

# HOW THE TEAMS LINE UP TODAY

**WEALDSTONE**  
ROYAL BLUE/WHITE/BLUE



**CARLISLE UNITED**  
DARK GREEN/BLACK

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

- 1 Gabe BREEZE
- 2 Archie DAVIES
- 3 Cameron HARPER
- 4 Terell THOMAS
- 5 Morgan FEENEY
- 6 Aaron HAYDEN
- 7 David AJIBOYE
- 8 Callum WHELAN
- 9 Georgie KELLY
- 10 Regan LINNEY
- 11 Junior LUAMBA
- 14 Elliot EMBLETON
- 15 Sam MURRAY
- 16 Stephen WEARNE
- 17 Ethan ROBSON
- 18 Jack ELLIS
- 19 Sam HETHERINGTON
- 21 Jordan JONES
- 22 Josh WILLIAMS
- 23 Charlie WYKE
- 24 Josh GRANT
- 25 Harry LEWIS
- 26 Bevis MUGABI
- 27 Jake ALLA
- 28 Thomas RANDALL
- 29 Luke ARMSTRONG
- 30 Jude SMITH
- 31 Hayden ATKINSON
- 32 Freddie O'DONOGHUE
- 33 Jonah LOWES
- 34 Dan HOPPER
- 37 Harvey McADAM

RESULT: WEALDSTONE  CARLISLE UTD

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next home matches

**v Rochdale**  
(Enterprise National League)  
Saturday August 30  
kick off 3pm

**v Southend U**  
(Enterprise National League)  
Tuesday September 2  
kick off 7.45pm



the mighty, mighty  
**stones**

Wealdstone  
v Carlisle United  
Sat Aug 23, 2025, 5.30pm



National League

matchday programme £3

**WHAT HAS HAPPENED?!**  
Enzio Boldewijn can't believe skipper Jack Cook has just belted in a typical 30-yarder to seal the points against Halifax here last Saturday  
Pic: JON TAFFEL



CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE  
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written  
in stone



BY TIM PARKS

There's no place  
like home...  
but you can  
have too much  
of a good thing!

**Good afternoon and a warm welcome to all from Carlisle United. Blow me down, it's another home game!**

Six home matches in 24 days, five in the league with five programmes to produce and no, we're not looking for sympathy (well, maybe a bit) but have you ever known anything like it?

Let's be honest, it gets easier knuckling down to produce our award-winning publication when the team are doing the business out on the grass. Leaves us all with smiles on our faces.

If you include friendlies that's now five straight wins in five games and fingers crossed for a good result at Woking last Tuesday - which was played after this earlier deadline.

Only a few weeks ago there were dark mutterings about the size and shape of the squad that Sam Cox & Co were assembling... and now we're experiencing first hand just how B I G it is!

Columnist Mick Fishman described the Stones' defence as 'The Manhattan Skyline' in the programme last week and with Jack Cook, Deon Woodman, Philip Chinadu and Moussa Diarra all somewhere between six and seven feet tall - and Sean Adarkwa lending his height and muscle at set-pieces - the chant of 'Mighty Mighty Stones' is suddenly very accurate. *High and*

*Mighty Stones* in fact!

Enzio Boldewijn and Junior Tienisia aren't exactly shrinking violets either, and we now have a squad with height, controlled power and physicality... and a midfield of, frankly, some very exciting talent. Omar Moussa and Nathan Tshikuna, the kings of the rolled-down socks have been joined by another mini-shin-pad merchant in Alfie Massey (on loan from Millwall) and if you add Anthony Georgiou, Dylan Kadji and Max Kretzschmar to the mix - and lightning wide men like Dom Hutchinson and Sak Hassan - you can understand why even our most cynical supporters are getting interested. Up front, big Sean is recovering his form of two years ago and scored a cracking opener against Halifax last week that showcased his strength and dead-eyed finishing. Daniel Nkrumah is also a real handful and when Nathan Young-Coombes returns from his hamstring injury we'll have real options.

And let's not forget the Bobby Charlton/Stevie Gerrard shooting of Captain Cookie! I thought his volleyed goal at the Gun Turret end against Barnet two years ago (in the 3-2 win) was a bit special but that match-winning rocket against Halifax came out of nowhere! Study the cover picture today and look at the faces on the Stones bench: absolutely priceless.

**But it's very early days. There will be bumps in**



Dante Baptiste comes to the rescue last Saturday with his penalty stop... to the relief of the Smith & Latimer Stand



**the road and we've not yet seen how we cope away from home.**

I mustn't forget to mention the brilliant Dante Baptiste either! His awesome double save to keep out that Halifax penalty last week was a real turning point and his kicking and handling were again first class. Lucas Covolan and Endurance Johnson have been brought in as competition and it will be a real test for Dante to keep the shirt. Can only be a good thing!

● It only remains to say a big thank you to our match sponsor today, Harrow Windows, and veteran ball donor Ray Corner who, as we all know, is 'never coming again'. Take that as you wish :)

● Oh, and don't forget that after the jaunt to Boston on Monday we are at home yet again next Saturday to Rochdale, Tarryn Allarakhia et al, 3pm. **UTS!**

*I'm told there are just a few seats left on the supporters coach to Boston United in just two days time - Bank Holiday Monday, 3pm - priced at £35 for adults and £15 for under-16s. It leaves Grosvenor Vale at 8.45am and tickets can be ordered online at wfsc.demoed.co.uk A great day out at Boston's new stadium!*

# WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2025/2026

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Programme Editor Mark Hyde  
Production Martin Read, Tim Parks, Martin Lacey  
Printing People for Print Ltd.  
www.peopleforprint.co.uk  
wfcprogramme@gmail.com

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IT Consultant Neil Rands  
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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:
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  - Entering the field of play before, during or after a game without prior authorisation
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  - 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.
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**A WARM welcome to you all today, off the back of a tough schedule following the game at Woking on Tuesday, today and then the Bank Holiday Monday trip to Boston United.**

Mentally and physically, it is challenging but we have won our first three games to make an excellent start to the season... a fantastic attitude, enthusiasm and energy from the boys while on the terraces I think the atmosphere created at the Vale has been outstanding. We made a point of trying to make this place a fortress and is a difficult ground to come to and return from with any points.

