

Today's Teams

HARROW BOROUGH (red & white stripes)

Andray Baptiste

Brandon Martin

Ryan Watts

Wayne Walters

Danny Leech

Kwasi Frempong

Warren Whitely

James Fraser

Peter Sharratt

Rocky Baptiste

Kenta Nakashima

WEALDSTONE HEROES (blue & white shirts)

Seán Thomas

Marvin McCoy

Lee Chappell

Master Rob Fitzgerald

Alan Massey

Ryan Ashe

Keiron Forbes

James Gray

Greg Ngoyi

Charlie MP3

Mark E'Beyer

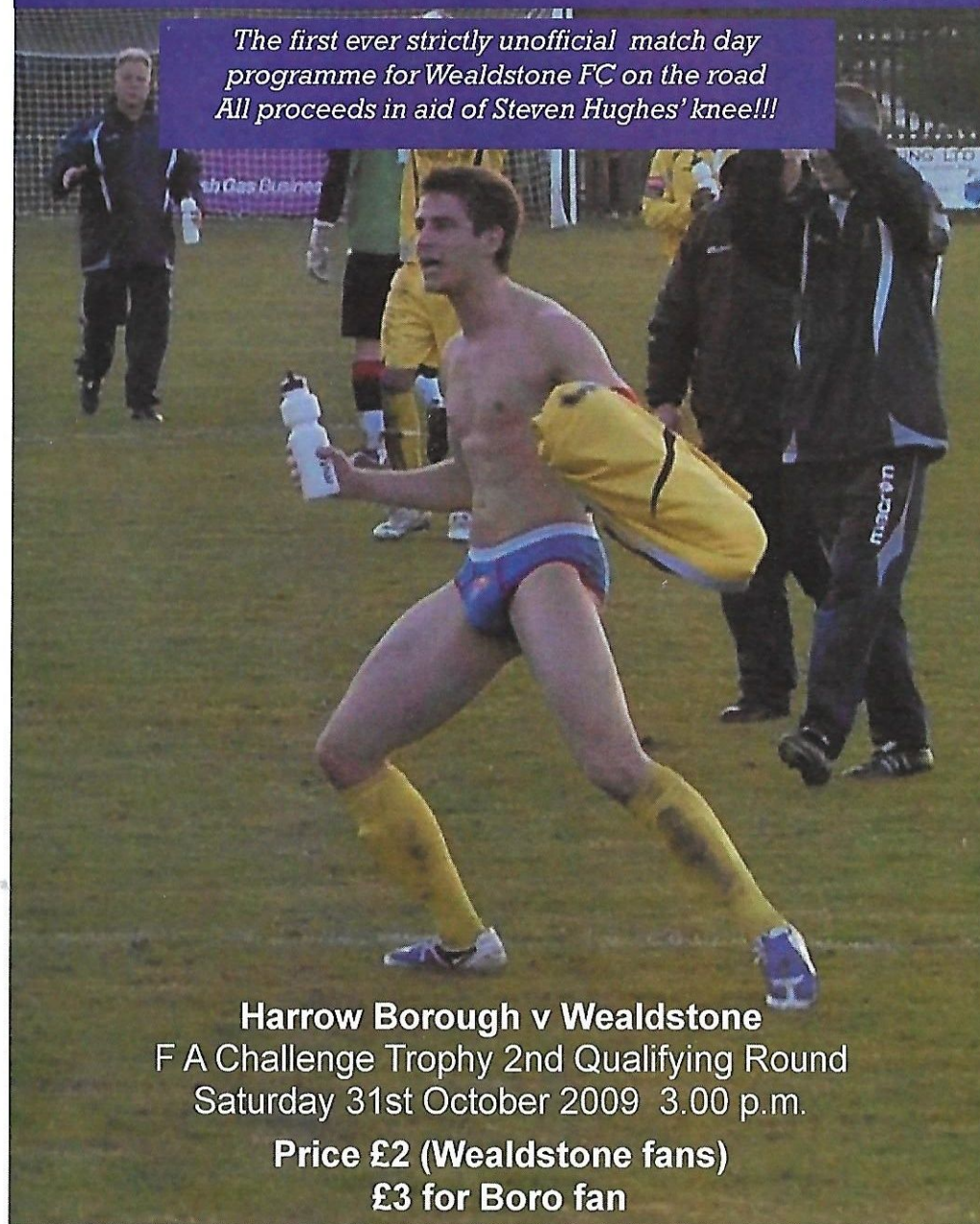
Officials & Substitutes to be announced

HALF TIME SCOREBOARD

A - Barton Rovers v Billericay Town	H - Northwood v Evesham
B - Bognor Regis Town v Maidstone Utd	I - Tonbridge Angels v Merstham
C - Borehamwood v Slough	J - Clachnacuddin v Wick Academy
D - Carshalton Athletic v AFC Totton	K - Llangollen Town v Llandudno Junction
E - Chippenham Town v Tooting & Mitcham	L - Boston United v Quorn
F - Dartford v Chipstead	M - Strathspey Thistle v Brora
G - Frickley v Guiseley	N - Fulham v Liverpool

Stones Away!

*The first ever strictly unofficial match day programme for Wealdstone FC on the road
All proceeds in aid of Steven Hughes' knee!!!*



Harrow Borough v Wealdstone
F A Challenge Trophy 2nd Qualifying Round
Saturday 31st October 2009 3.00 p.m.

**Price £2 (Wealdstone fans)
£3 for Boro fan**

Welcome to Stones Away...



Stones Away Editor Ron
Raffle a few years ago - Note the
WFCSC badges on the lapels

So what is this all about then? Well, truth be known I've often thought that a selective away match programme could be a bit of a fundraiser for the club, the only problem really being mustering up the time to do it. I haven't even been arsed to write anything for the programme since the alphabet series a few years ago, so what chance me doing a whole programme?

And then came the Steve Hughes bucket collection which generated some, but not plentiful funds, then came the Trophy Draw with Borough, and then of course the Aylesbury win which sets us up nicely for Rotherham in the FA Cup. It's a great time to be a Wealdstone fan that's for sure, so putting them altogether means that the turnout at South Harrow today will be up there with the biggest in recent years. And that means a money making opportunity.

So, what exactly has Steve Hughes done to deserve our support? Well he's got a knackered knee that's what, and as a young man trying to make it as a footballer it all came at a pretty bad time this pre-season

having spent the previous season in the treatment room as well. I won't bore you with the details, but Steve's article in the Margate programme was very enlightening, and no doubt still available in the clubshop if you missed it. In short, the operation was expensive and Steve had to pay for it himself, so it seems a worthy cause to me.

And so, all proceeds from the sale of this programme will go to Steve. I'm not a great fan of bucket collections personally, we all chuck plenty of money at the club already every week, so at least if you're reading this now, then you've got something to show for your donation. I would therefore also like to thank Martin Lacey of **Juma Print Ltd (0114 272 0915)** for producing this programme free of charge, a very generous gesture from a top, top Stone.

As it happens, I can empathise with Steve, as my own career was plagued by knee problems. Who knows what may have happened had it not been for that fateful Sunday morning playing for SFC Wealdstone away at Court Park? Anyone who played with me probably knows the answer to that question, but I do know that 5 operations later the next one I have will be a part replacement. But I had Lincoln Manderson in my back pocket at Dagenham!

