



PROGRAMME
£3

When Terry Hissey asked me if I'd be willing to put together a brochure-cum-menu for this evening, it really made me think: I know a great deal about the history (and indeed the pre-history) of Wealdstone FC, but what did I really know about the Supporters Club? I mean, I've been a Life Member since the mid-eighties (a real bargain at a tenner) but I've never been on the Committee. Then, I took a step back and thought about it a little more....

I played football (some might say) and occasionally managed SFC Wealdstone over about 12 years.

I, with a few like-minded others, slept in a tent a few times down at Headstone Manor 'guarding' the WFCSC tent and the Beat the Goalie and Golf sideshows, and indeed during those great Harrow Shows, on occasion I took a turn in goal as the goalie you had to beat (not hard).

I spent a few summer afternoons and evenings at Lower Mead with a paintbrush in hand, replacing the paint flakes and scratches on the pitch-side fencing, caused with great exuberance during the previous season.

I was a regular partaking in the Supporters Club Raffle at half time, quite often with the likes of Justin O'Brien, 'Screwy' Driver, 'Kat' Kelly, Tony Maidment and 'Coddy' Rowe warming up for a long evening in the Elmslie Tavern by sharing the (liquid) prize...occasionally with a coffee from the Supporters Club Tea bar.

I also remembered some references to the Supporters Club and where they had been directly embroiled in the 'History of Wealdstone FC' from previous research, so maybe, without realising it, I knew more about the Supporters Club than I first thought. I hope as you read and enjoy this, you will too.

My thanks are due to Dave Albert, Layne Patterson, Jez Albert, Howard Krais, Toby Jackson, Sarin Rawal, Bob DuGard, Steve Marshall, Tim Parks, Nick DuGard, Sateesh Khanna, Martin Lacey, Terry Hissey, Sudhir Rawal, Pete Worby, Ray Kemp and Steve Foster for their photographs, thoughts and memories woven in to the following 'potted history' of the Supporters Club.

Enjoy the evening, and spare a thought for those founders and members of this Supporters Club that are no longer with us as we look forward to another sixty years....

Roge Slater



**Welcome
to the
Wealdstone Football
Club Supporters Club
Diamond Jubilee
Dinner**

8th February 2018



MENU & RUNNING ORDER

Opening Address & Welcome

Dinner:

Pate with bread roll with salad garnish

*Chicken breast with creamed mushroom and mixed
pepper sauce, new potatoes and mixed vegetables*

Selection of hot and cold desserts

Cheese and biscuits

Auction (part 1)

*Comedian Gary Marshall,
introducing Stuart Pearce*

Auction (part 2)

A Silent Auction will run throughout the evening.



Good Evening all and Welcome

to tonight's celebration of the Supporters Club's 60th Anniversary! I would like to formally welcome our guest of honour, Wealdstone and England legend Stuart Pearce. Whilst I didn't see him playing for Wealdstone (I started supporting WFC in our first year at Edgware), his time playing at the zenith of English football showed a man that played the game with pride, passion and responsibility. These qualities can be rather thin on the ground in modern players these days and I'm sure part of the reason why he is now at West Ham United.



My time on the committee started when Adam Edwards and I approached David Albert after an AGM wanting to give something back. We were asked to restart the club shop now we had a new home at the Vale. Starting from scratch in what was previously the old Ruislip Manor FC Manager's office we managed to open within a couple of weeks only for our 1st home game to be postponed.

Considering the cramped conditions in our new shop we had one obvious choice of name and the WFCSC Megastore was born. After a few years we purchased a 30 feet x 10 feet container and moved to our current location behind the dugouts. Today, with an online presence as well, we ship all over the world. As you may imagine, there are plenty of stories to tell. These include having to refund an annual membership to the Supporters Club as the person who purchased it believed that it afforded them access to every game free of charge. And also, the time someone returned a home shirt as he thought he was buying a Leicester City shirt from their official shop!

I hope you've all bought your tickets because you meant to, as tonight we have a great deal in store and I really hope you enjoy your evening. Here's to the next ten years.

Mark Randall

Acknowledgements

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all those who have helped with the organization for this evening:

Bob DuGard
Adam Edwards
Martin Lacey
Mark Randall
Steve Foster

Nick DuGard
Paul Fruin
Tim Parks
Roger Slater
Freddie Patmore

and of course, everyone you will see helping tonight 'on the floor' and 'behind the scenes....'

In addition, we would also like to welcome our guests:

Bob & Nicola Blackman
with Alan Couch & Tony Waller.

And our thanks are also due to the following people who have helped to make this evening a success;

Jason Mills – Southern Football League Secretary
Derek Crisp - Chippenham Town FC Secretary
Andy Cobbett, Secretary and Derrick Matthews, General Manager -
Hayes & Yeading United FC

for the loans of the Southern League Shield & League Cup.

Terry Hissey – Organiser

Wealdstone FC Supporters Club



<http://www.wfcmegastore.co.uk>

The Ways and Means and Programmes Committee

I'm sure that everyone reading this is aware that Wealdstone FC as we know and love it today isn't actually the first Wealdstone FC team, but what is less well known is that the current Supporters Club is also not the first. It is as history records, the second supporters club, the first being formed in 1923. Little is known of its place in the club hierarchy, but at the end of the 1922-23 season the Harrow Observer reported: *'Supporters Clubs would appear to be finding favour in football circles, and well they might, for where ever they have been tried, they have proved to be of great advantage to the football club to which they owe their allegiance.'*

In this district, Wealdstone led the way at the beginning of the last season and the supporters thus organised have provided both encouragement to the teams and services to the officials'.

An introduction to the Wealdstone supporters on the aims of the club was in fact given by a 'Mr Fox' who had until recently been the Chairman of the St Albans Supporters Club: *'The first duty of Supporters Club members is to attend matches, and they at St Albans had been very successful in arranging excursions to away matches. If they got 500 or 600 supporters 'on foreign soil' it was wonderful what the effect was on the players.'*

Supporters should also look out for new players. St Albans had had from Wealdstone, one of the best players the club had ever had, Billy Hughes who had been recommended in this way. There were many boys who could play football and it was the supporters' duty to recommend them to the Committee.

Another thing that the supporters could do was to give a player a good word when he's doing well, but not to give him a bad word if he was playing badly... Other things that Supporters Clubs could do was to organise whist drives, concerts and dances as there was money to be got in that way'.

The Wealdstone Supporters Club was to be led by a Chairman and Committee much as today. The first officers appointed were Mr Halsey, who became Secretary and Treasurer, and Mr Mackintosh was elected Chairman. Messrs Sweatman, Blakey, Keys, Tilley, Norton, Braid, Howell and Thame along with Mrs Sweatman and Mrs Knight were elected to the Committee and it was not long before fundraising events were to come to the fore, the funds raised being

handed to the club to assist in paying initially the lease and the loan outstanding on the new Lower Mead ground. A couple of years later the funds raised helped towards the outright purchase of the site that was to be the home of Wealdstone FC for almost seventy years.

Working parties were also soon formed and in the summer of 1925, the Supporters Club were responsible for repairing the pitch. This not only included reducing the original end to end slope of six feet by half, but at the same time cutting trenches across the pitch to be filled with ash, the pitch then re-laid on top to provide drainage. These cross-cuts then connected to a newly dug ditch excavated to a depth of two feet nine inches. Four-inch agricultural open jointed drainpipes were then laid in and covered with rough material, old tins, crocks and clinker which was covered with rough house ashes, then filled to leave an open ditch which remained at the side of the pitch for many years.

By 1928 with Club liabilities increasing after the purchase of the Summerstown FC Stand, the Supporters Club by now renamed to the Ways and Means and Programmes Committee (highlighting their aims and functions) ran another Wealdstone Fete (following those of previous summers). This was to take place on the pitch and the surrounding land that was still in club ownership before the sale that facilitated the building of High Mead, and it was around this time that the first Club Badge was produced.



Their fundraising of £288 5s 6d that year had allowed the club to remain solvent, but the Fete planned for 18th June was blighted by terrible weather. The previous season's fete had seen an attendance in excess of 6,000, three times the attendance of this year despite the popular attractions which included Roundabouts, Chair-planes and Swings hired in from a local travelling showman.

The Harrow Observer reported: *'There were also supporter-run sideshows and competitions, on one of which the prize was a live pig, which escaped during the afternoon causing a great deal of amusement before it was recaptured.'*

The Donkey Derby had again aroused interest but in the conditions the entry was smaller than in previous years and unfortunately, the open-air dancing in the evening was severely curtailed by the downpour at 8:00pm. Ever resourceful, the Committee immediately rescheduled the popular event for July 2nd. Tickets for

this alone were to cost 1/-'.