The squad will be stretched over this next few weeks however and Carlisle today will be a really big ask against one of the favourites to win this division.

They are a bona fide Football League club and all their players have the sort of pedigree that will ensure their place in the top echelon of clubs come the end of the season,

Plus they have Mark Hughes as manager, an unbelievable moment for me. It doesn't seem so long ago that I was trying to find the last Mark Hughes sticker to complete my Merlin sticker book! My mum and dad spent loads to find that last sticker and now I'll be in the dugout next to him competing for three points.. surreal!

Our boys will be well prepared to compete today despite the gulf in stature of our football club, the budget and squad depth. We will ensure we give ev-

# Gaffer's column

SAM COX

everything to be competitive and I'm looking forward to the game, live on National TV with DAZN.

Not just the starters but the subs and the rest of the squad have all shown quality in training and given me a real headache on team selection. We want to create a competitive group to drive us on, and I've tried to encourage patience from day one for the lads who have waited for their chance. Dom Hutch and Sak Hassan were excellent in the National League Cup win over

Wolves and for Alfie Massey, at 18, to come on against Halifax and take the game by the scruff of the neck was hugely impressive. He was deserving of his start against Woking on Tuesday.

Plus Dan Nkrumah, coming off the bench to lead the line, and all the other hungry players who want to progress. My responsibility is to harness that and unlock their individual and collective potential. And then of course, against Halifax with the game poised at 1-1, we had that fantastic moment, one which I'm sure will become part of Wealdstone folklore... captain Jack Cook,

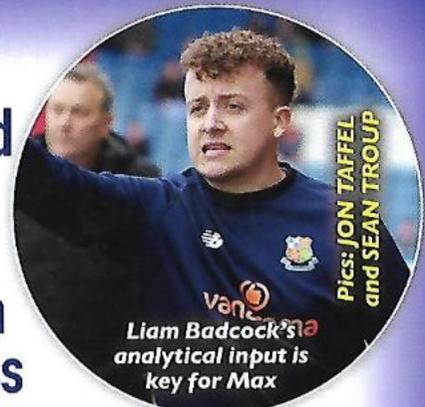
our overlapping centre-back having taken on the information given at half time about the keeper coming slightly off his line... and driving it into top bins...definitely one of those 'I was there' moments! Our Captain Fantastic who's been the rock behind everything we've achieved so far. **God bless, Coxy**

**It doesn't seem long ago that I was hunting down the final Mark Hughes card to finish my Merlin sticker book!**

# Taking it to the M<sub>3</sub> A<sub>1</sub> X<sub>8</sub>

By Max Kretzschmar

# Kinesthetic coaching and why we are reaping the benefits with early success



**Hello everyone, and welcome back to The Vale. It's always a special feeling playing here, and to start the season with two home wins from two is exactly what we wanted.**

As I mentioned in my last notes, it's vital that we make the most of this run of home fixtures at the beginning of this National League campaign - and so far, we've done just that. Looking back at the Halifax game, it was a real test of patience. Playing against ten men for so long gave us plenty of the ball, but it also meant we had to

goals over those years, but technically, that strike was the best of the lot. That said, we felt we could have forced their keeper into more saves, and it's something we spoke about in our post-match analysis on Monday morning.

That analysis has really gone up a level with the new manager Sam, and particularly Liam Badcock. His detailed presentations are clear and concise to view and understand. Information can range from relevant statistics from the previous game to patterns of play and shapes we wish to carry out, in and out of possession. Moreover, we then compound the learning of those ideas on the training pitch with physical run-throughs.

This is called kinesthetic coaching (the learning by 'doing' or 'being active') and it's the way I personally take on information the best.

**This week will be another big step for us. We'll find out a lot more about the team with our first away game at Woking, followed by this tough home test against promotion-chasers Carlisle and then a ridiculously tight turnaround to the match away at Boston on Monday.**

The squad will have to be rotated with three games in seven days and I thought the manager did this very well in his caretaker spell the season before last. With the fixture congestion towards the end of that 2023/24 season almost impossible to navigate, it was the freshness of the eleven from game to game which I think played a huge role in keeping us up.

The question for us now as a team is: can we impose our possession-based style away from home and pick up points? Can we rise to the challenge against one of the league's title favourites?

**Up the Stones!**

work hard to break down a very deep, compact block. With more time on the ball, players tend to use that time instead of moving the ball quickly and taking less touches... but in the second half, I think we moved it much quicker and created more chances.

In the end, it took a Jack Cook screamer to separate the sides - and what a goal it was! I'd say Jack is comfortably the player I've shared the pitch with the most in my career (if anyone could delve into the statistics, I'd be keen to know how many games we've played together). We've shared a dressing room at three clubs in all: Hampton & Richmond, Woking and now here at Wealdstone.

