

WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB

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HANDBOOK**



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WHITSUN TOUR 1960

by

K. E. WILTSHIRE, Asst. Hon. Sec. of the Club.

Wealdstone commenced the tour on Friday evening, the 3rd June, from Lower Mead, and proceeded to London Airport by coach. There they were joined by Hounslow Town F.C., to share a special chartered aircraft for the second phase of their journey to Luxembourg. With a three match tour programme the Wealdstone party arrived in Luxembourg City in high spirits to be greeted by the Schiffange Club officials. The players were well aware that on the Sunday they were due to meet Audun-le-Tiche, the team that had held Hendon to a drawn game only two weeks previously. They joined the Hounslow Town party at dinner in the Schintgen Hotel and after a wonderful meal the members of both clubs were soon setting out to see the world famous "Fairyland Illuminations" before retiring.

WEALDSTONE F.C. TAKE TOUR HONOURS.

JARNY 1, WEALDSTONE 3.

A long coach journey was necessary to this French town and the players had the first taste of "Crossing the Border" with a passport inspection by both Luxembourg and French Customs officials. The summer heat and the strange conditions did not upset the visiting team and they soon provided the spectators with some thrilling football. Jarny were all out to record a win against the first British team ever to visit their ground, but they found the Wealdstone defence always well positioned and Goalkeeper Culver very alert. The two-goal margin win was well deserved and the visitors were congratulated on their fine performance by the Jarny players and officials alike.

A fine reception was laid on for the Wealdstone party after the match which was very much appreciated by the visiting party.

AUDUN-LE-TICHE 2, WEALDSTONE 3.

Pre-warned of the strength of the opposition the Wealdstone team trooped on to the Audun pitch full of confidence. There was an exchange of pennants and the usual introduction to local V.I.P's. with the playing of both national anthems.

Adopting the tactics so successful against Hendon the home team set up "Hot" attacks early in the match. Typical continental style football was played by Audun and the Wealdstone defence was soon at full stretch. The visiting team forwards were more direct however and only excellent covering by the Audun half-backs prevented them taking the lead. However Wealdstone kept up their endless pressure, finally netting the odd goal, and victory was theirs.

JOEFF 2, WEALDSTONE 2.

On Whit-Monday the Wealdstone party were taken to the Royal Vineyard on the Moselle River at Ebling and were shown around the loading bays, the crushing plant house, and the cellars where the huge vats were positioned. Samples of the wine produced here were passed around to the members of the visiting party.

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Following the vineyard visit the Wealdstone party embarked for the long journey to Joeff which proved an enjoyable one because of the lovely countryside to be seen from the coach. The route led through the Maginot line, barbed wire entanglements and pill-boxes were to be seen from the road. Flags of both nations were flying everywhere and it was obvious that all the townsfolk were eagerly awaiting the opportunity to see the English team. A large crowd had assembled at the ground, which was set in a delightful wooded valley. The crowd were completely silent as the National Anthems were played and echoed through the valley, the silence being broken by the referee's whistle and the game was on.

The home team, with terrific enthusiasm, set the pace from the start. They fastened on to every loose ball and speeded to the goal area, but their finishing was poor. Wealdstone settled down after 20 minutes and took the lead with a fine cross shot. Joeff equalised, but Wealdstone regained the lead. Four substitutes were fielded by Joeff in the second half and it appeared that the now tired Wealdstone team would find this reinforcement a little too much for them, but this was not the case however, for they were able to continue to have the better of their French opponents. In the last minute of the match Joeff broke away and scored, to rob the visitors of a "hat trick" of wins which they would have fully deserved.

After the match the players and officials were "royally" received at the Town Hall by the Mayor, who was also a member of the French Parliament. I accepted on behalf of the Club a beautiful piece of china plate which was presented to Wealdstone by the Joeff

Club President. Toasts to the English visitors were given and sincere wishes that the Wealdstone team would return to Joeff were sincerely passed on to the visiting officials.

A very speedy return to the Luxembourg Airport, a grand send off by the continental club officials, and the Wealdstone party boarded their waiting aircraft, very jubilant, for they had not been beaten. Yes, indeed, they were true champions of Luxembourg.

The results of our Athenian League colleagues Hendon and Hounslow who were on the same tour were as follows :—

Hendon drew all three games.

Hounslow won one, lost two.



Luxembourg Tour Team 1960.

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Remark passed by Hounslow player Dudley Baker when boarding the plane home, to Viv Evans, our skipper on the tour. "How does it feel to travel with the champions of the Athenian League?"

"Viv's" reply, "How does it feel to be travelling with the champions of Luxembourg".

"No comment" was the stern reply.



J. RYAN

Hon. Press Secretary.

