



CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE  
MAINTAINING THE PAST

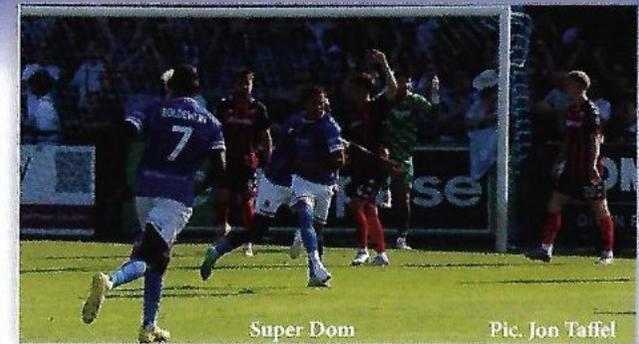
gpfl Lewis<sup>plc</sup>

gpfl Lewis.co.uk

written  
in stone



BY MARK HYDE



Super Domes

Pic. Jon Taffel

Saturday August 16th 2025  
V FC Halifax Town

**Welcome back to Grosvenor Vale for our second home game of the new National League.**

A warm welcome to the Halifax supporters who have taken the journey down from West Yorkshire to be with us today. Many of you will be aware that today's fixture was originally scheduled to take place at the Shay but overrunning pitch works mean that it will take place here at the Vale.

As I reflect on last Saturday's season opening win against Truro, there are so many positives that deserve recognition besides the three points.

The crowd of 1,572 including the 170 away fans was an incredible figure for a time of year when crowds are generally a little lower due to holidays. To put this figure into context, a bit of digging amongst our stat loving staff here at Programme Towers believe it to be our biggest opening day home crowd since 1968, when around 500 St. Albans fans contributed to an overall figure of 1,900 at Lower Mead.

The second positive I heard commented on several times over the course of the day was the large number of families enjoying the Stones in the sunshine and many proudly wearing the club's colours. The last point is proof in my eyes of the incurable progress made by the club since its move to the Ruislip area. We are truly an important part of the local community and things will continue to

get even better.

Another milestone in the club's journey was made last week when the new Wealdstone Women's side played their first game, a pre season friendly at home to Lakeside University from the USA. Manager Saj Vigneswaran was delighted with the performance and the team showed real character to come back from 2-0 down to grab a deserved 2-2 draw. Expect more coverage in the programme as the women progress in their first season.

Stuck record time now, we really do need volunteers around the ground or within the Supporters Club. Any free time given is truly appreciated and is very rewarding.

Again there is plenty of Match Sponsorship, Ball Donations and Players Kit Sponsorships all waiting for you or a group of friends to commit.

Mark

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# WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2025/2026

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1951 / 1952 Athenian League  
1973 / 1974 Southern League Division One South  
1981 / 1982 Southern League Southern Division  
1981 / 1982 Southern League Championship  
1984 / 1985 National League Premier (Gola League)  
1996 / 1997 Isthmian League Division Three  
2013 / 2014 Isthmian League Premier Division  
2019 / 2020 National League South

## NATIONAL CUPS

1965 / 1966 FA Amateur Cup  
1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

## LEAGUE CUPS

1961 / 1982 Southern League Cup

## MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

1958 / 1959 Senior Cup  
1962 / 1963 Senior Cup  
1964 / 1965 Senior Cup  
1967 / 1968 Senior Cup  
1984 / 1985 Senior Cup  
2003 / 2004 Charity Cup  
2010 / 2011 Charity Cup

## NON TITLE-WINNING PROMOTIONS

1997 / 1998 Isthmian League Division 2 (3rd)  
1998 / 1999 Isthmian League Division 1 (3rd,annulled)  
2003 / 2004 Isthmian League Premier Division

The legal name of Wealdstone Football Club is Wealdstone Football Club (2000) Ltd (Registered Number 03953962). Shares in excess of 10% are held by Peter Marsden Property Finance Ltd & Wealdstone FC Supporters Club

## GROUND REGULATIONS

People are only allowed entry to The Vale on match days subject to the following rules and regulations:

- 1) The club reserves the right to eject from the ground any person who is considered to have committed any of the following acts:
  - Entering the ground through any means other than through the turnstiles or entrances
  - Entering the field of play before, during or after a game without prior authorisation
  - Being drunk, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs • Using violence of any nature
  - Carrying items which may be considered a danger to others, including cans, bottles, or glasses containing alcoholic beverages
  - Throwing any article onto the field of play • Climbing floodlight pylons, fences, stands or any structure or building
  - Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others • Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulla stand
- 2) No spectator ball games.
- 3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.
- 4) Vehicles parked on the Grosvenor Vale site are at the owners' risk.
- 5) Wealdstone Football Club supports the FA's campaign on pyrotechnics (e.g. flares and smoke bombs). Any misuse of such items in and around the Ground will result in those responsible being asked to leave the ground and, in line with football authority guidance, may result in a report to the Police, potential prosecution and a ban from the Club of up to three years.
- 6) No Smoking or Vaping inside the ground.

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**WELCOME back to the Vale which will become a familiar greeting this month as we face four successive home Saturday games!**

I was absolutely delighted with the three points on opening day against Truro - the first win, the first clean sheet, and all in front of a packed-out Vale.

The anticipation of the first game, following on from a pre-season in which we've worked on philosophy and methodology... to put that into practice in the first league game is not easy, in what is typically a cagey affair.

We had just over 50% possession, probably not as much as we'd anticipated but it was pleasing to see the set pieces and small tweaks pay off.

We went with inverted wingers, Micah Obiero and Anthony Georgiou flipping inside ... having watched Truro's previous games and seen how their full backs jump onto the wingers and be aggressive, we thought that we'd have pocket players, rolling inside and making overlaps to hopefully give us good outcomes. The patterns came out that we'd worked on on Thursday.

I thought Sean Adarkwa was fantastic - his hold-up up play and bringing others in was remarkable. He is still not 100% fit but he showed he'll be a real problem for any side in this division. Now it's just about keeping him fit and keeping him strong - he's not just about scoring goals, his work rate and endeavour are second to none. So it was a really good

# Gaffer's column

SAM COX

win and in front of a crowd that I've heard is the biggest for an opening-day Wealdstone game for over 60 years. That just goes to show that the club is heading in the right direction on and off the pitch.

The crowd was fantastic and it was good to hear such good support for me and the team. Dom Hutchinson, when he came on, was direct and excellent, pressing with a purpose... Dom works his socks off in every game and he's a great lad

off the pitch, always giving 100% and doing exactly what is asked of him. It was the right substitution at the right time.

The Wolves game posed different challenges in and out of possession and gave us chance to look at those players who didn't get minutes at the weekend and who are fighting for a shirt.

The National League Cup excites me - now that we have decent numbers in our squad - to rest players and top up players' minutes.

We know Halifax is going to be a really difficult challenge today, especially with them wanting to bounce back from their opening day defeat to Braintree .... they have a really good coach in Adam Lakeland and he'll have been preparing them well for today. They've made some really good recruitment and at any club it takes time for new players to gel, to bond - but we will be fully prepared and we'll be on guard.

**Be the 12th man again and UTS!**

**After all that prep it was great to see the patterns and systems we set up pay off so well**

good coach in Adam Lakeland and he'll have been preparing them well for today. They've made some really good recruitment and at any club it takes time for new players to gel, to bond - but we will be fully prepared and we'll be on guard.

# Taking it to the

M<sub>3</sub> A<sub>1</sub> X<sub>8</sub>

By Max Kretzschmar

**It's unusual to start with so many home games.. so let's get the Vale rocking!**

**IT'S BEEN a little while since my last column, but I'm happy to be back and speaking to you all again.**

With the excitement and tension from the final day of the season in April a mere distant memory, the reset button has been well and truly clicked with a new manager, a new squad and a new dynamic around the training ground.

The gaffer has been a breath of fresh air. With his unwavering positivity and passion for football, it's very difficult for it to not rub off on you. One thing I've immediately noticed is the professionalism and the high level of coaching that he and his team possess.

He's been coaching at Tottenham Hotspur for many years and it's clear he knows how a high-level outfit should operate on and off the pitch. For example, the team and I are in the gym after every session we do on the pitch. Despite that being tough and tiring, I'm already seeing the benefits of the strength sessions we are doing, both in my teammates and myself.

I also thought the pre-season fixtures were well constructed. We played a variety of teams both above and below us in the footballing pyramid. This provided us with multiple different problems, formations and individual duels to deal with over this bedding in period. The squad has a different look this year and it's great to see Sean back - and it feels great to be linking up with him once more.

I'm especially excited about how strong our mid-field looks. With Omar, Dylan, Micah, Nathan and myself in the mix, we've got a great blend of energy, strength, and quality. We've also got more players coming into the fold, which will only

make us stronger as the season goes on. We've also got a lot of height across the team now, which means we can really look to exploit set pieces if we put the hours in on the training ground.

Half the battle is attacking the ball with aggression and intent. The other half is just as crucial: the quality of the delivery. Having played long enough at his level and in League Two, I know how important set pieces are and they can really help you both pick up unexpected points and cement wins during the season, a la Truro last weekend.

The 2-0 win over the Cornish side was really pleasing for a few different reasons. On Thursday in training we looked at how aggressively they pressed and as a newly-promoted team, Truro were always going to be full of energy and enthusiasm - and I think we struggled a little bit early on to play through them. But with Sean now back fit, we are a multi-faceted team and can, at times, go over the opposition's press into our strikers' feet.

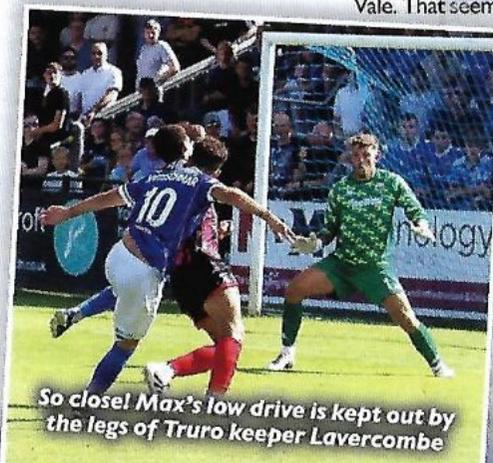
In my experience in the National League, it is vital that you have the ability to win football matches in different ways. Hopefully we can continue to be adaptable and have the nous to find solutions to different problems we face on the pitch.

One big factor for us early on will be our home form. Out of our first eight games, six are here at the Vale. That seems unusual but it gives us a

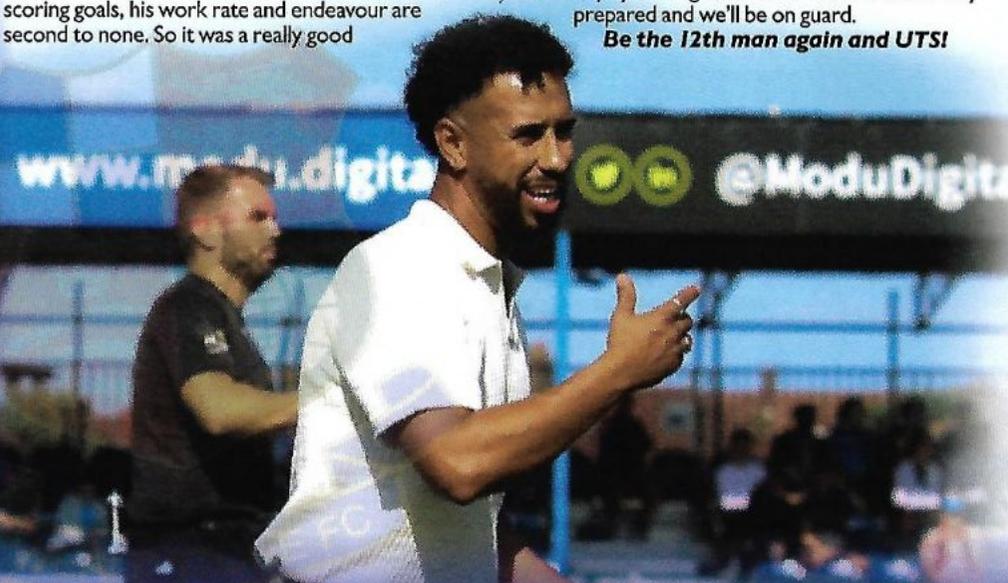
real chance to build a platform for a good start if we make our home advantage count. It's so important that you the supporters are right there behind us cheering us on and making it uncomfortable for opposing teams. With that being said, let's build from our opening day win and get this place rocking! **Come on you Stones!**