He's scored some hugely important

**Don't miss my revealing vlog [youtube.com/@maxtalksfootball](https://www.youtube.com/@maxtalksfootball)**



**Our very own fashion icon! Sam salutes the fans in trademark style after the Halifax game Picture: Jon Taffel**





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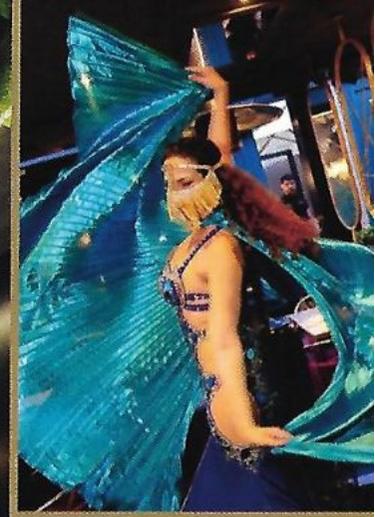
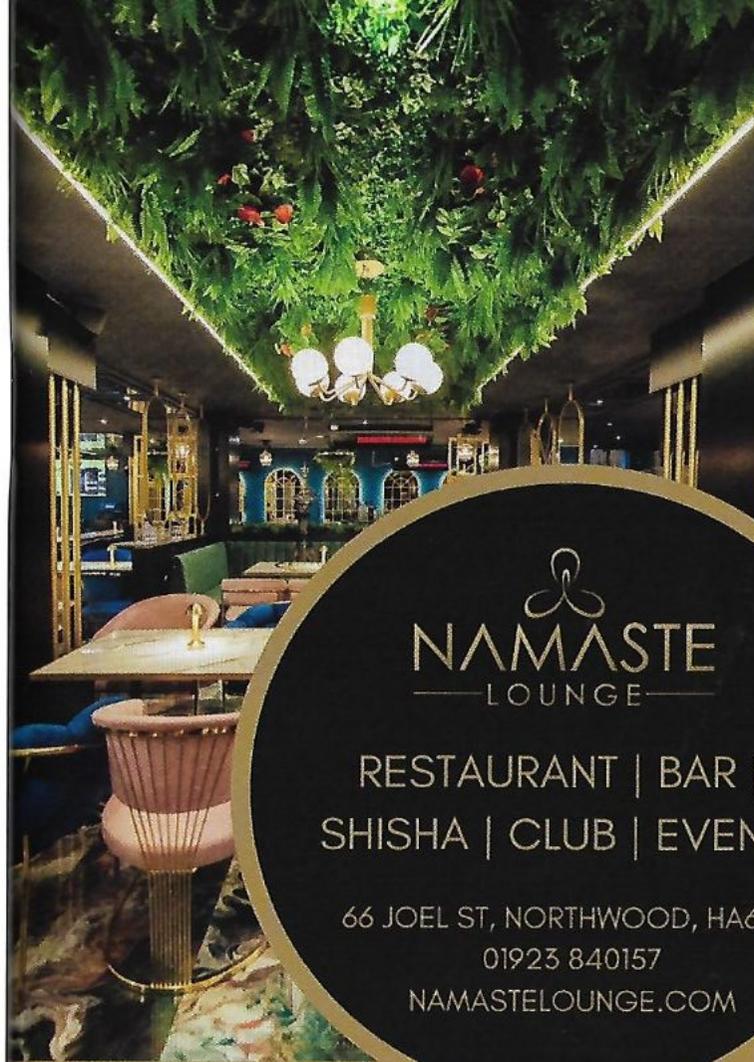
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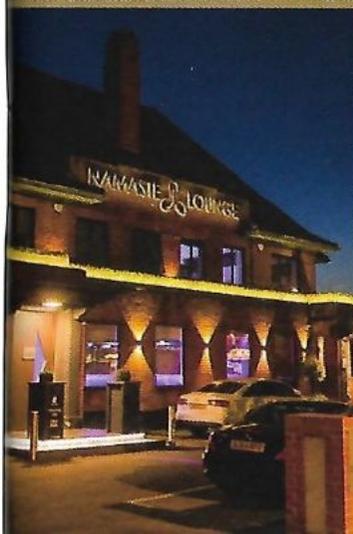
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©Elmslie Ender was among the first wave of football club magazines when it replaced 'Long Ball Down the Middle' as the Wealdstone fanzine in the mid-1980s. LBDTM's forerunner 'Wealdstone Whispers' was famously the THE very first football fanzine in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

**Three games, two in the National League, and three wins.**

I suspect the maximum points return surpassed most people's expectations - and if we won at Woking in midweek (after this programme's print deadline), our wildest hopes would have been more than exceeded. Dream-land indeed.

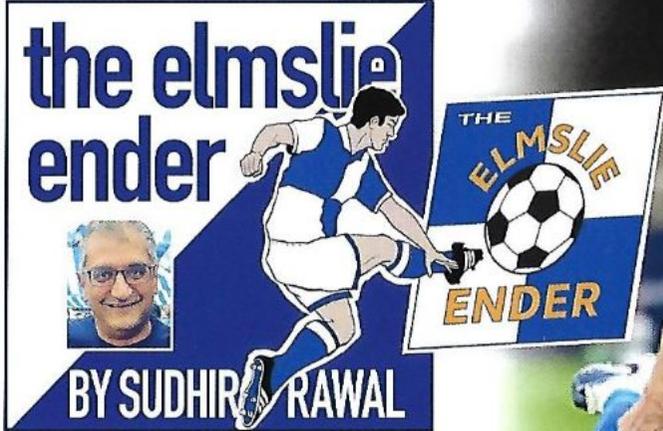
In the opening game Truro huffed and puffed quite a lot, but never looked like blowing the Wealdstone house down. They started well, but as the game settled down Stones came much more into things. Dante Baptiste didn't really have to make a difficult save and as the half wore on, Stones started to create their own. Right on the half time whistle ensued some head tennis in the box as the ball was never cleared - until Enzo's deft header into the corner of the goal put Wealdstone one up. The Truro keeper might have been disappointed but our largest opening day-of-the-season crowd since 1968 certainly wasn't!

The second half saw Truro having possibly more of the ball, but again struggling to lay a glove on Wealdstone who were kicking down the slope towards the Bulla (now technically the Smith & Latimer Stand).

Truro keeper Lavercombe became their star man but as the game moved towards its close, substitute Dom Hutchinson won the ball out on the right through his tenacity, beat a defender and put a cross into the box. It looked like Young-Coombes was fouled as he tussled for possession, but the ball ran loose and Hutchinson reacted fastest to smash it home (pictured right)

A win, two goals and a clean sheet were the perfect start to the season. Cox's boys were up and running and the feelgood factor that was missing over the summer was very much back.

Last Saturday, we should have been in Halifax, one of our favourites away trips of the season. Whoever was to blame, when the fixtures list came out in July we found ourselves in West Yorkshire - but the only problem was that



**Two league games and 6 points; for the first time in 3 years we are looking DOWN the table!**

Halifax's relaid pitch wasn't ready for a game of football. After plenty of to-and-fro, it was decided that the game would be switched to the Vale.

