

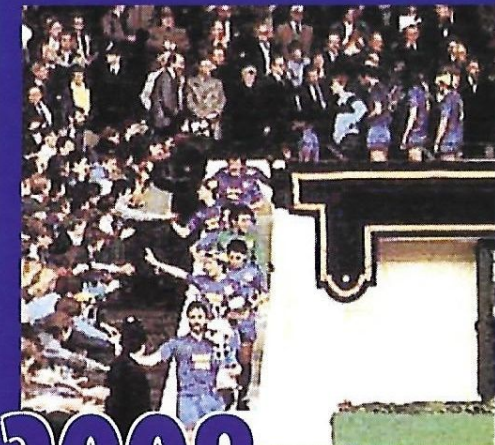
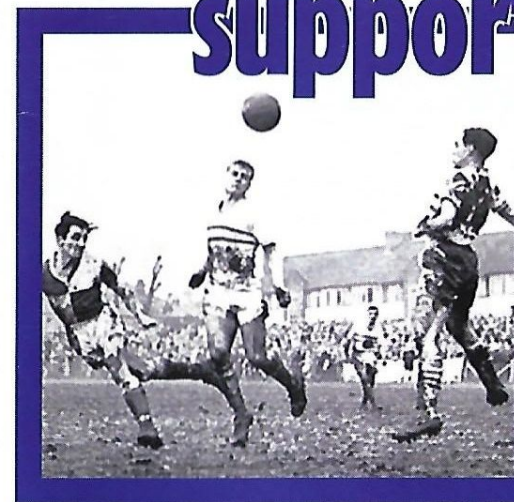
autographs

One for the Forest fans here tonight: Stuart Pearce wears his heart on his sleeve at the City Ground

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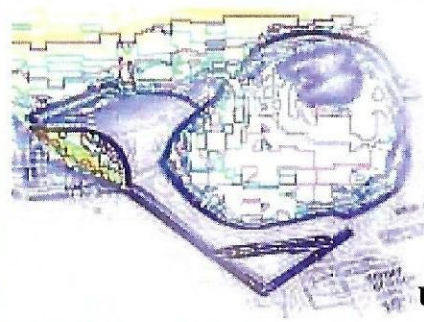
supporters club



1958-2008

50th anniversary dinner, at the hilton watford hotel on sunday, may 4th, 2008

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50th Anniversary Dinner
of Wealdstone Football Club Supporters Club

a wealdstone welcome

Tonight will be one of the great social occasions in Wealdstone FC history and it's my great pleasure to put together this souvenir programme to commemorate the event.

David and Jez Albert have worked tirelessly to make the dinner a success and, judging by the numbers here tonight, they won't be disappointed. The Club President, Paul Rumens, set an impressive benchmark with the fundraiser in Northampton a few weeks ago – it was 'only' £25,000 that night so no pressure then, chaps!

It all goes towards putting this great club of ours back on the footballing map. It sounds like there will be something like 30 ex-players here tonight, including half a dozen of the 1966 Amateur Cup-winning team, and that speaks volumes for the affection in which Wealdstone FC is still held by fans and players alike. I don't know about you, but I'm hoping to fill my autograph page by the end of the evening.

So what's inside tonight's programme? Well, you'll find articles on notable members of the Supporters Club throughout its 50-year history. You might find some interesting. Or you might not.

You'll also find biographies of tonight's speakers, Stuart Pearce and Rob Nothman of Radio Five Live, who is master of ceremonies. Rob reckons himself a bit of a hard man so we'll be dropping a football between them at some point and seeing who bottles out of the challenge. Only joking.

There is also a running reprise of the "Celebrity Corner" item that featured in the Stones programme in 2003-4, sparked by the appearance of the lovely Michelle Ryan (now starring in Bionic Woman on ITV) at Chesham Utd v Wealdstone at the start of that season. The actress was going out with Wealdstone midfielder Tommy Williams at the time.

The feature got ever more bizarre, and the Stones connections ever more tenuous, until it fizzled out in February. The appearance of Ms Ryan at the home FA Trophy game with Thurrock (prompting another mention in the feature) just about saw it limp into the new year.

We scatter some of the better ones throughout this souvenir programme, as a reminder that Wealdstone FC does register in the British consciousness, albeit not very high in the British consciousness.

Enjoy the evening.

TIM PARKS

wealdstone lookalikes



Mackenzie Crook (Gareth) and Ricky Gervaise (David Brent) from The Office



Stuart Pearce and Paul Rumens, pictured at the Northampton fund raiser

dave albert

chairman, wfcsc



As Chairman of the Wealdstone FC Supporters Club, I would like to welcome everyone here tonight to the Hilton Watford Hotel to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Supporters Club.

It was early 1958 when it was announced the main football club were going to hold an open meeting on 19th February 1958 to discuss the formation of the Wealdstone FC Supporters Club. The main club made an appeal for a voluntary organiser to head this task and they interviewed Tom Verrall and told him to 'Get on with the job!'. The first meeting was exploratory to judge the potential support but it appeared that already 60 people had indicated their interest in joining. The inaugural meeting was held at the Lower Mead Social Club and it was unanimously agreed to form the club. The Mayor of Harrow, Alderman H Grainger (whose interest in football was well known at the time) was invited to become the first Club's President and he duly accepted the post. The officers and the committee were elected and the subscriptions were fixed at 2 shillings a year for adults and 1 shilling a year for pensioners

Continued over page ➔

and juniors up to the age of 16.

Ten days after the initial meeting, the Supporters Club announced that they had enrolled their 250th member and by mid-March 1958, with over 300 members, the first function was announced which was to be the Dance and Cabaret held in April 1958. From these humble beginnings up to now, The Supporters Club have always continued with the one fundamental purpose of supporting Wealdstone Football Club in whatever means to further this great football club – and this meant and still means primarily supporting the Club through raising funds and raising the profile of Wealdstone FC.

Over the fifty years, the Supporters Club has accomplished much and we propose to put together a history of the Supporters Club which will appear in our special 50th Anniversary handbook which will be published prior to next season. However, tonight I feel that it is important to outline some of the special events that have occurred over the last 50 years.

It was the Supporters Club that raised much of the money that was to pay for the floodlights that were installed in 1962. Throughout the years, the Supporters Club always undertook work on maintaining the ground at the much-loved Lower Mead. The Supporters Club, originally through Julia Verrall, the wife of one of the founders of the Supporters Club, Tom Verrall, ran the tea huts supplying spectators with refreshments and her fine work was continued by Bob Dugard. The Supporters Club ran an excellent coach service to all away matches and this coach service was superbly run for many years by Barbara Robson.

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

After many years, which included a fire that destroyed a previous club shop when we ground-shared with Edgware FC, the shop when operational offered a wide range of merchandise, souvenirs, replica kits and a wide range of Wealdstone FC programmes dating back to the 1950s. The Supporters Club have launched, over the years, a range of high quality and unique Stones Leisure Wear and we hope to be able to continue this when we have our own base at the new ground at Ruislip Manor.

The Supporters Club also co-ordinated and manage a regular series of fundraising events, including race nights, quiz nights, greyhound evenings, dinners, sponsored walks and we ran our very own Wealdstone FC Supporters 5-a-side Tournament in May 2003. The Supporters Club held its first

sponsored walk in 1991 when over 80 supporters walked the 16 miles from Harrow to see an away game against Fisher Athletic in South East London, raising over £8,000. Later walks to Harrow Borough, Wingate & Finchley, Leyton Pennant and Boreham Wood were equally successful. In 2001, under the guidance of then committee members, Graham Jones and Paul Fruin, the sponsored walks took on a new life. The Stones to Rocks Walk, in March 2001 saw a group of Wealdstone supporters take five days off work to walk the 60 miles from Leatherhead to arrive in Bognor Regis ready for the Stones game on the following weekend. 2003 saw the Strolling Stones Walk to Oxford, a walk with a difference as this time ten supporters took time off work to walk 75 miles along the banks of the Oxford Canal from Newbold-on-Avon to Oxford, with a narrow boat following in support.

The year 1999 saw a truly innovative and novel venture, the release of the Stones CD, compiled by Wealdstone Supporters and the bands that they play in. This was to be followed a year later with the first ever "Stones Aid" gig, which took place in the private room at the Conways Pub in Honey Pot Lane, Stanmore.

The Supporters Club were for many years responsible for an ever expanding presence at the Harrow Show, the main borough event held annually over the August Bank Holiday weekend. And it is not just the Wealdstone F.C. of today that the Supporters Club has an interest in. The now flourishing Wealdstone FC Youth Division is another part of the overall Club that was initiated by the work of the Supporters Club. The Junior Stones and Mini League which flourished in the 1990's were started up by the Supporters Club.