Pics: ION TAFTEL



So close! Max's low drive is kept out by the legs of Truro Keeper Lavercombe





# INTRODUCING WEALDSTONE WOMEN

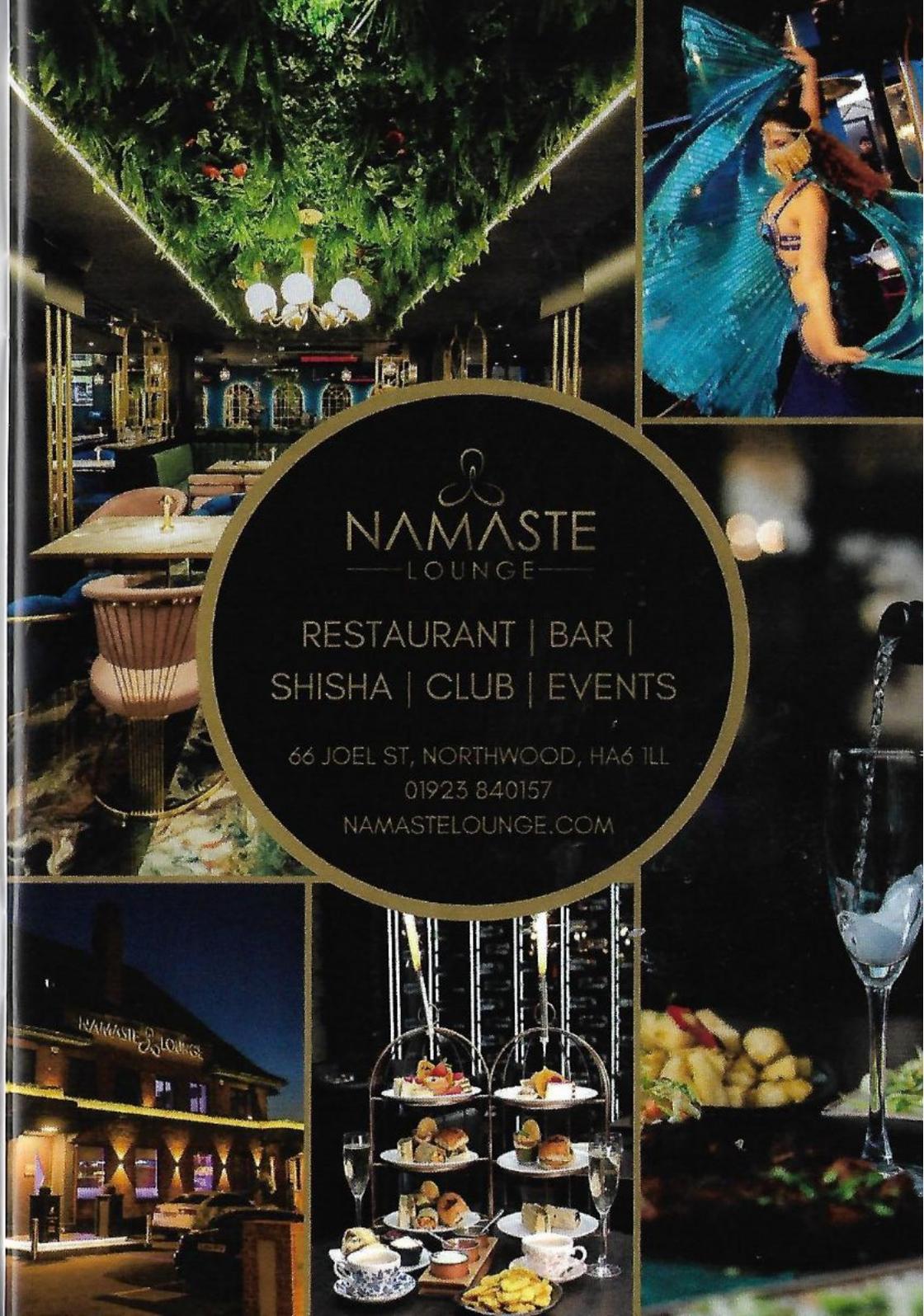
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Continuing our feature from last week's Truro City prog, the Stones' Chief Operations Officer Richard Hopwood reveals more of the day-to-day running of the football club...

**AS A National League club we attend the Met Police Football**

**Unit annual conference which this year took place at Selhurst Park back in June.**

From an organisational perspective it's informative as the police talk through the latest trends and problem areas in football. We are shown some of the worst behaviour from fans over the previous season, mainly at the larger London clubs, but what is clear from the data is that as it's becoming more difficult for fans to misbehave at the larger clubs - it seems troublesome fans are drifting to smaller clubs where there is more opportunity to get up to mischief.

Drugs in football stadiums, discriminatory behaviour and violence against women and girls are all a real focus for the police at the moment and we will support them on these matters as much as we can. As a club we have zero tolerance to any form of discriminatory behaviour, and to support this you will see new signs up around the Vale which includes details of how to report such behaviour to the club.

**NL Academy status a real boost**  
AS BRIEFLY mentioned last week, the Wealdstone academy has been granted National League Academy Status this summer. This is recognition that all aspects of the academy are the best they can be outside of the EFL.

At the start of the process, we were told that it can take between five and 10 years to get an academy into a shape where it starts consistently to develop professional players... so to achieve the National League Status in under three years is a real credit to those involved. The National League Academy status also means we will take part in the National League Academy Premier Division, playing against the best academies outside of the EFL which will aid both player development and the recruitment of talent into the academy. Under the direc-

## chief operations officer update



BY RICHARD HOPWOOD



tion of Dale Welch - who heads up the academy programme at Brunel - we are also forging closer links with the Wealdstone Youth teams. With the support of Dale, Wealdstone Youth have launched an u18s Floodlit team playing in the Southern Counties league as together we look to improve the pathway from the Youth teams into the main Academy.

As the academy continues to grow, Dale is also in charge of the Development Centre which offers promising 15 and 16-year-olds interested in joining the academy in future years access to quality academy coaching at an earlier stage, as well as allowing the recruitment team to invite trialists in on a regular basis.

### Good luck to Gabi and Saj

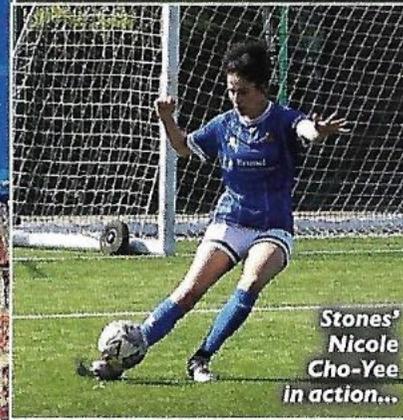
IN THE SUMMER we announced the launch of the Wealdstone FC Womens team, the appointment of Gabi Racut as Head of Womens Football and Saj Vigneswaran as the Womens manager (both pictured below right, opposite page).

After a couple of trial sessions, the squad is coming together nicely and Gabi will be giving her own updates as to how the season is developing. Last Saturday the team drew their first pre-season friendly, 2-2, against a strong touring Lakeland University team from the USA and it was a fine display as Stones came back from 0-2 down. Many of the girls dashed back to watch the Truro game

# With the advent of a women's team and all the youth sides, there's football almost every day of the week!



Wealdstone Women line up before their friendly with Lakeland University last week



Stones' Nicole Cho-Yee in action...



...While Gabi Racut torments the USA visitors' defence

at the Vale! You can follow the ups and down of our first women's football season on Instagram at [wealdstonefcwomen](#).

### Friday is the only day of rest!

ALL THIS MEANS there's a heavy schedule of football across the club once the season gets underway, with National League on Saturday, Wealdstone Women on Sunday, the Under-23s playing in the National youth league on Monday, National League on Tuesday nights, the Under-19 National League Academy teams and Brunel University teams on Wednesday... and the Under-18s Floodlit league on Thursday.

So nowadays there's barely a day in the week when a Wealdstone team isn't either playing or training!

### Wealdstone Foundation

YOU'LL SEE in other pages in this programme that the Wealdstone Foundation continues to grow its activities in the local community, having appointed former player Eric Negraru as the day-to-day lead for the Foundation over the summer. Work continues with Hillingdon council at the successful Summer HAF camps which provide sport and food to local kids who then gain from the obvious health benefits

of participating in sport. Look out for Eric's regular updates in the programme.

### How the club fights rising costs

INFLATION has become a significant issue this year on the general day-to-day running of the football club. As a simple example, the recent increases in National Insurance and a 40% increase in water bills will cost the club an extra £15k over the season.

Therefore, as well as looking to raise new revenues we constantly review our supplier partnerships to try and improve value - or simply reduce costs.

As examples we have extended our partnership with TicketCo, our ticketing provider, for a further two years and changed our card machine supplier at the football club both at significantly improved rates, whilst Andersons Travel (who provide the professional coach travel to away games) have agreed to a significant sponsorship package as part of their commercial arrangement.

You also can't miss the refurbishment going on in the Vale Club at the moment, required as a result of flooding late last year.

We hope once it's finished you like it and it encourages you to use the facility either pre- or post-match. The income generated in the club contributes

directly to the budget Sam has available to spend so there's no easier way to support the club than using it on matchday.  
**Up the Stones!**



©Elmslie Ender was among the first wave of football club magazines when it replaced 'Long Ball Down the Middle' as the Wealdstone fanzine in the mid-1980s. LBDM's forerunner 'Wealdstone Whispers' was famously the THE very first football fanzine in Britain when it was published in 1971

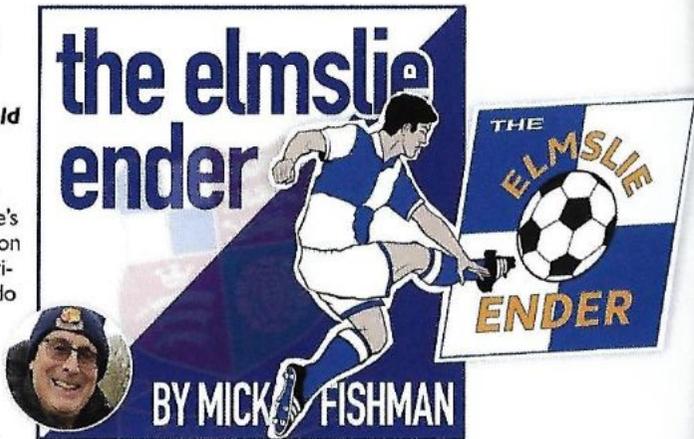
**S**O here we are, just one game into our 6th straight season of dining at non-league football's top table, something about which we should all be very proud.

We all know that, realistically, we don't have the resources to genuinely compete at this level. While the league's big beasts regularly gorge themselves on venison, jugged hare and the finest caviar, we must feed off scraps and make do with potato peelings and potage.

But as a club we have something about us that allows us to believe we can compete and survive.

Personally, I found last season anything but enjoyable. The injuries and illness became a constant theme over the entire season but that was just a part of the story. Under Matt Taylor the team too often turned victories into draws and draws into defeats. The record of 5 wins, 11 draws and 9 defeats at the point of Matt's departure requires no deeper examination.

But it wasn't just the results that wore me down. I rarely, no never, looked forward to a match in the reasonable expectation of a comfortable victory. Not once. Apart from a small number of spankings (most notably at home by York, Barnet, and Yeovil) every game was tense and close. It was knife-edge stuff from minute one. Unless you are the league's whipping boys you would expect a few matches to be played out, particularly at home, in which you win comfortably by 2 or 3 goals, if not by more. We only really looked comfortable in the final home match against Halifax. Watching Wealdstone, particularly during Matt's time was, in my view, hard work.



Neil and Lee came in and to be fair changed the dynamic. Wins and defeats became greater and draws fewer, which gave us the opportunity to avoid relegation by the skin of our teeth. The Gibson/Jones period was more enjoyable, but in the words of the late Paul Daniels, not a lot.

Given the agonies of last season and the reality of our playing resources, I find myself looking forward to the new campaign surprisingly chipper. I'm trying to think why. First and foremost, we stayed up. The outpouring of joy and relief following the Halifax game was incredibly uplifting.

Second, I like Sam Cox. I warmed very much to Neil and Lee. For the short time with us they embedded themselves within the club and embraced its history, traditions and ambitions. They conducted themselves with openness, candidness and good humour. It is unfortunate that the club and Neil and Lee felt unable to make the relationship work, but

that's football. All involved had to move on; and by appointing Coxy the club has engaged a man who knows and understands the club to its very core but is to all intents and purpose a novice manager. I have spoken to Coxy both when he was a player and more recently when he was placed in temporary charge the season before last. I found him to be enthusiastic, bubbly, engaging and a thoroughly nice bloke.

Of course, being a nice, decent chap does not automatically result in being a good manager. Given the choice of a decent bloke who struggles to keep us up and an ill-tem-

pered, unlovable misanthrope who comfortably keeps us up, I would choose the latter every time. But being agreeable and a good manager are not mutually exclusive. Gordon Bartlett managed to be both for 22 seasons.

Third, this season seems like another fresh start. There is no doubt we have lost some excellent players during the close season, but we needed to move on. It is a fact of footballing life that playing squads require periodic surgery to avoid staleness creeping in and provide a re-set. Old farts of my vintage will often suggest that players have no loyalty nowadays, unlike years gone by, particularly in the amateur days. Absolute tosh. My first matches at Lower Mead were at the tail end of the 1962/63 season. By the time we lifted the Amateur Cup just three seasons' later, only three players from my inaugural season remained at the club. Just two seasons later, in 1967/68, the team that reached the FA Amateur Cup semi-final also only retained three of the successful Cup winning side. No great signs of loyalty there.

Finally, we have signed a new lease keeping us at The Vale. That's a huge weight off the shoulders of the Board and supporters. We know there is much going on behind the scenes to attract new and significant investment for running the club and to finalise an agreement with a partner to build the prospective new ground in Hillingdon. Once those announcements have been made everything will then be in place to ensure (as best you can within the vagaries of football) the future security of the club. From the moment we moved into Grosvenor Vale the club has been on an upward trajectory. Now playing in the top division of non-league football and in front of average crowds larger than at any time since the late 1960s, the foundations for further success are largely in place.

But...but...but. You look at the signings most other NL clubs have made and your heart sinks. We are once again fishing in a totally different pond for players. Two weeks ago, I was struggling to see how we might survive. Not enough players to field a starting eleven and fill a bench and too few of the required standard.

