagues amalgamated and a more structured format decided upon.

But at the end of the 60s the stigma of finishing last was only too real. And the young Dave Roberts, looking wistfully at sepia-tinted photos of Bromley ruling the amateur football world (and winning the Amateur Cup in front of 92,000 at Wembley only 20 years previously) couldn't believe the team he had adopted could be that bad.

His book didn't so much strike a chord as reverberate a gong inside my skull. I read with delight the mentions of Bromley games against Wealdstone at which I was present and all the strange quirks of those times. I can't say that the Stones of the late 60s

were quite the same basketcase as Bromley but our last season as Isthmian amateurs (1970-71) were dark days as we suffered heavy defeats (Wycombe, home, lost 6-1 and St Albans away, lost 5-0 among others) to mirror the Bromley maulings, and I suffered the same bleak experiences at places like Tooting, Dulwich and, yes, even Ruislip Manor.

Dave's book is peppered with laugh-out-loud observations about the disappointment of the match day experience. How the crowd at Hayes Lane was always given as 400 ('I just think they couldn't be bothered counting. At one game it was so ludicrous that I walked around the ground counting the heads and there were 96 people there') and how, travelling on a half-empty supporters coach to the opening game at

Wycombe, they passed Bromley South station which was packed with fans travelling around the corner to see Manchester United play at Crystal Palace while Dave was about to embark on a two hour journey to see his team crushed in an Isthmian League mismatch.

Those are the anomalies of losing your heart to a 'little club'. He tries to answer the question of why he affixed his devotion to Bromley but can only offer the insightful 'it was the only place that felt like home' as he eschewed his schoolfriend's offer of regular trips to Highbury.

I was never expelled from school for sneaking out to see a Stones match - as Dave was from his private boarding school for being unable to resist the pull of Ilford at home, midweek, in the middle of February - but we all know a man who was.

Well, maybe not expelled, but Stones' associate director Paul Rumens received a strict warning after bunking off from Mill Hill School to jump on the supporters coaches to Aldershot for our FA Cup first round clash in 1975. 'Simply unmissable' says Paul with a smile.

*The Bromley Boys* is a beautiful book, only lessened in my eyes by the indifferent indie film of the same name that premiered at Wembley Stadium itself to great acclaim - remarkably only a few days after Dave achieved his boyhood dream of seeing Bromley play at Wembley. That

**continued overpage >>>**

*Left: One of the wonderful chapters in the book when the 14-year-old Dave Roberts decides to stage a one-man protest against Bromley manager Dave Ellis - whom Dave blames for all the club's ills. Coincidentally they were facing Wealdstone... and got thumped 6-1*



### The Bromley Boys

leading scorer with one. The bad news was that Wealdstone got six, each of which was greeted with an anguished murmur by Dave Ellis.

## Bromley reveal weaknesses in all departments

### BROMLEY 1, WEALDSTONE 6

**B**ROMLEY'S sad start to the season has been brought about by weaknesses in all departments. This is obvious following three Isthmian League defeats, the heaviest coming at Hayes-lane last Saturday against a well-drilled, non-stop Wealdstone (writes Tony Flood).

The fact that they have conceded 12 goals and scored only two in those three games underlines what a hard task manager Dave Ellis faces if he is to lift them from the bottom of the table.

Admittedly it has been a blow to have Mr. Sims (all centre-half, Graham Gaston, on holiday, but Pat Brown has done a marvellous job in the "stopper" role considering the poor support offered by his team-mates.

Two players just back from holiday - Willie Proud and Alastair Rhodes - made their league debuts against Wealdstone in place of Mills and William. Proud, although out of position at left-back, showed

adjust himself to this higher class of football.

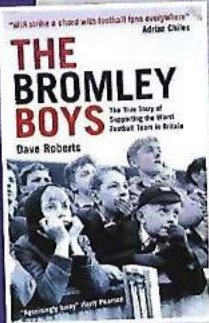
Bromley's first scare came in the 13th minute when Mitchell netted. Bremer had already scored Soper, however.

There followed a superb 19th minute goal by right-winger Bremer. Pat Brown failed to cut out a pass by Montague and Bremer raced through to send the ball hard and low into the corner of the net.

Four minutes later the home defence was again split open as John Draper headed in a cross from Hutchinson.

Soper then took a risk in racing out to the edge of his area to dive at Hutchinson's feet, but he succeeded in

As it turned out, I needn't have worried about him seeing my t-shirt. When I got home and finally removed my anorak, the sweat had made the paint run, reducing my defiant slogan to a grey smudge.



## TRIBUTE TO THE BROMLEY BOY, CONTINUED

from previous page  
day might have been a delicious re-match of those amateur clashes of the 60s as it was so nearly the Stones facing Bromley in that 2018 FA Trophy final... but instead it was Brackley Town - our conquerors in the semi final - who broke South London hearts with a late equaliser before winning the game on penalties.

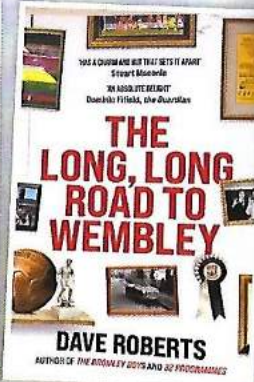
It was devastating for Dave (with whom I'd been regularly exchanging twitter messages as our paths seemed certain to cross at the home of football) but he was outwardly chuffed, and compensated, by seeing his teenage self played out on the big screen.

So why was I left disappointed by the film? Was all the positive media reaction unjustified? In my eyes, yes.

For those of us who had stood on cold terraces enduring unpalatable football and undrinkable tea, the on-location scenes were dumbed down to a ridiculous degree. Hayes Lane, Bromley's home, was never the most glamorous setting but to use the rundown, sham-bolic Crockenhill FC for filming was laughable.

Where was the big empty grandstand and the steps of deserted terracing? Or even a convincing tea hut? The ground looked like a roped-off cowfield. And while Dave paints the Bromley defending (and the often no-show players) as incompetent, the action shots are embarrassingly lame. I get that the modern day Hayes Lane would have been too grand but even a small budget could have been better spent. The realism of 11 players not quite up to the job, facing the top amateurs of the day (who earned more through boot money than their professional counterparts) deserved better than this comic pastiche.

The 14 year old Dave is also credited with a love interest, presumably to make it more accessible to a non-football audience - very far from the truth as the



Dave's other three books, all worth a place on your Christmas 2024 wish list

man himself admitted. It's a shame the director and script writers strayed from the warmth and humour of the book as that's the truth and heart of the Dave Roberts story.