The Supporters Club remains and should always remain an independent club, separate to the main club, although with very close links to the Board, many of whom are former Supporters Club committee members. This has not always been the case. It was the Supporters Club who co-ordinated efforts in the late 1980's and during the turbulent early 1990's with the events surrounding the sale of the Lower Mead ground. It was the Supporters Club and in particular, Ray Kemp, Nick Dugard and Layne Patterson, from the Supporters Club Committee, affectionately known as "The Three Wise Men" who stood firm against the then Chairman Alan Clifton. The Wealdstone FC Supporters Club is proud of its heritage, and its achievements to date, but is equally excited about a new future, in a new home at Ruislip Manor and we hope to continue to play a central role in the destiny of Wealdstone FC. **Dave Albert**

celebrity corner

Where we like to ask well-known football fans about their passion for the game...

Not: MICHELLE RYAN

(Zoe Slater in EastEnders)

Favourite Team: Wealdstone

Best match ever seen: Chesham v Wealdstone, August 2003 (3-1 to Wealdstone).

Favourite away ground: Chesham

Best Goal ever seen: Marvin Morgan (Wealdstone) at Chesham United

Best individual performance: Tommy Williams (Wealdstone) at Chesham.

Favourite team strip of all time: Navy blue and yellow quarters, as worn by Wealdstone at Chesham, August 2003.

Best food at any away ground: The burger van at Chesham.

Favourite Slater family member? Well, it's got to be Kat

Not Roger? Eh?

© BBC, 2003

Vinnie Jones

Many people ask me when my football career started. Was it at Wimbledon? Was it at Bedmond in the Herts County League? Or was it in Sweden when Dave Bassett sent me there to play for a team in the north with 6ft of snow on the ground as I got off the plane?

No, none of these. My football career started one Friday night out with my mates in Watford. There was a bit of bollox caused and yours truly ended up in the cells for the night. No problem I thought – I'll still have time to get home in the morning, put on my Wealdstone blazer and tie and catch the coach for the game at Maidstone.

Wrong! They let me out of the cells so late I had to go straight to the ground, the bus took its time and the team coach had left, so I got a train, well four trains actually and finally arrived 15 minutes before the team coach. I was on the pitch talking to their groundsman when Hally (Brian Hall) came steaming directly at me, "Where the f*** have you been and where's your blazer and tie?"

I gave him a bit of bollox and he sort of forgave me... well actually he fully forgave me when our big centre forward Andy Graham smashed the ball in the net and we won 1-0 on our march to winning the double.

A few years later Hally told me if I hadn't turned up at the ground that day I would have been playing for Bedmond for the rest of my life. So when I'm asked where did my career start I tell them with a smile "WEALDSTONE"... and Maidstone away.

Many years have passed now and I remember at the time I arrived, Pearcey had just left to go to Coventry. I've got fantastic memories, the punch up at the supporters do, me and Polly Perkins taking on half of



wood with the Sex Pistols and Frank Leboeuf so I hope you all have a fantastic night, raise lots of money.. and let's hope you've all forgotten my hair do at Wembley against Boston.

Love, and God bless

Vinnie Jones, the midfield maestro.



Was this the one, Vinnie?

POSTSCRIPT: At the fundraising dinner in Northampton last month we were able to auction a special package that involved up to four people being Vinnie's guests at an all-expenses paid evening at Windsor races this summer.

The package was won for a record sum for a Wealdstone auction of £5,000.

celebrity corner

No2: BRUCE FORSYTH

Bruce Forsyth? Are you sure? Yes, he once did a celebrity kick-off at a Wealdstone v Wolves benefit game in 1975.

Did he catch Phil Parkes off his line? Actually, Bruce was wearing Hush Puppies and the ball barely got out of the centre circle.

Tell me again, why was he at Lower Mead?

His wife of the time, Anthea (Give us a Twirl) Redmond, was sister-in-law of Stones player Eric Burgess. It was Eric's testimonial, as I recall. There were about 3,000 there so it was Nice to see Bruce, to see Bruce Nice.

Did he do the half-time raffle?

Yes, cuddly toy, fondue set, hostess trolley, box of banana sweets, just a few missing..

Best not to say: You don't get anything for a pair, not in this game. Not unless you're Dwight Yorke anyway

Do say: Are you related to Andy Carter*?

*Long-chinned Stones keeper at that time

Nick DuGard

There are so many fondly-held memories of the early days of my involvement with the supporters club and they always bring out a laugh whenever they are recalled, perhaps over a beer or a chat or when we need cheering up.



Where do I possibly start? There is so much, far, far, too much, to recall here as we proudly celebrate our 50th anniversary here at the Watford Hilton tonight, also the scene of so much club intrigue over the years! Layne, Ray and Toby will know what I mean!

My brother Bob (who will hopefully be here tonight) and I were young upstarts on the supporters club under Chairman Bert Wakefield and a committee that included Barbara Robson, Alan Couch and Phil Tricker, with Julie and Tom Verrall, when we arrived on the scene at Lower Mead.

We soon challenged the Board of the main club at the time – the late 1970s – to do far more on the fundraising side of the club. Nothing ever really changes does it!

The Chairman of the main club at that time, David Martle, threw down the gauntlet and asked us to put our money where our mouth was – and so we rose to the challenge.

One of our early initiatives was when Bob and I organised a fete at Lower Mead – a

huge undertaking but our energetic but naive approach didn't stop us.

Bob for some reason decided to drum up interest outside the ground by wearing a pukka top hat. I recall that about 25 people turned up in the rain! I still have an old newspaper clipping of the event stating: "The attendance was not as high as expected but the event helped to raise a

little more towards the club's £25,000 target". No change there either!

The committee, spurred on by the dynamic duo, decided to hold jumble sales in the Lower Mead car park on Saturday mornings.

There was the regular bizarre sight of lots of little old ladies, who would arrive about an hour before the start, pleading with us aggressively to get in early to grab the best stuff.

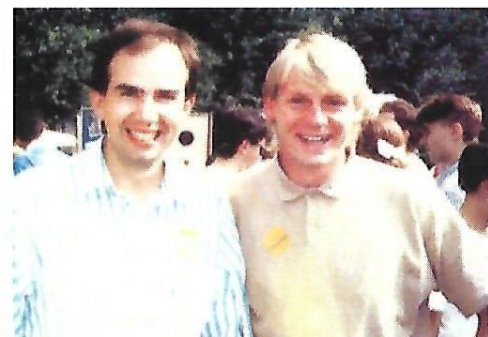
Which leads me on to a hilarious episode arising from an interesting find on one of the stalls, that forever lives in the memory but I missed out on due to being ill. I think it was Bert Wakefield who couldn't believe his luck when he found a "What the Butler Saw"-type old cine film for sale.

The male members of the committee decided to make an evening's entertainment out of it and brought in one of those old reel to reel jobs in the supporters club hut. I believe the machine caught fire! Do you remember Alan?... Old Bert was talking about it for weeks afterwards with that big grin of his.

My own career on the committee over so many years was chequered to say the least and included that infamous high profile ban as one of the 'three wise men' and eventually ended with the dubious honour of promotion to the main club board. Things would never be the same!

Happy days indeed, and so many memories. It will be good to meet up with some friends tonight and remember the good old days for a few hours and perhaps also remember some of those great characters who contributed so much but are no longer with us.

Have a great evening
Nick



Familiar faces... well, one at least! On the left is Nick's brother Bob DuGard, pictured with Stuart Pearce at the Harrow Show in the 1980s (in yet another fundraising venture)

celebrity corner

No3: CARDEW ROBINSON

Much-loved actor of the 1940s, 50s and 60s, from the Ealing Comedies through to the St Trinian's films. One sight of that huge, hooked nose and you'd know it was him

Cardew? Wasn't he a bit of a Cad?

Ha! Showing your age, by even knowing the old boy's nickname

Well, I've heard he used to watch the Stones as a boy. But didn't he once cheer on the wrong side at Lower Mead, because they were wearing blue?

Well, he was in his 80s by then. We were playing Wivenhoe during our phase of "let's look like Enfield and wear white shirts". We lost 1-0 in an FA Cup tie but, even at the final whistle, he thought we'd won.

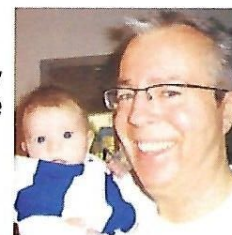
Wasn't the silence a bit of a giveaway when Wivenhoe scored?

They did have a huge and vociferous travelling support in those days.

You are joking? Yes.

Tim Parks

It was a genuine shock for this veteran fan – he of the rambling tales of yesteryear in the matchday programme – to stumble upon my own youthful prose in the late 1970s when researching a game for the "Rewind" feature.



Tim and the latest Junior Stone.. his 3-month-old daughter Eve

There was I, all 20-year-old exuberance, penning the supporters club notes as we welcomed both Hereford United and Reading to Lower Mead for FA Cup matches in the winter of 1977.

I had volunteered to write the weekly 10 paragraphs of drivel after winning my first journalistic job as a trainee reporter at the Watford Observer that summer – and naively thought this would impress Supporters Club secretary Barbara Robson. But she just said: "Oh okay then, I suppose you'll do. Phil Tricker is getting fed up with doing it anyway".

Hardly the fulsome welcome I was expecting! And equally naively it seemed that visits from Football League clubs would be the norm for the mighty Stones – after all we'd reached the First Round proper and faced Aldershot and Reading (again) in the previous few seasons, and would take on Southend at Lower Mead two years later.