That is no longer the case. We have two good keepers. Central defence looks like the Manhattan

Team	HP %	AP %	Diff	HP %	AP %	Diff	HP %	AP %	Diff	Total
Southport United	70.59	29.41	-41.18	59.16	40.50	-18.20	57.80	42.20	-15.60	74.9
Wealdstone	60.00	40.00	-20.00	64.29	35.71	-28.57	62.28	37.74	-24.53	73.1
Norecamba	72.70	27.30	-45.40	56.80	43.20	-13.60	61.10	38.90	-22.20	69.2
Eastleigh	70.15	29.85	-40.30	50.85	49.15	-1.60	61.00	39.00	-22.20	64.0
Braintree Town	60.80	39.20	-21.60	55.60	44.40	-11.20	62.50	37.50	-25.00	57.0
Altrincham	62.50	37.50	-25.00	59.74	40.26	-19.48	54.69	45.31	-9.38	53.86
Hartlepool United	58.10	41.90	-16.20	60.00	40.00	-20.00	58.33	41.67	-16.67	52.87
Brackley Town	66.70	33.30	-33.40	57.60	42.40	-15.20	50.00	50.00	0.00	48.60
Yeovil Town	65.00	35.00	-30.00	56.60	43.40	-13.60	50.00	50.00	0.00	43.60
Sumner United	65.50	34.50	-31.00	57.10	42.90	-14.20	48.33	51.67	-3.33	41.87
Forest Green Rovers	63.00	37.00	-26.00	49.20	50.80	-9.60	62.65	37.35	-25.30	41.70
Aldershot Town	45.28	54.72	-9.43	62.32	37.68	-24.64	63.16	36.84	-26.32	41.52
Bosson United	60.70	39.30	-21.40	57.30	42.70	-14.80	50.91	49.09	-1.82	37.82
Southland United	57.97	42.03	-15.94	56.00	44.00	-12.00	54.41	45.59	-8.62	36.77
Rochdale	52.60	47.40	-5.20	56.45	43.55	-12.90	58.11	41.89	-16.22	34.32
Woking	48.78	51.22	-2.44	62.73	37.27	-25.45	65.92	34.08	-31.03	34.03
Tarnworth	51.70	48.30	-3.40	54.20	45.80	-8.40	50.38	49.63	-0.75	30.55
Boreham Wood	48.61	51.39	-2.78	57.69	42.31	-15.38	57.00	43.00	-14.00	26.61
Truro City	56.20	43.80	-12.40	52.70	47.30	-5.40	47.00	53.00	-6.00	22.80
York City	54.30	45.70	-8.60	50.94	49.06	-1.88	54.17	45.83	-8.33	20.62
Gateshead	50.00	50.00	0.00	54.67	45.33	-9.33	55.22	44.78	-10.45	19.78
Carlisle United	53.90	46.10	-7.80	50.00	50.00	0.00	54.80	45.20	-9.60	17.40
Halifax Town	63.93	36.07	-27.87	47.89	52.11	-4.73	43.71	56.29	-12.57	15.07
Spillhull Meors	58.62	41.38	-17.24	47.37	52.63	-5.26	50.00	50.00	0.00	11.98

Some stats that show how important it is to pick up the occasional point on the road. We are second in the table in the differential between home and away points over the last three years... in 2023 we won 40% of our points away (60% at home) while last season that had shrunk to 38%. Halifax won more away than at home!

skyline with Cookie, Deon Woodman, Moussa Diarra and Phillip Chinedu. Wing backs Junior Tiensia and Enzo are top quality along with Anthony Georgiou and Dom Hutchinson. Omar Mussa, Dylan Kadji,

Nathan Tshikuna and Max Kretzschmar in centre midfield have a blend of pace, physicality and purpose that has at times been missing in the past.

Goalscoring still looks problematic, but with youngsters Nathan Young-Coombes and Daniel Nkrumah in the mix with Sean Adarkwa and Micah Obiero, up front looks more interesting. You also have waiting in the wings Connor McAvoy who, if fit, is a terrific signing as well as Christian Scott and Marcus Day. Numerically and in quality this is looking like a competitive squad, and a week on from my writing this, we may have another player or two through the door.

So, is my enthusiasm misplaced? Will Coxy have produced a team based around positive, pacey, attacking football that can win enough games to allow us to survive comfortably and, as a bonus, have either an FA Cup or Trophy run... or will it be a team porous at the back, running through treacle in midfield and up front believing placing the ball in the opposition's net is rank bad form and to be avoided at all costs? I guess the answer is that we won't know until several weeks down the line, but I'm feeling quite chipper. Yes, I am - quite chipper.

**Note: The forthright views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the football club. This very fact alone is testament to the inclusive, fans-owned nature of WFC**

**We have good, powerful players in all areas... and a central defence that looks like the Manhattan skyline**



Stats graphic courtesy of Adam Hills

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# the stones interview

## It's Junior Tiensia

**I THINK we have found a real gem in Junior Tiensia, and the 24-year-old left wing-back came up with a term that I've never heard before in my many years of interviewing footballers.**

Junior describes it as 'Football IQ' and it's a knowledge that is absolutely crucial, across the whole pitch... knowing when and where to challenge, when to carry the ball or pass at the pivotal moment.

Football IQ. How I wish more players had it!

Anyway, straight into the questions....

**Whereabouts were you born and brought up,**

**Junior?** I was born in Bingerville, Cote D'Ivoire. I moved to England in 2006, living then in south west London, in a area now known as Nine Elms. I lived with my brothers, sisters, mum and dad. There was a lot of us and even to this day I have very fond memories of living there.

As soon as I arrived I played football, not yet knowing a word of English, and only speaking French. That's what helped me connect with people. Having a football-crazy family pushed me into the direction of football, and I am forever grateful. We later moved to south east London.

**Do you have any relatives who have played the game, to any level?** None of my relatives played professionally, I was the first to get into an academy. But my family where there for me, especially in my younger years, with my older brother Stephane and sister Flavia taking it in turns to drop me to training or to games if my mum or dad couldn't.

**Did the move from Solihull to Barrow come out of the blue?** My move to Barrow from Solihull was something that had been in the pipeline for a couple of years. A hamstring injury prevented it at first, but off the backend of successful spells at Gloucester City and Solihull, I got the opportunity to sign for

Junior looked unbeatable against Charlton in pre-season  
Picture: Mike RENNYY

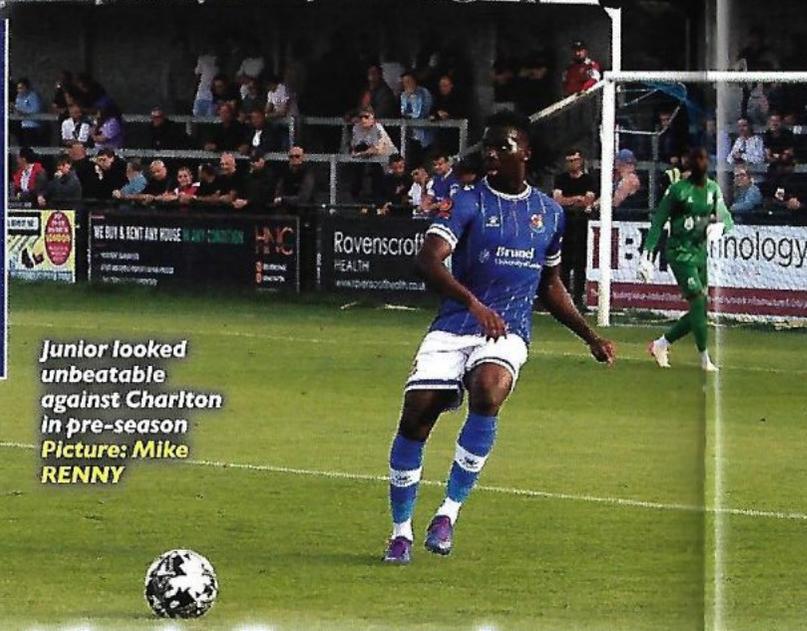
## 'I get the feeling people are doubting us, but I think this year we may surprise a few'

Barrow in League 2. I look back at my time there as a learning curve. I started off like a house on fire but injury struck again at MK Dons away, which derailed my season. New managers came in with different ideas and players, and I feel like that was my first real experience in men's football, battling for a spot and staying headstrong, even when I was being picked.

**Was Millwall your first club?** Yes, I joined at the age of 7 and rose through the ranks. I trained with the first team from time to time and had the chance to join them on trips away. I made the bench for them but I never made my professional debut.

**Do you support a football team? Either now or as a kid?** I am a Chelsea fan through and through - they were my team from very young and I still support them now. I actually got to play at Stamford Bridge against them last season, in the Carabao Cup, and even though we got beat 5-0, I felt blessed to play in such a world-renowned stadium.

**Who has been the most important figure in your football career so far?** There are many people who got me to where I am now. From



Junior in action for Barrow v Sutton



Christopher Nkunku celebrates his hat-trick in the Chelsea v Barrow Cup tie, in front of the travelling fans

Michael Hamilton, Anthony Gale, Andy Massey, Chris Perry, Larry McAvo, Kevin Nugent, Paul Robinson at Millwall to Paul Doswell at Havant and Waterlooville, Steve King at Dartford and Gloucester City, Andy Hessenthaler at my Dover loan spell; the list can literally go on and on. Even the team I have behind me (currently Femi Moriba and Max Hassell) every single one of these people have shaped me to be the player I am today. And I know I'm forgetting a lot more but those are the people who invested in me, no matter the situation or circumstance.

**Did you know very much about Wealdstone and its rich history?** I can't say I know about the long history

of Wealdstone but I am someone who buys into the club he is at and I'll learn as much as I can about the club, whether through research or community engagement.

**Have you always played primarily as a defender, back to your youth team days?** In my younger days, I was a tricky winger with an eye for goal.

Then I remember one Sunday at U-14 level, our left back was ill and didn't turn up for the game and Andy Massey told me I was going to play left back. I started sulking but I had a good game there - and scored 2 goals from left back - and that's been my position ever since. But as of recently though, I've



been a left wing back. I'm at the stage now where I think I am just a footballer: there are positions where I can get the best out of myself of course but I'm just trying to be as adaptable as I can to help the team. So whatever is needed, I can do it.

**What are your main strengths?** I think my strengths are my football IQ, my pace, strength and power. I've got it in me to beat a man through skill or pure speed. I think that's what caught the interest of the Gaffer and the guys upstairs to sign me. They knew what they were getting.

**Does Sam Cox envisage you as more of an attacking threat?** Me and the Gaffer have had talks and will continue to do so, but I know what he wants from me. He is very clear and precise about what he wants: I've got two goal involvements in the first three games and long may it continue.

**Did you know any of the Stones players before signing?** I knew a few of the players beforehand but not on a personal level. I came up playing against Dom Hutch and Dante Baptiste in academy football and I believe I played against Enzo when he was at Sutton. Apart from that I didn't really know anyone.

**What is your favourite restaurant and fave meal?** I love my Caribbean food, and although it's nice to dress up and go out for a fancy meal, you will find my favourite spots in south London. Just by West Norwood station is place called 'Tickle Me' and they do the best Caribbean food for me. My go-to meal is oxtail, peppered steak, rice and peas with some mixed salad.

**What's the best holiday you've been on? In terms of holidays?** It has to be Crete and Bali with my partner and daughter. It was our first time away as a family and we made some unbelievable memories.

**What's playing on your airpod at the moment?** The song I've been listening to the most is *Linked In* by FinesseKid.

**What's your feeling about the club and the squad that Sam is assembling at the moment?** I can't speak for past seasons, but currently there's a good feel around the club. There's no ego, just men who want to do the best for the fans, themselves and bring joy to the community. I understand there's a lot of people doubting Wealdstone as a club, but I think this year we are ready to surprise a few people.

I'm at a stage where I personally feel a lot of people have doubted me. And I feel like that's where Wealdstone are as a club. People don't expect much. But I'm here for the opportunity to prove to myself and others why I deserve to be a starter. Everyone's got their own ambitions. I know what mine is in the long run but for now, I'm just focused on enjoying playing football again and getting results.

By Tim Parks





Mountbatten View, recently completed in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire



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# stones fan in the stand

Terry  
Bagshaw

WHILE every Fan In The Stand compile is a delight, today's is a real 'blast from the past' as Terry accosted me at the recent Charlton friendly and said: "Do you remember me?" I'd not seen him for nearly 40 years since we were regulars on the supporters coaches and yet, remarkably, I recognised him. This is his story....

**Your name and age?** I'm Terry Bagshaw and I'm 67.  
**Whereabouts do you live, Terry?** I live in Totton which is between Southampton and the edge of the New Forest. But I'm originally from South Harrow.

**When was the first Stones game you saw?** My first-ever Stones game was also the first ever football match I attended and it couldn't really have been a better one. My dad Alf worked in Patsy Ray's book-makers opposite South Harrow station and had several customers with connections to the club - and he was given two tickets to the 1966 Amateur Cup Final which I went to with my older brother Laurie, and saw Stones beat Hendon 3-1. Got to admit, I haven't many memories of the game itself but it was the launch pad for my support of the Stones.

**What were your first impressions of the club?** Due to my Dad's job, I was initially only able to get to Tuesday evening games at Lower Mead but can recall some great encounters - particularly London Challenge Cup games against the likes of Arsenal and Millwall. Once I started at Salvatorian College in 1969 my mum and dad let me start to go to games on my own which was when I really became a Stones fanatic. I

Terry is pictured at the Charlton friendly a few weeks ago... still instantly recognisable!