Due to the conditions, the event failed to cover its costs, but undaunted, the club rescheduled another event for August 13th and added a number of additional attractions. These included a Motor Cycle Gymkhana and a Motor Cycle Football Match on the Lower Mead pitch for one hour!



Lower Mead circa 1930 showing the new stand, but with roped off grass standing areas

There were also events that local Motor Cyclists could enter such as an obstacle race, again with an entry fee of 1/-. (Fingers, take note.....). To maximise the profit, the committee had invited tenders from local tobacconists, confectioners, fruiterers and the like to rent space to sell their wares from stalls.

The ground continued to develop with the aid of the Ways and Means and Programmes Committee until 1935 when a whole raft of improvements were put in place: *'During the summer months, many improvements and alterations are to be carried out on the ground and when the 1935-1936 season opens, supporters of the club will be pleasantly surprised with all that has been done for their benefit.*

There will be covered terracing accommodation for 1,200 persons behind the top goal, at no increased charge, and where the entrance is at the moment, will be

a commodious Car Park, running the entire length of the stand to the rear. The Car Park will be used jointly by arrangement with the new Plaza Cinema, and it will be possible to enter the ground from this point.

The main entrance to the ground will be from Higher-mead. Behind the bottom goal and abutting on to the Cinema and shops will be an eight-foot concrete retaining wall and this will be surmounted by a fence 4ft 6ins high, thus ensuring spectators a clear and uninterrupted view of the game.

There will be little change in the stand and club enclosures with the exception that they will be given a lick or two of paint so as to present a spick and span appearance. It is hoped that with voluntary efforts, to complete the terracing all around the ground by the end of the season and there will be three twelve feet wide floodgates to expedite the emptying of the ground after matches.

Every effort is being made to make the ground one of the finest in the south of England. It will be capable of holding 12,000 spectators’.

Lower Mead was transformed. There was some sadness initially that the ground had lost some of its rural beauty, but this was outweighed by the fact that the comfort and convenience of the supporters had been greatly improved.

The value of the ground as an asset had also been increased once more by the works previously enhanced with the addition of the Summerstown Grandstand, the ‘top end’ of the ground saw the addition at this time of the Elmslie Stand (terracing), so named in memory of C V Elmslie who had died in June 1935, having been involved in the running of the club as Secretary and Treasurer for many years.

The works were the last significant effort from the Ways and Means and Programmes Committee and indeed were the last upgrade to the Lower Mead ground itself for some thirty years.

The committee and a group of volunteers did continue to man turnstiles, organise functions, dances and dinners and provide match day help up to and beyond the outbreak of World War Two. Subsequently, the football club itself was the organiser of the Golden Jubilee celebrations and the following season’s League Championship celebrations in the early 1950’s as the Ways and Means and Programmes Committee had by then disbanded.

The Wealdstone FC Supporters Club

Just a few years later, in 1958 the need for assistance arose once again, and the club looked to volunteers from the supporter base. It was announced that it would hold an 'Open Meeting' on 19th February 1958 to discuss the formation of a Wealdstone FC Supporters Club. An appeal had been made by the club for a volunteer organizer, and its Committee interviewed Mr Tom Verrall and 'asked him to get on with the job'. The first meeting was to be exploratory to judge the potential support, but it appeared that before the meeting commenced, 60 people had indicated their interest in joining. A fortnight later, the Harrow Observer reported: *'With the Mayor of Harrow, Alderman H. Granger as President, Wealdstone FC Supporters Club has now been formed. The immediate objective is to get 500 members by the end of the year.'*

An inaugural meeting was held at the Lower Mead Social Club on Wednesday last when it was unanimously agreed to form the club and invite the Mayor, whose interest in football is well known, to become President. His acceptance was received by return of post. Officers and a Committee were elected and the Chairman, H. A. (Chippy) Luck gave the Football Club's official welcome and promise of assistance.



The first WFCSC Badge

Subscription was fixed at 2/- (10p) a year for adults and 1 shilling (5p) a year for pensioners and juniors up to the age of 16. Rules are being drawn up and a 'supporters' badge is being designed by the Supporters Club Treasurer, Mr Eric Metcalfe who is familiar to all Wealdstone followers as 'the man in blue' who attends all matches home and away in full regalia.

Over 30 members were at once enrolled and the Committee were busy signing on others at the match against Walton and Hersham on Saturday. The Officers elected were: Alderman H. Grainger – President, Mr C. Cluck - Vice-president, Mr T. Law – Chairman, Mr A. Johnson – Vice-Chairman, Mr T. Verrall – Secretary, Mr E. Metcalfe – Treasurer, Mrs Raven, Messrs S. Burrows, D. Turner, N. Vincent, R. Thorne and W. Waterlow, were appointed as the Committee.

Ten days later the Supporters Club announced that they had enrolled their 250th member and by mid-March, with over 300 members, the first fundraising function, a Dinner Dance was announced.

RULES

1. The name of the Club shall be "The WEALDSTONE F. C. SUPPORTERS CLUB".
2. The objects of the Club shall be to stimulate interest in and support the WEALDSTONE F. C. financially, socially and in all other ways possible.
3. The Executive Committee of the Club shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, and six other members (or more in accordance with Rule 6) with powers to co-opt.
4. The Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer shall remain in office for three years or until they resign or until deposed by a vote of "No Confidence" by the Executive Committee or at the Annual General Meeting.
5. With the exception of Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, remainder of Executive Committee shall resign at Annual General Meeting but be eligible for re-election. All nominations must be sent in writing to Hon. Secretary to reach him at least 14 days before Annual General Meeting.
6. The Executive Committee may co-opt new members as circumstances arise, or vacancies occur, up to the number agreed upon plus one additional Committee member for every fifty additional members over 300, up to a maximum of eight.
7. The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to conduct the business of the Club and appoint Sub-Committees. The President, Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of all Sub-Committees.
8. The Supporters Club Executive Committee shall have no jurisdiction over the running or management of the Wealdstone Football Club.
9. The Subscription shall be 1/- per year for adults and 6d. for Juniors under 16 years old and old-age pensioners. The year being 1st January to 31st December. Life Members Subscription to be £1-1-0d. (minimum).
10. The Annual General Meeting shall be held during February.
11. The Hon. Secretary shall upon a request in writing signed by forty paid-up members call an extraordinary general meeting. Not less than fourteen days notice of such a meeting shall be given.

The Original Rules

The meeting had set the aims of the Supporters Club that are maintained to this day. The purpose is to support Wealdstone Football Club by whatever means necessary to further this great non-league football club. This means primarily supporting the Club through raising funds and raising the profile of Wealdstone FC. (There has been the odd occasion when the club and supporters club have differed in their opinions and aims!).

Even today, the Supporters Club is still run by a committee, a voluntary group of Wealdstone Supporters headed by a Chairman and they are bolstered in the fundraising by the WFC Megastore, the latest incarnation of the Club Shop.



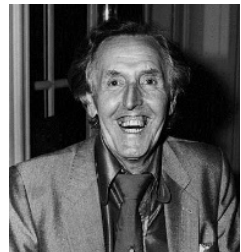
Eric Metcalfe in the Tea Bar queue

Events such as this evening, Race and Quiz nights are held to aid the income and Away Travel '*excursions*' are still regularly organised and well supported, to enable as many of our supporters as possible to support the team '*on foreign soil*'. No doubt, if you speak to committee members past and present they will also tell you that many of the frustrations also remain in their efforts to raise funds and ground works teams and promote the club...

And they may also offer you a job!

The Supporters Club has, since its inception, helped tidy up the various grounds and fund improvements. Their first efforts in 1958 being to redecorate the ground, painting the grandstand in the process. As the season progressed there had been a consistent flow of new memberships. At the first AGM, Secretary Tom Verrall announced that the club's fortunes were being followed by members far and wide, from America, Canada, Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Egypt. The total had exceeded 750 paid memberships, funding a new 'continental' kit for the Wealdstone first team as well as completing numerous jobs in the ground. Now, there was a new target in sight, that of the installation of floodlights for training at Lower Mead, where the area behind the Elmslie Stand was to be cleared to allow training under lights without damaging the main pitch.

Membership continued to increase during the following season and actor and 'Stones fan Cardew Robinson was a regular attendee. After one match he was invited to join the Supporters Club, which he accepted, becoming number 900 on the membership list, and he also became Vice-president and subsequently President in the mid 60's.



As part of the Supporters Club efforts to improve the ground, Tom Verrall's wife Julia gathered volunteers including Tom (Jock) Law's wife to run two Tea Huts in the ground to serve refreshments to supporters. They also sold memberships which helped increase the numbers (and the income) still further!