Personally, having bought train tickets - like many of our fans - I was hoping that the game would have been moved to a ground near Halifax, such as Huddersfield, but it was deemed it would take place at the Vale instead.

The opening 20 minutes of the game had everything: Halifax were awarded a penalty, the second in a week, and just as they did at Braintree, they missed. More exactly, it was a fantastic double save by Dante Baptiste that kept out the Shaymen's Jamie Cooke.

Soon after, Will Harris was heading for the bath as his high challenge was deemed dangerous enough to warrant a red card. I think most of us thought it was harsh, but we were hardly complaining when Adarkwa's exquisite touch then helped him bypass a defender from a ball played into the box.



Left: Jack Cook unleashes his exocet against Halifax and the Stones were ahead again. Above: 'Was it you shouting "don't shoot", gaffer?' Pictures: Sean Troup and Jon Taffel



SOCKS APPEAL: The Stones squad is definitely split into two camps, the 'mini shinpad' brigade v the 'over the knee' sock brigade. Though Dylan Kadji (above right) seems to be trying to start his own rebel movement with odd boots. Will it catch on?



He took another touch before passing into the goal, putting Stones 1-0 up. I think most of us thought we would win easily from here, but Halifax had other ideas. Some sloppy defending saw David Kawa equalise.

Second half saw Halifax start well (though again Baptiste wasn't needed to make any great saves) and it took a bit of magic from Jack Cook to break the deadlock again. As he strode in from the right, the space opened before him and he unleashed a fierce, dipping shot from 25 yards that arrowed into the top corner.

It's going to take some goal from anyone else this season to wrestle the *Goal of the Season* mantle from him.

Stones continued to enjoy a lot of domination of the ball, but just couldn't put the ball away. 2-1 flattered Halifax, but they had played at least three quarters of the game a man down.

Two wins, six points and for the first time since Stuart Maynard left we were looking down from the top end of the table, rather than upwards from the bottom.

**TODAY brings Mark Hughes' Carlisle United to the Vale. For possibly the biggest club in the division, alongside maybe Southend United, the Vale will seem a little ramshackle and higgledy-piggledy.**

The tightness of the stands to the pitch may be something many of the Carlisle players will experience for the first time and it will be a real welcome to the non-league world.

As we sang to Southend fans after an early season trip to the Vale in their first season in the NL "non-league and you know you are". The Vale makes that clear to those used to grander surroundings.

Hughes had a stellar career in the game and no more so than at Chelsea. There are a lot of Chelsea fans here at Wealdstone and I'm sure that Hughes will be popular in the bar afterwards - though hopefully he won't have much to smile about post-match!

The task ahead of us will be difficult and we also welcome back Josh Grant who had a short but very successful spell at the Vale last season and played a crucial part in our Great Escape. I'm sure he will get a great reception from the Bulla. **UTS!**

# the stones interview

It's Dylan Kadji

TODAY the spotlight turns on our dynamic midfielder Dylan Kadji who was one of the stand-out players last season in the National League South, starring for Weston Super-Mare. He's been handed a two-year deal so let's get the lowdown on the youngster who turns 22 next Monday....

**Where were you brought up, Dylan?** I grew up in Bedford until I was 11, when I moved to Bristol.

**Do you or your family still live in that area?** My immediate family live in Bristol but I have got cousins still living in Bedford.

**Where are you living at the moment?** I'm currently living in digs in Denham with Pam (the club's chef) who has been taking very good care of me.

**You came through the youth system at Bristol City... have you always been a midfielder?**

Yeah I have always been a midfielder... I enjoy being in the middle of the pitch and trying to link up play and create.

**Was your debut v Wycombe your EFL highlight?**

Yeah, my debut was definitely a highlight in my career and a day I'll never forget... especially to score on the day was a surreal experience.

**Talk us through that debut goal?** It was a Carabao Cup tie in August 2023 and a poacher's goal! I had the role of blocking the keeper from corners so I was stood just in front of him...the cross came in around the six yard box and the ball hit Kane Wilson on the knee and ricocheted to me - and I "acrobatically" flicked it in.



**Do you support a football team? Either now or as a kid?** I've been an Arsenal fan my whole life but I haven't had the luxury of watching a game live. But that day will come soon.

**Who has been the most important figure in your football career so far?** My mother for sure. She is a big part of my life and has always supported me and been a rock at tough times. When I was living in Bedford I played for Luton Town and she would take me to training and everywhere back then.

Above and left: Dylan in action against Halifax on his last home appearance...in odd coloured boots! I bet he's got another pair like that at home..



# 'My ambition is always to go back into the EFL but enjoyment comes when you're playing well and have the right attitude...which we do'



Dylan (far right) celebrates his crash-bang start to life in the pro game with a goal for Bristol City against Wycombe. Below: Signing for City and also for Weston Super-Mare.



**Do you know very much about Wealdstone and its rich history (first non-League double winners etc)?** No I don't, but I'm sure I will learn a lot more about it as the season goes on

**How did your loan spells go at Swindon and Bath City while you were a Bristol City player?** Both loan spells were very different experiences and both taught me a lot on and off the pitch.

**Which players have you most admired growing up?** Growing up I loved watching Yaya Toure, Paul Pogba and Neymar.

**Did you know any of the Stones players before signing? Have you played against the club in the past?** I didn't know any of the players before signing but in the short time that I've been here everyone has been very welcoming. It feels like I've known them all for ages!

**What is your favourite restaurant and fave meal?** I wouldn't say I have a favourite restaurant because there are a lot of good ones but my favourite meal is my mum's lasagna.

**What's the best holiday you've been on?** It has to be between Spain or Cyprus with my friends. We made some good memories there.