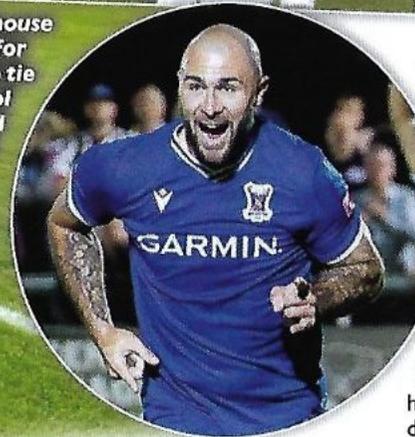
## 'My 'new' club AFC Totton won the play-offs last season... and it was a double celebration that night as Stones also beat Halifax to stay up'

particularly enjoyed the epic Isthmian League tussles with Enfield and Wycombe, and remember my first ever trip on the supporters club coach. Destination was Kingsbury in the Middlesex Senior Cup (1970 I think) at a cost of three shillings (15 pence!)

From then I caught the bug for 'away travel' and became a regular on the coach through the 70s to the early 80's with people like Martyn Faint, Dave Heath and Tim Parks. Our journey into the Southern League was exciting and the team we assembled was hugely entertaining. George Duck was obviously my favourite player but every member of the team was a hero to me. The FA Trophy game against Hastings United - when George scored a hat-trick of penalties - was a standout. Moving on a decade or so 1985 was very special of course but it also marked the end of an



A packed house at Totton for the FA Cup tie with Bristol Rovers and (right) last season's play-off final hero Charlie Austin



era for me as I married my wonderful wife Denise and moved away from the area to Crawley.

Trips back to Lower Mead and then Vicarage Road, Yeading, Edgware, Northwood and Ruislip became rarer year by year but I've always tried my best to make at least one visit per season.

**Do you follow any other team?** I've always loved non League football and have been a keen follower of AFC Totton since moving to the area in 1989. My interest in the club resulted in me becoming a committee member for a number of years. I took on the role of Press Officer which involved me compiling home match reports for the Non League Paper and Daily Echo amongst various other duties, and I held this role during the Stags' epic run to the FA Cup second round in 2011 when we hosted Bristol Rovers, a game televised live by ITV.

The three weeks or so between hammering Bradford Park Avenue 8-1 in the first round and the Rovers game were an absolute whirlwind. My phone never stopped due to the number of requests from the media for player interviews and club information - I imagine that this was exactly the same for the Stones prior to the Wycombe game last season. I even had to meet up with Clive Tyldesley, the assigned ITV commentator, a couple of times in the

days prior to the game to provide a run down on the club and our squad members. (Fun fact: *Mustapha Carayol was among the goalscorers as Rovers won 6-1*) Since those eventful times Totton have had a fair few ups and downs but a new era approaches as we start next season with our debut in National League South. This was achieved via the play-offs, having finished second in the Southern League Premier South division, and the playoff semi final against Dorchester was the craziest match I have attended in my life.

Heading into eleven minutes of added time the Stags' were 2-0 down but amazingly hit back with goals in the 1st, 8th and 11th minutes of additional time. However, a further three minutes were then added due to the goal celebrations and Dorchester made it 3-3 in the 14th added minute. Into extra time we went and with penalties looming Charlie Austin fired home the winner with a minute left! We triumphed 1-0 in the final against Gloucester City but I have to admit that my attention was somewhat distracted by certain goings on the same day at Grosvenor Vale and Solihull! I had a double celebration in the Totton clubhouse that night.

**Are you looking forward to the new season?** Enormously! I'll be going to the majority of away games in the National League South and am looking forward to visiting a number of clubs that I have done previously with Wealdstone back in the day - for example Dover, Maidstone, Chelmsford although many have moved to new grounds.

**How does the AFC Totton programme compare to the Stones publication?** Being of a certain age I'm still a fan of match day programmes in the printed form and usually get one at away games. I've always felt that to judge how good a club's programme is you need to read two or three editions to see how much the content actually changes. This is really where the Wealdstone programme excels. It's always been one of the best and you can tell that it's a real labour of love. Well done to all involved.

**And finally, where do you think the Stones and AFC Totton will be in five years?** Whenever I visit the Stones it's always good to see some familiar faces as this gives me reassurance that the club is still in good hands. At the same time I know that in the many years since I've been a regular a lot of new and younger faces have become involved and this has been great to see (big up to those that do the Stonescast by the way - a great watch).

As a lover of non league football I must admit that I've no real ambition to see either Wealdstone or AFC Totton reach the football league. I'd much rather see them both achieve as much as they can within the realms of non league, and that they both remain clubs which their local communities can be really proud of.

By Tim Parks

# Crowds on the up and up!

BY TIM PARKS



Dave Swain (white shorts) troubles the Saints defence in front of the big opening day crowd at Lower Mead

**ONE of the genuine joys of being a long-time Stones fan is to look back and compare just how good - and how rubbish - our club has been in the past.**

This is my 56th season of following Wealdstone and it was intriguing to look back through the record books this past week when the question arose: When did we last match, on opening day, the 1,400 home fans (not including 170 travelling fans) who turned up for the Truro City game last Saturday?

August attendances are traditionally suppressed by holiday activities and undoubtedly the late start of the Premier League season helped lure 1,572 along to the Vale. But surely it can't have been that long since we had a home crowd of over 1,500 for the big kick-off?

Well in fact we had 1,805 for the York City opening game two years ago, but 680 of that crowd had travelled down from Yorkshire. So about 1,100 Stones fans... not bad, but not enough.

Beyond that you have to time-travel way back through the National League South and Ryman Prem days (around 5-600) and even our glory, non-League Double-winning days (when opening day gates were only 700 or 800) and it's not until you hit the 1970s that the crowds come anywhere close.

Our first game after promotion to the Southern League Prem in August 1975, and the attraction of the powerful Weymouth side, drew 1,300 to Lower Mead which is starting to trouble the statisticians. I

doubt though there were more than 200 in the ground from Dorset, so probably 1,100 home fans... which would have been a disappointment as the Stones were watched by close to 3,000 for the closing games of the title-winning 1973-74 season.

In fact 1,700 turned up at Lower Mead on the Tuesday night following the Weymouth game to see Southern League champions Dartford walloped 4-1 by Eddie Presland's rampant Stones. If this had been the opening game it would have taken the crowd accolades as probably only 200 travelled up from Kent meaning 1,500 Wealdstone fans were present.

But to keep it within the 'opening day' parameters, you have to go back to **August 10 1968** when 1,900 filed through the Lower Mead turnstiles for the game with St Albans City.

This was a high-octane Isthmian League clash, back in the amateur days, and I'd estimate that no more than 300 had made the trip down the road from Hertfordshire which would have the home crowd at around 1,600, to eclipse the 1,400

present for the Truro game.

Stones won a fiery clash 3-2 on the way to a fifth-placed finish in the amateur game's top division behind Enfield, Hitchin Town, Wycombe Wanderers and Sutton United. Saints finished seventh.

Research is not helped by the lack of crowd numbers for pretty much all of the club's career in the Isthmian League, and it's quite possible that clubs did not publicise attendances for fear of the taxman. The only published crowd between Wealdstone joining the League in 1964 (promotion from the Athenian League) and that 1968 game v St Albans was on the Stones' very first game in that division: Saturday August 22, 1964, when 2,000 paid to watch us beat Tooting & Mitcham United 2-1 at Lower Mead.

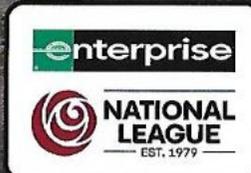
## To beat the Truro crowd you have to time-travel back 58 years!

**Charlie Townsend (out of picture) hammers in the winning goal for Stones v Tooting in August 1964. Brian Bennett is the Tooting defender, later a board member at Wealdstone**



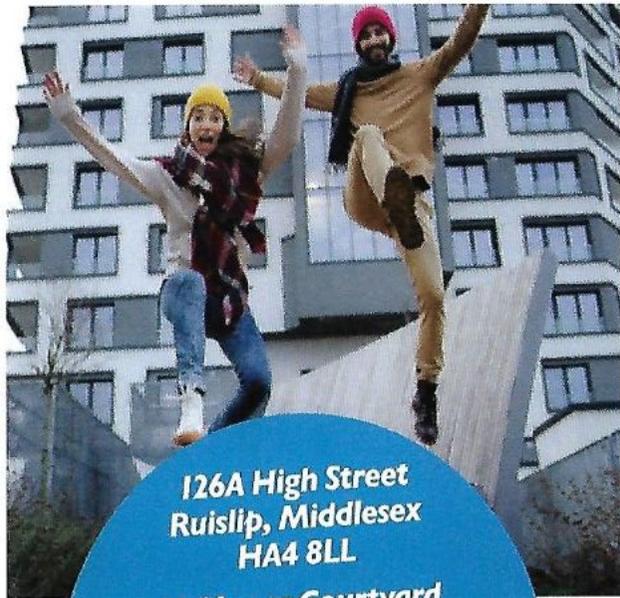
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FC HALIFAX TOWN SATURDAY

16th AUGUST 2025

## SUPPORTERS CLUB UPDATE

BY PETER WORBY

*Welcome to this afternoon's match everybody.*

The fact that we are playing FC Halifax Town today brings back memories of the last time we played them which was of course our last match of the season back on 5th May 2025. Everyone present that I've spoken to has told me what an exciting brilliant afternoon it was. The 5th of May was actually my wife's 65th Birthday and we had booked a cruise holiday which started that very day. This meant that I spent that afternoon on a cruise ship in Tilbury Port, sitting in a bar, with my phone following Solihull Moors twitter feed and Pauline's phone following Dagenham & Redbridge twitter. When everything finally finished I felt physically drained so I can only guess at what those present at Grosvenor Vale were like. Having followed The Stones for just shy of 60 years and having watched in excess of 2,500 matches to say that I was galled to have missed the match is putting it lightly.

Whilst it's nice to welcome everyone associated with Halifax to our ground it is a disappointment to me that we are playing here today. Originally, as you all probably know, today's match was scheduled to be an away game for us up at Halifax. I have no idea whether it was Halifax or The National League who made a mistake (there are pitch works at their place which means they cannot currently stage home matches) but the fact remains that some of our supporters, upon hearing the fixtures, booked train tickets and, in some cases, accommodation. As, so often happens with fixtures, the supporters are the last people to be considered. This is the case with Carlisle Utd fans who, I imagine, were unimpressed to learn of our home match with them being shifted to a 5.30pm kick off as it's being televised.

Speaking of the Carlisle Utd match, that very day coincides with a music gig (Luther Vandross tribute) that James Klarfeld is organising in the clubhouse as a Supporters Club fundraiser. I can assure you that there have been many, many calls and messages between numerous people as we debated and considered whether we could still proceed or whether we would have to cancel the event. I'm



pleased to say that we have managed to overcome a number of hurdles and the gig takes place despite the Carlisle match being moved to 5.30pm with TV cameras/DAZN present. Our ticket sales have been going very well but there may well be a handful left by the time you read this and if you want tickets then please call James on 07979795414.

Last week, primarily due to holidays, The Supporters Club were very short of bodies to help with our regular 50/50 matchday fundraiser which is a source of income to us (and ultimately the main club). I'd like to thank Ginge, Thorpe Park Mark, Bappo, and Ian Salisbury who all kindly responded to my SOS call for help. Everybody has probably read either here in the programme, or on The Fans Forum, or StonesCast or on social media of our pleas for help which, on the whole, fall on deaf ears. Back in April and May we staged 7 (yes, SEVEN) Fanzones. These Fanzones raised in excess of £26,000 for The Supporters Club and additionally generated huge bar-takes for The Social Club as well. It was VERY hard work, more so because so many us are no longer as young as we used to be. Most of us are the wrong side of 60!!! There will come a point where, unless some new blood steps forward, we will be unable to continue with all that we would like to do.

Here's one final idea for any of our younger fans reading this. There have, in the past, been a number of very successful sponsored walks, the most famous being the Walk to Fisher. Those walks were organised by supporters who were relative youngsters. How great would it be, if say 2 or 3 of you (or even more) decided to organise another walk?? The Supporters Club committee would certainly help you to make such an event a success.

Anyway, enough of my rambling. Enjoy the match. Up The Stones.