Soon after, with help from Eric Metcalfe and later Barbara Robson, it was decided that arrangements be made to provide transport for supporters to away matches and it was not unusual for three or four coaches to be available for Club Members. Eric always had a supply of sweets that he gave to the children on the coaches and his top hat and rattles were a feature everywhere.



With such great support it was no surprise when during that first 'full year' a Social Club was also formed. This organized grand concerts and musical evenings given by a group of club members such as Chuck Adams increasing fundraising and income as well as the chance for members to

socialise outside of football. In one season the Wealdstone Supporters Club had become the envy of many of its peers.

Floodlighting was soon on the agenda once again, not this time for the training area, but as part of the Wealdstone Football Club Diamond Jubilee in 1960-61. The Supporters Club were set a challenge for their fundraising with the target of floodlighting the main pitch, the first major improvement to the ground for thirty years! It was a massive effort not only to raise the money required to purchase the pylons and lights, but to gather a small army of volunteers to dig trenches and lay cables then to assist in the installation of the lighting which was completed in January 1962.



**Supporters Club members digging the trenches
for the installation of Floodlights.**

On 23rd January in the AFA Invitation Cup, Wycombe Wanderers were to take part in the first match to be played under the floodlights, celebrating the installation. Despite the torrential rain which had fallen in the hours leading up to the match, a crowd of over 1,200 turned out and before kick-off, Mr H A (Chippy) Luck thanked the Supporters

Club for its splendid gesture in providing the lights and welcomed guests from the FA, the AFA, the Middlesex FA and the Isthmian and Athenian Leagues.

Around the same time the iconic Silver Arrow Supporters Club badge was released, and it has remained over the years a real symbol of support for Wealdstone FC.



The soul of the Wealdstone Football Club Supporters Club? Tom and Julia Verrall on the occasion of their Golden Wedding anniversary in 1986. Julia was also the first woman to be made a Life Member of Wealdstone FC in recognition of the work she did for both Football and Supporters Clubs.

Sing When You're Winning!

We do, don't we.... but it wasn't always like that, as historically there had been no organised chanting by supporters at Wealdstone, just shouts of encouragement and the general roar of the crowd when excitement took hold.

That was to change in January of 1968 when three Supporters Club coaches left Lower Mead at around midnight for the long journey to Torpoint Athletic. Ray Kemp remembers: *'A few of us had talked about changing this and 'falling in*

line' with many football league clubs and Pete Fuller and I spent hours leading up to the trip modifying songs used by others and creating unique 'Stones songs. We printed off sheets and handed them out on the coaches, rehearsing by getting everyone to join in a sing-song on the (long) way down. The coach I was travelling on hit a spare wheel which had fallen from another vehicle resulting in our radiator being badly damaged. It meant we were unable to continue. This was around 4am. There were a few spare seats on one of the other coaches, so a couple of us took those and continued our journey.

Pete and Brian Forde had brought along 6 large cans of white spray foam which we used on the lawns of Plymouth to write WFC in 30-foot high letters. Eco friendly of course and it soon dissolved in the torrential rain.....anyway, I digress!

On the Ferry across to Torpoint a group of about 20 of us were blasting our hooters and chanting Wealdstone when the Captain of the vessel blasted the ships horn and popped out of his cabin and shouted Torpoint, followed by three more blasts, great fun!

When we arrived in Torpoint itself we descended on a relatively small café and ordered about 10 steaks. The owner of this great little place said she only had two but would go to the Butchers up the road and get some more but also asked Steve Poole's dad if he would keep an eye on things. It ended up with him pouring out the teas for our merry throng and totting up what was owed until the owner returned.

At the game and despite the non-stop torrential rain and whilst standing ankle deep in mud, we all got our song sheets out behind the goal and it must have looked like the local choir (though it probably didn't sound like them!) but that was how singing support for Wealdstone FC first started!

More recently 'I Don't Care' and 'Just Don't Think You Understand' have become terrace highlights especially away from home, as the match-day signing continues. And almost twenty years (really!) ago, some of the more vocal supporters also got together in various groups to answer another rallying call for funds from the club – not directly as a Supporters Club project, but certainly with their support.

Sateesh Khanna remembers: *'I played drums in a number of bands at various times, not the least of which was 'Muddy Boots and Groin Strains', a derivative*

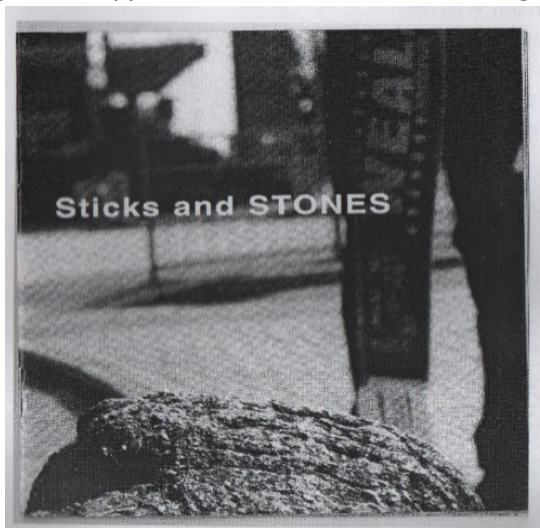
band formed by members of the Supporters Club football team, SFC Wealdstone, myself on drums, Trevor Davies on guitar and Justin O'Brien on vocals.

Whilst several rehearsals took place, I think the one and only 'gig' was performed in the social hall in the Dortmunder Actien Brauerei (D.A.B), while SFC were on tour in Germany. (SFC Wealdstone could, it seems, organize a p....!) It was 1987 and as well as our German hosts, SFC were the English representatives in a three-team tournament, the line-up completed by Trembelay from Paris, France. With the football over, the competition somehow became one between the German 'Oompah' Band, a rather odd French woman from their touring party at the piano, and during the band's interval (after a polite request to 'borrow' the instruments), a hastily convened get together of 'The Boots', supplemented by a couple of others from the SFC ranks, apparently on backing vocals....'

Far from demure, the opening chords of The Rolling Stones (quite apt) 'Satisfaction' blasted out, and from where the rest of the SFC throng were sat at the back of the hall, the German band, as one went into shock, as Khanna, Trev and Justin undoubtedly hit 11 on the volume control.

Khanna again: *'Fast forward to 1998, and the rallying call from the AGM for money and new ideas. The guys from a supporter's band 'Metal Mode' had got me back into listening to local bands and thoughts of forming my own group, but I thought that here was a stepping stone not only for personal vanity but for the Wealdstone cause'.*

It was well known that there were a number of 'fans bands', enough to cut an album of Wealdstone-related tracks and so 'Sticks and Stones' was born with the help of Khanna, Colin Bunner and Martin Lacey and of course, the bands...



Still available from the WFC Megastore!



The Wealdstone FC Supporters Club in Print

On the terraces through the seventies, eighties and nineties, the Wealdstone support has been outspoken and vociferous – not least in the last thirty years as it has been an important part of keeping the club alive! That unique support has also seen itself in print in at least three incarnations of Club Fanzines, and these too, have at time pushed and at least once fallen over the barriers of support...

December 1971 saw the first issue of a planned monthly newsletter, 'Wealdstone Whispers'. Put together by Ray Corner, Peter Fuller, Laurie Trott and Sheila Pope (all members of the



Supporters Club committee at the time), the magazine (more a newsletter in truth) was a rather conservative, risk adverse publication which nonetheless required a huge amount of work and input from those putting it together. Relatively short lived, it did offer supporters an insight and updated news on the club, statistics from Roy and Alan Couch and 'comment' from the writers that was not available in the match programme or in the local press. Indeed, much of what was written was later to appear in the local papers informing a wider audience of the inner thoughts of some of the contributors!

Nearly four years later in October 1975, the Supporters Club Committee at the time under the Chairmanship of Ray Kemp, decided that a new approach was required and described as being *"the first edition of the Supporters Club newsletter,"* 'Long Ball Down The Middle' was born. It ran to 15 pages (8 sheets of A4 stapled together) and sold for 5p and was a great success as 400 copies were sold. So popular, by issue 4 it had doubled its cover price to 10p!

The magazine got its name because there was a supporter who used to stand in front of the tea bar at the Elmslie End, whose tactical awareness of the finer points of the game was somewhat limited. If we were struggling in a game, he would simply shout *'Long ball down the middle!'* usually when the Wealdstone 'keeper had the ball.

Nobody could ever remember him saying anything else, so the producers and contributors felt that the new publication would benefit from the hopefully catchy and somewhat tongue in cheek title.