He has, of course, written several other books to follow-up the Bromley Boys with 'Home and Away' (a travelogue chronicling Bromley's first season in the National League) throwing up endless parallels with this, the Stones' own first season back at that level. His account of the club's 2018 odyssey to the FA Trophy Final (*The Long Long Road to Wembley*) is another not to miss.... while his book '32 Programmes' is a personal favourite as he looks back nostalgically at his collection and recounts the circumstances surrounding each match. Lovely stuff.

He left the UK in the late 70s and spent 35 years working and raising a family in the United States and New Zealand, before dying from cancer at the tragically young age of 66 at the end of November 2021. Dave book-ended his life with Bromley FC and for all us non-League fanatics, that's not a bad way to go out.

Dave Roberts @the... · Oct 27  
This is Eamonn Kenny of Glenmuir United, proudly showing off the the towel rail he won for being Man of the Match.

Dave Roberts  
Well, this is getting exciting. Win our game in hand and we go top



Above left: A still from the Bromley Boys film as 'Dave' is hoisted aloft by the Bromley players... very far from the truth. And above, who wouldn't love a man who tweeted league ladders and a towel rail Man of the Match award?

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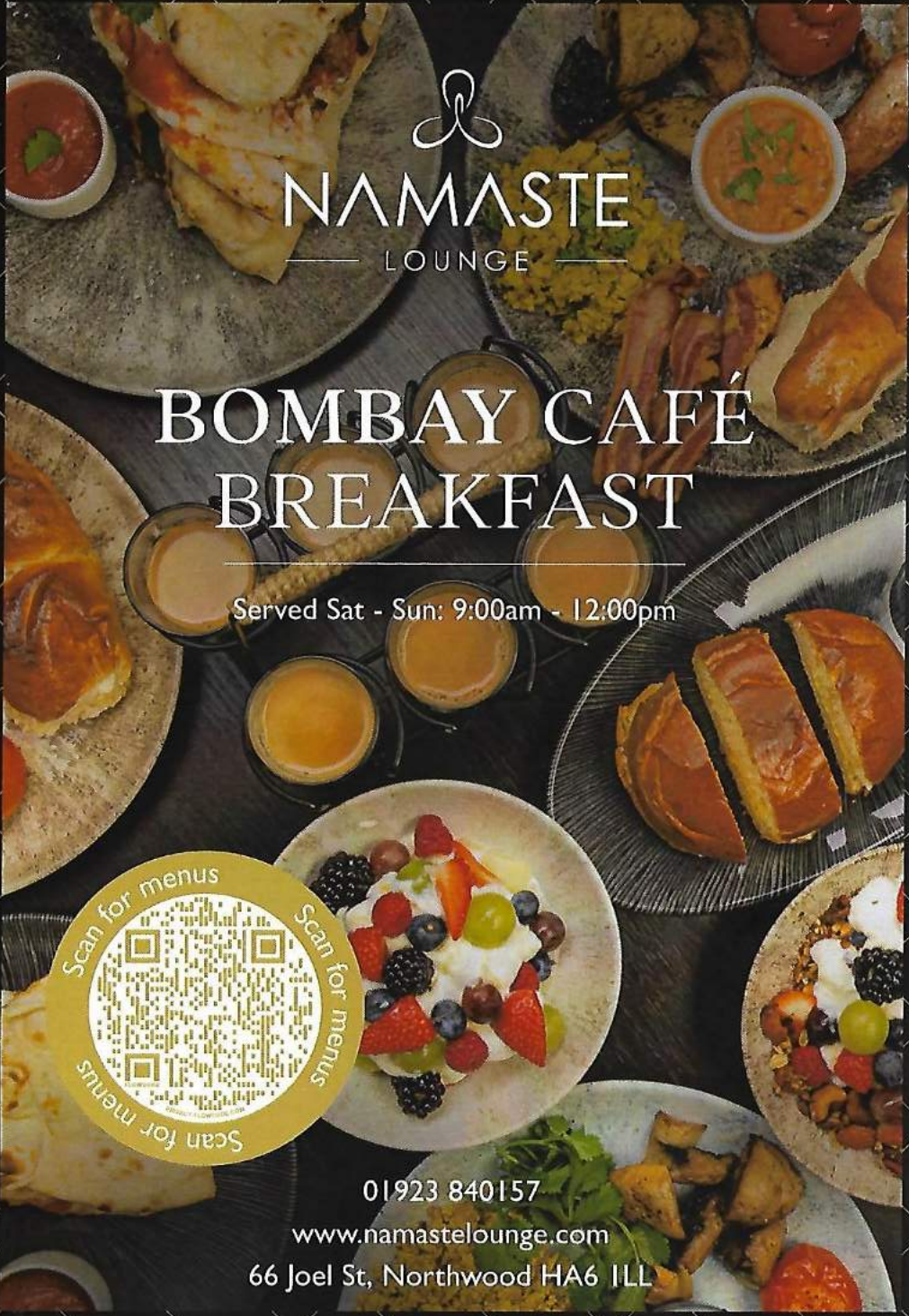
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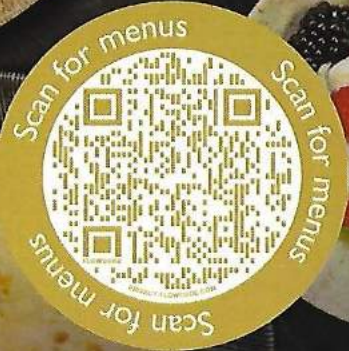
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# FIRST TEAM RESULTS 2023/2024