PETER

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# 1st Team Results 2025/2026

1	Dante BAPTISTE	1
2	Jack COOK	2
3	Anthony GEORGIU	3
4	Omar MUSSA	4
5	Dean WOODMAN	5
6	Mason BARRETT	6
7	Enzio BOLDEWIJN	7
8	Dylan KADJI	8
9		9
10	Max KRETZSCHMAR	10
11	Sak HASSAN	11
12		12
13	Endurance JOHNSON	13
14	Micah OBIERO	14
15	Phillip CHINEDU	15
16	Moussa DIARRA	16
17	Dom HUTCHINSON	17
18	Christian SCOTT	18
19	Daniel NKUMAH	19
20	Nathan TSHIKUNA	20
21	Jeffrey SEKYE	21
22	Connor MCAVOY	22
23		23
24	Nathan YOUNG-COOMBES	24
25		25
26	Marcus DAY	26
27	Sean ADARKWA	27
28	Lucas CAVAGNARI	28
29	Junior TIENSA	29
30		30

### KEY

- P Yellow card
- P Red card
- P Starter
- P 1st player off
- P 2nd player off
- P 3rd player off
- P 4th player off
- P 5th player off
- P Substitute
- P 1st player on
- P 2nd player on
- P 3rd player on
- P 4th player on
- P 5th player on

Comp | Score | Crowd | (Away) | Lge | Goal scorers

AUGUST	9	TRURO CITY	ENL	2-0	1,572	170	6	Bouldewijn, Hutchinson
	12	WOLVERHAMPTON WAND.	NLC					
	16	FC HALIFAX TOWN	ENL					
	19	Woking	ENL					
	23	CARLISLE UNITED	ENL					
SEPTEMBER	25	Boston United	ENL					
	30	ROCHDALE	ENL					
	2	SOUTHEND UNITED	ENL					
	6	Scunthorpe United	ENL					
	13	GATESHEAD	ENL					
OCTOBER	16	LEICESTER CITY	NLC					
	20	Morecambe	ENL					
	24	Tamworth	ENL					
	27	EASTLEIGH	ENL					
	1	Brackley Town	ENL					
NOVEMBER	4	ALTRINCHAM	ENL					
	11	York City	ENL					
	18	FA Cup 4th Qualifying	FAC4Q					
	21	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	NLC					
	25	SUTTON UNITED	ENL					
DECEMBER	1	FA Cup 1st Round Proper	FAC1					
	4	Yeovil Town	ENL					
	8	BRAINTREE TOWN	ENL					
	15	Hartlepool United	ENL					
	22	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	ENL					
JANUARY	25	WEST BROMWICH ALBION	NLC					
	29	Solihull Moors	ENL					
	6	Truro City	ENL					
	13	FA Trophy 3rd Round	FAT3					
	20	FC Halifax town	ENL					
FEBRUARY	26	BOREHAM WOOD	ENL					
	30	Aldershot Town	ENL					
	3	Carlisle United	ENL					
	17	WOKING	ENL					
	21	TAMWORTH	ENL					
MARCH	24	Gateshead	ENL					
	31	MORECAMBE	ENL					
	7	Eastleigh	ENL					
	10	Altrincham	ENL					
	14	YORK CITY	ENL					
APRIL	21	Sutton United	ENL					
	24	BRACKLEY TOWN	ENL					
	28	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	ENL					
	7	Braintree Town	ENL					
	14	SOLIHULL MOORS	ENL					
21	Forest Green Rovers	ENL						
25	YEOVIL TOWN	ENL						
28	BOSTON UNITED	ENL						
3	Boreham Wood	ENL						
6	ALDERSHOT TOWN	ENL						
11	Rochdale	ENL						
18	SCUNTHORPE UNITED	ENL						
25	Southend United	ENL						



Pictures from our opening day win here against newly-promoted Truro City courtesy of @RonnieRaffle

### PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

12th July	Northwood	A	4-1	Trialist, Trialist, Kadji, Trialist	(Att: 330)
19th July	MK Dons	H	2-0	Tiensa, Georgiou	(Att: 325)
23rd July	Charlton Athletic	H	0-3		(Att: 675)
26th July	St. Albans City	A	0-1		(Att: TBA)
29th July	QPR Under 21s	H	6-2	Adarkwa (4), Trialist, Other Trialist	(Att: 615)
2nd August	Slough Town	H	2-1	Woodman, Tshikuna	(Att: 410)

Date in Red = MIDWEEK fixture

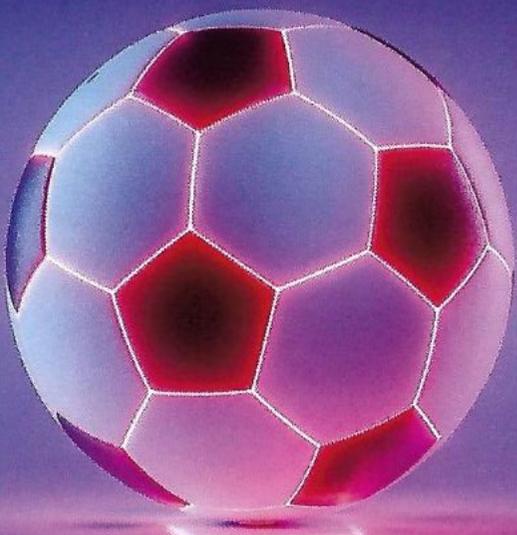
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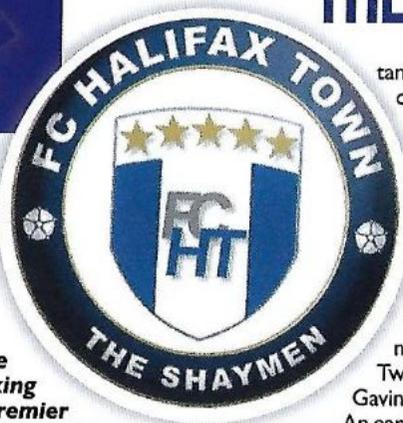


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opposition  
in focus

# ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW FC HALIFAX TOWN THE 'SHAYMEN'

**Following the demise of Halifax Town AFC at the end of the 2007-2008 season, a new Club was born and re-formed just in time for the 2008-2009 season. The new Football Club was placed in Level Four of the Non-League pyramid, taking a place in the Northern Premier League Unibond North One and it was called FC Halifax Town.**



Time was short and the new Club was faced with appointing a new Manager and bringing a team together from scratch in only five weeks.

Jim Vince, a coach in the Crewe Alexandra Football Academy working closely with Crewe Manager Dario Grady and a former Manager of Witton Albion in the Unibond Premier Division, achieving two consecutive second places in the previous two seasons, was appointed.

Pre-season friendlies were hastily arranged and the first ever game by the Club was played at Tamworth, when 22 trialists made appearances for the Club, trying to catch the eye of the new Manager.

The first ever official game for FC Halifax Town was a home game against Bamber Bridge at the Shay Stadium. For the Halifax fans, it was an emotionally charged game; as they were so relieved to see their beloved 'Shaymen' play a real game of football again, after all the heartache of previous years.

Over 1,500 fans attended the game, watching a team that barely knew one another. Perhaps with a possible sign of things to come, the Club went in at half-time 0-0, but ended up losing the game 3-0. Not the best of starts!

Disappointingly, the team had a mediocre first season and for whatever reason, Jim Vince struggled to get things going with any real conviction on the pitch, culminating in a far from satisfactory 8th place, even missing out on a Play-Off place. A new Club and striving for stability and continuity, reluc-

tantly the Board had to make a change, with Jim Vince leaving the position prior to the end of the season and player, Nigel Jemson taking the club though to the end of the season.

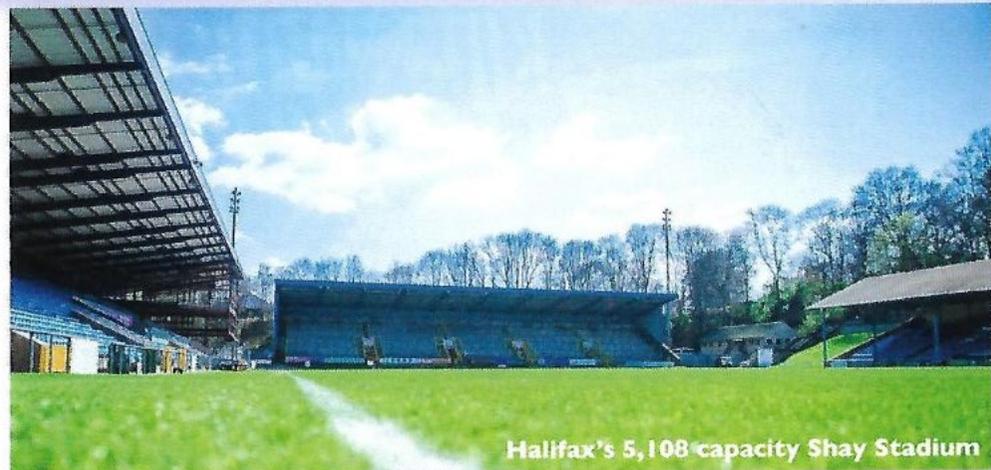
Players who have gone on to play at a higher level include from that season include, Junior Brown in League Two at Fleetwood Town, Colin Daniel a loanee who is now playing in League Two also with Mansfield Town and Gavin Rothery at Guiseley.

An early appointment was made for the 2009-2010 season, with Neil Aspin joining from Conference North side, Harrogate Town.

Despite dropping two divisions, he was confident of a bright future for the Football Club and was ready for the challenge of moving the club further up the pyramid. A mixture of new recruits, players known to him and some already involved with the Club from the previous season, he set about trying to establish a successful team. As we all know, achieving promotion from any division is a huge challenge and the early pace setters were Lancaster City, scoring goals for fun with striker Jordan Conneron hitting a rich vein of form, gaining him a move to Crewe Alexandra and seemingly winning games, no matter what.

At one stage in the second half of the season, they held a twelve-point lead over the Shaymen, although Halifax had lost a lot of games through postponement due to the weather.

Fighting their way through the backlog, the ultimate period in the second season and the moment at which Halifax moved into pole position in the league was an eventful three match period spread over six days in the final third of the season. The first game was Garforth away on a Thursday night, two minutes to go the Shaymen were losing 3-1. A goal for the Shaymen pulled it back to 3-2. The referee announces four extra minutes and in the 91st minute another goal made it 3-3. Everyone was delighted, equalising so late and hopefully securing an unlikely point out from the game. What drama was to follow. With the last kick of the game, Richard Marshall thirty yards away from goal, produced an exquisite



Halifax's 5,108 capacity Shay Stadium

job to beat the keeper for a 4-3 win. Despite Lancaster winning on the same night, they were told the Shaymen had lost, so what a shock when they got back on their coach, only to find Halifax had won so late in the game. A real night of drama!

Our next home game on the Saturday? You guessed, Lancaster City at home at the Shay Stadium. In front of over three thousand fans, the afternoon was electric, and Halifax won the game comfortably, 4 nil and taking over the leadership of the division. The following Monday evening was a tough away game at Curzon Ashton who were also in the play-off places and Halifax recorded a stunning 5 nil away win. From then on, momentum carried the team to its first promotion as Champions, with 100 points and over 100 goals.

A step up to the newly sponsored EvoStik Premier division. With some more astute signings and the average age of the team being reduced, Halifax tried to emulate the previous season.

Again, the Club achieved promotion and the Championship, with five games to spare, missing the 100 points by just two and again scoring over 100 goals. As in the previous season, the Club just missed out on the 1st Round proper of the FA Cup, losing to Wrexham in 2009-10 to a 97th pile-driver and 2010-11 to a 1 nil defeat against Mansfield Town.

A nice recognition for the Club was goalkeeper Jonathan Hedge being called in to the England 'C' squad as he had also been chosen in the previous season. The only blot on a wonderful season was the emotional loss of Neil's assistant Trevor Storton, who sadly died after a long battle with cancer. He was with the team nearly all the way, passing away just before our promotion was secured. Promotion was a fitting tribute to a wonderful man.

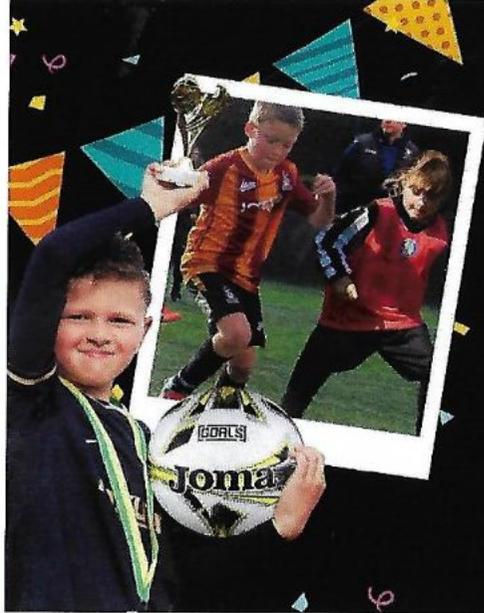
So, 2011-2012 saw the arrival in the Football Conference and the Blue Square Bet North division. Another tough challenge made all the harder

with the departure of star striker Jamie Vardy, after only four games of the new season. Jamie moved to then Conference Premier, Fleetwood Town and soon to be Champions, making their way into the Football League for the first time in their history. Jamie shortly made a second move to Championship Club, Leicester City, becoming the first £1m non-league player. Despite that set-back on the pitch, the Shaymen battled their way to a play-off position, to meet Gainsborough Trinity. In the away first leg, a disastrous start being two nil down in the first twenty minutes and seeing very little of the ball. Two Lee Gregory goals, one just before half time and one midway through the second half brought the Shaymen back into the tie for the second leg. In front of over three thousand fans in the second leg, Town could not turn their superiority in to goals and lost to a set piece, one nil.

The season was also highlighted by finally achieving the FA Cup First Round Proper and what a draw. League One leaders Charlton Athletic who were to go up as Champions and the game also being chosen for national live TV broadcast. Managing to stay in the game one nil until the 80th minute was very creditable, but once Danny Lowe was harshly sent-off, the team eventually lost 4 nil. Nevertheless, what a great day and profile for the Club.

Understanding the league, a little more, Neil Aspin brought in one or two fresh faces for the 2012-2013 campaign and said 'goodbye' to some good players, who had helped the Club progress so much.

This season was the hardest for the Club since reformation, only due to the number of match cancellations, both home and away for a variety of reasons, but mainly the incredible amount of rain. The fixture backlog and numerous re-arrangements took their toll and Halifax would have to do well, playing so many games a week to secure a play-off spot.



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# ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FC HALIFAX TOWN CONTINUED...

This they did in fifth place and faced a local derby against Guiseley in the semis, who were in the play-offs for the third consecutive season. Chester FC had walked away with the Championship. After a 1 all draw at the Shay Stadium, Halifax managed a two-nil deserved win away at Nethermoor, with Gregory and Johnson getting the goals. So, to the

Final and a long trip to Brackley, who in their first season has done tremendously well and it was going to be a difficult tie. In a tight game perhaps dominated by the Shaymen, Lee Gregory scored the only goal of the game to send the fans in to raptures and earn a place in the Conference Premier division, for the first time in their history. A great achievement in five years with three promotions, but everyone involved with the Club knew this would be a tough campaign and despite that, everyone was up for the challenge and looked forward to welcoming everyone to Halifax and the Shay Stadium.