I sincerely hope that this will be the last of Steve's problems, and that he will soon be on the road to fitness and first team football. It must be hellishly frustrating being on the sidelines particularly at the moment, although I am sure he is still thoroughly enjoying his team-mates' success. I don't think we have seen the best of Hughsie yet. I really thought that we were on to something special with him when he scored against Bishop's Stortford a few years ago, let's hope for many more of these moments in the future in a blue shirt.



Hughsie!!

Yours in sport
Ronnie 'Ron' Raffle

Boro v Stones in the Cup

As the Stones prepare to take on the darts team from Northolt today in the FA Trophy, I thought it would be appropriate to recall the previous seven occasions over the last 30 years when we have met them in major cup competitions. As you will see we have not exactly covered ourselves in glory, losing 6 of the 7 ties, so clearly it is a fixture to be feared rather than one which is likely to see a repeat of our recent league successes.

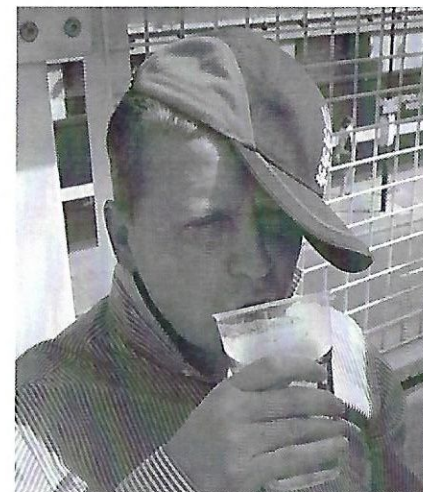
1977 saw us drawn to play at Earlsmead in the 3rd qual of the FAT with a side that reached the 3rd round of the FA Cup that season and were unbeaten in 15 games leading up to the tie. So what happened? We got stuffed 3-0 and from memory deservedly so. Next up was an FA cup tie in 1981 at Lower Mead when we were in the process of building the side that would see us reach the peak of non league football and again were on a lengthy unbeaten run. So what happened? We lost 4-1 with George Duck notching twice against us on his return. However, fate decreed that we were drawn against them in the FAT that season as well, with the game being played 7 days later at Earlsmead. The game seemed to be going to script with Boro leading 2-1 going into the last minute, when Clevere Forde wrote himself into Wealdstone folklore with a dramatic equaliser thereby bringing Boro back to Lower Mead for the replay 3 days later. This time there were no mistakes as a rampant Stones won 4-0 which is the only Wealdstone victory you will read about in this article.

Next up was an FAT tie at Lower Mead in 1990 with Wealdstone well on the slide from their glory days but still able to put out an expensive but under achieving side. Stones took the lead on the hour mark and although not playing well appeared set for victory until Boro snatched a draw from the jaws of defeat in the last minute. The replay in Northolt 3 days later saw a 1-0 defeat as Stones went out with little resistance being shown and another large Stones following going home disappointed. Fast forward to 1993 and you have probably the worst Wealdstone team ever

and guess what? We get drawn against Boro in both competitions! First up was the FA cup match at Earlsmead and a 3-1 defeat and a performance which led to then manager Dennis Byatt getting the sack. A few months later we entertained Boro at our new home at Yeading in the FAT and produced our best football for some time but unfortunately could only muster a 2-2 draw. The replay 3 days later saw Wealdstone back to their depressing worst and a good 3-0 stuffing. The following season saw a slightly improved Wealdstone drawn at home again in the FA cup and they promptly played Boro off the park for 89 minutes until the last minute curse struck again and Boro trotted off into the sunset and into the next round.

So as you can see these matches have rarely been mundane and I have only touched on the amount of incident contained in those matches. However the overwhelming theme is of disappointment where Wealdstone are concerned and all those reading this today feeling confident of a glorious Derby Day should take heed of this tale of woe. If you want to argue.....

Gordon 'Guvnor' McKay



Vale Promotions Proudly Presents....

An evening with Shaun Lawson

date to be confirmed

If you thought it was only possible to talk bollocks after 6 pints or having Edler as a surname then think again....

Celebrity Oxford student Shaun gives his invaluable insight into everything Wealdstone despite never coming near to a game.

Tickets just £25 each available from David Hardy at any Saturday home game.