Month	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers	Goalkeepers	Defenders	Midfielders	Forwards
<b>AUGUST</b>										
5	YORK CITY	VNL	2-1	1,805	680	6	Kretzschmar (P), Mundle-Smith	2	3	4
12	Eastleigh	VNL	0-0	2,030	172	8		2	3	4
15	Bromley	VNL	1-1	1,810	159	8		2	3	4
19	AFC FYLDE	VNL	3-2	1,145	20	5	Campbell 2, Ferguson	2	3	4
26	Aldershot Town	VNL	1-3	1,860	149	9	Adarkwa	2	3	4
28	DAGENHAM & RED.	VNL	0-2	1,513	275	12		2	3	4
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>										
2	Hartlepool United	VNL	1-2	4,072	115	15	Allarakhia	2	3	4
9	EBBSFLEET UNITED	VNL	2-1	1,422	186	11	Campbell 2 (1 Pen)	2	3	4
16	ALTRINCHAM	VNL	0-0	1,302	70	11		2	3	4
19	Dorking Wanderers	VNL	1-3	1,389	150	12	Bowen	2	3	4
23	Chesterfield	VNL	2-3	7,301	140	15	Smith, Adarkwa	2	3	4
26	WOKING	VNL	1-0	1,310	250	13	Bowen	2	3	4
30	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	VNL	1-1	1,640	385	15	Bowen	2	3	4
<b>OCTOBER</b>										
3	Gateshead	VNL	1-2	896	54	16	Allarakhia	2	3	4
7	Kidderminster Harriers	VNL	0-1	2,546	190	15		2	3	4
14	Bromley	FAC40	2-3	1,933	195	15	Kretzschmar, Ferguson	2	3	4
21	BOREHAM WOOD	VNL	1-1	1,505	73	16	Allarakhia	2	3	4
24	OXFORD CITY	VNL	3-1	1,029	35	15	Smith, Bowen (2)	2	3	4
28	Solihull Moors	VNL	0-1	1,281	108	16		2	3	4
<b>NOVEMBER</b>										
11	ROCHDALE	VNL	3-2	1,470	220	12	Cook (2), Adarkwa	2	3	4
18	FC Halifax Town	VNL	0-1	2,119	92	16		2	3	4
25	BARNET	VNL	3-2	2,515	556	13	Cook (2), Barker	2	3	4
<b>DECEMBER</b>										
16	Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL	2-0	1,318	173	13	Adarkwa, Allarakhia	2	3	4
20	Billerica Town	FATR3	4-1	310	100	13	Ferguson, Obiero, Campbell, Bowen	2	3	4
23	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	VNL	4-4	1,457	105	13	Adarkwa (3), Kretzschmar	2	3	4
26	Maidenhead United	VNL	2-0	1,709	250	12	Adarkwa, Kretzschmar (Pen)	2	3	4
<b>JANUARY</b>										
6	Ebbsfleet United	VNL	0-2	1,511	300	12		2	3	4
13	Chelmsford City	FATR4	1-0	865	300	13	Campbell	2	3	4
27	FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL	2-0	1,519	111	13	Henry, Campbell	2	3	4
30	ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL	3-3	1,411	332	12	Adarkwa, Ferguson, Obiero	2	3	4
<b>FEBRUARY</b>										
3	Barnet	VNL	1-1	2,861	921	12	Andrews	2	3	4
6	MAIDENHEAD UTD	VNL	0-1	1,035	TBD	14		2	3	4
17	GATESHEAD	VNL	2-4	1,108	60	16	Allarakhia, Mundle-Smith	2	3	4
20	HENDON	FATR5	4-0	711	325	16	Dyer, Allarakhia (2), Henry	2	3	4
24	Woking	VNL	1-1	2,221	208	18	Ferguson	2	3	4
27	Rochdale	VNL	0-3	1,836	81	18		2	3	4
<b>MARCH</b>										
2	York City	VNL	3-2	4,592	179	18	Cook, Kretzschmar (2)	2	3	4
5	Southend United	VNL	1-1	6,399	130	18	Adarkwa	2	3	4
9	SOLIHULL MOORS	FATQF	1-1	1,018	132	20	(L 3-4 PENS)   Kretzschmar	2	3	4
12	BROMLEY	VNL						2	3	4
16	AFC Fylde	VNL						2	3	4
23	KIDDERMINSTER	VNL						2	3	4
26	Altrincham	VNL						2	3	4
29	Oxford City	VNL						2	3	4
<b>APRIL</b>										
1	SOLIHULL MOORS	VNL						2	3	4
6	Boreham Wood	VNL						2	3	4
9	SOUTHEND UNITED	VNL						2	3	4
11	DORKING WANDERERS	VNL						2	3	4
13	CHESTERFIELD	VNL						2	3	4
16	EASTLEIGH	VNL						2	3	4
20	Oldham Athletic	VNL						2	3	4
<b>TO BE ARRANGED</b>										

**(START)**  
**(SUB)**  
 1st off  
 2nd off  
 2nd on  
 3rd off  
 3rd on



Pictures from our Trophy defeat at the Vale on Saturday courtesy of Jon Taffel © Ronnie Raffle

## PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

8th July	Bracknell Town	N	W	3-2	Campbell, Allarakhia, Mundle-Smith
10th July	Milton Keynes Dons	A	W	2-1	Dyer, MacGregor
15th July	Farnborough	A	W	4-2	Olomola, Campbell, Trialist C 2s
18th July	Billerica Town	H	D	0-0	
22nd July	Charlton Athletic	H	L	0-5	
25th July	Wycombe Wanderers	H	L	0-1	
29th July	AFC Wimbledon	H	L	0-2	

Date in Red = TUESDAY fixture  
 Date in Green = THURSDAY fixture

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- Match-day programmes for all in your party.
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- Naming and presenting the 'Man of the Match' award
- A souvenir memento of your day.

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

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

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



 <b>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>DORKING WANDERERS</b> Thursday 11th April Vanarama National League	<b>Smith &amp; Latimer</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
- Fri 22 Mar The ELO Encounter

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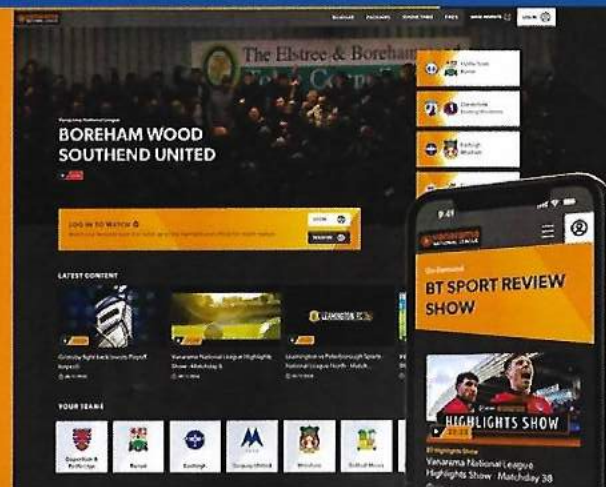
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# Bromley FC Greatest Seasons CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

## 1948/49

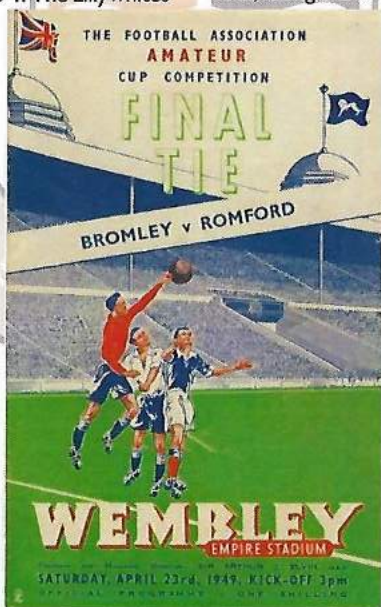
Bromley achieved the Athenian League title, Amateur Cup and Kent Amateur Cup 'treble' in 1948/49. The Lillywhites won 18 of their 26 Athenian League games, slamming seven goals past Leyton, Redhill and Wealdstone as they won the title by a four point margin. England Amateur international centre-forward George Brown scored a record 100 goals that season. Bromley beat Maidenhead United 3-0, Wimbledon 6-1, Barking 5-1, Pegasus 4-3 and Leytonstone 2-0 in the Amateur Cup before Tommy Hopper's first-half goal defeated Romford 1-0 in the first Wembley final. They trounced Thameside Amateurs 9-1 in the Kent Amateur Cup final.