Of course, it's not worked out quite like that. Since Southend pitched up at Lower Mead in November 1979 we've only reached the First Round once in all the intervening 29 years (Swansea City, who we took to a replay in 1987).

So reading my notes of over 30 years ago was a bit of an eye-opener. We expected so much. As was my first foray into sports editorship in the early 1980s, when I found myself covering Eddie McCluskey's Enfield as they launched into a three-way tussle for North London supremacy with Wealdstone and Barnet. Hard to believe now that our three clubs were truly the best outside the Football League – our supporters club team, SFC Wealdstone, even put up a trophy so the fans could play in a triangular tournament at the end of each season to prove who was the best on the field AND on the terraces (it lasted for a few years with

us winning it twice and Barnet once).

The Stones were truly buzzing in those days. It all seems a bit surreal now, looking back. The Supporters Club were at the forefront of everything and we committee members spent long hot summers at Lower Mead painting and weeding, and hours every Saturday selling and tearing up raffle tickets (often long into the game) to

realise £10 or £20 profit – although that still amounted to 200-odd tickets sold every game. We'd be pleased with that now!

As my own career has moved onwards within national newspapers, watching Wealdstone has kept me grounded. It's a huge pleasure to watch real football with real football people – people I've known and grown up with for a third of a century (though we don't act very grown up most of the time), people who have stuck with the club through the ups and downs, downs and more downs, and still come up smiling.

And an even greater pleasure, four years ago, to put the matchday programme together for one season. Though it's a monstrous undertaking! Those programmes of the 1960s, 70s and 80s were simple, eight-page affairs with little more than a couple of sides of club chit-chat. But standards are so high now that fans feel cheated if they get fewer than 40 pages of full-colour, original content for their couple of quid. So hats off to the Gloos for compiling the current Stones prog, Martin Lacey for printing it so competitively, and to all the contributors. It's one of the very best magazines outside the Football League.

One final note for all those attending tonight. Who remembers the Supporters Club 21st Anniversary "do" in 1978? I do! I was born a year before the Supporters Club was founded, and was celebrating my own 22nd birthday on the same night that the Club arranged its celebratory dinner-dance. I went to the Coliseum night club in the Strand with a bunch of mates, wearing my best pulling trousers, and – you guessed it, failed miserably. I'd have been better off trying to pull Ms Robson at the Supporters do. So if you're here tonight, Barbara, save the last dance for me...

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You are joking? Yes.

Ray Kemp

Hi everyone and welcome to tonight's momentous event (at least that's what I am told this will be).

During my many years as both a Committee member and Chairman of Wealdstone Supporters Club I was faced with numerous challenges as the club underwent a period of rapid change (nothing new there then).

In 1971 the issue for the Football Club was whether to stay in the Isthmian League or turn professional (which presumably meant paying players legitimately).

The Football Club had already stated that we could not afford to turn professional - but the overwhelming feeling among supporters was that in order to progress as a club we must move to the Southern League.

Able supported by two trusty cohorts I arranged a petition which stated that the supporters wanted the club to turn pro. We launched our campaign at a home game and managed to get 95% of the spectators to "sign up" to the cause.

I well remember the then Secretary of the football club (Ken Wiltshire) attempting to hound me out of the ground and prevent the circulation of the petition!

An interview at the Harrow Observer ensued, probably with Phil (are you a Borough fan in disguise) Sugden over a bottle or two of Scotch, which may account for my hazy memory. Anyway the Board reversed their decision and the rest as they say is history.

In 1985 a rather different experience springs to mind - namely the classic encounter in the FA Trophy semi-final first leg at Enfield. I was standing behind the goal with the usual bunch of vociferous Stones fans when a growing bunch of Enfield supporters started to congregate behind us.

We were subjected to the usual abuse (no problem there) then jostled and pushed (still no problem) followed by lighted cigarettes and matches being flicked in our hair (a little disconcerting) and then the half-time whistle blew to provide us with some respite.

A small group of us decided to change ends in the normal way but many of our wiser fans opted for the halfway line.



The second half became even more hostile as even less salubrious objects were flung in our direction - but even this intimidation failed to provoke a response, except for even noisier support for the Stones.

Finally their "leader," egged on by his brave back-room buddies, elbowed fellow fan Tony Hayes in the face and punched me in the mouth.

It was at this point that I lost the plot, grabbing the yob round the neck and 'subduing' him in my usual manner. You could say that I lost control under extreme provocation (at least that's what I told the judge).

But before I could finish the job off by force-feeding him a bacon roll, several Stones fans sensibly dragged me off and we completed the turnaround by getting the hoodlum arrested. Needless to say the rest of the Enfield "crew" headed for the hills and we were left to enjoy the last 20 minutes of the game.

Unfortunately the Supporters Club Committee was sometimes a divided entity and some of the "mature" members decided that this was an opportunity to criticise the younger (relatively speaking) elements of the committee - and in particular me. Indeed covert moves were afoot to replace me as Chairman (who can blame them I hear you cry!)

However the oldest and probably most respected member of the group, namely President Tom Verrall, had witnessed most of the event and staunchly supported me. This together with the arrest of the Enfield supporter left the conspirators' case in tatters and I was saved, at least for a time, from being excommunicated.

A later attempt did succeed entitled "How to vote for yourself in key elections" but I will save this tale for our next anniversary dinner.

In the meantime have a great evening and a heartfelt vote of thanks to Stuart for never forgetting his friends at Wealdstone.

**Cheers
Ray**

celebrity corner No4: ERIC CLAPTON

Legendary musician from the 1960s to the present day, quite good on the acoustic guitar
Eric Clapton? THE Eric Clapton?

Yep. He was at Loftus Road in January 1978 to see us play QPR in the FA Cup 3rd Round.
Blimey!

He was spotted by Spaul, Nick Symmonds and Mick Fishman in the Ellerslie Road stand... and he was with the then Mrs George Harrison

Bit of a scoop for Spaul, surely?

Steve was just a civil servant in those days. Nowadays, obviously, it would have meant £20,000 and a spread in the News of the World.

What, something like "Clapton love triangle"?

Sounds like a Ryman Div Two press release. Anyway, Eric can't have found us very inspiring. Didn't we lose 4-0?

Well, he didn't think we were Wonderful Tonight

Would you know my name, if I saw you at Wealdstone?

Very good

Best not to say: Layla, you've got me on my knees. Not round Hampstead way, in any case

Howard Kraiss

When people ask me why I chose to follow Wealdstone I say there are two reasons.

Firstly, when I was old enough to go to football on my own at the beginning of the 1980s, Wealdstone, as my local club, were on a roll. It was a good time to be a fan and easy to keep going. But equally as important was the fact that there was a special atmosphere at Wealdstone, something you didn't see at other non-league or even league clubs.

Whether you stood under the Elmslie End or on the High Mead it was apparent that Wealdstone was, even then, a club run on passion and the desire of supporters to be as good as they could be.

At Lower Mead the Supporters Club had a number of roles, from organising coach travel, to catering, to the club shop, to selling raffle tickets, to the Harrow Show, to taking a hand at whatever needed doing. After a while joining the committee seemed to be a natural rite of passage but as a quiet teenager it was an education to look up to such Supporters Club giants as Ray Kemp and Nick Dugard.

For me perhaps the biggest contributions that the Supporters Club has ever made to the Club, though, are making public the facts behind the disastrous sale of Lower Mead - and then being the driving force behind running the club in the way it is now, and has been for the past 15 years or so.

At many times it would have been easy for the Club to die but chiefly through the actions of supporters and the supporters club we remain in with a chance of a bright future.

I took on the role of Chairman of the Supporters Club during the Watford years and stayed in the helm for 5-6 years during which time we experienced the dark days of Yeading before moving again to Edgware. During this time the role of the Supporters Club began to change, a process that continues to this day as the Club seeks to redefine the contribution it can make that is exclusive of the main club and yet adds value to what we are all trying to achieve - the progression of Wealdstone Football Club.

And there are several reasons why there has been a blurring of roles between the



Football Club and the Supporters Club. Ultimately I think this is because we are a fans club, run by fans for the fans.

Regardless of Aldershot, AFC Wimbledon, FC United or Enfield Town perhaps we are the ORIGINAL fans club. We have survived for many years even with our lack of competitive resources, at the level we are because of the enormous contributions that so many have made - and we will prosper or decline for the same reasons in the future.

With the Football Club now run by people who themselves have been Supporters Club committee members not that many years ago, it is not surprising that our aims can be seen to be similar. I believe though, there will always be space for a successful Supporters Club and my challenge to them for their next fifty years is to be clear about what this role is and then delivering on it.

As we look to a future at our own home, whether at Ruislip or Prince Edward, I look forward to the Supporters Club playing an increasing role in generating revenues, in keeping the social side of the club alive and never forgetting the heritage of finding bright young people and helping to get them involved in the Club through a vibrant and active Supporters Club committee.