Face In The Crowd

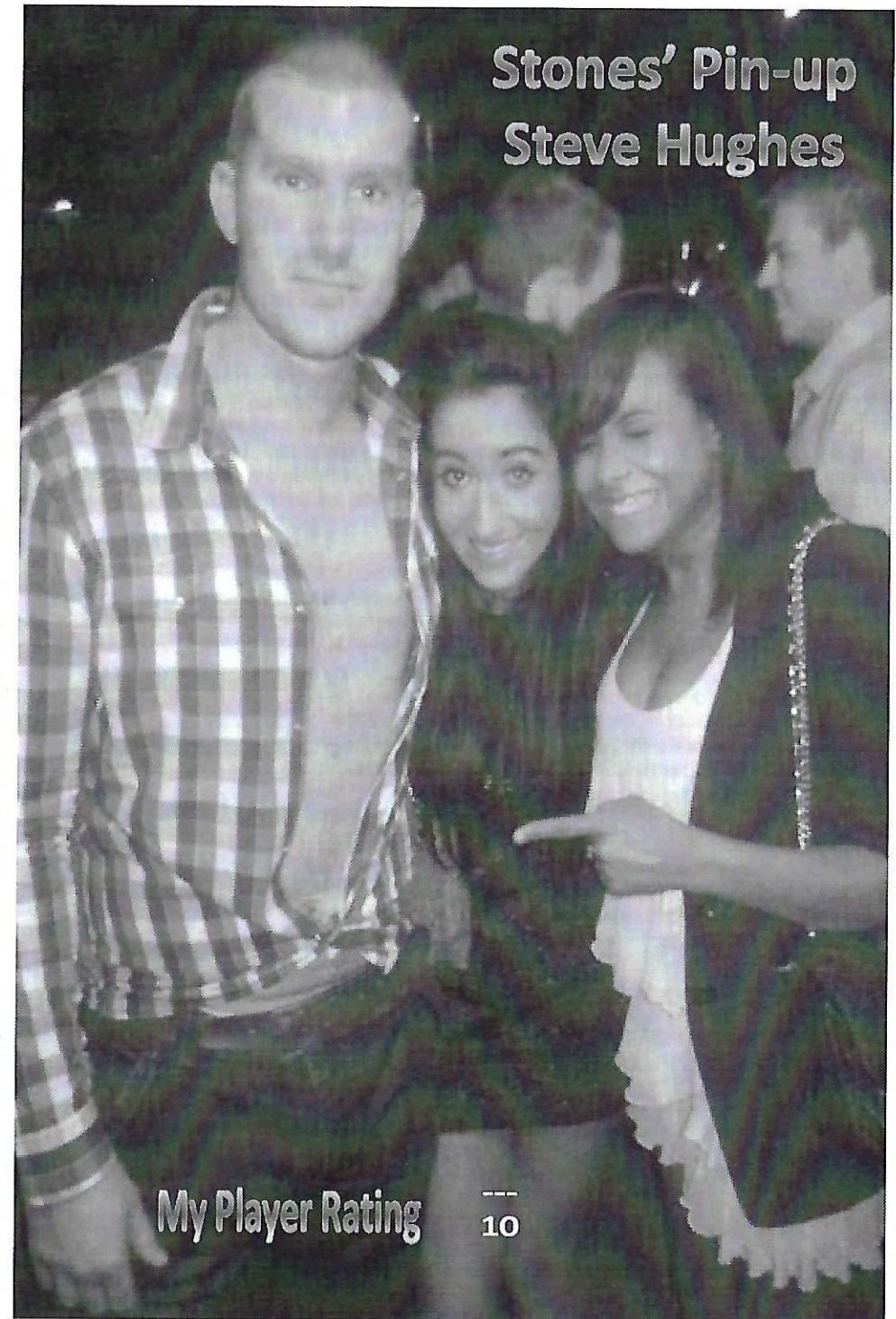


When I was a lad, the Harry O ran a popular face in the crowd competition, Well it's back, and we've delved back into history and found this picture of Stones away from the 70's. If you are the ringed face in the crowd, then you win this week's prize of a singing lesson from one of Meldrum's Muppets, Don Cross (right). To claim your prize, just find Don at any game and shout 'Give us a W' in his ear whilst clutching a copy of this picture. Good luck! And just for fun, how many other Stones fans can you recognise and where was the pic taken?



STONES AWAY

Stones' Pin-up Steve Hughes



My Player Rating

10

STONES AWAY

The Seven Deadly Sins Of Saturday

That modern day font of knowledge, Wikipedia says "The Seven Deadly Sins, also known as the Capital Vices or Cardinal Sins, is a classification of the most objectionable vices which has been used since early Christian times to educate and instruct followers concerning (immoral) fallen man's tendency to sin. It consists of "Lust", "Gluttony", "Greed", "Wrath", "Envy", "Pride" and "Sloth". (Ed's note - I thought it was the other way around, and that Wikipedia referred to Roge as the modern day font of knowledge)

Well, hold on a minute – surely those are the key elements of being a non-league fan, and last Saturday, certainly a Stones fan aren't they? Lust is often seen as lechery – a desire for sexual gratification. Now I for one don't have any great desires on the current squad, (though thirty odd years younger, the Tea Bar may have been an interesting hunting ground!) Yet, a few alcohol influenced hours after the game there were certainly one or two who showed an inclination to tell the players how much they loved them. If they win the next round, who knows what offers they will receive.....

Gluttony. No, not the Tea Bar again, (but as a proud member of the Fat Stones.....) Seriously, its actually over indulgence – a tendency to gulp down food, drink or intoxicants. Hands up those in the Bar again, as Saturday evening certainly saw plenty of that in celebration of the days events! And in the past too, many a sorrow has been drowned on the way back home.

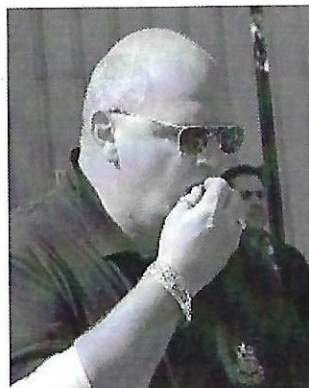
Greed or Avarice the desire to own more than one needs or deserves. Well, sod the budget, I don't care how skint we are, I want to see us in at least the Third round of the FA Cup, getting three or four rounds of the Trophy under our belts and getting promoted. What do you mean greedy?

Wrath. Ten minutes in last weekend there was certainly the wrath of fans evident in some areas, and I have to say the faces of the Management on the bench were as dark as the skies had been earlier in the day, as Great Letdowns of Our Time No 374 seemed to be on the cards.

There was also quite a bit of Envy around at the same time, as we jealously hoped that we'd come back into the game, yet considered how we might feel if we didn't. Envious of our opponents and the chance they might have taken for a plum draw in the next round. The fact is, that at this level, there is always someone better off, but maybe that envy can drive us on to achieve better things for ourselves.

Pride. In the attitude, the performance, the turn-around. Proud to be a supporter, a fan, and proud to be there to cheer on the lads. Chests pumped up, smiles wide and eyes bright, we walked out of the ground with our heads held high, proud to be winners and achievers.

Sloth. Apathy. Sorry. Couldn't be arsed.....



Bodger - Greed, Gluttony.....

Roger Slater

STONES AWAY

Up For The Cup! with Hughie

Phew!

Well we are there. First time since, errrr. 1986! It is more than possible that some of our loyal supporters will not recall it! I thought it was 1988 v Southend but what do I know? To think when we almost took it for granted reaching the proper rounds, there was no digital tv and I may well have still had a black and white tv! Now you have every match with a tv camera and a Sunday paper devoted to the non league game.



The two weeks prior to the Aylesbury match reduced me to a nervous wreck. I swear I was waking up in the night worrying about it. We could have been at Luton or Stevenage but we were not. And that really was it. A golden opportunity to progress, and the club deserves it. The board, management, players and of course, the supporters, deserve every minute of it. Such a loyal band of fans who give so much time and money to this great institution. It was not long ago when we were close to meeting Aylesbury Vale in league matches...

We must go on though. Once the FA Cup journey is over, whenever that is, we can focus on the league, and we are more than capable of gaining promotion this year. Gordon has created a very fine side, despite the youthfulness of the majority of the squad. Keeping them all will be a task. When you look at some of the Conference North and South clubs, we all know where we should be.

Gordon and co could probably do without a Trophy tie against our neighbours today but this is a match that we are not allowed to lose! Though we would enjoy a good run in this competition, one worries about the league backlog that will build up. The price of success!

A plea! Whilst at the SFC Wealdstone reunion in May, I passed my collection of 1985 FA Trophy celebrations at Lower Mead to ??? (he knows who he is!) to forward to Ronnie Raffle for inclusion on the Stones website. Unfortunately, they appear to have been mislaid! If anyone have them in their possession please forward to Jon Taffel. The majority of the piccies feature players and supporters in the Lower Mead car park after returning from Wembley. Very Happy Days which are here again!

Hughie Marshall

Ed's additional plea! Someone somewhere also has all my photos from the last ever day at Lower Mead—including the Tony Kelly picture used in the Elmslie Ender and my good friend Mr Irvine having a rather heated debate with Brian Hall. As always with these things, they were lent in good faith to someone who then lent them to someone else and the rest is history. If you have these photos, please return them, they need to come home.

Ed's Final Plea—and the one that really got me was my George Duck photo taken at Cheshunt, this went missing at the legends evening last year, when again my photos were being passed around during the evening. Someone must know what happened to it, I would like it back please!

Ronnie Raffle

STONES AWAY

Up For The Cup! with Dave the Dog

My first Wealdstone match was the comfortable 2-0 defeat of Dagenham at Lower Mead in the FA Cup 3rd Qual, watched with 1,835 others. I saw a couple more home matches and thought I would try my first away game. This was at Aldershot in the FA Cup 1st round on 22nd November 1975. Maybe I had a duty to attend as a lucky mascot, as every time I turned up, Wealdstone won; 3-1 v Southwick in the 4th Qual, and 3-1 v Dunstable in the Southern League Cup.

I had no car and considered using my recently-acquired Honda 50, but the furthest I had travelled westwards on it was Eastcote. Its massive petrol tank held 0.8 gals, (of which 0.2 was the reserve) possibly because it didn't have the oomph to carry the weight of much more. I had no idea how frequent petrol stations were outside the big smoke, and didn't fancy carrying a petrol can (metal; plastic not invented then) over my shoulder, so I booked myself a place on the supporters' coach.