**What's playing on your airpod at the**

**moment?** Rod Wave- Long Journey

**What's your feeling about the club and the squad that Sam is assembling at the moment?** I'm confident going into this season and I trust the plan the Gaffer has for the team. I feel like we will be hard to play against and that we'll shock a lot of people.

**Is his philosophy to get the players attack-minded and playing through teams?** Yeah definitely, but we also prioritise being in control of the game with the ball, and sustaining attacks

**Is your intention to get back into the EFL, or is it more about enjoying your football?**

Yes, my intention will always be to get back into the EFL whether it's with the Stones or elsewhere - the enjoyment side will always come as we are playing well and we have a the right attitude, which we do.

**Have you been told that you look physically and style-wise just like Kallum Cesay, who was a hit for the Stones last season before moving on to Salford City in the EFL?** I don't know much about Kallum but I will take it as a compliment as I've heard good things about him. Wishing him all the best for the season at Salford

By Tim Parks

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James  
Goodman

TODAY'S Fan in the Stand is a real pleasure as the 'victim', James, continues the Wealdstone link forged by his late mum Mim (Miriam) and the club for many decades. Mim (below right) was the first female Stones 'devotee' I can remember and her passion extended to fearless stewarding and correcting national TV commentators on their pronunciation!

**Your name and age?** James Goodman, 45  
**Whereabouts do you live, James?** Ballyclare, Northern Ireland

**Have you always lived in that area?** Brought up around the corner from Lower Mead at Lowick Road, Harrow, but after meeting my wife Debbie while coaching for Manchester United & Bobby Charlton Soccer School, I moved to Northern Ireland in 2003. From 2003-2010 we lived in Belfast, and in 2010 we moved 10 miles north, to Ballyclare.

**When was your first Stones game?** I don't recall the first game, but my memories are from the late 80s, playing 'football' under the stand at Lower Mead with my sister and other boys and girls, whilst the match was taking place. I say football loosely, as we used, cans, rocks, anything we could get our feet on! In 1990, post Italia 90, and at 10 years old, I then had the concentration span to take in the match and sit proudly with my mum in the main stand for the last season at Lower Mead.

## My first impression of the Stones, with my mum Mim, was of a sensory overload!

**What were your first impressions of the club?**

First impressions were that it was a sensory overload! Smell of the burgers, sound of the crowd (not always 10-year-old friendly!) and then the feeling of actually being at a football game. I do recall the Junior Stones loyalty card, and going to get it stamped at the club shop, where seven stamps would get a free bit of merch. Definitely still have my Mark Harrison Stroller T-shirt up in the loft from the 90/91 season!

**Who introduced you to Wealdstone?** The legend who is my mum, Mim. Spending quality time with her, travelling home and away watching the Stones.



Football family Goodman! James is pictured with wife Debbie and children George and Katie, and above right in front of the Bulla Stand tribute to mum/grandma Mim



She always made me feel a part of the journey. I'm not sure if she ever needed it, but I was always her navigator in the car, map in hand (pre-sat nav times, obv!)

**Do you follow any other team?** I just copy my mum! Manchester United very occasionally.

**What level of football do you most enjoy, and why?** You may need to fact-check this, but I seem to recall choosing to go to Edgware with my mum to watch a Middlesex Cup tie,

as opposed to staying at home and watching the 1999 FA Cup Semi Final Replay - Man Utd v Arsenal (the Giggs goal game). I think we got in the car to hear the Bergkamp penalty being saved on the radio, and then rushing home for extra time. Think that sums up my football priorities! (Actually James, on that date - April 14 - we beat Wembley 1-0 in the Ryman Div One at Edgware. But it definitely trumps Man Utd-Arsenal - Ed)

**What's the most memorable game you've EVER seen?** I've had some wonderful football opportunities since moving to Northern Ireland, and the most memorable ones have been NI's 1-0 win v England in 2005, a 3-2 win v Spain in 2006, and the 2016 Euros: 2-0 v Ukraine.

**And the best Wealdstone game?** Not sure about best, but I remember celebrating on the Northwood pitch in

1997 thinking "This is us, we are back and on our way up".

**How big a part of your life is the game?** Massive! I work full time for the Irish Football Association as a School Development Officer. I've also had wonderful opportunities to work with the Northern Ireland u-16s, u-19s and u-21s men's teams, the senior national women's team, and as you read this, I'll be head coach for the NI cerebral palsy squad for the Euros. I've also worked with the Irish Premiership team Carrick Rangers as their head of analysis.

**Do you have other hobbies?** No time for anything that isn't football! Although I do enjoy a good movie.

**How do you fit watching football in with your family/working life?** On one hand, really easily as my wife likes football, and both kids play football. On the other hand, clashes happen all the time and I can't please everyone!

**Have you ever played the game yourself?** Not to a particularly high standard. Anyone who played with me for SFC Wealdstone 20-odd years ago will confirm that! (Actually, James was very decent - Ed)

**Who are the best Wealdstone players you've ever seen? Could you name a best-ever Stones side, 1-11?** Although never having seen him play for Wealdstone in the flesh, I can't not have Stuart Pearce in the XI! It's great having streams now, and highlights to catch some of the matches, and I've tried to mostly pick players that I've seen in the flesh. Dominic Sterling was always one of my favourites, and I remember always think that he's too good for us! So I'd choose Tenkorang, O'Nien, Marshall, Pearce, Pett, Walton, Cesay, Sterling, Jolly, Morgan and Beckford

**And finally, where do you think the Stones will be in five years?** Hopefully, sustainably comfortably in the NL, with our ground issues secured.





Mountbatten View, recently completed in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire



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today's  
opposition  
in focus

# ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CARLISLE UNITED, THE CUMBRIANS



**Carlisle United Football Club, founded in 1904, is a professional football club based in Carlisle, Cumbria.**

The club joined the Football League in 1928 and has spent much of its history fluctuating between the lower tiers of English football. The pinnacle of Carlisle United's history came in the 1974–75 season when they reached the First Division (now the Premier League) for the first and only time. Remarkably, they topped the league after the first few games but were eventually relegated at the end of the season.