## 1950/51

Bromley won the Athenian League title, London Senior Cup and Kent Amateur Cup 'treble' in 1950/51. They won 24 of their 30 Athenian League games, scoring 13 goals in their two wins over Cambridge City, also hammering Finchley 7-1, Redhill 6-0 and Hitchin Town 6-1. The Lillywhites finished four points clear of runners-up Walton & Hersham. They beat Hendon 4-3 in the London Senior Cup final at Highbury and Tunbridge Wells 3-0 in the Kent Amateur Cup final but lost 2-1 to Snowdon CW in the Kent Senior Cup final replay. Ace marksman George Brown scored twice as Bromley took Aldershot to an FA Cup first round replay.

## 1953/54

Bromley won the Athenian League by a six point margin in 1953/54. The Lillywhites romped to an 8-0 victory over Barking and 7-1 win at home to Romford, winning 18 of their 28 games and scoring 76 goals in the process. A crowd of almost 8,000



## Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS selects ten post-war Bromley FC 'Classic Campaigns'.

watched Bromley beat Maidstone United 2-0 in the Kent Amateur Cup final on Easter Monday, just three days after they defeated the highly regarded Yorkshire Amateurs 2-0 in a Good Friday friendly match at Hayes Lane. They lost 4-3 at home to Tooting & Mitcham in the South Thames Cup semi-final replay. George Brown announced his retirement at the end of the season and became trainer.

## 1960/61

Bromley won the Isthmian League title for the first time in fifty years in 1960/61. The first floodlit match at Hayes Lane saw an Isthmian League XI beat the Japanese national team 6-1 in September. Eric Nottage headed a last-gasp winner at Dulwich Hamlet the following month and Bromley lost only four of their 30 Isthmian League games as they clinched the title in dramatic fashion on the last day of the season. The Lillywhites won 4-2 at home to St Albans City to pip Walthamstow Avenue by one point. They also reached the South Thames Cup final, losing 5-2 to Wimbledon, as well as the Kent Amateur Cup final, losing 1-0 to Maidstone United.

## 1979/80

Bromley were promoted as Isthmian League First Division runners-up in 1979/80. John Biddle's side went top of the table in late October with a 6-1 win at home to Wokingham. They swept to another 6-1 victory, over Horsham, the following month and trounced Epsom & Ewell 5-1 on Boxing Day. Bromley clinched promotion with a 2-0 win over Finchley at Hayes Lane in their penultimate match with goals from Derek Brown and Junior Crooks. The Lillywhites lost only eight of their 42 Isthmian League games, scoring 93 goals in the process. They were unlucky to lose 3-2 to Maidstone United after extra-time in the Kent



Senior Cup semi-final replay.

## 1990/91

Bromley won promotion back to the Isthmian League Premier Division at the first attempt in 1990/91. Young striker Jon Goodman was quickly sold to Millwall but the Lillywhites were unbeaten in their first five matches under new manager George Wakeling. Bromley remained in the promotion race with a run of good results and triumphed 1-0 at leaders Chesham to move into second place in March. Micky Brown scored four goals as they trounced Lewes 5-1 and Bromley went a club record 12 games unbeaten in the Isthmian League. They overcame a 3-0 defeat at Harlow to clinch promotion as runners-up Chesham with a 0-0 draw at Dorking on the final day.

## 2006/07

Bromley won promotion to the Conference South in 2006/07. Former Crystal Palace chairman Mark Goldberg became manager and guided the Ravens to Isthmian League Premier Division runners-up in his first season. Finishing two points behind champions Hampton & Richmond Borough, they beat AFC Wimbledon in the play-off semi-final before defeating Billericay Town 4-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the play-off final. Top scorer Nic McDonnell, Tony Boot and Gareth Williams netted 53 goals between them. Bromley lost 4-1 at Gillingham in the FA Cup first round watched by 5,547. They beat Tonbridge Angels 3-1 in the Kent Senior Cup final.

## 2014/15

Bromley won the Conference South title in 2014/15. They made a number of high profile signings and stadium developments. Despite a background of uncertainty over the club's ownership, the Ravens won 23 of their 40 Conference South games,

scoring 79 goals in the process, as they finished two points clear of runners-up Boreham Wood to secure promotion to the Conference Premier for the first time. Mark Goldberg's side lost 4-0 at Torquay United in the FA Trophy second round and 4-3 at home to Dartford in the FA Cup first round proper. The manager's son Bradley Goldberg returned to Bromley initially on loan from Dagenham & Redbridge.

## 2017/18

Bromley were FA Trophy finalists in 2017/18. Neil Smith's side beat Hartley Wintney 2-0, Blyth Spartans 4-1, Workington 7-1, Spennymoor Town 2-1 and Gateshead 4-3 to reach the FA Trophy final for the first time. The following team lost 5-4 on penalties after Brackley Town snatched a last-gasp own goal equaliser in a 1-1 draw at Wembley Stadium: David Gregory, Jack Holland, Frankie Raymond, Louis Dennis (Brandon Hanlan), Adam Mekki (Ben Chorley), Jordan Higgs, Tyrone Sterling, George Porter (Josh Rees), Roger Johnson, Frankie Sutherland, Omar Bugiel. The Ravens also reached the FA Cup first round proper but lost 4-0 at Rochdale.

## 2021/22

Bromley won the FA Trophy for the first time in 2021/22. Andy Woodman's side beat Dover Athletic 1-0, Aldershot Town 2-0, Tonbridge Angels 3-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw, Solihull Moors 3-1 and York City 3-1 as the Ravens reached the FA Trophy final for the second time in five seasons. Leading marksman Michael Cheek scored to give the following team a 1-0 victory over Wrexham at Wembley Stadium: Ellery Balcombe, Omar Sowunmi (Joe Partington), Byron Webster, Chris Bush, Luke Coulson, Billy Bingham (Liam Trotter), James Vennings, Harry Forster, Corey Whitely, Michael Cheek (Mason Bloomfield), Ali Al-Hamadi.