I didn't know many of the supporters then. I met the cheery Barbara Robson who looked after the supporters' coaches, but she didn't make it appear like she enjoyed it much. In the club shop there was this bloke I thought was called Mick who had a dog called Toby. Toby (or was it Mick) did the job of being a pincushion for football badges.

I arrived for the coach at Lower Mead to discover that there were seven of them. That must be the usual number for away games, I thought, although maybe there's an extra one for the cup. The coach I was on was full of middle-aged geezers - no families and few kids, and of course with true Brit reserve, hardly anyone spoke to one another.

Aldershot's ground was one of the oddest. It must have been fashioned out of the side of a hill, as the ground fell away cliff-like behind one of the goals, so despite some large stands full of character, behind one goal there was little or no elevation, and a net to save losing the ball like at an NFL stadium. The ground seemed pretty well packed, and there must have been a thousand or more Wealdstone supporters in the 5,221 attendance. I didn't think Wealdstone stood much chance as I was used to seeing non-league sides whipped when playing away to league sides in the FA Cup.

As was the way in those days, I expected some trouble between the rival sets of supporters, but there weren't many Aldershot bovver-boys about. I then heard that Millwall (I think) had visited them just before and an encounter of mutual hostility had rather taken the wind out of their sails.

Wealdstone defended the net end in a tight first half, which finished at 0-0, but showed very little threat up front. The Wealdstone defence was led by the only famous name in the team, as far as I was aware; John McCormick at centre-half. He was 39 then and looked 59. He was famous because he had played in Division One with Crystal Palace, and I could remember his chops from collecting 1969-70 Soccer Star cards.



John McCormick about to clatter George Best

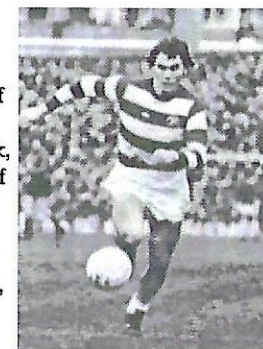
STONES AWAY

Up For The Cup! with Dave the Dog

I knew there was going to be trouble when McCormick didn't come out in the second half due to injury. The game changed with pace and space everywhere and became what they call a 'goal-fest'. During the third quarter the goals were rattling in at both ends; Wealdstone were never in front, but kept pace until Aldershot finally got two goals clear at 4-2. George Duck then scored his second and at 4-3 it was a tense finish but Aldershot held on. I'd be fibbing if I said I remember much about the goals, or the Wealdstone players at that time, as I had only seen a handful of games. It's the pure excitement and unexpected drama that is so vivid in my mind. After spending my early years watching league football at QPR, Watford and Arsenal (deliberate descending order) I realised that a non-league football team can provide comparable personalities and excitement, and even a bit of quality. For Rodney Marsh, read George Duck.

The coach atmosphere was completely different coming back, people still wearing bemused expressions following the second half drama and galvanised enough to speak to each other, remarking how well the chaps had performed.

Are all Wealdstone away matches like this, I thought? It was only after I tried another away match later in the season (Yeovil, 1-1, only two coaches) that it began to sink in that the Aldershot game had been of 'I was there' status, to my mind not equalled (or surpassed) until the Hereford replay 2 years later.



The other Dave Thomas

Dave 'The Dog' Thomas - one of the first £5 WFCSC life members!

ON THIS DAY.....

Wealdstone FC Results - 31st October

31/10/1896	Wembley Reserves	Away	Friendly	Lost 0-2
31/10/1903	Great Central Railway	Home	London Junior Cup	Won 9-0
31/10/1925	Finchley	Away	London Junior Cup	Lost 0-5
31/10/1931	Barnet	Away	Athenian League	Drew 1-1
31/10/1936	Romford	Home	Athenian League	Lost 1-3
31/10/1942	St Albans	Away	Herts & Middx Lge	Lost 2-4
31/10/1953	Walton & Hersham	Home	Athenian League	Won 5-0
31/10/1959	Finchley	Home	Athenian League	Won 3-1
31/10/1964	Bromley	Away	Isthmian League	Won 3-0
31/10/1966	Ilford	Home	Isthmian League	Won 3-0
31/10/1970	Corinthian Casuals	Away	Isthmian League	Won 4-1
31/10/1981	Canterbury City	Away	Southern League	Won 5-0
31/10/1987	Stafford Rangers	Away	GM Vaux. Conf.	Lost 2-5
31/10/1989	Burnham	Home	Westgate Ins. Cup	Drew 1-1
31/10/1992	Ashford Town	Home	Southern League	Lost 2-3
31/10/1998	Hitchin Town	Away	Ryman League	Lost 3-1

P	W	L	D	F	A
16	6	7	3	43	29

With thanks to Bodger Slater for this, so if it's wrong Mr Rattler.....

STONES AWAY

10 Years Ago.....

Once upon a time there was a website in which attracted a reasonable following during its existence. Rocky Baptiste lines up against the Stones today, and 10 years ago he featured in one of the infamous match reports, a belter of a game (as always) against Uxbridge.....

WEALDSTONE

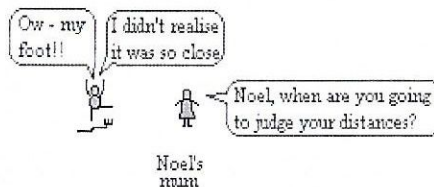
STONES

UXBRIDGE

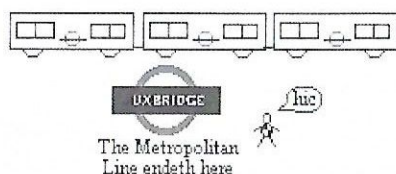
THERE'S?

Saturday 30th October 1999
Ryman League Division 1

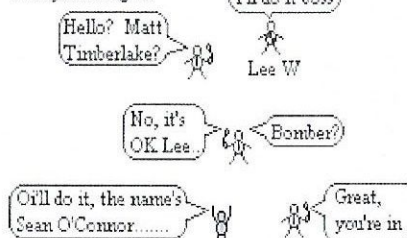
The day got off to a bad start when the news filtered through that Noel Imber had trodden on a plug.....



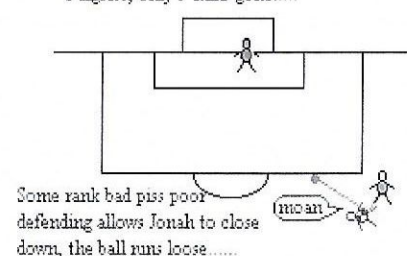
To me, Uxbridge will always represent the place where I used to wake up after a night out



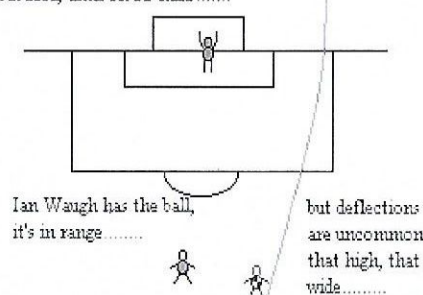
All of which had given Gordon a frantic Friday evening



I digress, only 9 mins gone.....