Carlisle became known for their resilience, experiencing several relegations and promotions over the decades. One of the club's most

memorable moments occurred in 1999, when goalkeeper Jimmy Glass scored a last-minute goal to keep the team in the Football League. Brunton Park, the club's home since 1909, has hosted the highs and lows of Carlisle's footballing journey. While they have never won a major national trophy, the club has had successes in lower-league competitions, including winning the Football League Trophy in 1997 and 2011.

Carlisle United maintains a loyal fan base and continues to play a key role in the sporting identity of Cumbria.

## 2005–2025: RETURN TO THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Following relegation from the Football League in the 2003–04 season, Carlisle were promoted out of

the Conference at the first time of asking in 2004–05, winning the play-off final by defeating Stevenage Borough 2–0 at the Britannia Stadium. Carlisle's excellent form under manager Paul Simpson continued into the following season as they returned to the Football League with a bang, clinching the League Two title. Simpson then departed for Preston North End, and was succeeded by Neil McDonald.

In 2006–07, the club were mired in mid-table but staged a late run for a play-off place, they finally finished the season eighth, their highest league place for 20 years with the added bonus of returning their highest average league crowds for 30 years. Carlisle started the 2007–08 season with a 1–1 draw at newly promoted Walsall but manager Neil McDonald was sacked on the Monday after the match. Cheltenham Town manager John Ward took over on a permanent basis in October 2007, with both clubs agreeing a six-figure compensation package. Under Ward Carlisle were in the hunt for an automatic promotion spot but could only manage a draw on the final day of the season and finished fourth. In the play-off semi-final, Carlisle lost to Leeds United 3–2 on aggregate.



2025/26 Home Colours

The 2008–09 season saw Carlisle start promisingly but it was soon followed by one of the worst runs of form in the club's history. Because of this manager John Ward was sacked and replaced by caretaker manager Greg Abbott, signing him permanently after he uplifted the club's form in the subsequent games. Carlisle completed two full seasons with Abbott at the helm, and achieved comfortable mid-table finishes in both. More noteworthy were the two runs in the Football League Trophy which took place in those seasons. The team were beaten in the final in 2010 but returned the following year, to win the trophy in 2011. The following season started successfully for



Carlisle's 17,949 capacity Brunton Park

the Cumbrians and sustained a considerable play-off push throughout the season. A dip in form towards the end of the seasons saw Carlisle miss out by two points to Stevenage.

Following a narrow 1–0 home defeat to Port Vale, Abbott's five-year reign as United manager ended. Following Abbott's sacking, assistant manager Graham Kavanagh was installed as caretaker manager, later appointed on a permanent basis. In May 2014, Carlisle were relegated having finished 22nd, ending an eight-year spell in the third tier.

In September 2014, Keith Curle was appointed as Carlisle United manager. After a poor start to the season, Curle lifted Carlisle from the foot of the table, and out of the relegation zone. However, Carlisle drifted back towards a relegation battle, only securing their Football League safety with two games to spare. The next season was a much more comfortable one but not enough for a promotion push, with the team finishing 10th. A highlight of the season was a visit to Anfield for the third round of the League Cup. Carlisle held Liverpool to a 1–1 draw, but lost 3–2 on penalties.

The first half of the 2016–17 season was excellent for the club, with just one loss in their first 23 league fixtures. However a disastrous sequence followed, with only four wins in the next 21 games. Carlisle narrowly made the play-offs but lost 6–5 on aggregate to Exeter City in the semi-final. Keith Curle left Carlisle United at the end of the 2017–18 season after over four years in charge. The 2019–20 season was cancelled due to the COVID-19

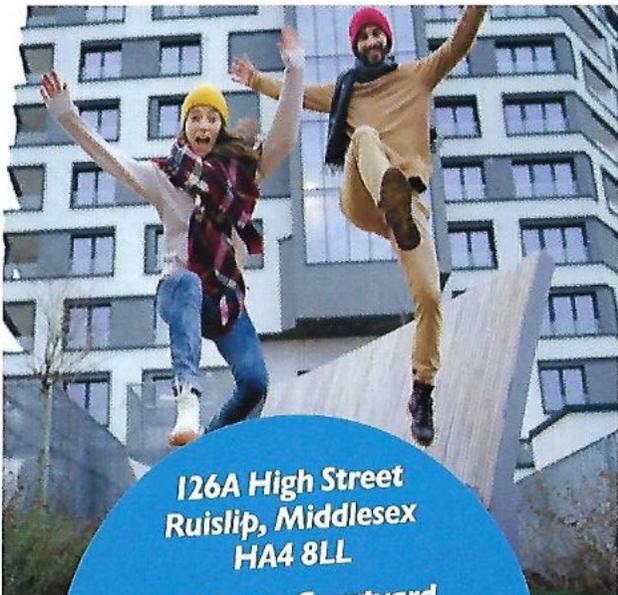
pandemic with the Cumbrians in a disappointing 18th place.

In February 2022, Paul Simpson returned as manager with the club in 23rd place. "Simmo" led the blues to eight wins, one draw and six defeats which was enough to pull the club from the relegation zone and keep Carlisle in the Football League, finishing in 20th place. After securing survival in the 2021–22 season, Simpson agreed terms on a new three-year contract as manager. In the 2022–23 season, Carlisle finished fifth, securing a play-off spot. In the play-off semi-final, Carlisle defeated Bradford City to win the tie 3–2 on aggregate. In the play-off final, the Cumbrians defeated Stockport County on penalties after a 1–1 draw to earn promotion back to League One after nine years in League Two.

The 2023–24 season was less successful. Carlisle were immediately relegated back to the fourth tier, finishing 24th, 16 points adrift of safety, with just seven victories in the league and only 30 points. A second successive relegation looked likely the following season; Simpson was sacked on 21 August 2024 after losing three of the first four league games. Then, after just five wins from 25 games, his successor, Mike Williamson, was sacked on 3 February 2025, with the club five points from League Two safety. Three days later, Mark Hughes became Carlisle's new head coach, but Carlisle were relegated to the National League with one game still to play at the end of the 2024–25 season, ending a 21-year spell in the EFL dating from the 2003–04 season.