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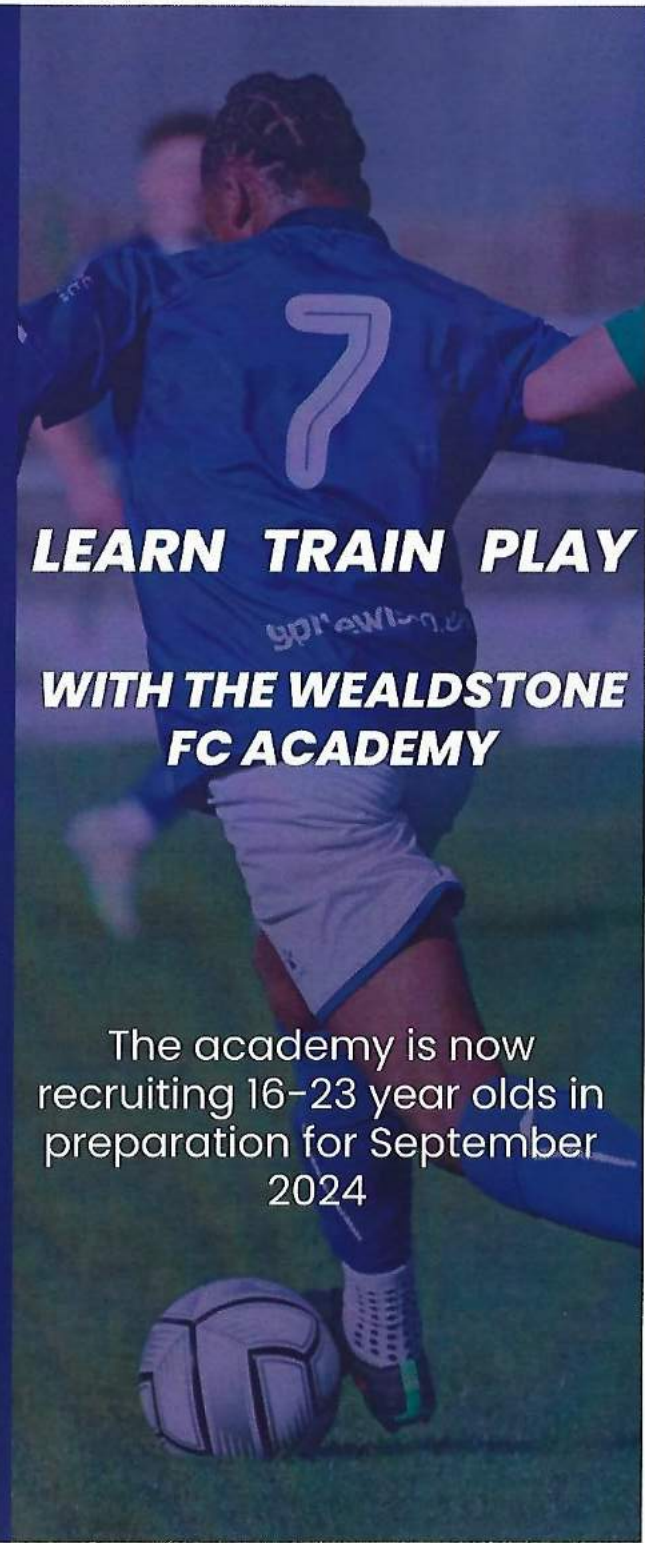
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# APPEARANCES



# 2023/2024

	CORRECT AS AT 6TH FEBRUARY 2024			VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE			FA CUP			FA TROPHY			MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP			MIDDLESEX CHARITY CUP			TOTALS			STONES CAREER			
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	
Abdulmalik, Abdul *	6	3					1			1										7	4		7	4	
Adarkwa, Sean	13	10	9									1								13	11	9	13	11	9
Allarakhia, Tarryn	17	7	4	1															18	7	4	70	13	13	
Andrews, Corie	3	12	1									1							3	13	1	16	17	4	
Barker, Charlie	27		1	1							1								29		1	61	2	1	
Barrett, Mason	4	7		1							2								7	7		26	14		
Bowen, Sam	24	2	5	1							2		1						27	2	6	27	2	6	
Campbell, Tahvon	16	3	6	1							2		2						19	3	8	19	3	8	
Charles, Ashley *	19	1		1							1		1						21	2		119	23	2	
Clayden, Charles *	13	2																	13	2		36	5	4	
Cook, Jack	28		4								1		1						29	1	4	115	3	12	
Dewhurst, Marcus	10										2								12			12			
Dyer, Alex	10	4																	10	4		206	41	34	
Ferguson, Nathan	15	8	2		1	1					2		1						17	9	4	67	18	11	
Henry, Aaron	4		1								1								5		1	25		3	
Hutchinson, Dominic																						20	8	1	
Ilunga, Brooklyn *	3	2									2								5	2		17	4		
Kretschmar, Max	14	7	3	1			1				1								15	8	4	40	14	10	
Mason, Brandon	7	2					1				2								9	3		9	3		
Mundle-Smith, Jaydn	29		1	1							2								32		1	69	14	4	
Obiero, Micah	22	5	1	1							1		1						24	5	2	52	11	10	
Olomola, Olufela *	4	4																	4	4		36	14	10	
Seaman, Charlie	2	2																	2	2		2	2		
Smith, Kyle *	10	1	2	1															11	1	2	11	1	2	
Ward, Jed *	19			1															20			20			
Woodman, Deon	1																		1			1			



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REWIND SPECIAL >>>> by tim parks

# It happened 50 years ago

## Part 18: The Trophy now gets serious as Stones take on South Shields in the last 16....

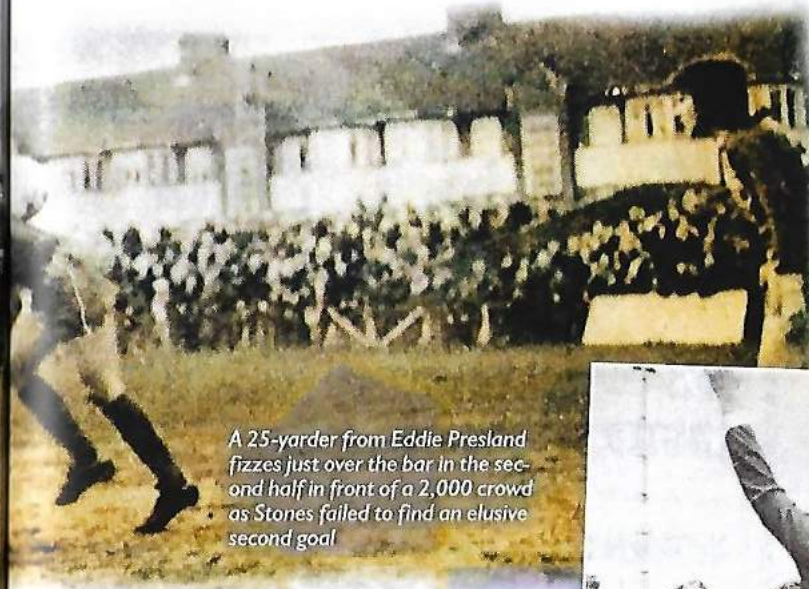
*This season we are reliving the extraordinary campaign of fifty years ago... which ended with the Stones' very first promotion in the club's long history and our first league title in 22 years.*

Saturday February 23, 1974, FA Trophy 3rd round proper: Wealdstone 1 South Shields 1

Saturday March 2, 1974, FA Trophy 3rd round proper replay: South Shields 2 Wealdstone 1

**THE FA Trophy holds a special place in the heart of every Stones fan and, I confess, I'm never as excited as on the eve of a big Trophy game. Last Saturday turned out badly, but no different.**

In recent years we've had semi-final appearances in 2012 and 2018, and of course even won the thing in 1985 (see another feature in this prog for the full low-down), but the first shimmer of anticipation, for me, came in February 1974



Below: Keith Bristow (8), Bill Byrne and Johnny Henderson (obscured) celebrate Henderson's goal

A 25-yarder from Eddie Presland fizzles just over the bar in the second half in front of a 2,000 crowd as Stones failed to find an elusive second goal



when South Shields came to town for this last-16 tie.