Nonetheless, the fayre is poor, and the crowd subdued, until on 35 mins.....



But our hero is quickest to the ball, and it's his first goal since August!!

1-0 Stones

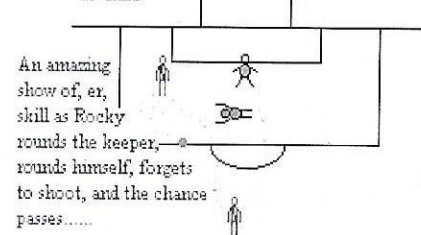
STONES AWAY

10 Years Ago.....

continued.....

59 mins

An amazing show of, er, skill as Rocky rounds the keeper, rounds himself, forgets to shoot, and the chance passes.....



60 mins

Another glaring miss from Rocky after good work from Jonah.....

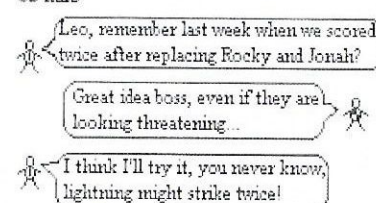


65 mins

Leo, remember last week when we scored twice after replacing Rocky and Jonah?

Great idea boss, even if they are looking threatening ..

I think I'll try it, you never know, lightning might strike twice!

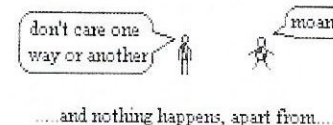


So off trudge Rocky & Jonah, on come Lee and Eddie B...

don't care one way or another

moan

....and nothing happens, apart from....



79 mins

A harsh free kick, but we're punished.

Stones 1 Uxbridge 1

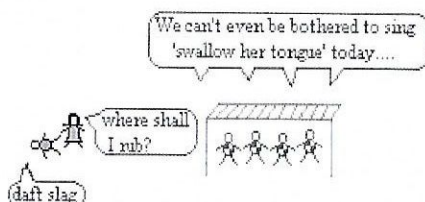


There's even time for the visitors to hit the woodwork, but nothing can lift the crowd today, not even the 'gorgeous' Uxbridge physio.....

We can't even be bothered to sing 'swallow her tongue' today....

where shall I rub?

daft slag



A fair result in the end, mid-table obscurity is looking good on this showing, yet we're still only just off the promotion pace, what a great league this is! A big thank you therefore to all Ryman League officials.

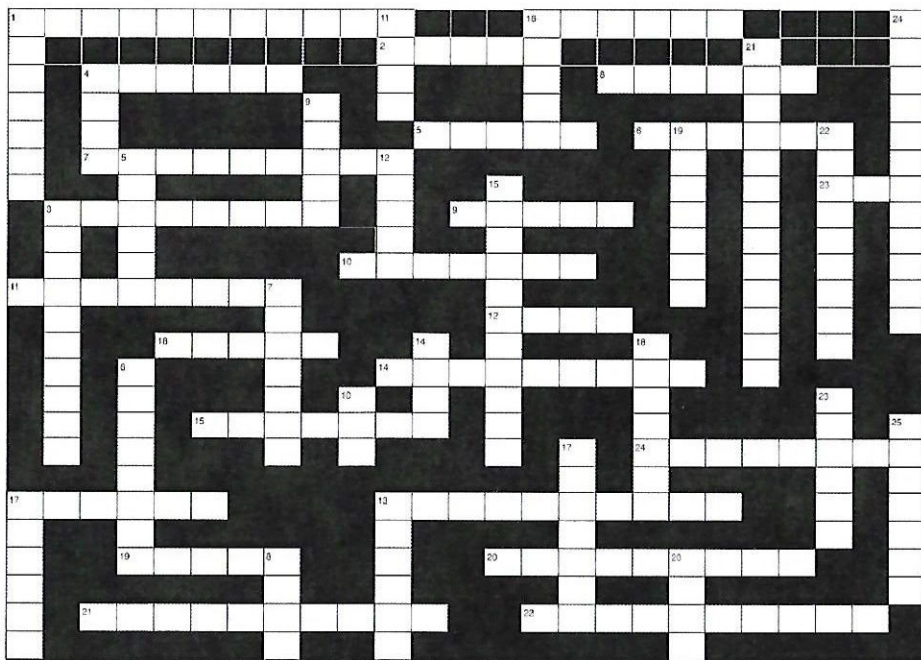
Today's Hosts are a meaningless club. I was brought up in Eastcote and I do confess that at some stage in the early 70's I ventured to Earlsmead once. It was an Athenian League match v Epsom & Ewell, nothing happened and hardly anyone was there. Not a lot's changed really. Please do buy the official match programme today, Stones Away was never meant to be a substitute for the official publication and it would be unfair on our hosts to do so. Enjoy the game, and please no trumpets.

Yours in sport
Ronnie

STONES AWAY

It's Crossword Time

Supporter Martin Read brings you a Stones/Boro themed crossword with an interesting number scheme, which makes it even harder if the numbers are too small to read! Good luck!



ACROSS

- 1 Railway thoroughfare, once frequently traversed to see the Wealdstone aces
- 2 Type of dog we'll be against Rotherham
- 3 Beloved ex-stone whose value we'd dearly love 20% of in the January sales (surname)
- 4 Sainly first name of our record goalscorer
- 5 First name of former Boro boss - mother's activities frequently the topic of idle speculation among stones' fans
- 6 Surname of same former Boro boss - maternal parent reputed to ply a profession associated with Stanley Road
- 7 Denied us by pen-pushing morons in 1999.
- 8 Stones' opposition when Paul went up to lift the Trophy cup
- 9 Morse's companion, recently routed.
- 10 Ssh! It's the sound made by Boro fans in full cry.
- 11 Enjoys the support of a blue and white army. (surname - tricky, this...)
- 12 "****, ****, I won't go to ****". Well, not unless we're playing them, obviously.
- 13 Merry nickname of our high profile first round guests (two words)
- 14 Former Vale residents' naff new name.
- 15 Boro keeper who couldn't take a yolk (surname)
- 16 Our FA Cup 1st round opponents' former home terrace.
- 17 Barnet, Enfield, Harlow AND Boro? Woeful CV for this Boro boss (surname)
- 18 Musical instrument which never did get stuck up that irritating sod's arse
- 19 European Cup semi-finalists with which we have a connection.
- 20 From 1995 to 2003, the ground we called home.
- 21 Hey, teacher, score that second minute overhead kick (both names)
- 22 First player to be nicknamed after a digital compression algorithm? (Both names)
- 23 Famously despatched in half dozens towards (16 Across)
- 24 Rothmans, Berger, Vauxhall-Opel - all former sponsors of this league.