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# Cumbrians who's who



## 1 - DAN LAVERCOMBE Goalkeeper

Gabe Breeze is a shining example of what our Academy aims to produce — a talented local lad with the drive and character to succeed at first team level. Having joined our youth system as a teenager, Gabe signed a two-year professional deal while still midway through his scholarship, such was the belief in his potential.

## 2 - ARCHIE DAVIES Defence

Archie Davies joined Carlisle United in July 2024 from Irish side Dundalk for an undisclosed fee. He signed his first professional contract with Brighton & Hove Albion at 17 and made his senior debut in the EFL Cup against Aston Villa in 2019. After gaining valuable EFL experience with Crawley Town over two seasons, Archie moved to Aldershot Town. In the 2023 season, Archie featured prominently for Dundalk, putting in consistently strong performances that earned him a spot in the League of Ireland Team of the Year.

## 3 - CAMERON HARPER Defence

Cameron Harper joined United in June 2024 from Inverness Caledonian Thistle. A product of the Caledonian Stadium youth system, Cameron joined Inverness at just 10-years-old and progressed through every stage of the club's Academy.

## 4 - TEREILL THOMAS Defence

Terell Thomas joined Carlisle United from Charlton Athletic in July 2024. A product of the Arsenal academy, Terell began his career at one of England's top youth systems before signing his first professional contract with Charlton Athletic as a teenager. Over the years, he has gained valuable experience across the Football League, featuring for clubs including Wigan Athletic, AFC Wimbledon, Crewe Alexandra, and Reading.

## 5 - MORGAN FEENEY Defence

Morgan Feeney rejoined Carlisle United in June 2025, bringing energy, leadership, and a strong mental presence to the Blues' dressing room. A product of Everton's academy, Morgan made his senior debut with the Toffees during the 2018/19 season. He gained further experience on loan at Sunderland in League One before moving to Forest Green Rovers,

where he continued to develop his defensive skills.

## 6 - AARON HAYDEN Defence

The centre-back initially joined Carlisle United in July 2019 following a successful trial, signing a one-year contract. His deal was extended in January 2020 for a further 18 months, before a clause was triggered at the end of the 2020/21 season, securing him for an additional year after demonstrating strong leadership both on and off the pitch as United's vice-captain. During his first spell, Hayden made 73 appearances before departing to join Wrexham ahead of the 2021/22 season. Born in Croydon, Hayden came through the youth ranks at Chelsea before moving north to join Wolves' Academy at 16 in 2015. While with Wolves, he gained valuable experience through loan spells at Newport County, Hemel Hempstead Town, Bromley, and Telford. Before arriving in Cumbria, he also spent nearly 18 months on loan at Southern League Premier Division Central side Stourbridge.

## 7 - DAVID AJIBOYE Midfielder

## 8 - CALLUM WHELAN Midfielder

Whelan joined the Blues in January 2025. He began his career with Manchester United and featured in their under-18s and under-23s before making a move to Watford. He only had a short spell with the Hornets, making just two appearances in the 2019/20 campaign. After that, Whelan made the switch to Oldham Athletic, where he went on to make 89 appearances between August 2020 and July 2022. He then moved to Solihull Moors and made 24 appearances for the club. During this time he also went on loan to Gateshead in February 2023, before making the move permanent in the summer of the same year.

## 9 - GEORGIE KELLY Forward

Kelly started his career with hometown club Derry City, before moving to University College Dublin AFC. He then moved on to Dundalk in 2018, where he scored seven goals in seven league appearances with the County Louth club. From there, he made the switch to St. Patrick's in July 2020 — and this time he scored three goals in two league appearances. It was with Bohemians where Kelly really found his feet having signed in January 2021. He scored 21 goals in 31 appearances for the Bohs and ended the season as the league's top goalscorer. In January 2022, he signed for Rotherham United and scored on his debut to secure the Millers' promotion to the Championship in a 2-0 victory over Gillingham. He scored six goals in his 51 appearances at the New York Stadium.

## 10 - REGAN LINNEY Forward

## 11 - JUNIOR LUAMBA Midfielder

## 14 - Elliot Embleton Defence

Embleton arrived at BP from Blackpool in January

2025. He started his career at Sunderland where he made 92 appearances, scoring 11 goals. His most notable goal for the Black Cats came at Wembley, where he opened the scoring in the play-off final victory over Wycombe to send Sunderland back to the Championship. During his time at the Stadium of Light, he had loan spells with Grimsby Town, Blackpool and Derby County. He made the permanent move to Blackpool in the summer of 2024 for an undisclosed fee. The midfielder has also featured for England from U17 to U20 level.

## 15 - SAM MURRAY Defence

Sam Murray joined Carlisle United in June 2025 following his release from Manchester United. A product of the Red Devils' Academy, Sam is known for his pace and strong defensive abilities. His speed allows him to support both defensively and in attack down the left flank, making him a valuable asset in wide areas. Since arriving at Brunton Park, Sam has been working hard to adapt to senior football and aims to make a strong impact in the Blues' defence as they aim for promotion from the Enterprise National League at the first time of asking.

## 16 - STEOEN WEARNE Midfielder

Wearne joined United from MK Dons in January 2025. He began his career with Middlesbrough, spending three years in their academy, prior to making the switch to Sunderland. He played three times for the Black Cats in the Football League Trophy, scoring two goals. Stephen spent time on loan at both Grimsby Town and Torquay United, as he looked to gain experience. He then joined Gateshead in the summer of 2023. Where he quickly became a popular figure for the Heed, playing 36 times and scoring 12 goals. Wearne then joined MK Dons in January 2024. He went on to play 33 times for the club, scoring five goals.