At the same time the Supporters Club will, I know, seek to retain its independent voice, never being afraid to ask the questions that need to be asked and representing Wealdstone supporters everywhere.

I know that the time I spent on the Supporters Club Committee helped me mature as an individual as well as helping to prepare me for some of the roles I have subsequently taken on at the Club. I recommend it to anyone who might want to get involved - you never know where it is going to lead!

Many congratulations to the Wealdstone FC Supporters Club for reaching this fantastic milestone. Fifty great years helping Wealdstone FC reach the heights and survive the depths. Let's hope for the next fifty to be all about success with the Supporter's Club playing a pivotal role in making that success a reality.

Howard

celebrity corner

No5: RICK PARFITT

Status Quo rock star of the 1970s to the present day. Nice blond hair.

Rick Parfitt? And Eric Clapton only last week! We're really rocking!

All Over The World, you might say. Well, Hungerford anyway, which is where the Quo legend was spotted on a train by Mickey Kane and a few others. He probably recognised a fellow rock megastar

Yeah, Low-Stung, Puggsy and Tony Maidment were on the train as well.

Had Rick been to the pre-season game with Hungerford too?

Possibly not. He may have just been on the train. But he was talking to our chaps and mentioned that he used to watch Stones' games from his sister's flat in High Mead, overlooking the old ground.

Was that Sweet Caroline?

This is getting a bit incestuous.

Down Down, Deeper and Down? That's enough.

Layne Patterson

The three wise men (The Magi) is a term that I never dreamt that my name would be associated with, particularly in relation to a football club! But that was exactly what Ray Kemp, Nick DuGard and I were called back in 1990.

I always laugh at Christmas time when I see the first card with them on! I believe that these three gentlemen (the original ones) came from the East, well that counts me out as I was born in Edgware, although I did move to East Anglia!

Anyway a bit more of the above later, firstly let me thank David Albert for asking me to contribute to this publication, a celebration of fifty years of Wealdstone F.C. Supporters Club. I can't believe that there are many such Supporters Clubs that have had such a colourful history as ours; WFCSC has had a massive impact on the parent club that it supports, and this is due in no small part to the many people along the way who have served as its officers and guardians down the years.

My first memory of attending a Stones match was around 1970(ish) when I was invited along by Eric Metcalf (The Man in Blue) who was a friend of the family and lived near us in Harrow Weald. Eric, was, of course a legend at Lower Mead with his blue and white regalia and bell that was rung every time we scored!

Eric was also I believe a founding member of WFCSC and a much missed and loved man by anyone who remembers him. I remember him paying for me to join the supporters club and was so proud of my membership card/fixtures list which was always out of date within a few weeks.

My other early supporters club memories are of doing a sponsored walk around the pitch and badgering Tim Parks with articles for the club magazine, Long Ball Down The Middle. I later had the pleasure of editing it a few times many years later!

The seventies came and went, with notable events being the defeat of a Premiership outfit in the FA Cup, Reading F.C (alright they weren't one then but they are now). The Conference was born, and things in the non-league game would never be the same again!



My highlight of the decade, however was our trip to play QPR at Loftus Road in the FA Cup 3rd round, the result may not have been that great but what a day it was to see your club in a packed football league ground...

The eighties was a fantastic time for the club, culminating with our memorable trip to Wembley in 1985, soon after this Bob DuGard decided that it would be good for the profile of the supporters club if we were represented at the annual Harrow Show. It was a

massive success, and at the time the first team's match on the bank-holiday Monday was even postponed (can you imagine that today?). I helped out at the second show which was a great weekend, and made me realise how much hard work was required to organise it. Messrs, Maidment, Ansell and Fields were very much at the forefront of this, and quite simply without them and Bob this event would just never have happened!

Following on from this we had the start of the Morritt saga that would eventually see him resign as Chairman of the parent club, due in no small part to the pressure put on by the supporters club. I remember vividly attending a special meeting at the club that the supporters club had organised, and being accused of being a racist as I proposed a vote of no confidence in him, something to this day I can't understand!

Shortly after this I was invited by Nick DuGard to join the supporters club committee, as a couple of its members had just left, including his brother Bob. I felt honoured to have joined the committee, but nearly regretted shortly after at my first committee meeting when - within a few minutes - I had been proposed and voted into the job of organising our stall at the Harrow Show.

Many months of organising lay ahead for what was just a two day event, quite simply without Tony Maidment, Matty Ansell and dear old Steve Field this would never have happened! I will remember how well our stall and surrounding area looked on the Sunday, and luckily enough the magnificent trio were going to stay the night in a tent and look after it. However, I arrived on the bank-holiday Monday bright and

Continued over page ➔

celebrity corner
NO.6&7:
MARK BROWN,
OMAR WILLIAMS

Not exactly fans, these two were actually players in the early 90s

Yes, but who are they? I've never heard of them

They only played a few games each, in the Yeading years. But they're now familiar faces on TV, not that you'd be looking at their faces

How do you mean?

How can I put this... when they played for the Stones we liked to see them with their kit on. Now it's usually off.

You don't mean...

Yes. Apparently they are now starring on Television X, the Fantasy Channel. Omar has his own show.

How do you know this?

Pete Wobbly was channel hopping the other night and caught a bit of the TVX Freeview "by accident"

What, like a couple of minutes?

Two and a half hours actually. He was just checking it was really Omar and Mark

Did Pauline believe him?

What do you think?

Layne Patterson continued

early to what could only be described as Beirut on a bad-day: our site looked wrecked! The lads had had something of a party, but Tony told me to get the coffees and stop worrying.

I left a scene of utter devastation, and returned 20 minutes later to find the area completely rebuilt and in pristine condition. They were great times but sadly poor old Fieldsy is not around to share this clubs anniversary - but we will never forget him.

Nick DuGard, our secretary, was asked to join the parent club's board of directors, so I became his assistant before taking on his full secretarial role. The following period was a fairly quiet and uneventful time, but it was the calm before the storm...

The well documented chaos that followed was a period in my life that I can look back with in extreme pride. We were suddenly thrust into dealing with both local and national press, as well as being interviewed on local and national radio. I sometimes wonder what it was all about, but we were not going to see the club we

all loved disappear into oblivion without a fight! It would sometimes appear that Ray, Nick and I were the main protagonists of these battles, but we were backed by a superb committee. However, Ray and Nick were firm allies at the time, and I believe we went through something whereby we had to support each other 100%. Whatever happens in the future Ray Kemp and Nick DuGard will always have a special place in my heart!

When all the dust finally settled I ended up joining the Board of Directors myself, and what fun that would be - but that's another story! When I look back on my time at Wealdstone my happiest days were definitely those in the supporters club. I may live 150 miles away but Wealdstone will always be my team. And it's great to see that the present chairman, Howard Kraiss is a product of the Supporters Club - a true fan at the helm of this great club!

Layne Patterson (Life Member and ex- wise man)



wealdstone lookalikes

Above: Agents from the Matrix. Below: Wealdstone directors Agent Rumens, Agent DuGard and Agent Fox Contributor: Agent Williams (Courtesy of the Stones Magazine 2003-4)



celebrity corner
No.8: ELTON JOHN

Pinner's very own rock megastar. Now living in Windsor... and Malibu.. and Palm Springs.. and Miami...

Now you're talking! A proper celebrity!

But I thought he was a Watford fan...

On Grandstand a few years they asked about who he followed, and Elt mentioned that his Uncle, Roy Dwight, used to take him to watch the local amateur team in the 60s. That was Wealdstone.

So if things had turned out a bit differently Elton might have put his millions into us rather than Watford...

Yeah. It might have been Watford sharing Lower Mead, having to leave after a couple of years and giving us a new stand. Then again, we'd have had to put up with an over-dressed, toupee'd fop in the Directors Box.

Not another one! Nick Symmons wouldn't have minded. They could have swapped knitting patterns

Do say: Up the Stones

Best not to say: Come on the Horns

Order of events

- Reception and cash bar
- Welcome by David Albert, Chairman of WFCSC
- Dinner. Wine may be ordered separately
- Rob Nothman, Master of Ceremonies
- Auction of memorabilia
- Special Guest Speaker: Stuart Pearce
- A raffle will be drawn during the evening
- Bar closes 12.30am

Menu

To start: Half a Galia melon with strawberries, marinated in a mint syrup

Main course: Roast peppered ribeye steak, carrot puree, grilled mushroom, tomato & buttered baby leeks

Dessert: Blackcurrant teardrop mousse with Chantilly cream

Followed by: Freshly brewed coffee or tea with petit fours



Tonight's special guests

STUART PEARCE

was born on April 24 1962 in Shepherds Bush, London and, after training as an electrician, started his career at Southern League Wealdstone - making his debut at Dorchester in March 1979. He was signed by Coventry boss, Bobby Gould, for £25,000 in October 1983 after turning down an offer from Hull City and played his last Stones game in an FA Cup tie at Lower Mead v Basildon Town. He was made captain in a 3-1 win.. little did we know then that Stuart would skipper his country nine years later

He made 54 appearances, scoring four goals, for the Sky Blues before signing for Nottingham Forest in a £200,000 deal in June 1985. Goes on to make 401 league appearances for Forest, scoring 63 goals.