STONES AWAY

It's Crossword Time

DOWN

- 1 Of our previous FA Cup 1st Round opponents, these are currently the highest placed.
- 2 Sure, we play in Ruislip - but there'll still only ever be one team here.
- 3 Moody, mildly magnificent midfielder from the 1990s.
- 4 Our most expensive mistake (player - all £15k's worth) (surname)
- 5 Noise we make and Boro conspicuously don't, rhymes with name of referee bigwig
- 6 Current Captain Fantastic (surname)
- 7 Bucks Head side who denied Boro their Wembley chance. So sad.
- 8 Chant W,E,A,L,D,S,T,O,N,E and your throat will be this
- 9 Had Boro any fans, this is what they'd have done into their beer after the 1983 Trophy semi-final
- 10 Loyal assistant, and so Sayer all of us (first name)
- 11 Ornothological surname of our record goalscorer
- 12 Harrow-hammering hat-trick hero whose headwear reputedly yields supernatural properties (surname)
- 13 Twixt our sticks (surname)
- 14 Our club has one of these. Boro? Not so much.
- 15 There'll only ever be one trophy-winning stones' no.4 (both names)
- 16 Greg Ngoyi's three against Boro last season - a neat...
- 17 Pinky-blue scene of play-off glory.
- 18 Surname of The Brothers Great.
- 19 Long limbed Samson, gangly late eighties striker
- 20 After Batsford came Brian, our double winning boss
- 21 Church-going boxer? He's played for both sides (both names)
- 22 Midfielder Danny, the long blonde game changer
- 23 Royal status of the bloke whose playing fields we oh-so-nearly occupied
- 24 Our most expensive mistake (premises)
- 25 1985 semi-final opponents and never, at any time, the "pride of non-league football".

Answers will be published in some form or another in the not too distant future!

Q & A with Graeme Montgomery

questions from Tom Beck

Q: It's been almost a year since you had the chance to join up with the Daggers - are you still enjoying life as a professional footballer? A: Yes I'm really enjoying it still, it's so different to what I'm used to, I'm enjoying every day.

Q: John Still had a successful spell in non league football - does his experience make the transition from non league easier for you? A: Yes I think it does, there are a lot of players this season who have come from non league and I think the gaffer knows how to treat and develop these players.

Q: How does he compare to Gordon Bartlett? A: Both are very good managers in their own way and I have learned from both of them.

Q: The season has started well - are you confident that you'll still be in the promotion places in May? A: Yes very confident, if we keep everyone fit and keep the consistency up I have no doubt we'll go up.

Q: Are there any current Wealdstone players who you think can make the set up to a professional club, like you have? A: I think a lot of them can move on, I know some have already had interest and I think it's just a matter of time before move on.

Q: Any memories of playing against Harrow Borough (the opponents the day this zine is released)? A: Yes I have very good memory of a Boxing Day game at Northwood against Harrow, we won 4-0 when Jermaine and Jolly were up front the atmosphere was amazing and one of the best games to play in.

Q: Wealdstone have drawn Rotherham at home in the FA Cup - how do you fancy their chances? A: Rotherham are a very good side, but Lee Chappell has already told me they will win, it's the FA Cup so anything can happen.

STONES AWAY

Seniors' World Cup 2009

with Mad Mik

As an ex-pat living in Udon Thani, North east Thailand I was surprised to hear that Udon was going to host the Seniors World Cup from 25th-30th May 2009.

The tournament consisted of 8 teams; England, USA, Australia, NZ, Thailand, Iran, Taiwan and United Arab Emirates. Each squad had 20 players, with unlimited substitutions but at any one time each team had to have, on the pitch, at least 3 players over 50, 3 players aged 45-50 and 3 players aged 40-45.

After initial speculation that people such as Bryan Robson and Gazza would be playing we were slightly disappointed to learn that England would be represented by Harrogate Veterans FC, which seemed to consist mainly of northern ex-non league players.

The opening game was to be between England and Thailand. My mate Steve suggested that a few lads get together and do a mini bus from his bar to the game. This seemed an excellent idea so word went around and on the afternoon of the game about a dozen or so of Udon's finest alcoholics, ageing football hooligans, reprobates and n'er do wells (Ed's note - either I'm thick or I don't know what he's on about - wouldn't be the first time) had gathered together and were enjoying a pre-match beer or 2.

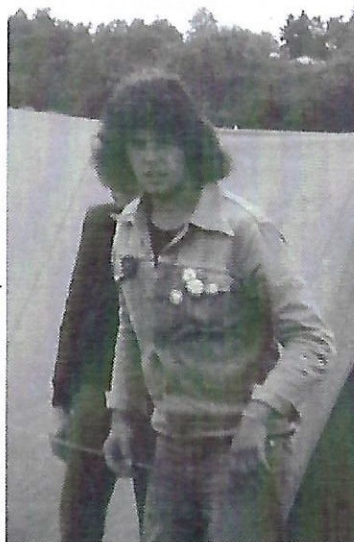
We set off for the ground but were dismayed to be told that the bus had to be dry, we just about suffered this as the journey was only 15 minutes. On arrival at the venue, an old athletics stadium, we were greeted by typical Thai chaos. As the event was free thousands of locals had turned up to enjoy the opening ceremony.

As soon as we left the bus our firm split into two with half occupying the vacant VIP area next to the pitch while the rest of us went in search of more beer. We were disgusted to hear that the event was dry. So off we went to the nearest bottle shop, returned to the stadium and managed to find some free seats at the front of the main stand and enjoyed the opening ceremony.

Fair play to the Thais, they put on a good show with a cast of hundreds that included traditional dancers, marching bands, aerobic displays and even parachutists dropping off the flag of each participating nation. Eventually before the start of the game our mates were evicted from the VIP seats and joined us at the front of the stand.

The two teams finally appeared and as they lined up we all stood up and sang an impromptu version of God Save the Queen much to the bemusement of the Thais seated around us. By now our ranks had swelled further by more ex-pats coming over to sit with us and we managed to organise the WAGs to go on regular beer runs to the local bottle shop returning each time with dozens of beers and bags of ice.

As the match started I didn't hold out much hope for our lads, most of whom looked like they had



Mad Mik with hair -
Reading late 70's

Seniors' World Cup 2009

continued

been over-doing it on the pies and lager. The Thais meanwhile all looked as fit as a pack of butchers' dogs, none looked over 30 and in fact they also ran around like a pack of butchers' dogs.

As the game progressed it was clear that England's plan was to defend deeply and to hit them on the break, and half way through the first half that's exactly what happened. One of the younger more mobile players broke away, crossed the ball into their penalty area where our No 9 expertly headed the ball past their keeper.

At half time it was England 1 Thailand 0 and by now things were starting to get messy thanks to a constant supply of ice cold beers. During the second half my chants of "Come on England kill the F*****s" became louder and more frequent. When a Thai player was on the ground injured I sang out "Swallow your tongue, Swallow your tongue....." When a pair of older ex-pats told me to calm down my slurred reply was "We sing that all the time at Wealdstone"

The second half saw England on the back foot, defending deeply with our keeper having a great game. The final nail-biting minutes saw some desperate defending from England. It all got a bit too much for one mate who left the stand and went up to the England bench and told them how it was!! The final whistle saw my mate on the pitch celebrating with the players as we held out for a 1-0 win. We were all on our feet cheering, clapping and chanting. The players came over to us and applauded us in what felt like a "Premiership moment".

For anyone that's interested or still reading, the next 2 days saw England beat NZ 1-0 and the USA 2-1. There then followed a much needed rest day before England played Iran in the semi final, the game ended 1-1 before England went on to win 5-3 on penalties.

The final was to be played on Saturday 30th May against Australia which would have been England's 5th game in 6 days. Complete madness when you consider the tropical climate and the age of some of the players. Again typical Thai organisation resulted in confusion as to when exactly the game was supposed to kick off. A couple of hours before kick-off the time was moved from 6pm to 5pm, but someone forgot to tell the Aussies.