The name was almost very short-lived itself, as in the first editorial a competition was raised to find a more suitable moniker. Fortunately, not many (if any) entered and the name remained.

The magazine had the usual stats and match details as well as the first Toby Jackson crossword which was to appear in every future edition. The publication was fun and challenged the status quo. It wasn't called a Fanzine at the time, but you have to wonder if it wasn't one of the first ground-breaking publications of the type.

There were a few changes over the years with articles from none other than Mick the Dog and it was edited at various times by Phil Tricker (who introduced the first ever paid advert from a second-hand record shop) and Tim Parks who took over in 1977. He introduced fans to the Sausage of the Season and the four Skinless Bangers, Messrs. Mick Fishman, Nick Symmons, Terry Stern and Steve Paull voting for the best away catering of the season!

This was pre-home computer and basically everything was typed out by Tim with a few Letraset headlines to give the pages a bit of punch. Then it passed to Phil Tricker who worked as a printer and got a good deal on the production side of things. Phil passed the individually printed pages over to the (very keen) Nick & Bob DuGard who then spent happy evenings at their kitchen table stapling the thing together!

Tim remembers: *'After one or two issues I managed to improve the design by getting a few prints (pictures) converted into dot images at the Watford Observer (where I was working) and together with a bigger box of Letraset it was turning into the best fanzine around. I cast around for stories involving ALL the clubs in the Southern League - and then the Alliance when we were promoted in 1979 - to make it a less parochial read... and even got permission to sell LBDTM at Worcester City on our opening game in the APL in August '79. We shifted about 50 there, with a print run of about 300 from memory.*

Midway through that season I managed to talk Bob Bayley, another Stones fan who had his own print works in Maidenhead, into producing the magazine professionally with proper typeset words and headlines. And pictures! I designed the pages, Bob put it together and we finally had a proper magazine to offer our supporters. That issue had the critically-acclaimed 'Away Match' board game in its centre pages, where you had to collect sausage, eggs, chips and beans cards

on your route around the board, finally ending up with a full set at the Away Game. It was cunningly designed to be impossible to complete - as the blurb said: 'Away Match board game - a complete waste of time, much like attending a Wealdstone away match'. Nothing's really changed in 40 years!

Subsequently the publication became a little more sporadic, though the quality was in the main still high, as Dave Heath, Pete Worby, Sateesh Khanna and eventually Layne Patterson took up the reins. Pete remembers *'At the end of the 1981-82 season, a younger me (well I was 22 at the time) stepped up to become Editor. Issue 17 was described as a Souvenir Edition, as it commemorated our triumphant 1981-82 championship season. Nick DuGard looked after the printing and production side of things and the 24-page effort (retail price now a whopping 50p) was very professionally printed on top quality paper. Looking back at this issue now I am still very proud of it, and I can recall the hours I spent on an old-fashioned typewriter supported by my trusty bottle of Tipp-Ex. I must have been exhausted because Issue No. 18 didn't appear until a year later. It was my attempt at something akin to a fanzine and there were plenty of attempts at humour (some even succeeded!) including a 4-page pull-out programme that could be used for all home games and the start of a comic strip "Torrims Toys", the bumper 28 pages sold for 80p'.*

By the time it finished, Long Ball Down the Middle did fill a void as during its lifespan, by and large, the only written matter available to supporters was what appeared in the programme, the Harrow Observer and other local newspapers. LBDTM had spanned three decades (1976-1991), with twenty-one informative and newsy issues over 25 years in a world where 'Int'er net' was a Yorkshire fishing term!

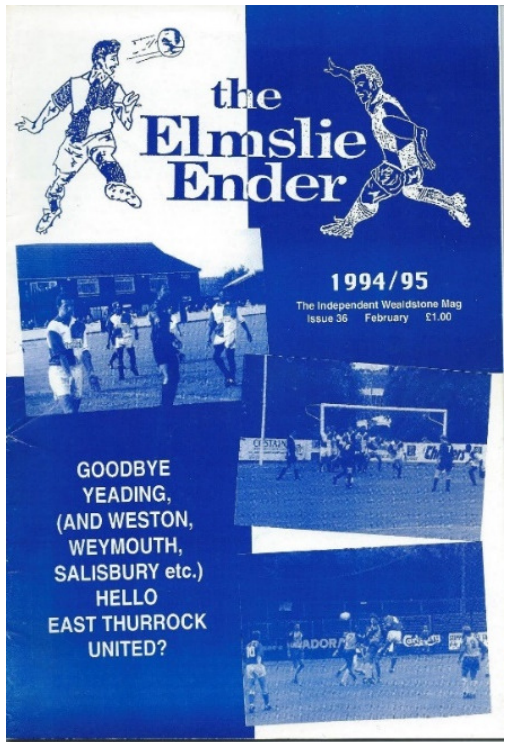
With the rise in fanzines (primarily in music) two like-minded fans felt there was an opportunity for a similar platform in non-league, not only filling a gap left by the scarcity of LBDTM, but with a punchier feel. In April 1987, the 'Elmslie Ender' was born. Not constrained initially by the 'Official' tag it was much more a fanzine than LBDTM could ever be, and it could be more pointed on and off the field...it was certainly the most.....passionate is probably the word.

As Martin Lacey and Sudhir Rawal remember, Sudhir: *'LBDTM had stopped producing regularly, so I wanted to start a new magazine. Martin owned, still owns, a printing company and was involved with other fanzines, so I contacted him to see whether he would print what I was considering. He said he had had a*

similar idea.'

Martin: *'It was a dark period between Bradford / Heysel and Hillsborough, at which point football was at its lowest ebb, apparently a downward spiral of doom with problems of racism, hooliganism, neglected grounds, disinterested owners and a hostile government. Fanzines were a way to campaign on behalf of football and football fans and demonstrate that they could be literate, responsible and good humoured.*

As for Wealdstone, on the field we were on an obvious downward trajectory after the double as the arrival of automatic promotion to the Football League had upped the stakes and we were conspicuously not keeping pace. More worrying was the obvious neglect of the club as a whole. Consider that when we won the double average attendances were well under 1,000, not much different from what we get now at Grosvenor Vale, or put another way, half what we were getting when we won Southern League Div. 1 South a decade earlier and maybe a quarter of what we were getting in the mid-60s. There was no PR, no community involvement, no reserve or youth teams. And doubts were starting to bubble under about David Morrirt's long term intentions.



I'd been involved with music fanzines since the 70s, wrote for and printed the earliest issues of When Saturday Comes and owned a printing business. Sudhir had produced a commemorative booklet after the double. We got together and it took off.

We were always an odd couple, me a loudmouthed lefty, Sud the conservative accountant, but it worked'.

Sudhir: *'I was, still am, a total amateur when it comes to writing, but Martin had a certain flair. I put most of it together in terms of content, he added some juicy bits and dealt with the production and printing. We worked well as a team'.*

Martin: *'As everyone knows, we pulled no punches and that's an understatement. We got away with it until I picked on Dagenham, having erroneously blamed them for me turning up for a rearranged Conference fixture at Victoria Road only to find myself watching Dagenham reserves. The words I used were 'not fit for this league', which was technically correct, as at that point they were the only team below Wealdstone in the Conference table! Anyway, they complained. The Elmslie Ender was duly banned from sale in any Conference ground'.*

With the club's subsequent relegation, the matter was put before the Pyramid Joint Liaison committee, and they too banned the publication. Effectively, The Elmslie Ender was banned from the Conference, the Beazer Homes (Southern) League and all other feeder leagues!

Martin: *'Peter Braxton (Club Secretary) regarded Sudhir and I as dangerous loose cannons and he had previously tried to stick his nose in, apparently in the belief that the club had a right to censor what was an independent publication. The club was delighted to go along with the Conference ban and hoped they'd seen the last of us. The Supporters Club also withdrew their support. The attempt may have been to cause the magazine to fail but the ban had the opposite effect!'*

Both: *'It was brilliant for sales, it was now Britain's most banned football magazine! We sold a lot of copies by mail and in Sportspages on Charing Cross Road anyway, and we just moved our sales pitch from inside Lower Mead to outside on Station Road. Otherwise, the 'in ground' ban was as leaky as it could be, as Neale Harvey used to go into the changing room and sell copies to the players, who were usually being slaughtered inside!'*

When David Pollock became Chairman (1991), he made overtures to the Conference to get the ban rescinded. We had to say we would play nicely but, by that stage, fanzines were very much in the mainstream and the norm around football clubs and as time progressed technology took over.

We did always say we'd do one final edition when we got our own ground... maybe it will happen'.