The following season FC Halifax Town finished 5th in the Skrill Premier and the play-offs beckoned again, this time with the chance of a Wembley final and promotion to the Football League. However, despite a 1-0 home win over Cambridge United at the Shay, a 2-0 defeat at the Abbey Stadium saw Cambridge head to Wembley.

Neil Aspin promised several changes over the summer, which he duly delivered. However, just a few games into the season, Aspin departed the Club having been in charge for over 300 games. Aspin's departure would kickstart the managerial merry-go-round that was to come in the next few years.

Gareth McClelland, Darren Kelly, and Jim Harvey all had spells in charge during the 2015/16 season. The season was to be one of mixed emotions as Town were relegated from the National League. A terrible start to the season was then met by a revival under Harvey but the damage was already done.

Despite the relegation, The Shaymen made it to Wembley for the first time in their history. FC Halifax Town beat Nantwich Town 6-4 on aggregate to reach the final of the FA Trophy. Grimsby Town were the opponents that day and an early second half goal from Scott McManus was enough to give the Town fans their dream day out in the capital as The Shaymen lifted the FA Trophy.

The 2016/17 season saw another manager in charge as Billy Heath took over the coaching duties and was able to guide Town straight back to the National League. Town had finished 3rd in the

National League North and were promoted after winning the playoff final against Chorley.

Heath's second season in charge did not get off to a good start as Town languished near the bottom of the league. Eventually, the decision was made to part ways with Billy Heath and Neil Young was given the role of caretaker manager until Jamie Fullarton, was instated on a permanent basis.

Fullarton managed to save The Shaymen from relegation in 2017/18 as they ended up finishing 16th.

In the 2018/19 season, Town had one of the highest clean sheet records but struggled for goals and finished in mid table. However, Jamie Fullarton decided to leave the Club in mid-July and former Oldham boss Pete Wild took charge for the 2019/20 season.

Wild guided The Shaymen to a 6th placed finish after 37 matches - due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the season was cut short in late-March. Halifax played the final televised National League game that season - a 1-0 loss to Ebbsfleet, this would be Town's last game up until the league made the decision to go ahead with the play-offs.

This resulted in Town playing Boreham Wood away in the National League Play-Off eliminator in July - four months after the season ended abruptly. The Shaymen unfortunately lost the match, after going 1-0 up through Tobi Sho-Silva, the Wood came back to win 2-1.

The 2020/21 season began with inconsistency for FC Halifax Town but they had an outside chance of the play offs on the final day of the season at home to Chesterfield in front of their own fans but unfortunately lost 2-1 and the play off dream was over. The club finished 10th.

Pete Wild left Halifax at the end of the 2021/22 season, becoming manager of EFL League Two Barrow. Wild's assistant, Chris Millington, was promoted to the manager's hot seat for the 2022-23 season.

In his time as manager his side have reached the National League play-offs as well as winning the FA Trophy for a second time. Jamie Cooke scored the only goal at Wembley to give the Shaymen a 1-0 victory over Gateshead.

Following a 6th place finish in the 2024/25 season the shaymen missed out on play off progression by lose 4-0 away to eventual play off winners Oldham Athletic.

Chris Millington left the club following the conclusion of the 2024/25 season and has been replaced as manager by former Kings Lynn Town boss Adam Lakeland for the coming campaign.

## Wealdstone Foundation news

BY ERIC NEGRARU



Girl power: Kids at the summer camp



**OUR kids' summer football camps have been a great success with over 50 participants a day including lots of girls, reflecting the England Women's Euro 2025 success!**

Located at both Grosvenor Vale and Brunel University sites, the kids have been enjoying coaching from UEFA B qualified coaches and first team Wealdstone players, while also receiving guidance on other activities and healthy eating advice.

I'm Eric Negraru, a local lad and ex-goalkeeper with the club, and I was appointed Community Coordinator for Wealdstone FC Foundation in July. I know the local area well and I'm excited to begin increasing the foundation's impact on the community, addressing local issues and giving the community opportunities such as work experience, physical activities, mental health workshops, and many more.

**So the first question is: Who are we?**

The Wealdstone FC Foundation is an independent registered charity born from the heritage and community spirit of Wealdstone Football Club. Based in Ruislip and rooted in the London Boroughs of Hillingdon and Harrow, our vision is to inspire positive change by harnessing the power of football and sport to empower individuals of all ages and backgrounds.



Foundation kids were mascots and excited spectators at the Stones' pre-season games

## Who we are and how we'll help the community



### Our Mission

We serve our community through four key pillars: Community Engagement, Education, Health & Wellbeing, and Sport Development. Together, we build a healthier, more inclusive environment where everyone has the chance to thrive.

### Programme

#### Highlights

##### 1) Football & Maths in

Schools: In partnership with local schools, this innovative initiative combines sport and numeracy, using fun football exercises to build maths confidence and engagement. It is funded in part by the National League Trust and Garfield Weston Foundation.

2) Tea Dances: Our weekly dances, held in the Vale social club on Wednesday afternoons (1.30-

4pm) are a warm, welcoming social event aimed at older adults. The sessions offer Ballroom, Latin, Sequence, and Line dancing, encouraging social interaction, gentle physical activity, and community bonding.

##### 3) Walking Football

Perfect for over-50s and over-60s, Walking Football provides low-impact physical activity and friendly competition in an inclusive format. It's more than a sport - it's an opportunity to get active and fight isolation. The times and venues will be advised in the next programme.

##### Why It Matters

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# Shaymen, We've met you before

BY TIM PARKS

## The night we won 1-0 at Halifax and stood proudly 2nd in the table

2020

Tuesday November 10 2020, National League: FC Halifax Town 0 Wealdstone 1

**IN THE DEPTHS** of that bizarre, behind-closed-doors Covid winter five years ago, when I found myself jumping in muddy puddles in the local park with my children for want of anything better to do, Wealdstone managed to pull off a 1-0 win at FC Halifax Town.

Could 2020 get any more surreal? The three points



What a grey day! Stones hold firm at Halifax thanks to Michael Phillips, Mickie Efete and Connor Smith

We nicked at the empty, echoey Shay that cold Tuesday evening shunted Dean Brennan's team up to second place in the National League... yes **SECOND PLACE** in our first season back at that level (see league table below). It was our fifth successive win in the league following a 4-3 over Wrexham, a 3-2 over Chesterfield, a 3-2 at Kings Lynn and a 1-0 over Altrincham.

Maybe it was the Peppa Pig antics that were the catalyst for our success. It certainly took the pundits by surprise with one National League 'expert' proclaiming that second place was "Wealdstone's highest-ever league placing in the club's history".

Well, we did actually win the league back in 1985, numb nuts!

Personally, as I looked on at the live streaming that night in Yorkshire, I was just marvelling at how far our club had come since the relegation all the way down five levels to the Ryman Division Three. It was only back in 2004 that we were praying for victory over Maidenhead in an FA Trophy replay because the winners had the trip to Halifax in the last 16 to look forward to... Halifax Town, the club who had not long ago been in the Football League and had actually knocked Man City out of the FA Cup.

That was the stuff of dreams just 17 years ago. Now Halifax is just

another league game (he said blithely, while shaking his head with a huge, inane grin).

Us telly-watchers were enjoying the live stream experience just then. It was a novelty and we were winning! Even the referees seemed determined to indulge our place at the top table - certainly this bleak night in West Yorkshire supported that assertion as just three minutes had elapsed when Jacob Mendy Mendy was poleaxed by a heavy challenge from Shayman Jeff King - and immediately saw red!

We could hardly believe it, back in couchland. Jerome Slew (living in Sheffield, so pretty much a home game for our striker) headed over Connor Smith's free kick almost immediately but as the game wore on both sides were becoming over-cautious. The drama bubbled over to the touchline with both managers sent to the stands just before half time.

We only seemed to want to protect the one point, despite the man advantage but the referee then presented another red card on 78 minutes to Halifax's Danny Williams. He fouled Michee Efete on the edge of the box.

Smith finally troubled keeper Sam Johnson with a 25-yarder, tipped over the bar, and we were starting to wonder how few players Halifax would have to have on the pitch to tempt us into believing we could win the game. Eight? Seven? Six?

But thankfully the Stones finally made the most of our numerical advantage with just a few minutes left. Moses Emmanuel's cross was headed out by Luke Summerfield but only to sub Danny Parish on the edge of the area... who watched the ball drop and smashed in a tremendous left-foot volley that found the corner from 20 yards out.

We should've added more late on through Parish and Dennon Lewis but they were both thwarted by Johnson. So the Stones moved into second place in the National League table, just two points behind leaders Torquay. What if the next game against strugglers Dover had gone ahead four days later at The Vale instead of falling victim to the Kent club's ongoing (and highly suspicious) Covid outbreak? Might we had been proud leaders of the National League? Instead, we lost a week later at Eastleigh, and then drew the BT Sport game with Sutton United and the NL title receded into the distance. By some way as it later turned out!

**FC HALIFAX TOWN:** Johnson, King, Williams, Byrne, Clarke (c), Bradbury, Woods, Summerfield, Green, Hyde (Benn 90), Stenson (Tear 16). Subs not used: Davison-Hale, Crane, Schofield.

**WEALDSTONE:** Isted, Efete, Okimo (c), Cawley (Green 35), Mendy, Phillips, C. Smith, Dyer (Emmanuel 60), Slew (Parish 71), Lewis, Lafayette. Subs not used: G. Smith, Wishart.

# Dennon's great goal not quite enough...

2021

Saturday March 6 2021, National League: Wealdstone 1 FC Halifax Town 2

**THE SHAYMEN** had their revenge a few months later behind closed doors at The Vale... though Stones pushed the by-now-playoff-chasing Halifax all the way, and in fact led 1-0 until deep into the second half.

Up in the commentary box, myself and that day's pundit Don Cross were eulogising over the terrific strike in front of the deserted Bulla Stand by Dennon Lewis (pictured below) that had given Stones the advantage. Four days earlier, a solitary Connor Smith goal had given us a surprise 1-0 win over Boreham Wood and it seemed quite likely that Stones could repeat the scoreline. Then the blues imploded.

Halifax had forced a succession of freekicks and from one, the pink-shirted Shaymen worked the ball out to Jeff King and his precise cross found Jake Hyde in acres of space to head an equaliser. That was on 57 minutes, and as Halifax buzzed around our box the winner eventually came with eight minutes left on the clock, Jack Earring working the ball onto his right foot on the edge of the box and we weren't quick enough to close down... his flashing drive beat Harry Isted to the far corner. Within a few minutes, Earring was clattered by Stones' on-loan debutant Daniel Bowry who was shown a straight red card.

This was the second of four successive home games in two weeks and we followed it up with a 3-1 win over Kings Lynn and then a narrow 0-1 defeat to Notts County. If we think subsequent seasons have been unrelenting, think back to the Covid campaign when a lot of teams seemed to be going through the motions in front of zero crowds!

**WEALDSTONE:** Isted, Phillips, Okimo (c), Cawley, Wishart (Bowry 43), Charles, Dyer, Green, Mendy, Lewis (Lafayette 71), Parish (Hughes 80). Subs not used: Askew, Hearn.



CONTINUED  
OVERPAGE

### Vanarama National League 2020/2021 - as at Tuesday 10/11/2020

Opposition	All					Home					Away					Pts	Results				
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F						
1 Torquay United	7	6	0	1	17	5	3	3	0	0	5	1	4	3	0	1	12	4	12	18	
2 Wealdstone	8	5	1	2	16	15	4	3	0	1	10	10	4	2	1	1	6	5	1	16	--
3 Stockport County	7	4	1	2	13	7	4	2	1	1	6	3	3	2	0	1	7	4	6	13	2-5
4 Sutton United	5	4	0	1	8	3	2	1	0	1	3	1	3	3	0	0	1	4	5	5	12
5 Maidenhead United	7	4	0	3	11	14	4	2	0	2	7	9	3	2	0	1	4	5	5	11	
6 Eastleigh	6	3	2	1	14	9	3	1	2	0	5	4	3	2	0	1	9	5	5	11	
7 Hartlepool United	6	3	2	1	9	8	4	1	2	1	3	7	2	2	0	0	6	1	1	11	
8 Solihull Moors	6	3	1	2	9	5	3	3	0	0	7	0	3	0	1	2	2	5	4	10	
9 Woking	6	3	1	3	7	9	3	2	1	0	4	1	4	1	0	3	3	8	2	10	
10 Notts County	7	3	1	3	7	8	3	2	0	1	9	6	3	1	0	2	1	2	2	9	
11 Bromley	6	3	0	3	10	8	4	2	0	2	9	7	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	7	
12 Aldershot Town	5	2	1	2	9	7	3	1	0	2	3	6	3	1	1	1	8	4	1	7	
13 Boreham Wood	6	2	1	3	5	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	0	2	4	3	1	7	
14 Wrexham	6	2	1	3	6	7	3	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	0	2	4	5	-1	7	4-3
15 Weymouth	6	2	1	3	4	8	3	1	0	2	2	3	4	1	1	2	4	5	-2	7	
16 Barnet	7	2	1	4	6	8	3	1	0	2	2	5	3	1	1	1	4	5	-4	7	
17 Dagenham & Redbridge	5	2	1	2	6	10	2	1	0	1	2	5	4	1	0	3	2	6	-4	7	0-1
18 King's Lynn Town	7	2	1	4	4	8	3	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	0	2	4	9	-8	7	3-2
19 Chesterfield	7	2	1	4	11	9	4	1	1	2	7	10	3	1	0	2	4	9	1	6	
20 Halifax Town	6	2	0	4	10	9	3	1	0	2	6	4	3	1	0	2	4	5	1	6	1-0
21 Altrincham	6	1	3	2	4	4	3	1	1	1	3	2	3	0	2	1	1	2	0	6	
22 Dover Athletic	6	1	3	2	4	6	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	1	2	2	4	6	-2	6
23 Yeovil Town	7	2	0	5	5	17	4	2	0	2	4	8	3	0	0	3	1	9	-12	6	
	7	0	4	3	6	9	4	0	1	3	3	6	3	0	3	0	3	3	-3	4	2-2

'WE'VE MET BEFORE' CONTINUED

# Misery for Stones as Halifax chalk up a double

**Saturday Dec 11th 2021, National League: Wealdstone 0 FC Halifax Town 1**

STONES were in a bit of a trough back in the winter of 2021-22: this was a third straight league defeat and it was to get worse for Stuart Maynard's men when they crashed out of the FA Trophy at Needham Market (two levels below) the following Saturday.