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OUR FIRST OVERSEAS TOUR

by

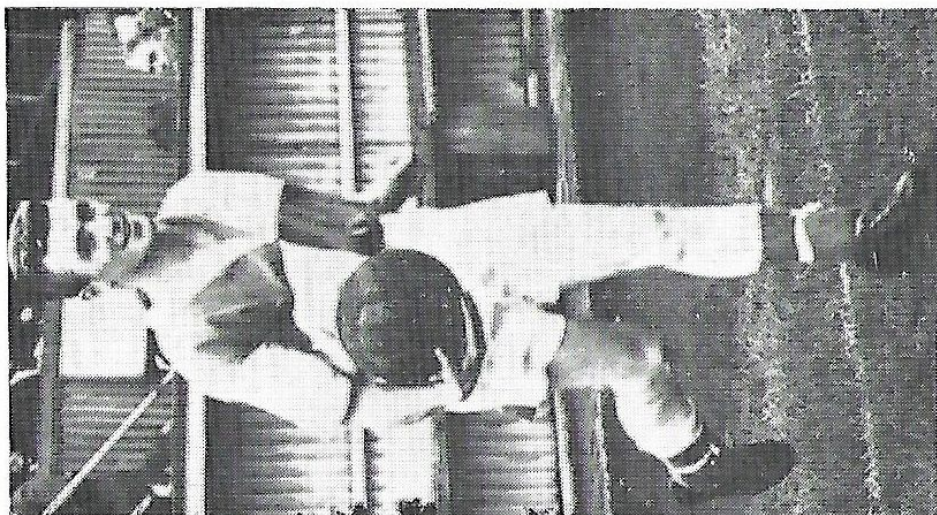
JOHNNY RYAN, Hon. Press Secretary.

Billed as "The Champions" and "Vice-Champions" of "Angleterre" on the many posters that were displayed all over Luxembourg, we arrived at Luxembourg Airport to be met by the officials of Schiffange Club. After the usual handshakes we set off for the hotel.

We set off in bright sunshine for our first game against Jarny F.C. Travelling about 60 miles from our headquarters, but crossing the French border we ran into heavy rain and hailstones. We passed through the remains of the Maginot Line, the trip taking nearly three hours. The "Stones" chalked up their first win, 3 goals to 1. After the game the two teams went to Jarny F.C. headquarters. Badges were exchanged, toasts drunk, then back to our hotel.

Sunday we took over where Hendon drew against U.S. Audun, our hardest game to date. With everyone giving their best we won by 3 goals to 2. This match was played in the most beautiful scenery you could wish to see. How proud we were to see our lads run on to the field in their blue and white with the Union Jack and French flags fluttering in the breeze.

Monday's game against A.S. Joeuf, with the crowds waiting along the route to the ground to catch a glimpse of England's unbeaten team in Luxembourg. This game was played in boiling hot weather. Fifty seconds from time Joeuf made it a draw. Afterwards a civic reception at the Mayor's headquarters in the Town Hall. The party left for home with one thing sure that Wealdstone were wonderful ambassadors throughout. The compliments paid about our fine brand of sportsmanship and our good football throughout made the tour worthwhile.



Viv Evans—Club Captain.

A. D. GRANT

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Our memories will linger, so we should like to place on record a few incidents that will only be remembered by the participants.

IN BETWEEN TIMES.

The visit to Radio Luxembourg.
Luxembourg Municipal Stadium.
The beautiful American Forces Cemetery.
Vineyards of Moselle.

Bill Leadbetter looking like a "Carnival Queen" on a floral cart after the presentation of the usual bouquet from the host club.

Jack Rogers and his most peculiar drinks.

Not to mention the police raid on the Luxembourg night-spot, "Charlies" Bar, when Messrs. Ken. Wiltshire, Johnny Ryan, Charlie Townsend, Johnny Moran and Brian Henderson had to take to the attic.

The time Wealdstone ate ham and eggs instead of the usual continental breakfast—this turned out to be Hounslow's lunch which had been a special order from the Town's Secretary.

John Saunders and Charlie Sells making a collection in the café while the remainder of the "Stones" rendered "The Happy Wanderer". Yes, they made enough for a drink between them—but I do not think the locals knew what the collection was for.

The usual bedroom frolic with Don Aldridge and Roy Hurrell losing their shoes. Viv. Evans trying hard to get the lads out of bed.

The following made the trip worthwhile :—

Players : E. Culver, R. Hurrell, J. Saunders, C. Townsend, G. Riddy, D. Aldridge, C. Sells, J. Moran, T. Conniff, M. Hughes, V. Evans (Captain), R. Hooper, with their trainer, F. Welch, Kit Man, G. Young.

Officials : W. G. Leadbetter (Secretary), J. Rogers (Deputy Chairman), K. E. Wiltshire (Assistant Secretary), J. Ryan (Press Secretary), B. Henderson (Committee-man).

Supporter : A. P. Hilton.

To the Schiffange Sports Club we say thank you from Wealdstone.



Luxembourg Tour 1960. Players and Officials Boarding Plane at London Airport.