Players Funds, Football and Fraught Relationships!

Most people will be aware of the fundraising efforts over the last few years often lead by Jeremy Albert, that has helped Wealdstone procure the services of many players during times of hardship. With fans committing funds to add to the ever-stretched playing budget, I wonder if we asked around the room, how many people would remember the first time such an appeal was made, and the player involved??



It was February 1976, when with 'Stones languishing third from bottom in the league table, the financial situation was limiting the money available to strengthen the side. Having previously helped with ground improvements and such like, the Supporters Club were asked and were able to step in and help. An appeal was made to the fans and subsequently a donation of £400 went a long way towards funding the signing of former Crystal Palace player Danny Light from Dover.

Around the same time, SFC Wealdstone was formed, officially on the back seat of the supporters coach returning from Dover in 1976 but the first game actual game (against Ruislip Ratbags) was in 1978 and SFC Wealdstone joined the



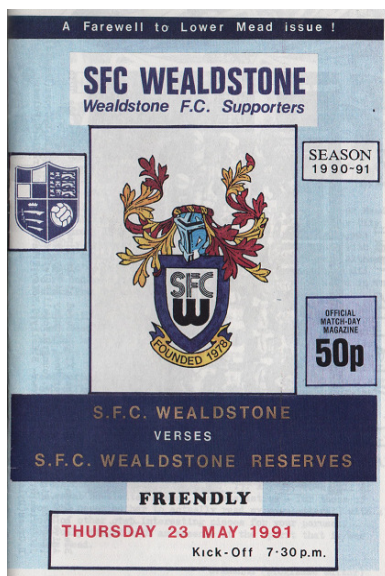
SFC Wealdstone circa 1985

Marathon League in the summer of 1979. Officially the Supporters Club team, there had been a bit of argey-bargey with certain committee members (primarily Barbara Robson) who were concerned that the SFC members and players would be distracted from the primary cause of supporting WFC, particularly as regards fundraising. Actually, the team attracted new supporters to Wealdstone FC.

SFC continued to play for about 25 years before finally folding in 2006. During those years, for a number of seasons fielding Reserve and Third teams, and for two or three seasons, a Fourth team as numbers grew. Many of the SFC players were also WFC regulars, home and away following Wealdstone FC while also playing in all six divisions of the Marathon League during its existence.

The First Team held their own initially before winning Divisions Five, Four and Three in 1983, 85 and 87. Consecutive relegations in the late 1980s preceded another hiatus in the early 1990s – ironically as Wealdstone moved home – with three out of four successive promotions in 1993, 94 and 96 before they won Division One in 1999-2000 and the Premier Division the following year. The Reserves never won a title but won a few promotions along the way as well.

It was in the club's fifth final in 2002 that they also managed to win a Cup, the Reserves winning the Middlesex Junior Cup in a final played at Wealdstone's former ground-share home, Yeading FC.



SFC Wealdstone also played the last match at Lower Mead!

It was to be their last success before the club and indeed the league, disbanded.

The Supporters Club have on occasion also felt differently to the main club on key decisions, and have not been afraid to stand their corner in defence of their opinions. In November 1980 for example, results had been poor from the start of the season and support had dwindled somewhat. Everything was brought to a head after an uninspiring FA Cup draw away to Harlow Town. 'Stones were

expected to win the replay at Lower Mead, but they managed to lose 1–0 (the Harlow goal scored in the last minute), missing out on a home tie with Charlton Athletic which prompted Manager Ken Payne to offer his resignation.

Soon after, the Supporters Club Committee resigned en-bloc citing: *'....dissatisfaction with the current board, a lack of communication and concerns over what had happened to money donated by the Supporters Club to the main club'*. It added to the general malaise and disarray, which was even more evident a week later when Wealdstone Chairman Fred Deanus told Ken Payne he had accepted the resignation made verbally after the Harlow match!

Eventually, the situation did improve both on and off the field as Wealdstone finished in a creditable third place, behind Enfield and Maidstone. The Supporters Club with its committee re-instated, had made another major financial contribution (to the playing budget) during the season and this was extended with a further £500 towards a new Tannoy system for the ground. It continued the support that the fans organization had shown consistently since its inception.

Though projects such as the floodlights were curtailed, money was regularly made available - even in that close season (1983-84) the fundraising effort continued, as then Supporters Club Chairman Ray Kemp made a sponsored parachute jump from 2,000 feet to raise money which would eventually find its way to the main club.



Another Supporters Club effort was Matchday Staff - did you ever buy a Programme here?

Once again, over many summers, long days and evenings were spent maintaining the ground, and the weeds exterminated with a flame thrower affectionally known as

'Old Betsy'. (those that weren't got by the late, great Danny Helen one year nonchalantly but accidentally trailing weed killer over the pitch!).

With the national success of the football club in 1985, there should have been a platform to spring the club forward, and supporters would no doubt have been at the forefront of those efforts had they materialized. But by 1987 there was already some disquiet at the way the club was being run, poor results and a seeming lack of players once again stirring opinions on the terraces.

What was never envisaged was a conversation recalled by then SFC Manager, Steve Marshall: *'SFC had been training on the Thursday night and we went back to the club. Club Secretary Peter Braxton came up to me and explained that we did not have sufficient fit players for an away fixture at Altrincham on the Saturday! He asked if I could have a quiet word with a couple of guys who were not doing anything on the Saturday, to ask them to help out.'*

I went in the bar and chose the two most suitable and available, Don Cross and Phil Jackson. I asked them both to quietly walk to Peter's office where they would sign the relevant registration forms. Then they were told not to say a word!'

Don and Phil registered and on the Saturday, travelled with the team not as substitutes, but to start, both taking their places in the 'first team' line up. Despite a 1–0 defeat, Don retained his place for the following week, making his home debut against Runcorn, another 1–0 defeat. These were to be just two of a number of players who appeared in less than a handful of matches for Wealdstone at the time, but once again the supporters were on hand to help out.

Thankfully, the short-term problems were overcome, but they were soon replaced with far more serious concerns. With groundworks requiring major investment rather than just willing hands, an uncertain future lay ahead for Wealdstone FC and rumour and miss-information (if any at all) caused the relationship between the Supporters Club and the main club to sour once again.

Ray Kemp remembers: *'David Morritt was a really charismatic character and it was hard not to like the guy even though some people thought he was a bit wacky. One of his famous phrases whilst being interviewed in the middle of the pitch at Lower Mead was 'I am taking this club places - we're going to the moon'!!! Well we ended up at Watford which as many of us know, might just as well have been the moon.'*

When David muted the Watford idea it caused uproar. The Supporters Club (I was then Chairman) opposed the move because there was no information as to how or when this might happen. In fact, there appeared to be no plan at all.

Alan Clifton then running the Social Club aligned himself with the Supporters Club and together we created a situation where David Morritt decided to resign from the club. The road to his resignation involved public meetings held away from the club (the Railway Hotel on the bridge at Wealdstone), meetings with David Morritt, intense lobbying and so much more'.

Repairs required to Lower Mead had escalated to the extent that a million



pounds became the quoted figure for Wealdstone to remain playing there. Truth or otherwise, it was a sum that even ten percent would have been way beyond the deep pockets of the supporters and the writing was on the wall for the club to move, though this too brought the Supporters Club to the fore.

The football club began to investigate possible relocation and groundshares and with an EGM planned, Club Chairman Alan Clifton released a statement to the press dismissing fears that the club was likely to 'go under'. He emphasised the strength of the club and the number of options available, but as was repeated at the EGM, none of the options were identified. Enough was said though for

the supporters and members at the meeting to give the board a vote of confidence.

There remained contention between the Board and the Supporters Club officers, an effective, combative, close-knit group which, whether they liked or anticipated it or not, became the focus of a massive power struggle. This would culminate in the use of lawyers after incoming threats of varying descriptions and crisis meetings the likes of which the club had never seen before.

The Supporters Club had issued their own statement after the meeting and had expressed serious concerns over the future of the club as a whole. This resulted in a difference of opinion which became ever more public as the Harrow Observer carried commentary from both sides.

The board, standing their corner were defending their actions and confirming their progress, while the Supporters Club were questioning if any advance was being made. Both sides were loudly stating that they had the best interests of the club at heart.

It was the Supporters Club who co-ordinated efforts to unseat Chairman David Morritt in the late 1980's. During the turbulent early 1990's the Committee again stood firm against the then Chairman Alan Clifton on the events surrounding the sale of the Lower Mead ground.