The big culprit here was winger Craig Fasanmade who, eager to compensate for his lack of impact at the striking end of the pitch, came back to defend a freekick and was adjudged by referee Elliott Swallow to have fouled Green in the box - and Matty Warburton crashed in the penalty. Fasanmade had just re-

turned from a successful loan spell at Hemel Hempstead but the step up was a step too far and he was soon released. A frustrating afternoon then against Halifax's high press, suffocating our wing backs.... though Josh Umerah came close on three occasions to winning Stones a point.

**Saturday April 2nd 2022, National League: FC Halifax Town 2 Wealdstone 0**

THE STONES' first fans trip to the glorious town of Halifax ended in frustration with substitute Billy Waters scoring both second-half goals against our lacklustre side. In fact we had zero shots on target, while the Shaymen kept George Wickens on his toes throughout. *Attendance: 1,850*

2022

## ...but steadily-growing crowds see us improve

IN **August 2022** as the Stones started the season in swashbuckling mood - even briefly topping the table at the end of August - Halifax were one of our early victims, 1-0 at the Vale with the on-fire Rhys Browne netting the vital goal in front of a 1,197 crowd.

**February 2023** saw us walloped 5-0 at the Shay in the return game (a result quickly glossed over) on a Tuesday night with 1,284 in attendance, and the following 2023-24 season again saw Halifax triumph at the Shay on **Saturday November 18** when Millenic Alli grabbed the only goal on the counter-attack late in the game. Stones were incensed as Micah Obiero had seemingly been fouled in the Halifax box only moments earlier.

But there was a victory for Stones to savour on **January 27, 2024** in the wake of gaffer Stuart Maynard and Matty Saunders' departure to Notts County. Under Alex Dyer's tutelage, goals from Aaron Henry and Tahvon Campbell earned a 2-0 win in front of a 1,519 crowd.

And the shift of balance from Shaymen to the Stones seemed complete last season when Matty Taylor's side earned a 2-2 draw in Yorkshire on **28 September 2024**... a result that Halifax were very happy to claim after an 89th minute leveller from Tom Pugh. Stones had led twice, through Sam Ashford's penalty and Micah Obiero's strike, before Enzo Boldewijn was

harshly punished with a penalty for his clean challenge in the box. Hoti converted. A second yellow for Adrian Mariappa left Stones with ten men for the last 20 minutes, and they so nearly held out for victory.

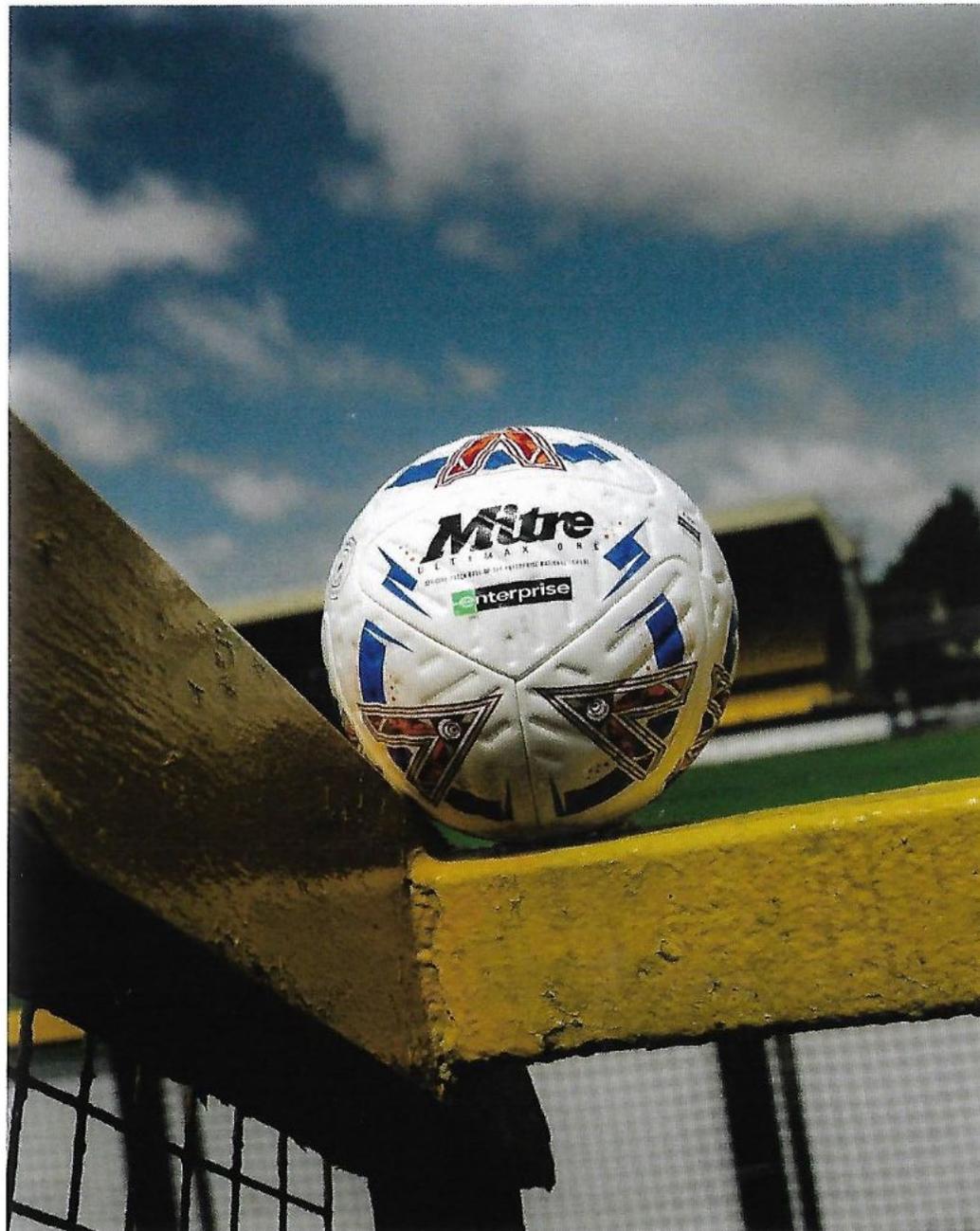
Yet the greatest drama was reserved for the final day of last season, **Bank Holiday Monday May 5**, when three first half goals saved a dynamic, marauding Wealdstone from relegation in front of 2,843 raucous fans at the Vale. Jack Cook, Kallum Cesay and the outrageous Mustapha Carayol got the goals in the 3-1 win, with Luca Thomas netting an audacious 50-yard effort over Dante Baptiste to give the visitors a brief toehold in the game. The moments after the final whistle will live long in all our memories as (delayed) confirmation came through that Dagenham & Redbridge had failed to win at Solihull Borough, thus ensuring our survival.

2025



**Jack Cook's header hits the Halifax net for 1-0!**

*Picture: Jon Taffel*



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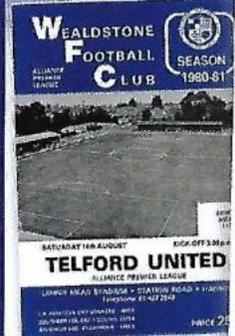
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# rewind: on this day

BY TIM PARKS



Saturday August 16 1980, Alliance Premier League: Wealdstone 4 Telford U 0 In many ways, the 1980-81 campaign ranks right up there in my Most Memorable Stones Seasons.



# 'Stones off to a flier

by  
**Tim Parks**

WEALDSTONE roared to the top of the Alliance Premier League after a spectacular win over much-fancied Telford United at Lower Mead on Saturday.

And the 'Stones acintillating performance can be measured by Telford manager Gordon Banks's post-match comment.

He told Wealdstone boss Ken Payne: "I would like to give my lads a rolicking after losing their first game 4-0 — but I can't."

"On the day we couldn't hope to compete with the football Wealdstone were

playing," said the former England goalkeeper.

There was a shock for 'Stones after the game when Paul Bowgett, who was supreme both in defence and attack, discovered that he had broken his right arm in two places after a tussle with Telford's Mick Brennan in the first half.

**Pain**

He played out the match in considerable pain, but manager Payne still hopes to have the bearded centre-half

fit in time for next Saturday.

It was Bowgett who made 'Stones first strike at goal against Telford. He met Watson's 14th-minute free-kick with considerable force, but Telford keeper Charlton somehow beat the ball away at point-blank range.

'Stones had been content to sit back and see what Telford had to offer, but when they came forward again after 29 minutes it was with deadly effect.

'Stones won a corner after Watson's 20-yard blast had been turned over by Charlton, and from the flag-kick Tommy Baldwin's header was headed off the line by Watson.

Stuart Pearce nodded the ball back into the six-yard

box for Nigel Johnson to glance the ball past the lunging keeper.

Telford had only threatened Ian Cranstone's goal with a series of long-range efforts, notably from the talented John Ruggiero, but the visitors tailed off badly in the second half as Wealdstone turned the screw.

Wingers Forde and Cordice, who manager Payne predicted "would crucify Alliance League defenders", did just that.

Full-back Alan Harris, cruelly exposed by Cordice's pace, was finally booked after 34 minutes for bringing down the flying winger — and two minutes later Wealdstone scored again.

Watson floated over the free-kick and Pearce threw himself at the ball to score a magnificent diving header.

With Cordice beating his man almost at will, 'Stones created chance after chance.

**Tatters**

The winger shot wide, then headed narrowly past from Baldwin's cross; Johnson almost got the touch in front of a gaping net then shot just too high from 20 yards; and then headed Bennett's cross into Charlton's arms.

But it was 3-0 on the 77-minute mark with Cordice getting the goal he so richly deserved. Cutting inside Harris and Walker, he

slapped a fine shot wide of Charlton and just inside the far post from 20 yards.

With Telford in tatters, 'Stones scored again just four minutes later. Murphy opened up the punch-drunk defence with a cross to Baldwin, who calmly brought the ball down and cleverly chipped the stranded Charlton.

Walker had no option but to handle — and Bowgett struck the penalty confidently past Charlton to end a marvellous afternoon's entertainment.

Wealdstone: Cranstone, Branigan, Pearce, Barwick, Bowgett, Murphy, Watson, A. Cordice, Baldwin, Baldwin, Johnson, Forde (Bennett 65).

That may seem a little bizarre, given that we ended up relegated for the first time in the club's long history, but personally it was an extraordinary time when I found myself in Nirvana, being paid to report on my beloved Wealdstone! It was my first season at the Harrow Observer, having moved across from the Watford Observer in April 1980, and I revelled in being involved with my boyhood club.

These days there is instant access with podcasts, Twitter, Insta, Tik Tok etc satisfying our endless desire for information; 45 years ago there was just the local paper.

As such I was able to observe the inner torment of Stones' rookie manager Ken Payne who had been a breath of fresh air when arriving from nowhere (well, Whitwell FC, almost nowhere) the previous autumn. And the former Luton goalkeeper had the crowd singing his name after this gloriously unexpected opening to the APL season, just four and a half decades ago.

## August 16th: A rich day in Wealdstone FC history

We were hotly tipped for relegation in this, the second season of the National League (as we now know it) while Telford, managed by England icon Gordon Banks, were at the other end of the bookies' spectrum.

And yet, in front of a 571 crowd (that reflected the confidence of the Harrow populace in its No.1 team) the Stones were simply unplayable!

In pre-season, I had written 'Flanks for the memories' as a headline for the debuts of new wingers Alan Cordice and Clevere Forde against Edgware in the Middx Senior Cup. My annoyance at having the

headline changed to "Wealdstone rediscover the value of wingers" by the Sports Editor was tempered by the realisation that this was the first time the club had tried the tactic of playing two genuine wide men since winning the Amateur Cup 14 years earlier.

Would it work when the APL kicked off three weeks later?

Indeed it would. A delighted Ken Payne, quoted in the match report (above) said "Cordice and Forde would crucify Alliance Premier League defenders" and that was certainly true in the opening game when even this commentator felt sorry for the Telford full-backs.

We even had the iconic Tommy Baldwin, a bit fuller around the waist than in his 1970s Chelsea pomp, pulling Telford's back four all over the place with his clever touches. We fully deserved the 4-0 scoreline and the

only question was, we purred as we made our home from Lower Mead, was could we maintain our position at the top of the table?

Er, no we couldn't. In fact, after an impressive 0-0 at Northwich in our next game, we inexplicably came off the rails with a 2-0 defeat to Frickley... and then won only two of our next 20 games. An FA Cup exit to Harlow Town left Payne's replacements, Allen Batsford and Brian Hall in charge of a relegation battle that we almost, almost survived on the final, famous day against AP Leamington... Jimmy Sweetzer's missed penalty and suicidal thoughts on the terraces.

But was it memorable? Hell yes!