In 1987 he took over as Forest captain and in May made his England debut in 1-1 draw with Brazil at Wembley.

Stuart then won League Cup winners' medals in 1989 and 1990 - but his career hits low point in Turin in July that year with his famous penalty miss in England's shoot-out defeat by Germany in World Cup semi-final.

1991: Scores in FA Cup final at Wembley but Forest lose out to Tottenham. 1992: Takes over as England captain from Gary Lineker.

1996: Scores emotional spot-kick in penalty shoot-out against Spain as England reach semi-finals of European Championships.

1996: Appointed caretaker manager of Forest on December 20 until mid-January following resignation of Frank Clark.

1997: Forest are relegated from the Premiership and Pearce hands over managerial reins to Dave Bassett.

1997: Heads for Newcastle on free transfer, then in '99 joins West Ham on a free transfer after being frozen out of first team by Ruud Gullit at Newcastle. Wins 78th and final England cap against Poland.

Suffers broken left leg in a challenge

during Premiership match against Watford - then, in the third match of his 2000 comeback breaks his left leg in a tackle with Southampton's Kevin Davies.

2001: Joins Manchester City and wins First Division championship with City, joins coaching ranks and is promoted to joint first-team coach alongside Derek Fazackerley.

2005: March - Handed the managerial reins at City until the end of the season following resignation of Kevin Keegan. Then made City's 18th manager since the retirement of legendary boss Joe Mercer in 1971.

2007, May 14: Parts company with Manchester City a day after they finish 14th in the table, four points clear of relegation.

Stuart is now England Under-21s manager and assistant to new England head coach Fabio Capello.

ROB NOTHMAN

was a Wealdstone fan in his youth before graduating to become a freelance broadcaster, producer, press officer and after-dinner speaker.

He began working for the BBC in 1982, and is still a regular contributor to BBC Radio 5-Live, presenting sports bulletins, contributing features and acting as a tipster on the Breakfast Programme's Racing Slots.

He also has presented the sport on Radio 4's Today Programme. For four years, he was BBC Radio's Golf Producer, masterminding 5-Live's award-winning coverage at the British Open, the US Masters and the Ryder Cup. In 1995, The Ryder Cup coverage won two Sony National Radio Awards.

Nowadays, Rob mixes him time at the BBC, with other assignments around the world. He has worked for BBC TV at the 1998 World Cup, acts as Press Officer at the Alfred Dunhill Cup golf, and the Benson and Hedges Golf and Snooker Tournaments. His after dinner speeches are a mixture of sporting anecdotes and broadcasting gaffs at the BBC.

Dave Heath

I was first introduced to Wealdstone FC and indeed football by that long standing Wealdstone fanatic Tim Parks. So it's his fault!

We both attended the same school and I happened to have a spare ticket for the recording of the Parkinson Show. Tim agreed to go on the basis that in turn I would attend a Wealdstone match. The deal was struck - Parkinson was duly attended and I attended my first Wealdstone game. The overall numbers watching the two different events may have vastly differed but I was certainly more looked on Wealdstone than Tim was on 'arky!

I can't remember the actual game I attended but it was in the 72/73 Season when we finished eighth in the Southern League Division 1 South. (Ed: no it wasn't! It was Wealdstone 2 Salisbury 1 in September 1973).

Not a bad time to start watching as the following season saw the Stones top the division and win promotion to the then top light in the south. Away games were always something special - in those days we used the yellow Venture coaches, usually taking us to most matches superbly organised by Barbara Robson.

I well remember the green tickets giving that all-important seat on the coach - mine was usually to Coach 2 which was marshalled by either the Wakefields or the 'rickers in their own inimitable styles! It was indeed an honour to gain promotion to Coach 1 but this was usually reserved for well-seasoned regulars.

Many fond memories of travelling with fellow supporters included:

- After a match at Hastings, the coach driver taking the wrong turning and ended up driving along the front just prior to a carnival procession in front of a heering, flag-waving crowd... a bit confused as to where Venture coaches & Wealdstone satiated in their pageant!

- Bricks through the windows at Wimbledon & Leatherhead

- Stopping off at Debenhams on the way back from an evening match with the question "Does anyone want Debenhams" applied with a cutting "No - they're closed!"



Dave Heath (aka Queenie) was a stalwart of the 1970s and 80s

- The customary collection for the coach driver - time to feign a deep sleep or get rid of that loose button

- And talking of away games the following spring to mind:

- Woking in the FA Cup, being 3-1 down with 10 minutes to go and running out eventual 5-3 winners

- Dunstable when, seeing a player down injured, Phil Clegg helpfully came on with a wheelbarrow!

- Being chased onto the pitch at Hillingdon with knife wielding 'fans'...and then being told by Barry Fry to get off the f***ing pitch

- Toby Jackson getting rid of his dog's unwanted food by 'offering' it to the linesman

- Getting chased down the road by Atherstone fans and ending up being pushed into a clump of lavender bushes in a front garden. Didn't quite come up smelling of roses though!

- Going to Bangor and asking confused locals where the beach was (too much of the song "Didn't we have a lovely day the day we went to Bangor")

The games in Italy in the Anglo-Italian cup were a chance to go further afield and with Venture not quite going that far, we hired a transit van to make the cross channel journey. But with Kev Bright's RAF navigational skills, Mark Chamberlain, Duncan Towell and myself made it all the way to Udinese and Reggio Del'Emilio. Undaunted by the slogans "Ultra Violenze" on the stadium walls we sung ourselves hoarse, cheering on the Stones.

Committee meetings

Meetings usually finished just in time to grab a quick pint of Watneys Red Barrel before closing time in the club house but on one occasion Bert Wakefield, chairman, was in an unusual hurry to finish. All was revealed, in more ways than one, when with the ladies of the committee safely dispatched a movie projector was quickly put into place by Bert and a shaky black & white "girly" film was eagerly threaded through the machine. The yellowing walls of the supporters club being used as a substitute for a screen did little to enhance either the quality or

Continued over page ➔

celebrity corner

No9: TODD CARTY

Much-loved actor, ex-Grange Hill, Tucker's Luck and, of course, 'Stenders
Bit of a come-down, isn't it? Elton John last time, and now poor old Mark Fowler from EastEnders...

Yeah. Can't imagine Elton selling bananas off the back of a barrow. Not for eating, anyway

So what's the relevance then? I suppose mum Pauline told him to stop watching Walford Town to follow the Stones?

Wealdstone came first, apparently. Young Todd lived in Tintern Way, in West Harrow, and used to kick around with Peter John Baptiste and his mates. Bappo says Todd definitely used to go to Lower Mead. "He was a bit of a hero to us".

So Elmslie Ender to EastEnders then?

Mmm... Harrow-on-the-Hill to Grange Hill. Tucker's Luck to George Duck....

Albert Square to nowhere

That's a bit cruel

Dave Heath continued

the content of the film. Needless to say we declined the opportunity for a repeat viewing.. much to the disappointment of Bert.

The committee did much valuable work in raising funds to support the main club mainly through running the tea huts & match day raffle.

Such things didn't just happen though and many an hour was spent debating where the empty milk bottles should be left & how many slices of spam should be produced from an average tin. Although none of our sales knowingly led to food poisoning among fans, health & safety gurus would have palpitations at the conditions we worked and served food in!

Stalwart committee members were Barbara Robson, Bert Wakefield and his wife, Tom & Julie Verrall, & The Trickers. Minutes were duly recorded in the Bound Minute Book and duly signed, akin to a peace conference, at the end of each meeting. A considerable amount of money was raised from fundraising activities and then a decision taken on when to hand it over to the main club.

SFC Wealdstone

The supporters' team was formed following our away trip to Italy, spurred on by the silky Italian skills we so much yearned to reproduce. (I don't think even at my present age I have ever achieved them though).

Joining the Marathon Sunday League in 1979 we were unable to get any pitches locally and had a choice of playing our home games at Wadham Lodge, Walthamstow, or

Raynes Park in Wimbledon!

Meeting at 8.30am on a Sunday morning was a challenge for all - especially our star lothario Justin O'Brien who we invariably ended up picking up from wherever he had laid his hat the night before!

It was a relief to play away games as they were much closer. Attending The Marathon Sunday league meetings was much like the supporters club committee meetings - they were also keen to raise as much money as possible and had a series of fines designed to do just that!

Particular memories are of Wealdstone FC Commercial manager Pete Moran grabbing a referee around the throat to make his point about the quality of his officiating - which led to a sine die ban!

Also the game against West Ealing where we were leading 3-2 when a certain left back (possibly me) got the ball on the half way line and fired a superb shot past the astounded "Fingers" in our goal. I don't think I ever hit the ball again so sweetly!

So many fond memories come flooding back - I was appointed linesman at the Stafford Rangers home game when an official failed to turn up! I even got heckled by the Stafford supporters so must have been doing something right....

Times move on, personal circumstances change and although I rarely go to a game Wealdstone scores are the first I look for on the internet (thanks to Sky Sports and the excellent club websites). So thanks Tim for introducing me to Wealdstone....