Ray again: *'The subsequent battles between Alan Clifton and the Supporters Club were well documented in the Harrow Observer with myself, Layne Patterson and Nick DuGard bearing the brunt of Mr Clifton's ire for daring to ask what the hell was going on! We could truly write a book on this subject.*

The trustees Toby Jackson and Les Hobbs were also 'leant on' during this very hostile phase of the club's pending move and I was interviewed on live radio at Elstree Studios having received an 'advisory' phone call from an anonymous caller in the morning before the interview. A short while afterwards a key meeting was held at the Watford Hilton Hotel (site of the Old Busy Bee Café). The WFC Board, Vice-presidents Club, Supporters Club and Brian Hall our Manager were all there.

The proposed move to Watford was outlined by Mr Clifton and a representative from Harrovian Estates. Essentially, they were looking for us to endorse the move

to Watford. Discussions again took place over the split of the £13 million which it transpired Tesco would pay for the site (the ground and a ransom strip owned now by Harrovia Estate).

Quite how the club owned around 85% of the land but would receive less than 50% of the fee (around £6m) was viewed as completely unacceptable from the Supporters Club perspective. We had repeatedly made the point that there was no written contract for us to view and we had no proof of anything. We also posed the question as to what could happen if Harrovia Estates or whatever investment company was fronting this 'deal' went broke in the meantime?

Our comments and questions and were met with derision at the meeting and waved aside by Mr Clifton and the 'Investment company' representative. At this point I asked for a short adjournment from the meeting and requested that Brian Hall join the Supporters Club representatives because we wanted to ask his advice. (Brian was a member of the Metropolitan Police, we valued his experience and opinion and most importantly, trusted him). Asked what he thought about everything that had been said at the meeting, he had no hesitation in stating that 'it sounds like a ##### scam'.

We returned to the meeting and I read short statement to the effect that the Supporters Club opposed the move to Watford based on the financial uncertainties over what the club would receive for the sale of Lower Mead and also the running costs at Watford FC.

What we did not know at the time, and this is probably the most damning indictment of the situation, is that the Watford deal had already been signed off before the meeting at the Hilton Hotel. The whole event had been orchestrated to coerce the Supporters Club and Vice Presidents Club into blindly supporting the move and thus making it appear as though there was universal support'.

The on-field activities of the club almost seemed to pale into insignificance. They must certainly have been affected by the off-field wrangling as Wealdstone FC announced that they had purchased a half share of a 127-year lease on Vicarage Road, the home of Watford FC.

Under the final agreement, the Stadium was to be run by an umbrella committee, made up of representatives of both clubs to ensure that all costs

except match day expenses would be shared, with the two clubs playing at home on alternate weeks. Perhaps with a little chagrin, the Supporters Club too confirmed that, after the initial disagreement and shock as the announcement came out of the blue, it could be an exciting prospect for the club. But as it progressed, it was not as smooth a transition as had been hoped and the Supporters Club again demanded that the remaining money from the sale of Lower Mead was handed over.

Once again, the board of the Football Club disowned its own Supporters Club in a public statement, although the Supporters Club responded by re-iterating its duty to represent its members and to voice its concerns where necessary.

Who would have thought that Ray Kemp, Nick DuGard and Layne Patterson as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary of the committee would be dubbed the 'Magi' (the Three Wise Men). They were banned from attending games by the Wealdstone FC Chairman with mugshots all over the back page of the Harrow Observer! The ban didn't last long but they gained a brief 'notoriety' for what they (and many others) believed and knew were the right reasons and causes at that particular time in the club's history.

Then as now, the Supporters Club did what it believed was the best for Wealdstone FC, independently and without fear or favour as it continues to do. Over the years it has employed its own solicitors and held many pivotal public meetings, never shrinking back and retaining its sense of independence and of challenge, of curiosity and vision, and critically a willingness to ask questions and to do what it thinks is right for the long-term future of the Club.

It's all water under the bridge now and the 'Watford deal' is looked back on with some sadness and regret but the wounds in the main have long healed and we look forward to, we hope, an extended future at The Vale. The Supporters Club in its modern form is still an important part of the club that has provided many a weary foot on sponsored walks and in support of any number of fundraising efforts over the years (remember the Dead Man's Curve Discos?) as well as continually being involved in the ground works, fundraising and events that are now part of the identity and the DNA of Wealdstone FC.

Pete Worby took on the mantle of away travel: *'Shortly after I joined the committee Barbara Robson who had run the Supporters Coaches for many years, decided not to continue and I was persuaded to take over from her. I made the*

monumental decision to start using Chalfont Coaches and even now, nearly 40 years later, supporters still remember our regular driver Eric.

A heady mix of pub stops, on board bingo, quizzes and the like seemed to keep the mix of young and old supporters pretty happy.’ Subsequently it was re-established by Jeremy Albert. As he says himself: ‘Coach travel was always something we wanted to re-introduce. Most of us from the Lower Mead days remember chugging along the M1 and M6 on Chalfont Coaches and the togetherness that brought to our fan base.

When the team were drawn away in the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup at Aylesbury a few years ago (2009) we decided to give it a go and were pleased when a full coach left The Vale. From that moment coach travel became the norm again for our ever-growing fan base, the culmination of which was running five coaches to Newport for the epic FA Trophy semi-final.

Phone and email were red hot for a two-week period before the invasion of Wales, but travel doesn’t always go according to plan as everyone on Coach 2 to Lowestoft will testify!! Having ‘done my turn’ I’m so pleased that Victor Klarfield has taken on the coach duties with such vigor.

Fund raising is so important and again the move to Ruislip galvanised the Supporters Club into really pro-active campaigns. The main focus was supporting Gordon Bartlett with enhancing the playing budget to give us more chance of success on the pitch. It meant that the supporters would have to dig deep and help out financially and it seems my infamous emails also seemed to work! On one occasion after an incredible display from a certain player on a sunny August Bank Holiday Monday, the supporters rallied round and raised around £7,000 in the space of 48 hours!! Success on the pitch followed which made it all seem worthwhile.

**wealdstone fc**
supporters club
The Vale, Ruislip Social Club, Grosvenor Vale, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 6JQ

AWAYTHELADS

SATURDAY MARCH 10th

The Supporters Club are running a coach to the FA Trophy Semi Final v Newport County



**£18
Adults**

**£10
U16's &
OAP's.**

Departure time will be 10.00am from Grosvenor Vale returning from Newport at the end of the game.

Always in the back of my mind, I saw the look of anguish of fans when I used to walk up to them at a game, no doubt them thinking ‘how much money does he want now!!’ It used to amuse me, but I say a big thanks to everyone that helped. Our fans are an incredible bunch when the chips are down.

Everyone involved should take a great deal of pride in what we have achieved at The Vale and Leo Morris has to take a lot of credit for this as well, working alongside him and the social club I’ve seen first-hand what an asset this man is to our football club’.

The Tea Bar, The Shop, The Megastore and Events



During the 1970s and 1980s at Lower Mead Stadium, the Wealdstone FC Club Shop was the envy of most non-league clubs in the country.

The left half of the Club Shop at that time comprised a table scattered with hundreds of old programmes in no particular order, for purchase. Your chance of finding a particular wanted programme was somewhere between slim and impossible.

In the right side of the hut you would find Barbara Robson attending to all things administrative and it was there that you could book a seat to travel to a

Wealdstone away match (how many of you have or still remember the green travel receipts?). To the left-hand side was the tea bar commanded by the formidable Julia Verrall, not a lady to mess with.



Some years later with Toby Jackson having developed a great interest in football programmes, it led him to offer the opportunity for home and visiting supporters to get a more varied and organised shopping experience. So, he approached club officials to see if a derelict hut on the High Mead terrace housing an old lawnmower could be utilised as a Programme Shop. Initially it had the luxury of a

sink and water supply that it did not need, but no electricity supply that it did!

The hut duly opened after much hard work with a mix of the programmes from the main Club Shop and Toby's personal collection. It was lit for evening games by two camping gas lamps.



A few years later in 1981, it was decided to renovate the Elmslie End Club Shop (including the major task of replacing the roof!) to offer a better-equipped facility combining Wealdstone souvenirs, coach bookings, Supporters Club membership, selling of raffle tickets (5 for 10p) and the programme & badge stock.

A purpose-built counter was created going up the left side and along the by now wood-panelled back wall, which eventually was bedecked with League programmes from every club in the country. On the right-hand wall was a glass display case inside which souvenirs for sale could be placed and which supplied a work surface for admin purposes.

This shop developed into one of, if not the best, Club Shop in Non-League football at the time, and was much admired by all who visited it.