It was only our third season outside the provincial Isthmian League, and although we'd faced strong North-Eastern teams in the FA Amateur Cup in the shape of Crook Town, Bishop Auckland and North Shields in the previous decade, South Shields were a full-time pro outfit from the Northern Premier League. This was daunting.

But when this teenager woke up on the day of the game I felt strangely confident. We'd won 1-0 at Southern Prem side Wimbledon in the First Round Proper and then walloped Hastings United 5-2 in that extraordi-

nary second round tie. We had a powerful, experienced defence of John McCormick (ex Palace first team regular), Eric Burgess (ex Colchester), Eddie Presland (ex West Ham first teamer) and the young and combative Willie Watson (also ex West Ham), while ex Spurs double-winner Terry Dyson was being lauded in the Evening Standard (see article, left). In midfield we had more -ex Hammers in Ray Fulton and Chris Kinnear, and up front the towering Bill Byrne would be joined by livewire Johnny Henderson and, of course, the prolific George Duck with an amazing 44 goals to his name already that season.

Ah, hold on.

A murmur from the crowd as I was buying my programme was unsettling. And then, as the tannoy crackled into life with the team announcements, my mood deflated like the arrival of an ex-wife at a wedding.

**"...and at No. 10, George Duck is unwell and his place is taken by Keith Bristowe". What!? George had only missed one game all season and now he was ill!**

Speaking to George now, a regular at the Vale in his Stones Ambassador's role, he couldn't believe his bad luck either. "I had bronchitis and couldn't get out of bed, let alone play. I felt bad for the team and the supporters, but what could I do?"

Bristowe wasn't a bad player and had featured half a dozen times, but mainly from the bench. But he was really a midfielder and offered none of the guile, the balance, the instant goalmouth control and the metronomic finishing that had made Duck impossible to subdue that season. George would go on to net 64 times... but (and sounding churlish) when we most needed him, he wasn't there.

But there was still hope. In front of a baying 2,000+ crowd we flooded uphill towards the Elmslie End and - oh joy - took the lead when Johnny H, not known for his aerial ability, got his head to Fulton's whipped cross and the ball flew into the net off the inside of the post leaving Shields' keeper David Clark for dead.

But it didn't last long. The visitors were a controlled, experienced side and quietened the crowd with an equaliser just four minutes later through a terrific diving header from ex-Middlesbrough striker Parker. And although we had more of the game there just wasn't the fluency that had seen Stones win eight, draw four and lose just one of their previous 13 games.

Shields' 6ft 4in, gangly striker John Riby (also ex-

**Continued overpage >>>>**

# Dyson, 38, dreams of a return to Wembley

IT IS 13 years since Terry Dyson last played at Wembley. Now at the ripe old age of 38, the former Spurs double-winning hero is just three ties away from a return visit.

The diminutive Dyson has been left out of Southern League Wealdstone's last three matches because of the heavy grounds—but he looks certain to win a recall for Saturday's FA Challenge Trophy tie against South Shields at Lower Mead.

The incentive for the winners is a place in the quarter-finals, with the chance of a dream trip to the final at Wembley on April 27 a step nearer reality.

The vast experience of Dyson, who normally operates in midfield for Wealdstone, is a key factor in the First Division (South) club's ambitious quest of the unique double of promotion and victory in the Trophy.

As Dyson is one of only two playing survivors from the Spurs team that did the League and Cup double in 1961, Cliff Jones is the other—he is qualified to give an opinion on Wealdstone's

### Confident

"I never thought I'd have the chance of playing at Wembley again after all these years," said Dyson, who lives with his wife and three sons at Kenton, within sight of the famous twin towers.

"I'm enjoying my football as much as I've ever done and I reckon I've got a couple of years left. It would be great if we could get to Wembley. The lads are very confident we can do it."

"Let's face it it's not like the FA Cup. All the teams are from our own level and I would fancy us at home against anyone. Ashford got to the semi-finals last year and almost made the final. We're certainly a better team now than they were 12 months ago."

Dyson, who left Tottenham nine years ago after winning the Football League, FA Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup medals, had spells with Fulham, Colchester and Guildford before joining Wealdstone 21 years ago. Dyson, "still the fittest and

most enthusiastic player at the club," in the words of vice-chairman Colin Pope, works full-time for the Inner London Education Authority, coaching at schools in the Camden area.

"I've got my preliminary coaching badge and I'm really enjoying the work," said Dyson. "I wouldn't mind having a crack at management when my legs give out, but it would have to be a part-time job. I couldn't sit and watch other people play while my livelihood is at stake. I saw my old mate Dave Mackay recently and he said that's the hardest part of being a manager."

Dyson takes charge of boys from senior level down to nine-year-olds in his schools coaching job. "I love it and I usually join in with them, but I like playing with the nine-year-olds best, because I can outjump them for headers," quipped the 5ft. 4in. Dyson.