Up the Stones!



The very first Wealdstone Supporters team line-up, pre-season 1978. From left, back row: Duncan Towell, Mark Chamberlain, Martin Allen, the late Kevin Bright, Justin O'Brien, Phil Clegg, Pete Worby (yes, it IS him!), Jon Taffell, the late Chris Jeffreson, Kat Kelly. Front row: Nick DuGard, Dave Heath, Fingers Fruin, Don Cross, Phil Jeffreson, and a young Gordon McKay

celebrity corner

No10: TOMMY STEELE

Famous singer, actor and music hall act of the 1960s. And he played for us too...

What, Tommy Steele played for the Stones? In an actual match?

Two games actually, in the 60s. I think he guested in a couple of showbiz games but was so good that we signed him!

But that would be like Robbie Williams playing non-League today..

Yes, but bigger. Tommy was a mega star. And he looked good in blue.

Isn't it time you slipped the 'Half a Sixpence' joke into this column?

I was waiting until the bit about a signing-on fee. But you can set me up for the other gag if you want.

Oh okay. Tommy was a small and tricky winger, apparently, but he had a secret weapon when dribbling through the legs of burly defenders...

A little white ball! (Apologies to anybody under 50)

Paul 'Fingers' Fruin

Congratulations to Wealdstone FC Supporters Club on this remarkable occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary.



When Supporters Club chairman David Albert asked me to put together a few words about my time on the Supporters Club, firstly as Junior Stones Secretary and later as Vice Chairman and then Chairman, my first thought were what a fantastic job the committee has done to get through the past 17 homeless years of Wealdstone Football Club.

I have also been a strong believer in rolling up my sleeves and getting my hands dirty and leading from the front. If you want a job done you can't expect people to put their time and effort into it if you are not prepared to do the same.

Having been around the club for a number of years, I first got really involved with the Supporters Club when the Stones first moved into the White Lion Ground, when then-chairman Howard Kraiss approached Graham Jones and myself about organising the "Walk To Wingate & Finchley" after both of us were involved in the highly successful "Fisher Walk" with Veale Harvey some years earlier.

The Supporters Club had just put a Club shop into the White Lion ground and taken in new stock, only to see everything go up in flames one night.

Needless to say within a matter of a month or so both Grim and myself had joined the committee and we joined the fight to put the Supporters Club back on its feet following that dreadful fire.

No sooner was the walk to "Wingate & Finchley" over than I found myself as the new Junior Stones Secretary.

I felt that the move to the White Lion ground at long last gave not only Wealdstone Football Club, but the Supporters Club as well a real presence again after the four years spent at Watford FC and Yeading FC. Here was a chance to start to build from the base again.

The Junior Stones membership became a huge success with "Family Days" being organised on match days.

Indeed it was on one of these days that managed to persuade a certain young lady

to dress up as a Blue Elf to join the Blue Santa Claus and the other Blue Elf in handing out Christmas presents, balloons & stickers on a pre-Christmas Family Day Match.

Some years later that gorgeous Blue Elf became my girlfriend.

Towards the end of the second season at the White Lion Ground, the main club approached both Grim & myself with regards setting up the Football Scholarship.

It was around this time too that the Supporters Club were offered

the use of the main club's portacabin to use as a Club Shop.

This really was too good an opportunity to turn down - at first we had a third of the portacabin, but wasn't long before the Supporters Club had taken over the whole thing!

At long last we had a proper, high-profile base to be proud of, our first since the days at Lower Mead.

Sponsored walks

Both Grim and myself came up with yet another bright idea, this time it was the "Walk to Bognor" in early March 2001.

Steve Paul, Terry Dolman, Deadly Doug, Trevor Davies, Grim and myself set off on the five-day hike on Sunday 4th March, with Deadly acting as our support drive.

Months of planning were ruined in the week leading up to the start of the walk, when Foot and Mouth Disease, hit the South East of England and a couple of our overnight stop-overs would not let us stay. It could only happen to Wealdstone!

Still, we arrived in Bognor safe and sound on the Thursday afternoon and had Friday to recover, before hitting the town to celebrate.

Now I've always want to travel to a game by canal boat and this dream came true in late March 2003 when Tony Short, Steve Paul, Roger Slater, Doc Blues, Deadly Doug, Peter Worby, Ray Kemp, Grim and myself set off on the 75 miles "Strolling Stones Walk" along the Oxfordshire Canal to the away fixture at Oxford City.

I'll leave Ray Kemp to describe our canal boat. And Peter Worby to describe the chemical toilets.

It was sometime over this two year period that Howard Kraiss and myself were invited to become directors of the main

celebrity corner

No11: VINNIE JONES

Former Stone who has become a successful hard-man Hollywood actor...

Last time we had Tommy Steele, an actor who played for the Stones. Now we have Vinnie, a player who ended up an actor! Amazing!

Not really. He was always a bit of a thespian, even at Lower Mead. He'd spend hours in make-up before games, that's why he rarely started them for us

Tell Vinnie that to his face, would you?

I was talking about Tommy Steele

Nice sidestep.

Thank you. Funny thing was, Vinnie was never the scary one at Wealdstone. That was Paul Bowgett or Big Dennis. Or Paul Waites.

But wasn't Tommy Steele quite a tough little fella? How would Vinnie have coped with that little white ball?

He'd have grabbed them. Then twisted....



Continued over page ➔

'Fingers' Fruin continued

club. Howard stood down as Chairman of the Supporters Club and I stepped into his shoes.

However, after a couple of years or so, pressure on my time with the main club and Football Scholarship saw me spending less and less time on Supporters Club matters and I too decided to step down.

There were lots of highlights, too many to mention, during my time on the Supporters Club committee, however one

word stands out from our many meetings and would always have Dave & Jez Albert rolling around on the floor in laughter. That word is "Jurisdiction".

I'll let David explain in his speech.

Finally I look forward to seeing a strong Supporters Club presence again at Grosvenor Vale next season.

Congratulations Wealdstone FC Supporters Club, here's to the next 50 years.

Fingers



Walking back to happiness: A vast turn-out for previous walks to Wingate (above) and Boreham Wood (below) was hopefully matched by last week's 10-mile stroll to Hendon



celebrity corner

No12: TERRY WOGAN

Terry Wogan? Synonymous with Wealdstone? Why?

Well apparently the blarneyed one got stuck in a traffic jam in the High Street bypass a couple of years back, and went on and on about it on Radio Two...

Blimey, that's interesting. Not.

Okay, so it's a bit of a tenuous link with the football club, but...

Tenuous? You wouldn't know what tenuous meant if Tim Henman came up and hit you with his racket

Er, now I think it's you that's gone off at a tangent. Anyway, back to Terry Wogan.

Must we?

Yes, because we're getting a bit desperate for celebrity supporters now I hadn't noticed..

Shall we do Michelle Ryan again next week? They'll have forgotten that one by now

sudhir rawal

As we meet tonight to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the supporters' club, it is worthwhile wondering what the future holds for such organisations in the modern world.

When the founding fathers of this august body first set the wheels in motion half a century ago, their aims would have been fairly simple: raise money for the main club, organise social events, assist supporters in travelling to away matches and much more.

Actually are those ideals any different from what they are now? I did mean to look at old supporters' club handbooks to see how things had changed over those years, but deadlines were tight and I couldn't find my old souvenirs. A shame really as it would have been interesting to see how things had changed – if at all.

We have a saccharine-sweet image of those times. The sepia tinged or black and white photographs make it look like a world away, but the supporters' club HAS changed as the years have ticked by.

The early years would have seen the SC follow those early ideals; even in the early seventies when I first started watching the club, I don't remember times being very different from those I'd imagined in the fifties.

The SC would have run social events, the sea-bar, the supporters' club shop and organised coaches to every away match. As the years moved on, some of the most halcyon years of the supporters club were during the troubled times during the late eighties or early nineties. The supporters' club were at the forefront of the campaign to rid Wealdstone of the then-chairman David Morritt when he came up with the mad idea of buying Watford and moving the club there. Sheer madness, surely. The fans won the day and helped install Alan Clifton.

Within a short period of time that move proved to be a disaster as we once again faced the spectre of a move to Watford. Maybe, as the SC were at the forefront to



Glory seekers! Sudhir Rawal (left) and skipper Tim Parks hoist the Middlesex Sunday Junior Cup after the supporters' team's famous 2-0 win over Apex Bulldogs at Yeading six years ago. It was SFC Wealdstone's only cup success in the club's 25-year history... though SFC is being resurrected by Andy Burrows this summer and more silverware could be on the horizon

expel Morritt and replace him with Clifton, the three wise men, Messrs Dugard, Kemp and Patterson, felt the pain far greater than most and stuck their collective heads over the parapet and fought valiantly to get supporters to stand up against the move.

That they failed ultimately to convince enough people was through no fault of their own – nor the collective efforts of the committee. People still now don't really know what those three in particular put on the line during those troubled times. That they were proved right eventually would have brought them no pleasure as Wealdstone found themselves on the long and lonely path of homelessness.