Badges? As Toby Jackson says: *'In my late teens I began to take my mongrel Mick on the coach to away games. Decked in a blue coat and Wealdstone 'silk' scarf (remember those?) he was adopted as our mascot. Picking up a badge from each club we visited to adorn his coat, this bred my early interest in badges and soon made Mick's legs buckle! When Mick passed away, the badges were transferred to the Club Shop starting a display that has grown over the years.'*



I was co-opted onto the Supporters Club committee and helped manage the Club Shop until 1991 and the move to Watford. In fact, it continued at Watford for a while despite the best efforts of the Watford officials who seemed oblivious to the fact that we had 'equal rights' to any part of Vicarage Road'.

Subsequent ground-sharing and moves limited any possibility of the Club Shop being rekindled though an effort was made at Edgware's White Lion ground. If memory serves that was curtailed by a fire and a subsequent effort lead by Sarin Rawal and his committee to open a shop when ground-sharing at Northwood FC saw the newly completed structure vandalised within days of being erected, let alone opened for business.

In recent times, the club had to survive for some time without a shop, missing out on this vital resource, but in December 2008, a new, fully-stocked 'Megastore' opened at 'The Vale' run by Adam Edwards and Mark Randall, growing bigger and better year on year.

In August 2010, WFCSC launched the 24/7 Online Megastore, continuing a tradition of raising vital funds for the club and ensuring you, the supporters have the opportunity to 'Wear Your Colours'.

Who knows how much the Supporters Club has raised for the main club over

these 60 years. It must run to hundreds of thousands of pounds particularly at Lower Mead in the eighties when it virtually ran the main club.



Just one side of the Megastore and about 10% of the items on sale!

The tea bar 'operations' were great fun but demanding work, with Bob DuGard and Sarin Rawal at the forefront after Julia Verrall retired. But how many people realise how lucky we were – not least as Bob recalls: *'The LPG gas used to heat the tea urn used to seep out and being heavier than air, it would collect on the floor of the cabin, often to ignite with a small explosion when the tea bar was next lit!'*

There has always been a regular series of fundraising events: race nights, quiz nights, greyhound racing, sportsman's dinners, celebrations and player of the season events as well as supporters' 5-a-side tournaments and such like. Even a Fireworks Display with mortars sunk 6 feet into the Lower Mead pitch (in November, remember!), can you imagine Fingers reaction if that happened now?

It's not always 'roses', as Pete Worby recalls: *'I remember the main football club decided to organise a Firework Display. We opened up the Tea Bar but very swiftly sold out of everything as, to our surprise, several thousand spectators attended the event.'*

A year later we pre-planned and stocked up big time – what happened? – you guessed it, there was a miserable attendance of just a few hundred, we were left with hundreds of burgers and hot dogs. Our event had managed to clash with the massively popular Kodak Firework Display!!'

Many will also remember the Sponsored Walks that 'began' in 1991 when supporters walked from Harrow to Fisher Athletic to raise money for the playing budget. One or two will also remember the fundraising walk in 1977 at Lower Mead – was it 20 laps of the pitch that day. In the picture from 1977 far right is Barbara Robson, while Bert Wakefield (third left) is flanked by Nick DuGard and Dave Heath. Who are the other willing walkers?

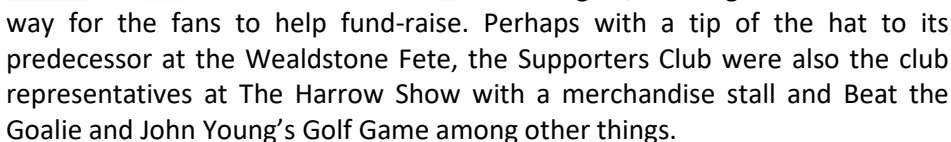


Without the Fisher walk fourteen years later, it is very unlikely the club would



have survived the season, let alone to be progressing back up through the non-league pyramid some years later.


The majority of the 'Fisher' walkers stopped for a photo on London Bridge



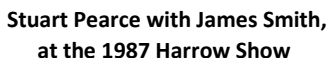
As mentioned above, the Supporters Club has also pursued the aims through music, with the release of the Sticks and Stones CD and that spurred the first of a series of successful 'Stones Aid' live music nights, once again an innovative

way for the fans to help fund-raise. Perhaps with a tip of the hat to its predecessor at the Wealdstone Fete, the Supporters Club were also the club representatives at The Harrow Show with a merchandise stall and Beat the Goalie and John Young's Golf Game among other things.

It was a good way to introduce the club to the wider Harrow audience, to raise some money and also to have a bit of fun in the close season, and there was a bonus when Stuart Pearce (what ever happened to him?) and one or two other players put in an appearance.



Having moved to Ruislip in 2008 and with the demise of the Harrow Show, the tradition is continued with the Fun Days and similar events in Ruislip Manor and Hillingdon. A pavement stall is set out for merchandising, once again to raise the profile of the club in the local community.



Starting Young!

As with any organization that seeks longevity, members age and move on so a regular supply of 'young blood' is required to maintain and increase numbers. Football in general and Wealdstone in particular is no different, and the Supporters Club has since its inception looked towards providing a base for young fans as well as old.

In the mid-sixties, this was through a Pebbles Club (yes really!) and through the seventies and eighties Junior Stones came to the fore under the stewardship of Dave Albert. As Quizmaster and eventual WFCSC Chairman he also started the Mini-League, another innovative way of bringing youngsters under the WFC banner.

Dave remembers: 'In 1987 I joined the WFCSC Committee after Nick DuGard approached me at the end of the Annual Sports Quiz. He was as usual, quite persuasive and I was soon embroiled in the monthly cycle of committee meetings in the Club shop at Lower Mead prior to home matches.

I also sold raffle tickets as supporters walked into Lower Mead on match-days and together with Sudhir Rawal, took over the running of the Junior Stones which had a membership of over 400, each entitled to free entrance to league matches.

We encouraged Junior Stones to come to matches by giving them a Wealdstone FC souvenir once they attended 7 home league matches in a season. It was quite a sight on match days seeing a procession of young kids entering the club shop to get their membership cards signed by a Supporters Club official.

The season prior to the Stones leaving Lower Mead, I was asked by Club Secretary, Peter Braxton if I would run a new football scheme for boys and girls aged 6-8. It was called the Mini-League and it would operate on the pitch at Lower Mead on Sunday mornings - football for fun with matches played on small pitches. It started as England got to the Semi-Finals of the World Cup and interest in football was sky-high. We used to get 60 boys playing football and it was highly successful.

When the Stones left Lower Mead, we moved to the pitches by the side of Northwick Park Hospital then to our permanent home at Old Lyonians Sports Ground in Harrow. I continued to run it until 1998 when I stood down but by this

time, players from the Mini-League had moved up to play competitive matches.

The first competitive team was run by Don Cross, then more parents came forward and started to run teams 'year on year'. We formed an independent club that operated the Mini-league and the football teams under the auspices of "Wealdstone Juniors Football Club" and I became its first Chairman'.



Young and old, home and away. Stones fans in full voice!

This Evening's Guest Speakers; Comedian, Gary Marshall

Gary has been a professional now for over 20 years and has established himself as one the most popular comics working on the after-dinner circuit, with his unique style and deadpan delivery, it gives him an abundant charm which makes him equally at home with all audiences.

Gary has appeared with numerous sporting greats including Sir Bobby Charlton, Robbie Fowler, Alan Shearer, Sir Henry Cooper, Frank Bruno, Evander Holyfield, Ricky Hatton, Gareth Edwards, Will Carling, Sir Ian Botham, Paul Merson, Bryan Robson, Colin Montgomery, Steve Davis and Jimmy White, and now Stuart Pearce among many others.



Our Guest of Honour, Stuart Pearce MBE



Pic: Harrow Observer

Stuart is currently Assistant Manager to David Moyes at a resurgent West Ham United. He was the manager of the England national under-21 team from 2007 to 2013 and also managed the Great Britain football team (and former 'Stones loanee, Marvin Sordell), at the 2012 Olympics.



At Scarborough FC; Pic; Jon Taffel

As a defender, he appeared for Wealdstone (including once taking over in goal!), Coventry City, Newcastle United, West Ham United and Manchester City, and is no doubt best known for his time at Wealdstone despite making 76 of his 78 appearances for England while with Nottingham Forest.

He retired as a player in 2002 while at Manchester City, remaining with the club as a coach under Kevin Keegan's managership until being promoted to the manager's job, which he held from 2005 to 2007.

In 2016, he briefly came out of retirement, signing a one-match deal with Longford, a team dubbed 'The worst in Great Britain', (*ed: resists obvious joke*) in order to support the grass roots game.

With a trophy cabinet and a vast collection of international and club shirts, pride of place no doubt is for the Southern League Championship Shield won at Wealdstone FC, and on a personal level for the replica Jock Law Trophy he won as a young player.