## REWIND SPECIAL continued

From previous page

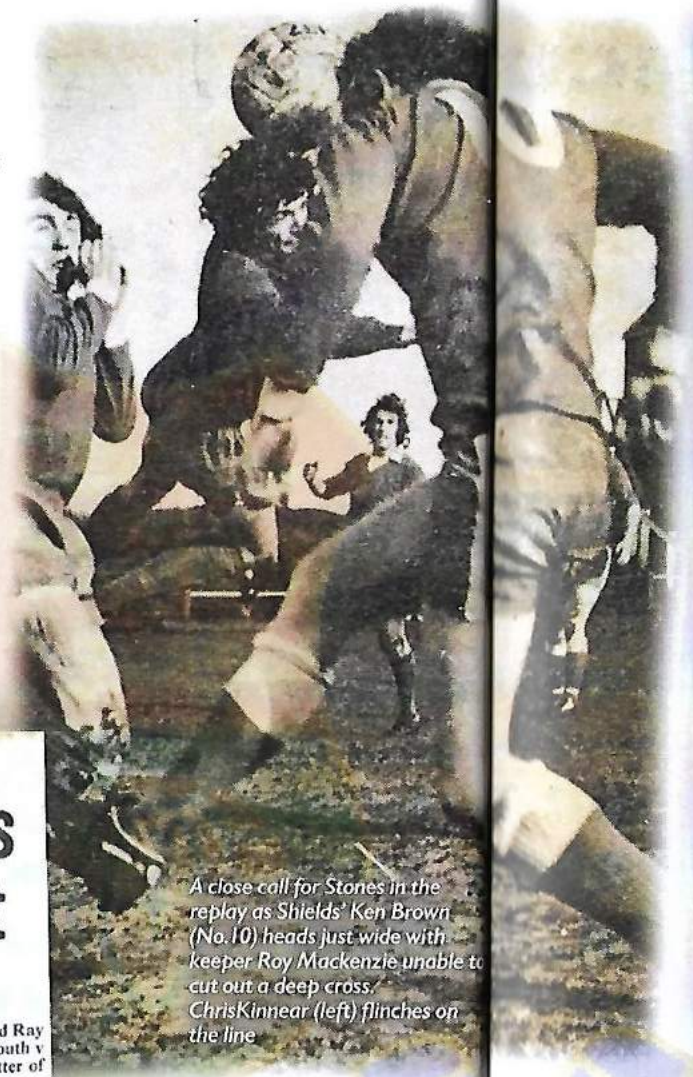
Boro) and fellow beanpole Corner proved a real handful as Shields' sole, unobtrusive tactic of striking long diagonal crosses caused some consternation.

But fortunately our keeper, Roy Mackenzie, was on his toes "and remembered his cap" according to scribe Phil Sugden, who wouldn't let it lie after Mackenzie had admitted to being blinded by the low winter sun when conceding the only goal to Ramsgate a month earlier.

Slowly Shields turned the screw, with giant defenders John Peverell (a long career in the League with Darlington) and Ron Young (200+ League apps) making it hard for Byrne, Henderson and the invisible Bristowe to feature. True, Presand blazed narrowly over and Byrne and McCormick gave the Tynesiders some scares but the game petered out leaving the impression that the replay would be very, very difficult to navigate.

And so it proved.

The 550-mile round trip had brought back warm memories of Bishop Auckland and nearby North Shields for our veteran fans but South Shields' facilities were poor - as supporters club press officer Phil Tricker lamented in his next programme notes. "There were no posters, no match programmes and no team sheets, no tannoy, no tea hut and not even any toilets!" In Shields' defence, they were leaving that



A close call for Stones in the replay as Shields' Ken Brown (No. 10) heads just wide with keeper Roy Mackenzie unable to cut out a deep cross. Chris Kinnear (left) flinches on the line.

so many chances, but only a draw

# No Duck - so 'Stones lack power up front

By Phil Sugden

Wealdstone 1, South Shields 1

IT ALL LOOKED comparatively easy when John Henderson superbly headed Ray Fulton's cross into the net in the 12th minute of this F.A. Trophy third round South v North battle at Lower Mead. It was, said the Wealdstone fans behind me, a matter of how many?

When Shields' striker Parker was presented with a rather simple equaliser four minutes later there was, they said, still no danger. 'Stones had the measure of the Northern Premier League side . . . time would tell.

Well, time did tell. Shields got more into the game and although Wealdstone had by far the greater number of scoring chances they failed to force another one home. Now they must travel North for the replay next Saturday, and I would rate their chances at no more than 50-50.

It might, of course have been all so different, particularly if a tremendous, screaming half-volley from Eddie Presland, late in the second half, had dipped instead of passing an inch over the bar with goalkeeper Clarke beaten.

It might have been different if White had not headed a Byrne shot off the line or if McCormick's firm header from a Fulton free-kick had gone a foot the other way.

Most of all, it might have been a different result if George Duck had been leading the home attack instead of lying in bed with an attack of influenza.



Eddie Presland - powerful free-kicks missed.

beaten better sides this season. No one performed badly for Wealdstone but few players were in particularly sparkling form. There was no lack of effort - but too little co-ordination. Certainly they can do much better and will probably reveal their true form in the replay if Duck is restored to the front line.

Without him confidence seems to disappear. Football League referee Mr Tom Spencer, from Swindon, had an excellent game, playing the advantage rule to considerable success and allowing the play to run freely whenever possible.

### FEATURE

A notable feature of the second half was that two free

ground at the end of the season but it must have been grim for our fans... especially as we were beaten in extra time after a needless handball from the otherwise impeccable McCormick (see match report, right).

And it got worse in the following week when the transformative Stones manager Sid Prosser announced that he was off to join Southern Prem high-fliers Chelmsford City.

On the field, we were left to "concentrate on promotion" while South Shields overcame Worcester City in their quarter-final after another replay - only to lose to fellow NPL side Morecambe in the two-legged semi-final. Morecambe went on to face Dartford in the final when, really, it should have been us...

Right: The Harry O reports on the disappointing replay defeat while (far right) it is revealed that outgoing boss Sid Prosser had recommended Eddie Presland and Terry Dyson for the job... which is exactly what happened!



John McCormick gave away penalty for Shields' extra time winner where a problem has been constant for some months.

Despite his long lay-off Godfrey's vigorous tackling and excellent distribution certainly earned him another chance, and with Fulton still showing improved form, gaps that in the past have been so evident in midfield were largely eliminated.

But it was Wealdstone's by four who really took the eye and as South Shields direct said afterwards, seldom has better footballing defence played at Simonfields. The ball was played out of defence was reminiscent Wealdstone earlier in season.

Eric Burgess strode the

## South Shields 2, Wealdstone 1 (a.e.t.)

A TRAGIC mistake by skipper John McCormick, when he needlessly conceded a penalty in the 10th minute of extra time, cost Wealdstone this FA Challenge Trophy third round replay at South Shields on Saturday and gave the Durham side a home quarter-final tie against Worcester City.

If ever there was a travesty of football justice this was it, for a reshuffled Wealdstone side had played some of their best football for weeks, and had South Shields hanging on for long periods.

But there was no argument about the penalty. A floating lob from the right, almost on the penalty spot, was pushed away by McCormick's right hand after Riby's elbow had landed in his face.

As a heartbroken McCormick said afterwards: "It was a sort of chain reaction on the spur of the moment, and I wished the ground had opened and swallowed me up." South Shields iron man, centre-back Peverell, lashed home the kick, and MacKenzie did well to get his right hand to it.

This after Wealdstone had looked likely to clinch it in extra time. A little more punch up front and they might well have done. But Wealdstone did the 200 or so magnificent supporters who made the long 600 miles round trip proud. And a daring gamble by manager Sid Prosser paid handsome dividends.