From militancy, the SC moved into bed with the board as the directors became one of us, one by one. Long before so-called "fans-owned" club, Stones uniqueness stood out as we became a supporters-owned club, where the shares were owned by fans and the board populated by those that had supported the club for many years. The relationship was bound to change again.

The Watford and Yeading years were marked with massive supporters' club-led fundraising events, such as sponsored walks or profile-building events like the

celebrity corner

No13: MICHELLE RYAN

(Zoe Slater in EastEnders)

Favourite Team: Wealdstone

Best match(es) ever seen: Chesham v Wealdstone, and Wealdstone v Thurrock

Favourite away ground: Chesham

Best Goal ever seen: Marvin Morgan (Wealdstone) v Thurrock

Best individual performance: Tommy Williams (Wealdstone) at Chesham, and at home to Thurrock.

Favourite team strip of all time: Blue & white quarters, as worn by Wealdstone at home to Thurrock, January 2004.

Best food at any ground: The All-Day Diner at Edgware (smelled nice, anyway)

Favourite Slater? I'd better say Roger.

Next game you're likely to see? Quite fancy a romantic trip down the Thames on January 31st...

PS: As far as we know, Michelle wasn't at the Maidenhead game in the next round. Unless she was (heavily) disguised as Russell Grant

sudhir rawal continued

Harrow Show.

The SC was responsible for raising tens of thousands of pounds and increasing the profile of the club when we had nothing to sell. As the years moved on, to Edgware and Northwood, the SC evolved again. Less profile-building, and raising money has become harder still – but they have still fought at times a very lonely battle against apathy.

Fewer people are willing to volunteer for positions on the committee, which makes life very difficult for those left to assist the main club at a time when money was dwindling away. There's no doubt that money raised by supporters and the supporters' club have kept the main club alive during the wilderness years.

I started writing this article with a view of seeing how the SC should change in the modern world, but as I have written it is obvious to see how it has evolved with the changing times over the years.



A few familiar faces.. Wembley 1985

Whilst the board continues to be one populated by supporters and not outsiders, then the relationship between the main club and the SC will continue to be close. If and when outsiders come onto the main board – and ultimately for us to progress that needs to happen – the SC will need to become more independent and maybe more radical to scrutinise the main club, its board and be the voice of the supporters.

That time is not now, though. We should celebrate how lucky this club has been to have such a strong, vibrant, and independent (when needed) supporters' club that has never shirked its responsibilities.

Up the Stones! Sudhir

Blimey, that was a bit dull. Remind us never to ask Sudhir to contribute again. Can't believe anybody ever read that Elmslie Ender...

celebrity corner

No14: BILLY MEADOWS

1970s striker who played in Hereford's legendary FA Cup win over Newcastle

Billy Meadows? He played for Barnet too didn't he? What's the Stones connection?

Well, I got in a cab at Stanmore station the other night and within 60 seconds the driver had told me he'd played for Hereford in that game...

He must have recognised you as an anorak

No, no, I'd barely spoken to him

...And this cabbie was Billy Meadows then?

Yes, he seemed to think everybody would remember him. But I must have been the only one in a 10-mile radius who would have known

And the Stones connection is...?

I asked him if he'd ever played for us

And he said?

He said, and I quote: "Well if I did, I wouldn't be able to dine out on THAT story".

He's right, you know. That was barely worth printing. How many more left in this dreadful series? Just one? Thank God for that

all our yesterdays.. outside the social club, late 1970s



Bert Wakefield, WFCSC Chairman (third from left) is flanked by a young Nick DuGard and Dave Heath before one of the first sponsored walks around Harrow, circa late Seventies. Far right is Supporters Club doyen Barbara Robson.

Continued over page ➔

paul rumens

If the current TV series was set in 1972 it would have been called "Ziggy Stardust" not "Life on Mars", as 1972 was the year I became a true blue with my dad taking me to my first Wealdstone game v Kingstonian in the Suburban League... yes, a reserve game!

My initial recollections of the supporters club were not just about Toby's programme and merchandising hut, the well-run tea bar with seriously out of date Kit Kats! or Barbara sorting out the coach travel....

It ran a lot deeper in my early years, with the supporters club striking a chord with most outside the then committee/board as here always appeared a blanket of near-silence about what was going on at our beloved club.

As the years passed, and with the introduction of more clandestine dealings of the parent club, dissatisfaction amongst many fans became more the norm and it was no surprise the fanzines came along with the

groundbreaking "Long Ball Down the Middle" and the "Elmslie Ender".

The Supporters club was the unofficial mouthpiece of the fans because for too long there was distrust (and rightly so) of the main board and a complete lack of transparency in its actions - culminating in the disastrous sale of Lower Mead.

During my tenure as chairman from 1993 (whilst the club was still in administration!) through to 2002, if I achieved nothing more in my time, it was to bring unity and transparency back to our mighty club.

We, today, are what is left of the old legacy, we are NOT a "Supporters Trust" but we have the supporters' trust as we are today all in this together. And with a new home in Ruislip, there is a lot to look forward to.

The chairman of our club, Howard Kraiss, and the chairman of our supporters club, David Albert, would both agree that despite the odds we remain Wealdstone FC - not AFC Wealdstone - and there is a lot to be proud of about that.... **Paul Rumens**



Paul and his coffee table. Arthur Negus would be interested. What's that Arthur? "I can see an inscription underneath, 'Property of Wealdstone Football Club'"

ron moore

We thought that many of you here tonight would be interested in this harming letter from long-standing fan Ron Moore...

"As an avid supporter of Wealdstone FC since the age of 15 years (1948) and a life member of the supporters club, I would love

to be with you on the 4th of May for the 'Anniversary Dinner'.

However, over the last couple of years or so my dear wife has not enjoyed the best of health and this has made it increasingly difficult for me to leave her too long on her own and is the major factor in my

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celebrity corner No15: ARTHUR NEGUS

Octogenarian star of the Antiques Roadshow, now sadly departed
Arthur Negus? Isn't he the one now replaced by that teak-stained buffoon?

Ray Corner?

No, David Dickinson. Anyway, what's the Wealdstone connection?

Well, apparently he lived in Cheltenham and was spotted in a pub down there in the days we used to travel and play those big clubs

What was he doing? Admiring the finely-turned Edwardian legs of the landlady?

He was actually... at least, a young lady he passed off as his niece. But then he did come over and chat to a few Stones fans wearing their scarves, and revealed that he used to live in Pinner

Plenty of antiques there... Jason Shaw for one

And I hear an archaeological dig turned up Fred's old boots

ron moore continued

dwindling attendance at matches.

When we moved to Bexhill-On-Sea in December 2001 I knew then even before my wife's problems flared up, I would have to be more selective in the games I attended. While the club was at Edgware, I fulfilled my commitment on the P.A before passing over to Peter Baptiste.

Do I miss the week to week involvement? I would be less than honest if I said 'No' but I have come to terms with it, and I can look back on sixty years of following the club all over the country

covering thousand of miles in good company with Ron Davies, Dan Helen, John Burrows, Jack Wilkinson, Gordon Howland, and Val Shearer - all now deceased, of course.

In more recent years until my move to Bexhill I have travelled in the company of Tony and Peter Drew.

Since the 1949-50 season I have maintained a record of all of Wealdstone matches and still do today. Alan Couch sends me the 'Home' match day programmes and Peter Drew gives me the match details after every game that I do not attend (over the phone).

Sixty years invokes a lot of memories, good ones and those not so good. Two visits to Wembley, both successful, in 1966 The Amateur Cup and 1985 the FA Trophy, but the icing on the cake for me was seeing all of England's matches in the World Cup in '66 including the final.

Because I do not have records for 1948/49, I do not remember what my first match in that season was, I do recall however being there at Lower Mead on the occasion of the Amateur cup replay against Leytonstone (the holders). Following the 0-0 score at Leytonstone the previous week, over 13,000 packed Lower Mead - however Wealdstone were out-classed this time and were beaten 4-0, so yes that was my very first memory from that season.

Between 1949-1952 I was playing youth football on a Saturday so my support was limited in those early years. Three years in the airforce 1952 - 1955 again restricted my support but at every opportunity I would hitch hike home and get to a game. It was after those early years that my regular support accelerated and more so by the early 60s when I got my first car.

When I look back over the seasons certain games stand out in the memory more than others, I also recall doing crazy things like coming off a night shift at 7 am on a Saturday, a quick freshen up then drive up the A1 to South Shields for an Amateur Cup replay (we lost 2-1) before driving home and back in time for a Saturday night shift at 11 pm... Shattered!

As all the supporters know, that support gets in your blood and you do anything to be there supporting your team, win, lose or draw...

I have had some wonderful times in the company of many good friends and supporters and those memories remain with me.

With just two home games to go, I was hoping to make one or both because I have not attended any home games at all this season. I hope the anniversary dinner is a success and all your hard work is wellrewarded.

I do appreciate what is involved because when I was club secretary of my Sunday football club Belmont Seniors (for 30 years) I was in the forefront in arranging dinners and other social events. A lot of work and time involved. So good luck for the evening.