At least, they would be in pride of place if we had actually given him copies....

Pic: Graham Smith





Did we know what to expect? Stuart Pearce in action in his first Wealdstone match, away to Dorchester Town on 3rd March 1979. Pic: Bob DuGard

As Stuart himself says: 'I owe a great deal to Wealdstone. As a sixteen-year old with a love for the game and nowhere to play, myself and four other school mates were taken to the Stones, firstly to play in the youth team, then moving up to the reserves and finally I made the first team, playing at Dorchester in my debut match.

That first introduction was down to Alan Fogarty who had confidence in me, but a big mention must go to Allen Batsford who pushed my career greatly with one or two harsh words where needed.

It's a pleasure to be here tonight to support the club that gave me the foundation to build my professional career'.

I'm sure I speak for us all, Stuart, when I say it was a pleasure to watch you as a Wealdstone player and to follow your subsequent career. Everyone is both very pleased and grateful to welcome you back tonight.

Ten Years After...Dave Albert

'Having been on the WFCSC Committee for 20 years, just as Howard Kraiss became Chairman of the main football club and Sarin Rawal resigned as Chairman of the Supporters Club, I offered my services to stand in his stead. We were still playing at Northwood FC and the Supporters Club were going through a difficult time with a lack of real interest.

I said at the time when I became Chairman, that my main objective for the Supporters Club would be to try and stimulate interest in and support the main club financially, socially and in all other ways possible. One of the first ideas was to organise a 50th Anniversary Dinner.

We managed (with the assistance of Paul Rumens, Club President) to secure Stuart Pearce as guest speaker which we thought would be popular and would attract a good attendance at the Watford Hilton Hotel. Not in our wildest dreams did we think that we would get over 250 guests!

Although my brother, Jez and I were the main organisers we had a great assistance from fellow committee members, Paul Rumens and Rob Nothman who was the Master of Ceremonies on what turned out to be a very profitable evening, allowing WFCSC to make a donation to the struggling main club of £10,000.

A few months after the Anniversary Dinner, we moved in at The Vale and there was more work to be done, physically with groundworks, often funded as well as supported by the Supporters Club.

Marshallled by Mike Kane and Adam Williams with a number of supporters



Dave with Barry Fry

providing the labour, not only has the ground improved beyond recognition, but this has been done at a fraction of 'professional' cost!

During my tenure as Chairman, we've also organised other events including Race Nights and successful dinners with guest speakers as Jezz mentioned earlier, all hosted here in the main hall at the Ruislip Social Club and each making a reasonable profit. We also organised a Comedy Evening which proved very successful and a frequent fund raiser has been the Barbecues held at the club when major football matches are played at Wembley, supporters of the participating clubs using The Vale as a venue pre-and post-match.

Golden Goals continues to be a great source of income to the Supporters Club and generates approximately £2,000 per season. Miriam Goodman for many years has stood in all weathers near the main entrance to the club, and she continues to be a very active and valuable member of the Supporters Club as well!



**Top quality colour print using the most modern and
eco-friendly methods and materials**

Fast turnaround. Low prices. Nationwide delivery.

info@peopleforprint.co.uk

0114 272 0915

People For Print

Unit 10, Riverside Park,

**Sheaf Gardens, Sheffield, S2
4BB.**

Introducing the Current Committee

Mark Randall – Co Chairman: as stated previously, I started watching Wealdstone at Edgware, and the opportunity arose to give something back to my club. The Megastore now turns over in excess of £15k per annum to fans all around the world! During free time when not at Wealdstone I'm either playing cricket or spending time with my wife and my two children.



Nick DuGard – President and Co Chairman: Date of Birth: I'm so old I have forgotten - Like many others, I started supporting the Stones in 1974 in the 'George Duck Golden Era' and fell in love with the late and very much lamented Lower Mead. I've had numerous roles at the club in over 40 years, both on the Supporters Club Committee and main Club Board and I'm also the General manager and Press Officer! *Free time???*

Barry Benveniste - Treasurer: I'm in my 50th season of supporting Wealdstone Football Club and have seen many highs and lows as well as home grounds in that time. I have seen many memorable games for good as well as bad reasons. Two stand out games, both won 2 – 1: The FA Trophy final in 1985 for its atmosphere and that game away to Cambridge United on 25th February 2012 in the quarter final of the FA Trophy when this "tin pot pub side" beat the mighty Conference side. Never have I seen home supporters sneak out so meekly!



Mark Barton – Social Club Liaison: Supported Stones since the '80s with Cardew and the Guvnor. Came back in 2007 when I got involved with the Supporters and Social Clubs. Still have my fingers in plenty of pies including Wealdstone Ladies, BBQ catering and please do not mention any gazebo incidents!

Life membership of the Wealdstone FC Supporters Club is still available.....Join in the WFC Megastore!





Victor Klarfield – Away Travel: Prior to Wealdstone FC moving to the Vale I was involved with Ruislip Manor FC for over 35 years. When Wealdstone took over I became a volunteer and was mainly seen in the turnstiles on Match Day with a bit of Car Park duty thrown in. Presently in my second season on the committee as Travel Secretary and I also double up as WFC Safety Officer.

Adam Edwards – Megastore: Wealdstone is in my blood. I am a 3rd generation Stones fan (there is a 4th generation as well), of which I am very proud. My very first game (aged just 118 days old) was versus Telford in August 1980, taken by my Dad and Grandad. Approximately 10 years ago I thought it was about time to stop just being a fan and run with my Wealdstone obsession, joining the Supporters Club committee. The Megastore was born out of that shared love for the Stones with Mark R and Mark B. One day I will call it a day and go back to being just a fan, but at the moment it is just too much fun.



Miriam Goodman – Committee Member: I started watching the Stones in May 1971 on the occasion of the last amateur home match. I felt comfortable being a woman on my own at Lower Mead (which could not be said about many grounds at that time) and have been hooked ever since. My son and daughter were the mascots at the very last league match to be played there. These days I can be easily spotted at home matches just inside the turnstiles selling Golden Goal tickets (in all weathers!) and I rarely miss a match, home or away. Wealdstone FC is my second family.

Terry Hissey – Committee Member: I first saw the Stones in 1986 and was a regular attendee in the late '80s as a Junior Stone. Having drifted away after leaving school, I returned to Football in 2005 after a ten-year break and I joined the Supporters Club committee under my former Junior Stones Chairman, Dave Albert... a case of what goes around, comes around!

Presently, I can be found in the Megastore at most home games as Retro Programme Sales Manager.



The **Jock Law Trophy** is presented to the Wealdstone player who has received the highest number of votes in a Supporters Club ballot. Each voting for the player they consider has consistently shown good form throughout the season. It is presented at the end of every football season and was first awarded in 1970, to goalkeeper Andy Williams.

The trophy was named after Tom 'Jock' Law who was one of the founding members of the Supporters Club. He was the first chairman, holding office from 1958 to 1966 and gave many years of sterling service to the Supporters Club and the main football club.



Winners of the Jock Law Trophy:

1969-70: Andy Williams	1993-94: Dermot Drummy
1970-71: Charlie Townsend	1994-95: Tim Buzaglo
1971-72: John Barr	1995-96: Chris Walton
1972-73: Terry Dyson	1996-97: Roy Marshall
1973-74: John Henderson	1997-98: Brian Jones
1974-75: John Morton	1998-99: Dominic Sterling
1975-76: Bobby Moss	1999-00: Paul McKay
1976-77: John Watson	2000-01: Paul Lamb
1977-78: Fred Barwick	2001-02: Andy Carter
1978-79: Ian Cranstone	2002-03: Mick Swaysland
1979-80: Stuart Pearce	2003-04: Richard Jolly
1980-81: Fred Barwick	2004-05: Dave Ryan
1981-82: Paul Bowgett	2005-06: Jermaine Beckford
1982-83: Mark Graves	2006-07: Chris O'Leary
1983-84: Bob Iles	2007-08: Ryan Ashe
1984-85: Alan Cordice	2008-09: Alan Massey
1985-86: Robin Wainwright	2009-10: Marvin McCoy
1986-87: Steve Tapley	2010-11: Jonathan North
1987-88: Tony Lynch	2011-12: Richard Jolly
1988-89: Paul Morris	2012-13: Sean Cronin
1989-90: John Margerrison	2013-14: Tom Pett
1990-91: Tony Kelly	2014-15: Jonathan North
1991-92: Neil Cordice	2015-16: Bradley Hudson-Odoi
1992-93: Rob Tenkorang	2016-17: Sam Cox