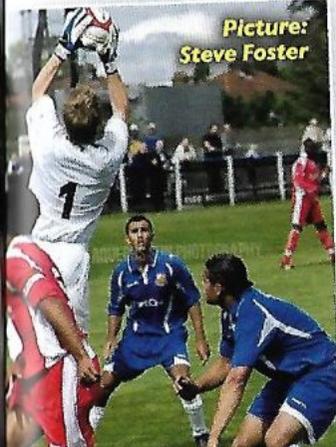


Saturday August 16 2008, Ryman Premier League: Wealdstone 0 Tonbridge Angels 0

**A LOT of water had flowed under the bridge since that relegation from the APL... in fact so much water had flowed OVER the bridge that it probably should have sunk at some point in the intervening 28 years.**

Winners of the non-League double under Brian Hall (with a nod to Allen Batsford) in 1985, we then plummeted to the Ryman League Division Three and had slowly crawled back with groundshares at Watford, Yeading, Edgware and Northwood along the way until finally (after the scandal of Prince Edward Playing Field, aka The Hive) we secured a new home here in Ruislip.

Grosvenor Vale was shambolic when we took over and it was truly humbling how the supporters transformed the place into a ground fit for Ryman Prem football within just a few months. And August 16 was the very first competitive game at the Vale!



Picture: Steve Foster

It proved to be a bit of a damp squib and with only 367 in the ground for the opener it was obvious that

we had not connected with the Ruislip public. Now we have... by five times the amount!

Tonbridge, one of the stronger sides, saw goalkeeper Lee Worgan (pictured below) sent off for carrying the ball outside his box in the first half and it was typical of the Stones' start to the season that we lacked the firepower to capitalise. In fact it wasn't until centre forward Davis Haule arrived on loan from Staines Town that our season became turbocharged and we finished 7th, just outside the play-offs.

Tuesday August 16 2022, Vanarama National League: Oldham Athletic 1 Wealdstone 2

**If you wanted some stats to prove how far we have come since that Grosvenor Vale debut, this trip to the former Prem outfit Oldham three years ago provides them all!**

A crowd of 6,869, a display of pure football befitting our 'Brazil' strip that night and two early goals from Rhys Browne (below) and Tarryn Allarakhia had the 200-odd Stones fans in dreamland. Unbelievable!



Picture: Jon Toffel



# Kit donors

## 2025-26



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Many of the photographs in this temporary set of kit donor images courtesy of Jon Taffel

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2025-26

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As a Wealdstone FC match sponsor you will enjoy match tickets for 4 people (inc. prime main stand seats if required); a fantastic advertising package, including publicity over the PA system; website and social media together with a piece in the programme; boardroom, Gordon Bartlett Lounge or Main Hall hospitality including a pre-match hot meal with wines and half-time refreshments courtesy of in-house caterer Lynn Evans; match-day programmes for all in your party; a dedicated table for you and your guests throughout your stay; the naming and presenting of the 'Man of the Match' award; and a souvenir memento of your day. Our match sponsors and their guests are all entertained in surroundings befitting such a special occasion be it a birthday, anniversary or any other special event! We will work with you to ensure you and your guests get to enjoy a truly memorable experience. **For further details contact [abbeyhandler@wealdstonefc.com](mailto:abbeyhandler@wealdstonefc.com)**

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**CARLISLE UNITED** August 13, Enterprise National League

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**SOUTHEND UNITED** August 30, Enterprise National League

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**EASTLEIGH** September 27, Enterprise National League

**MATCH SPONSORS:** Your name here?  
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**ALTRINCHAM** October 4, Enterprise National League

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**SUTTON UNITED** October 25, Enterprise National League

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**BRAINTREE TOWN** November 8, Enterprise National League

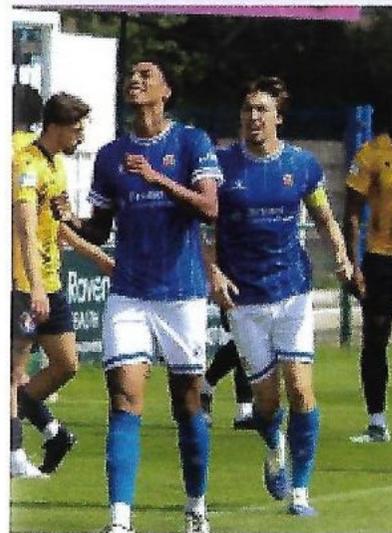
**MATCH SPONSORS:** Rolfe East  
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**FOREST GREEN** November 22, Enterprise National League

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**BALL DONORS:** Your name here?

**BOREHAM WOOD** December 26, Enterprise National League

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**BALL DONORS:** Graham Clark & Mike Pullin

**YORK CITY** February 14, Enterprise National League

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**BALL DONORS:** Your name here?

**BRACKLEY TOWN** February 24, Enterprise National League

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**HARTLEPOOL UTD** February 28, Enterprise National League

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**BALL DONORS:** Your name here?

**SOLIHULL MOORS** March 14, Enterprise National League

**MATCH SPONSORS:** Your name here?  
**BALL DONORS:** Your name here?

**YEOVIL TOWN** March 25, Enterprise National League

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**BALL DONORS:** Your name here?

**BOSTON UNITED** March 28, Enterprise National League

**MATCH SPONSORS:** Rolfe East  
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**ALDERSHOT TOWN** April 6, Enterprise National League

**MATCH SPONSORS:** Your name here?  
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**SCUNTHORPE UNITED** April 18, Enterprise National League

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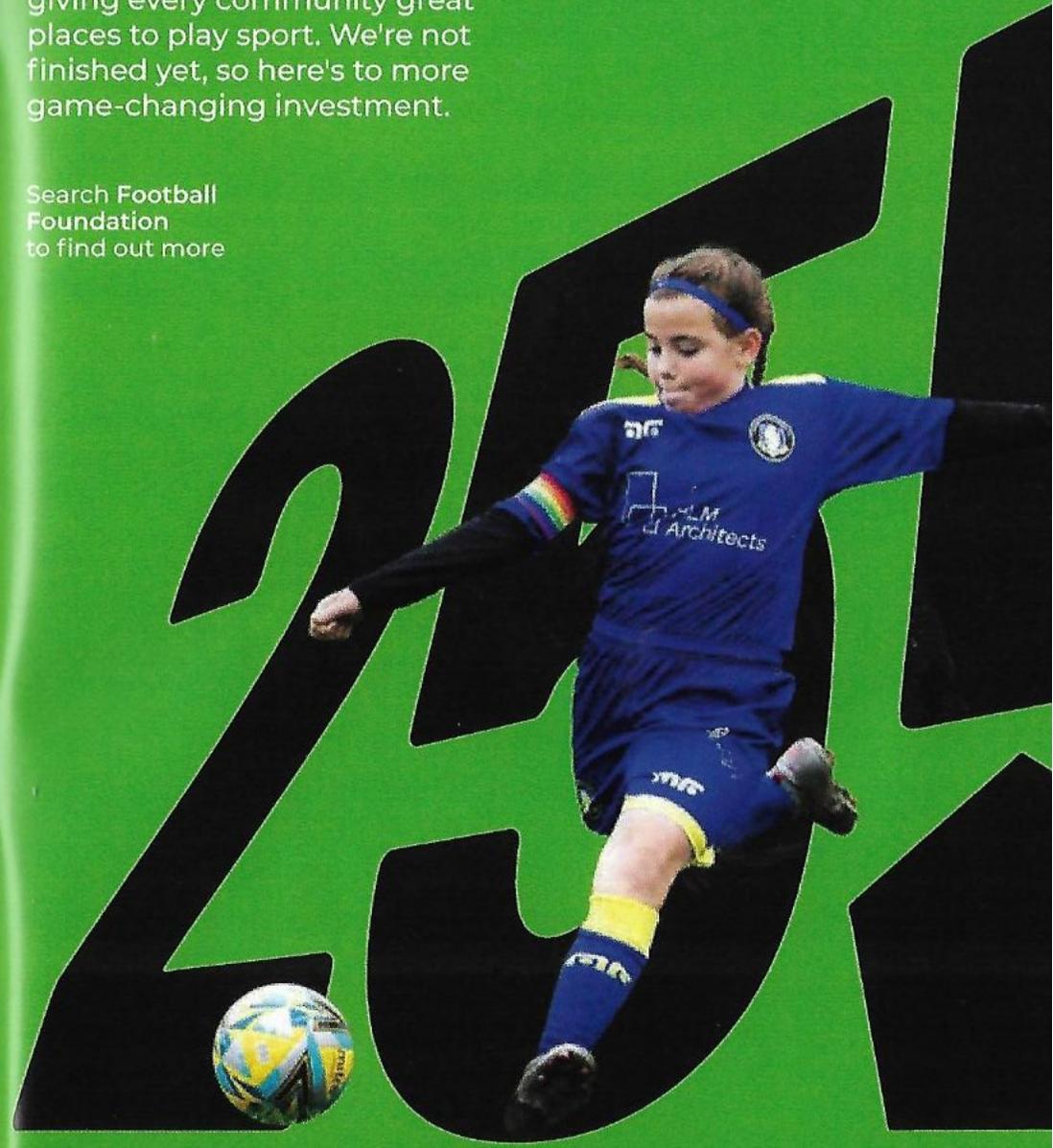


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Saturday 23rd August, 3:00pm  
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#### Rochdale

Saturday 30th August, 3:00pm  
Enterprise National League



#### Southend United

Tuesday 2nd September, 7:45pm  
Enterprise National League

### Away



#### Woking

Tuesday 19th August, 7:45pm  
Enterprise National League



#### Boston United

Monday 25th August, 3:00pm  
Enterprise National League

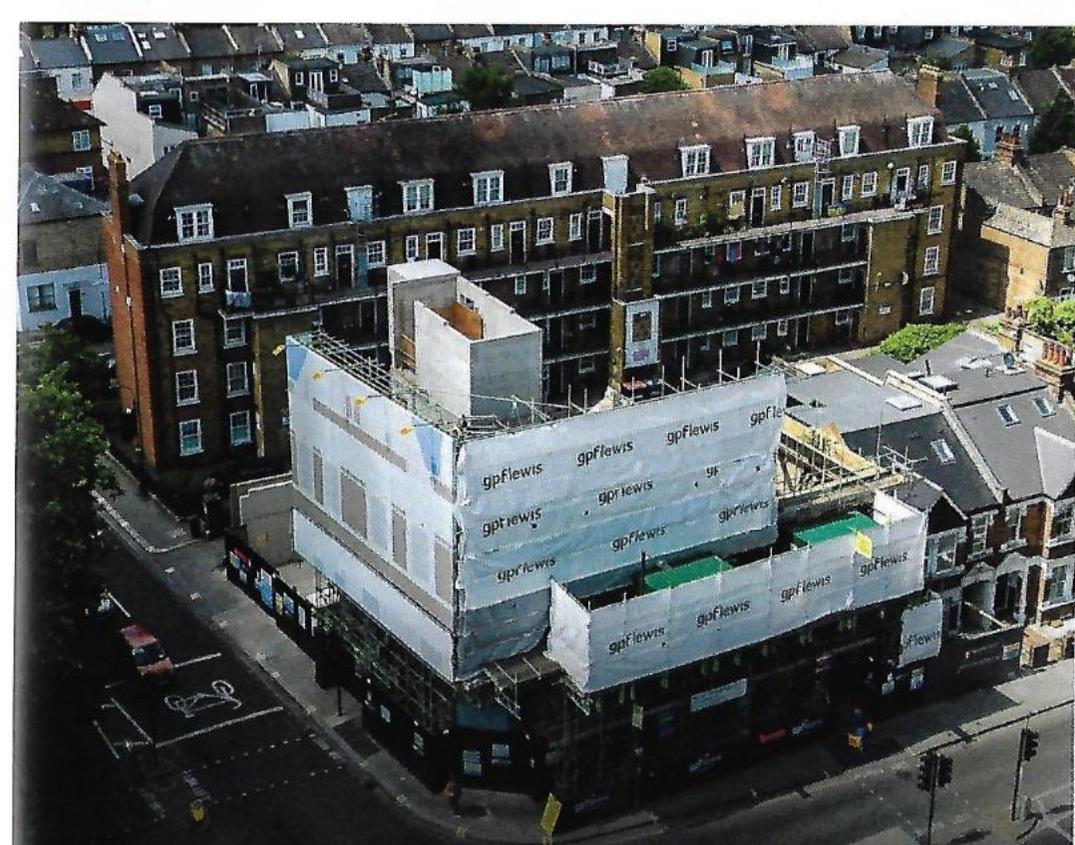


#### Scunthorpe United

Saturday 6th September, 3:00pm  
Enterprise National League

### Enterprise National League 2025/2026 @ 9th August/2025

	P	HW	HD	HL	AW	AD	AL	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts	H	A
1 Braintree Town	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	3	3		
2 Southend United	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	3	3		
3 Carlisle United	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	3		
4 Rochdale	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	3		
5 Wealdstone	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	3	---	---
6 Altrincham	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	2	1	3		
7 Scunthorpe United	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	3		
8 Brackley Town	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3		
9 Forest Green Rovers	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	1		
10 Solihull Moors	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	1		
11 Sutton United	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	1		
12 York City	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	1		
13 Hartlepool United	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	
14 Yeovil Town	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1		
15 Boston United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
16 Morecambe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
17 Aldershot Town	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0		
18 Tamworth	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0		
19 Eastleigh	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0		
20 Boreham Wood	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0		
21 Truro City	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0	2-0	
22 Woking	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0		
23 FC Halifax Town	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0		
24 Gateshead	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0		



CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE  
MAINTAINING THE PAST

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