As I cannot attend I would like to make a contribution, please find enclosed cheque for £40 which would be the cost of my ticket.

Can I ask please if you could get me one of the specials badges when available.

Thank you
Yours sincerely
Ron Moore



become a life member!

Why not become a life member of the Supporters Club? Life membership costs £25.00 and a form can be downloaded from the website. Once you become a Life member, you will receive a certificate and your name will appear permanently in the life members section of the Supporters Club website. A life membership would make a great birthday present for any Stones supporter!

join this merry crew..

David Albert	Graham Jones
Jez Albert	Brian Kelly
John Argent	Ray Kemp
D. Balderstone	Sateesh Khanna
James Bartrick	Howard Kraiss
Michael Bennett	Martin Lacey
Barry Benveniste	Andrew Lane
Norman Bunker	Shaun Lawson
Colin Bunner	Darren Linden
Steve Charlton	Sacha Loban
Graham Clark	Steve Marshall
Ray Corner	Robert Matthews
Alan Couch	M McDonald
Roy Couch	Ron Moore
Lee Cross	Barry O'Sullivan
Don Cross	Rob Oke
Trevor Davies	Patrick Murphy
Kenneth Davis	Dave Parish
John Dignum	Layne Patterson
Terry Dollman	Alan Phair
Tony Drew	Sarin Rawal
Peter Drew	Sudhir Rawal
Nick Dugard	Martin Read
Bob Dugard	Paul Ryan
David Edwards	Andy Salisbury
Stephen Edwards	Rob Saville
Kevin Facer	David Seaward
John Fairman	Roger Slater
Tony Farmborough	Dan Smart
Mick Fishman	Gary Smith
Christine Fletcher	Terry Stern
Mark Fowler	Keith Stonestreet
Quentin Fox	Nick Symmons
Paul Fruin	Mat Tarrant
James Goodman	Matteo Tonna
Miriam Goodman	Duncan Towell
Bob Hall	Pete Tymon
Kevin Harding	Mick Vincent
Rob Harries	Tony Waller
Jonathan Harris	Mrs Joan Waller
P Harvey	Ken Wiggins
Steve Hibberd	Graham Wild
Alan Hill	Robin J Williams
Adam Hills	Nick Woolford
Terry Hissey	Peter Worby
Steve Humphreys	Steve Wright
Toby Jackson	
James Johnson	

jock law trophy

wealdstone fc supporters club player of the year

The Jock Law Trophy is a cup presented to the Wealdstone player who has received the highest number of votes in a ballot by members of the Supporters Club.

It is awarded to the player considered to have consistently shown good form throughout the season, and was first awarded in the 1969-70 season when goalkeeper Andy Williams was the inaugural winner. The trophy is named after Tom "Jock" Law

who was one of the founding members of the Supporters Club.

He was the first chairman, holding the office from 1958 to 1966 and gave many years of sterling service to the Supporters Club and the main football club.

Looking through the list of winners, you'll spot some notable winners including, of course, tonight's special guest Stuart Pearce who was just 18 when he was presented with the trophy by Jock Law's widow Cynthia.

past winners

- 1969-70: Andy Williams (goalkeeper)
- 1970-71: Charlie Townsend (England amateur international midfielder)
- 1971-72: John Barr (goalkeeper)
- 1972-73: Terry Dyson (ex-Spurs winger)
- 1973-74: John Henderson (winger)
- 1974-75: John Morton (goalkeeper)
- 1975-76: Bobby Moss (midfielder)
- 1976-77: John Watson (England non-League international captain, and midfielder)
- 1977-78: Fred Barwick (midfielder)
- 1978-79: Ian Cranstone (goalkeeper)
- 1979-80: Stuart Pearce (later England international captain, and midfielder)
- 1980-81: Fred Barwick (again!)
- 1981-82: Paul Bowgett (centre-back)
- 1982-83: Mark Graves (striker)
- 1983-84: Bob Iles (ex-Chelsea goalkeeper)
- 1984-85: Alan Cordice (England non-League international striker)
- 1985-86: Robin Wainwright (midfielder)
- 1986-87: Steve Tapley (defender)
- 1987-88: Tony Lynch (striker)
- 1988-89: Paul Morris (centre-back)
- 1989-90: John Margerrison (midfielder)
- 1990-91: Tony Kelly (striker)
- 1991-92: Neil Cordice (midfielder/striker)
- 1992-93: Rob Tenkorang (goalkeeper)
- 1993-94: Dermot Drummy (midfielder)
- 1994-95: Tim Buzaglio (striker)
- 1995-96: Chris Walton (midfielder)
- 1996-97: Roy Marshall (centre-back)
- 1997-98: Brian Jones (midfielder/striker)
- 1998-99: Dominic Sterling (midfield/defender)
- 1999-00: Paul McKay (midfielder)
- 2000-01: Paul Lamb (midfielder)
- 2001-02: Andy Carter (goalkeeper)
- 2002-03: Mick Swaysland (striker)
- 2003-04: Richard Jolly (striker)
- 2004-05: Dave Ryan (centre-back)
- 2005-06: Jermaine Beckford (striker, now with Leeds United)
- 2006-07: Chris O'Leary (midfield)
- 2007-08: ???



Shy teenager alert! A fresh-faced Stuart Pearce shows off the Jock Law trophy in April 1980 after becoming the youngest-ever winner. His record still stands today

meet the committee..

DAVID ALBERT - CHAIRMAN & WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR

Date of Birth: 05/03/1963 - First started supporting the Stones in 1974. Joined the committee in 1987 and became Chairman in July 2007. Works in Maidenhead, as a Business Development Manager for a travel company specialising in handling overseas groups travelling to the U.K. Married to Essie with two children, Daniella, aged 14 and Benji, aged 11.

NICK DUGARD - PRESIDENT

Date of Birth: I'm so old I have forgotten - Like many others, Nick 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. Has had numerous roles at the club over the last 30 odd years both on the Supporters Club Committee and main Club Board, including Vice-Chairman. Resigned from the Board a couple of years ago due to total fatigue and an impending nervous breakdown but took the tablets long enough to be persuaded to come back onto the Supporter's committee as serving President. Occasionally finds time to do some work in the City of London.

SARIN RAWAL - TREASURER

Date of Birth: 30/09/1970. First starting watching Wealdstone consistently in the 1981/82 season. However, I think my earliest match was around the mid 70's. My first memory was George Duck shooting at goal and it was going wide. My brother moved out of the way but left me behind to get hit! I was a ball boy for a few seasons and then worked in the tea bars at Lower Mead as well as helping out in the Supporters' Club shop. I was proud to hold the office of Chairman for a couple of years but stepped down this season due to not being able to give the role the sufficient attention it deserves. Married to Iluma and have a daughter called Sofia. I work in London.

MIRIAM GOODMAN

Date of Birth: A lady should never divulge her age (but I have got a free travel card) - Started watching the Stones in April/May 1971 - at the last amateur home match. Been hooked ever since. Used only to go to home matches and the occasional away cup match such as Leatherhead, Hereford, Reading, Swindon, Aldershot, QPR and Wembley. Nowadays rarely misses a match either home or away. Can

be easily spotted at home matches wearing her bright yellow steward's jacket. Works in a local private health centre, is married to long-suffering Neil and has two children, James, who now lives in Belfast, and Jo who has a 1 year old son. James and Jo were the mascots at the very last league match to be played at Lower Mead - perhaps grandson Ryan will be the first mascot at PEPP!

ADAM HILLS

Date of Birth: 19/12/1984. First watched a Stones match in April 2001 - a 2-1 defeat to Bishop's Stortford on a Tuesday night (a game in which Danny Tilbury scored a screamer). Came back two days later to see another league game, a 4-1 win over Bromley in which Carl Holmes scored a hat-trick. As most people probably know, I was a supporter of rivals Harrow Borough - at the time as my nan lived in Carlyon Avenue and I spent most weekends there. Favourite Stones game would either be the play-off final with Dulwich - although that was the most stressful game of football ever - or the 3-2 win over Thurrock in the Trophy which was a magical night purely for the atmosphere created. A lot of bigger clubs would kill for a support like we had that night.

JEREMY ALBERT

Date of Birth: 29/05/1968. have been watching Wealdstone for 30 years, my first match was against Harrow Boro at Earlsmead in the FA Trophy in 1978, we lost 3-0! I joined the supporters club committee in 2002. My highlight was the win at Wembley against Boston in the FA Trophy, a truly wonderful day. Lowest point was leaving Lower Mead, a very sad day and still miss the buzz that Lower Mead gave me as a youngster.

JOHN HARVEY

Date of Birth: 13/07/1948. I started watching the Stones in 1982 when I got married and bought a house in Wealdstone. I had never heard of them before that although Fred Callaghan was Brentford manager for a while bringing non league players like Francis Joseph and Terry Hurlock with him. Slowly weaned off Brentford over the following years. 1985 was a significant year with the FA Trophy and Associate Members finals within a couple of weeks. I am now completely dedicated to Wealdstone because life is not long enough to sort out more than one clubs problems.