Finally both teams took to the field and England took the lead in the first half and were 1-0 up at half time. It was during the half time interval that the heavens opened up and it bucketed down, water-logging the pitch in about 10 minutes. This was the same time as hundreds of fans turned up expecting the game to kick off at 6pm.

The game was abandoned with the score 1-0 to England and the trophy shared between England and Australia. I met up with both squads that evening who were celebrating together in the town centre. I got chatting to the Aussie keeper (from Manchester) who informed me that their squad was made up of just 3 Aussies, 2 Serbs and 15 Brits!!! You couldn't make it up!!!!

Overall it was an excellent tournament and the decision to allow free entry to all the games meant that the locals got to watch some half decent footy, but I have to question the sanity of holding a physically demanding event in what is one of the hottest and wettest months in Thailand.

Up the Stones, good luck against Borough and Rotherham

Udon Mik

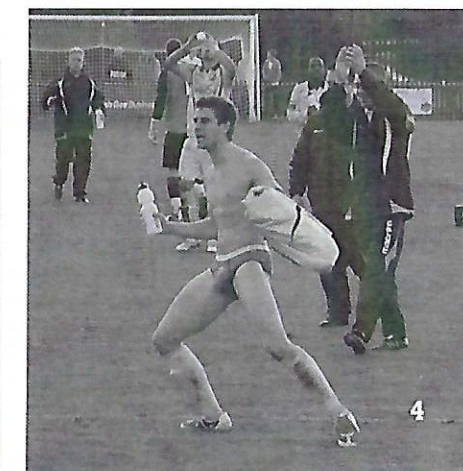
**STAR
PLAYER**

Oh Andray Baptiste's magic,
He wears his magic gloves,
He lets in goals v Wealdstone,
Cos that's the team he loves,
He lets them in his left side,
He lets them in his right,

**ANDRAY
BAPTISTE**

STONES AWAY

Lee'd By Example...



Celebrating the comeback at Aylesbury in style: 1 - The shirt's coming off, 2 - it's off, 3 - should have hidden behind the other physio, 4 - the front cover pose

Next Weekend's fixtures
WEALDSTONE v ROTHERHAM UNITED
FA CUP 1st Round Proper
Sunday 8th November 3.00 p.m.

HARROW BOROUGH v ASHFORD TOWN (Middx)
Ryman League Premier Division
Saturday 7th November 3.00 p.m.

Which game would you rather see?

STONES AWAY

Meet today's visitors

the pen pics you won't find in a proper prog



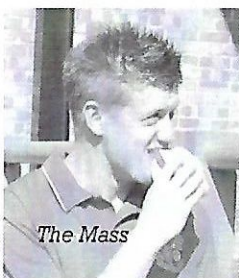
With Mick Fishman

Sean Thomas Vertically challenged custodian eventually signed following his release from QPR. Manager Gordon Bartlett had to scour the bars, clubs and brothels of Wembley to save the young keeper from a downward spiral. He failed, as Sean signed for the club.

Marvin McCoy Dashing right full back signed from Watford or Leyton (no-one is quite certain), young Marvin has stipulated that he will only play if Kieron Forbes is selected on his wing. Seems reasonable.

Lee Chappell Totally unhinged, it is thought "Chaps" was sectioned under the Mental Health Act some seasons ago. Believes he is playing in the Premiership and is as deadly at free kicks as Didier Drogba and the like. Nobody has had the heart to disabuse him of his beliefs.

Rob Fitzgerald Twelve year old Rob has settled to the task of shoring up The Stones defence. Came to the club as a calm, ball playing, stylish defender, but 3 months playing alongside Alan Massey has turned him into a snarling, snapping stopper who joyfully clatters into any forwards displaying any skill.



Alan Massey The Beast. Seemingly impervious to pain or any obvious human emotion when on the field of play, "The Mass" has endeared himself to the Wealdstone faithful with his uncompromising defending that sees him hump ball and player into touch with equal regularity. A throwback to the glorious days of Ron Harris and Norman Hunter, if you like your football of the red meat variety, you will enjoy watching The Mass.

Ryan Ashe Liverpool has a beach ball, so does Wealdstone

Keiron Forbes Modelled his football style on the old bowling alley game where the players could be manoeuvred to run up and down the pitch head down in straight lines. Known as the man who never smiles.... unless he smiles.

Chris O'Leary The ball is incidental to Chris' game. Nothing makes the man enjoy his game more than the feeling of bone against bone. A heavy pitch, driving rain and a lightweight, skilful opponent bring out an expectant smile on the face of the team's hard man

Mark E'Beyer The Vinny Samways of the side. Great first touch, good football brain, reads the game well but does the boy fanny around or what...

Greg Ngoyi Greg has suffered so many knee and ankle problems he may well be the first

STONES AWAY

Meet today's visitors

continued.....

eight legged footballer. Physically akin to the great Gladstone Small, Greg is a true striker – they either flash into the net or place supporters viewing behind the goal in mortal danger.

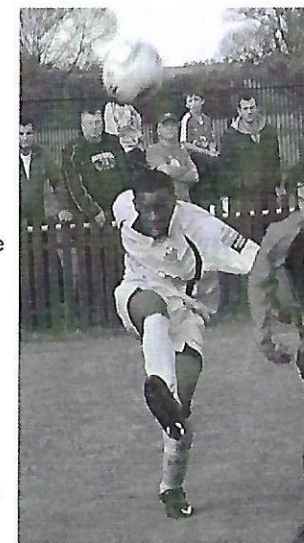
Charlie Mpi Usain Bolt eat your heart out. Charlie's blistering pace can destroy opposition defences. Most memorable match to date was at Aveley when he outstripped the entire set of defending plodders, bore down on the home goalkeeper before unleashing a thunderous shot that cleared the burger bar by the corner flag.

James Gray Jimmy is the club's token northerner. Originally from the slag heaps and misery of Yorkshire, Jimmy obviously had an attack of common sense and moved south. Plays best when carrying an injury.

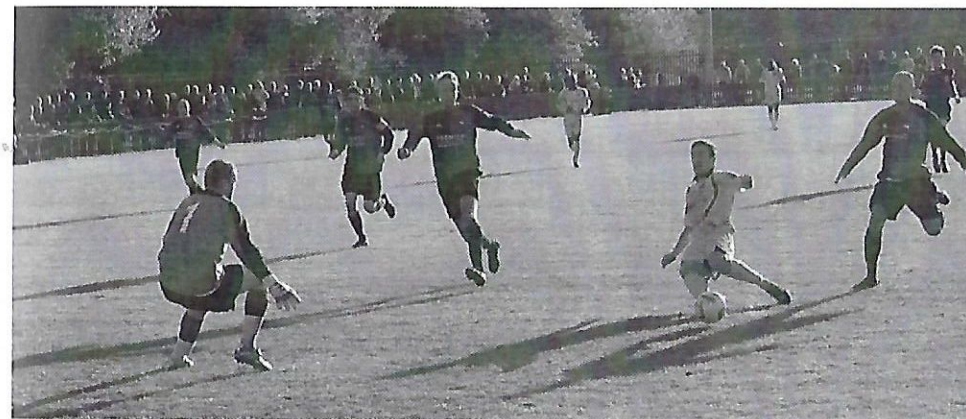
Danny Spendlove A tricky winger in the Ken Halliday mould, Danny often threatens to tear defences to ribbons with his pace, trickery and quick feet. One day the threat will be carried through.