With Eddie Presland declared unfit following his knock in the first match, Chris Kinnear was pulled out of midfield to replace him at right back and Jim Godfrey was brought in after three months absence. This led to marked improvement in Wealdstone's midfield.

chance. The 6 ft. 5 ins. striker Riby was well controlled by McCormick, and he and Burgess have a rare understanding.

Before the game it was obvious that Kinnear was in for a gruelling afternoon, being matched against South Shields star striker Ken Heslop who had considerable First Division experience with Newcastle United.

Since his switch from the back four to midfield a couple of months or so ago, Chris has never shown quite the same brilliance. But at right-back on Saturday he played a noble part, and it is certainly no reflection that South Shields first goal came when he was beaten by Heslop.

In fact one can only sympathise with Mr. Prosser when he

too high, Henderson crashed the ball in following a gigantic goalmouth scramble in which at least 18 players were involved. The first anyone saw was the Shields net bulge, and Henderson besieged beneath a wave of Wealdstone players and supporters.

After 10 minutes of extra time came Peverell's penalty, and Kenny Brown, Shields' top scorer, who returned after suspension, should have increased the lead lobbing over the on-rushing MacKenzie, but over the bar.

For the final period of extra time, Dyson replaced the flagging Godfrey, and McCormick moved into the attack as the 'Stones switched to 4-2-4. For one corner, in fact, Wealdstone had all 10 outfield players in the



● TERRY DYSON

# Wealdstone search for manager

WEALDSTONE have decided to mount a national advertising campaign to replace manager Sid Prosser who is leaving at the end of the month to join Chelmsford.

by Evening News reporter

This was the outcome of a board meeting held at the Southern League First Division side's ground.

The board declined a suggestion from Prosser that former Spurs player Terry Dyson and ex-Crystal Palace star Eddie Presland would share the duties of manager.

"They often did the job very well when I was away, so I thought they were obvious choices," said Prosser.

Prosser was, however, upset about the FA Challenge Trophy defeat at South Shields on Saturday when a penalty in extra time gave the Northern side a 2-1 replay victory.

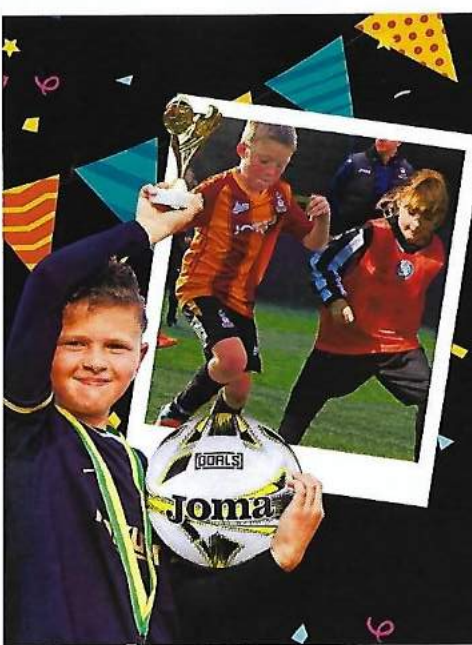
"We never looked like losing until John McCormick surprisingly handled and they scored from the spot. It was

a tragedy for all our players and I shall be having a few strong words to say about it."

Chelmsford who are strongly pushing their claim for Football League status have decided to call off their scheduled Pres conference in London today at which they intended to outline the details of their application.

It will now be held next week.

But they have not been ruled out altogether. Said Press officer Colin Pope: "The board will consider all applications including those from any of the Wealdstone players who fancy the job."



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**Dene Field**  
GIS graduate, First Team Analyst and Coaching Assistant at **Watford FC Women**

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



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 <b>BROMLEY</b> Tuesday 12th March Vanarama National League	<b>Wealdstone FC Supporters Club</b>	
 <b>KIDDERMINSTER HARR.</b> Saturday 23rd March Vanarama National League	<b>David, Adam &amp; Guy Edwards - in Memory of Rowland Edwards</b>	
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1 Chesterfield	37	28	4	5	91	49	19	16	3	0	56	24	18	12	1	5	35	25	42	88	3-3
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 Aldershot Town	37	18	6	13	64	67	19	11	5	3	37	27	18	7	1	10	27	40	-3	60	3-3 1-3
6 Oldham Athletic	38	15	13	10	55	48	19	6	7	6	27	21	19	9	6	4	28	27	7	58	1-1
7 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
8 Halifax Town	37	15	11	11	44	42	18	7	7	4	23	20	19	8	4	7	21	22	2	56	2-0 0-1
9 Altrincham	37	15	10	12	64	53	18	10	4	4	40	21	19	5	6	8	24	32	11	55	0-0
10 Southend United	37	16	9	12	55	39	19	11	2	6	37	17	18	5	7	6	18	22	16	47	1-1
11 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
12 Dagenham & Redbridge	38	12	10	16	54	52	19	7	0	12	29	29	19	5	10	4	25	23	2	46	0-2 2-0
13 Rochdale	37	12	10	15	57	57	18	7	5	6	32	23	19	5	5	9	25	34	+0	46	3-2 0-3
14 Eastleigh	37	12	10	15	64	74	19	8	5	6	36	34	18	4	5	9	28	40	-10	46	0-0
15 Fylde	38	12	9	17	64	70	19	6	7	6	33	33	19	6	2	11	31	37	-6	45	3-2
16 Maidenhead United	38	11	12	15	43	53	19	6	7	6	20	21	19	5	5	9	23	32	-10	45	0-1 2-0
17 Woking	38	12	8	18	40	47	19	5	5	9	22	26	19	7	3	9	18	21	-7	44	1-0 1-1
18 Ebbsfleet United	37	12	8	17	50	60	19	8	3	8	25	20	18	4	5	9	25	40	-10	44	2-1 0-2
19 Boreham Wood	37	10	14	13	49	59	19	6	8	5	26	23	18	4	6	8	23	36	-10	44	1-1
20 Wealdstone	34	11	10	13	47	52	16	8	5	3	30	25	18	3	5	10	17	27	-5	43	-- --
21 Dorking Wanderers	37	12	5	20	46	64	19	6	2	11	24	33	18	6	3	9	22	31	-18	41	1-3
22 York City	38	8	16	14	46	59	19	3	9	7	27	31	19	5	7	7	19	28	-13	40	2-1 3-2
23 Kidderminster Harriers	38	10	10	18	33	46	19	4	7	8	17	21	19	6	3	10	16	25	-13	40	0-1
24 Oxford City	38	7	8	23	50	81	19	5	3	11	27	34	19	2	5	12	23	47	-31	29	3-1



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# gpflewis<sup>plc</sup>

## Maintaining Excellence

GPF Lewis is an award winning national contractor providing Construction, Maintenance & Facilities management services.

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



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

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

# Follow Stones on the road:



**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