Darren Locke A beatnik is a rarity in modern football, but it hasn't held back Lockey. His discussion groups on Jack Kerouac's "On The Road" are meat and drink to Lee Chappell as is his discourse on existentialism. The thinking man's (Attic and Megaphone) footballer.

Ben Alexander Ben fills out a football kit but sparingly. Richly talented Ben has teased the Stones followers with glimpses of greatness particularly around the burger van.



MP3, oops it's gone wide



Ashey scuffs the equaliser at Aylesbury - the ball took half an hour to cross the line

STONES AWAY

Meet today's visitors

continued.....

Steven Hughes Deceptively slow, makes Ben look quick.

Ross Lafayette Dead ringer for the bloke who used to front 70s beat combo, Hot Chocolate.

His rendition of "You Sexy Thing" at the club Karaoke nights is legendary

Chris Ellerbeck The ex Harlow and Waltham Abbey striker joined The Stones on the understanding that he would not be called upon to play more than 12 minutes in any one game.

His cameo appearances have been known to lift the team performance to okay.

Kenny During Rumoured to have signed for the club in the close season.

Gordon Bartlett (manager) Gordon took over the reins at the club just after the war. Gordon brought success to the club following the tragic-comic Yeading period. Famous for introducing the 67th minute substitution which has of course been taken up by managers and coaches world-wide.

Leo Morris (assistant manager) The joker in the pack, Leo is rarely seen not displaying a broad smile. Keeps the spirits of the players up even in difficult times with his encyclopaedic rendition of Charlie Drake, Ted Rogers and Jimmy Tarbuck gags. A real hoot!

Mark Gill (coach) Gilly has modelled his coaching style on the Harry Andrews figure in the film, "The Hill". Always happy to instil pain and exhaustion in the playing staff. Much loved and admired by the team.

James Smith (physio) Gave up a potentially lucrative modelling career to take on the role of club physio. Vies with Leo Morris in the role of club comic.

Gary Strudwick (senior physio) Usually fastest to reach an injured player.



Q & A with Carl Martin

questions from Tom Beck

Q: How are you settling in at your new club? **A:** I have settled in really well at Crewe. I love playing every day and everyone has made me feel very welcome. I am enjoying it.

Q: Does it help that you've joined a squad that already contains players, such as Patrick Ada and Mat Mitchel-King, who are also making the step up to the professional game? **A:** That can only give me confidence because it shows that Crewe are a club who are prepared to take players from non-league and play them in the team. It is great to know that someone like Dario Gradi has a lot of faith in you and is prepared to give you a chance.

Q: Were you close to signing for Dagenham this pre-season at all? **A:** I heard that I was really close but that could just be the rumours! Once Crewe came back in for me there was only place I wanted to go anyway.

Q: You recently said it was your boyhood dream, it would be mine too, to sign for a professional football club – is the pressure on now to push on and make the most of it? **A:** I don't think it is pressure from anyone else except myself. I think it is more me setting myself targets now. I said I wanted to go pro and now I am. I cannot stop there though, I have to look forward and set myself new challenges. I want to play at the highest level I possibly can.

Q: Both Dario Gradi and Gordon Bartlett have been involved with their respective clubs for many years. How do the two managers compare? **A:** Both top guys because they have been in the game for many years. They have great knowledge and command that respect from the players because of it.

Q: Are there any current Wealdstone players who you think can make the step up to a professional club, like you have? **A:** There are a few young players there who have what it takes, I won't mention any names but there could be 4 or 5 at least.

Q: Any memories of playing against Harrow Borough? **A:** When my boy Greg scored a hat-trick, that was priceless.

Q: Favourite moment(s) playing for Wealdstone? **A:** Beating Harrow 6-1 at home.

Q: Wealdstone have drawn Rotherham at home in the FA Cup – how do you fancy their chances? **A:** At home, I think Wealdstone will win. I don't doubt that they can pull it off.

Q: Lastly – we trust that you've framed and hung up the signed Wealdstone shirt given to you at The Vale recently? **A:** It's here with me and it's defo getting signed! (?? Ed)



Autographs

Harrow Borough Fan Page

Never let it be said that Wealdstone fans aren't generous in the extreme, so we thought it would be a nice idea to give the 'home' team their very own exclusive feature page.

FACE IN THE CROWD



Harrow Observer's Doug Avent recently captured the mass celebrations that followed a recent Borough goal at Earlsmead. If you recognise yourself as the face in the crowd, then identify yourself at the club shop to claim your free trumpet!

Darts: Basic Rules

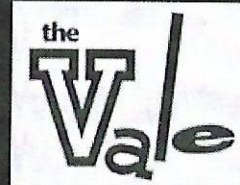
Basically, dart games are played between two players or two teams. The teams can be made up of two or more people each. Variations that allow for more than two sides have been devised, but these have not achieved any popularity.

Nine throws are generally allowed for each person as a warm-up before a game begins. Then, to determine which team or person is to take his turn first one dart is thrown by a person from each team. The team with the dart closest to the bull's eye takes the first turn. Each player throws three darts in his turn. Then the darts are retrieved. If a foot crosses over the line or a person happens to trip over the oche and releases his dart, the throw counts for no points and may not be re-thrown.

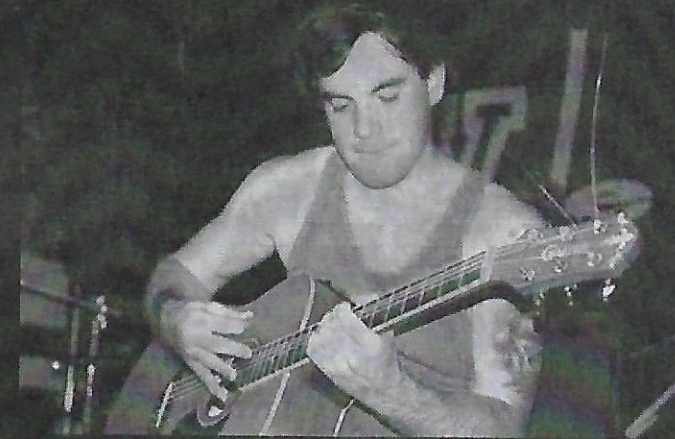
Darts must stay on the board for at least five seconds after a player's final throw to count. A throw does not score if it sticks into another dart or if it falls off the board.. More rules next time!

If you're fed up with watching your pointless little club, come along to Grosvenor Vale and experience real non-league football with real non-league fans, not just darts players.

STONES AWAY



GIG NIGHT
saturday 14 november - 7pm
Ruislip Social Club, HA4 6JQ £6



Misterkite
+
TAPETHERADIO
+ LATER RIVALS + THE DAMN FINE COATS

www.thevaleruislip.co.uk
www.wegotickets.com/event/61219



If you've read this far, then thank you. I would have liked it to have been a bit bigger and better laid out, but time constraints and deadlines conspired against me, not least because I didn't really know what I was doing! Thanks to all who have contributed either directly or indirectly - too many to name in person, but particular thanks to Martin Lacey at Juma Print, Adam Gloor, Steve Foster, anyone whose pic I've lifted off the internet, and last but not least all the players, officials and supporters of our unique club - Ed

STONES AWAY