## 17 - ETHAN ROBSON Forward

Robson joined the ranks in June 2024. The midfielder came through the ranks with Sunderland having joined the Black Cats aged eight. He had loan spells at Dundee and Grimsby while at the Stadium of Light, before moving to Blackpool in 2020. From there he went on loan to MK Dons before making the move permanent in the summer of 2022. He made 60 appearances during his two seasons at Stadium MK.

## 18 - JACK ELLIS Defence

Youth product Jack Ellis signed his first professional deal with the club at the beginning of January 2022. The Kendal-born defender was handed the under-18 captain's armband for the 2021/22 season and flourished, earning a step up to the first team training environment.

## 19 - SAM HETHERINGTON Midfielder

## 20 - CEDWYN SCOTT Forward

Scott joined United in January 2025 from Notts County. He started his career at Huddersfield Town

before a spell in Scotland with Dundee, during which he spent time on loan at Berwick and Forfar. He then returned to England and joined Dunston UTS prior to making the switch to Hebburn Town where he caught the eye after scoring 21 goals during the first half of the season. The striker then arrived at Brunton Park, initially on trial, before signing for the Blues in January 2021. He made seven appearances for United towards the end of the 2020/21 campaign before joining Gateshead where he scored 24 goals in 45 appearances in the National League North, which earned him a move to Notts County.

## 21 - JORDAN JONES Midfielder

Jones joined United in the summer of 2024, after leaving Wigan Athletic. He came through the youth ranks at Middlesbrough. He made his first set of appearances in senior football during loan spells with Hartlepool and Cambridge. Jones then joined Kilmarnock in 2016, where he enjoyed an excellent three-year stay with the club. He turned out 146 times for Killie, scoring 12 goals and providing 24 assists. His performances then earned him a move to Scottish Premiership giants Rangers. The midfielder spent two years there, going out on loan to Sunderland during that time. Jordan then joined Wigan Athletic on a permanent deal in 2021. He also spent time back in Scotland on loan deals to St Mirren and former club, Kilmarnock.

## 22 - JOSH WILLIAMS Defence

Williams joined United from Birmingham City in January 2025 for an undisclosed fee. He came through Birmingham City's academy, making his debut in the 2021/22 season when he came on as a substitute in an FA Cup clash against Plymouth Argyle. He made a total of nine first team appearances for Birmingham before going out on loan to Cheltenham Town in the 2023/24 season. Williams returned to his parent club before being loaned out to National League side Gateshead in November 2024.

## 23 - CHARLIE WYKE Defence

Wyke returned for his second spell at Carlisle in July 2024. United's newly-named team captain came through the youth ranks with Middlesbrough and enjoyed loan spells with Kettering, Hartlepool and Wimbledon before making the move to Bradford. From there, he moved to Sunderland, where he netted 31 goals in 54 games in his best season for the club in 2020/21. He then had spells with Wigan Athletic and Rotherham United.

## 24 - JOSH GRANT Midfielder

Joined from Wealdstone Pre Season.

## 25 - HARRY LEWIS Goalkeeper

Lewis made the switch to Brunton Park from Bradford City in January 2024.

## 24 - HARRY LEWIS Goalkeeper

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# 1st Team Results 2025/2026

Month	Opp	Comp	Score	Crowd	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers
AUGUST	9 TRURO CITY	ENL	2-0	1,572	170	6	Bouldewijn, Hutchinson
	12 WOLVERHAMPTON WAND.	NLC	2-1	215	TBD	6	Hassan, Tshikuna
	16 FC HALIFAX TOWN	ENL	2-1	1,134	115	4	Adarkwa, Cook
	19 Woking	ENL					
	23 CARLISLE UNITED	ENL					
	25 Boston United	ENL					
SEPTEMBER	30 ROCHDALE	ENL					
	2 SOUTHEND UNITED	ENL					
	6 Scunthorpe United	ENL					
	13 GATESHEAD	ENL					
	16 LEICESTER CITY	NLC					
	20 Morecambe	ENL					
	24 Tamworth	ENL					
27 EASTLEIGH	ENL						
OCTOBER	1 Brackley Town	ENL					
	4 ALTRINCHAM	ENL					
	11 York City	ENL					
	18 FA Cup 4th Qualifying	FAC40					
	21 NOTTINGHAM FOREST	NLC					
25 SUTTON UNITED	ENL						
NOVEMBER	1 FA Cup 1st Round Proper	FAC1					
	4 Yeovil Town	ENL					
	8 BRAINTREE TOWN	ENL					
	15 Hartlepool United	ENL					
	22 FOREST GREEN ROVERS	ENL					
25 WEST BROMWICH ALBION	NLC						
29 Solihull Moors	ENL						
DECEMBER	6 Truro City	ENL					
	13 FA Trophy 3rd Round	FAT3					
	20 FC Halifax Town	ENL					
	26 BOREHAM WOOD	ENL					
	30 Aldershot Town	ENL					
JANUARY	3 Carlisle United	ENL					
	17 WOKING	ENL					
	21 TAMWORTH	ENL					
	24 Gateshead	ENL					
	31 MORECAMBE	ENL					
FEBRUARY	7 Eastleigh	ENL					
	10 Altrincham	ENL					
	14 YORK CITY	ENL					
	21 Sutton United	ENL					
	24 BRACKLEY TOWN	ENL					
28 HARTLEPOOL UNITED	ENL						
MARCH	7 Braintree Town	ENL					
	14 SOLIHULL MOORS	ENL					
	21 Forest Green Rovers	ENL					
	25 YEDEVIL TOWN	ENL					
	28 BOSTON UNITED	ENL					
APRIL	3 Boreham Wood	ENL					
	6 ALDERSHOT TOWN	ENL					
	11 Rochdale	ENL					
	18 SCUNTHORPE UNITED	ENL					
25 Southend United	ENL						

1 Dante BAPTISTE	2 Jack COOK	3 Anthony GEORGIU	4 Omar MUSSA	5 Deon WOODMAN	6 Mason BARRETT	7 Enzo BOLDEWIJN	8 Dylan KADJI	9	10 Max KRETZSCHMAR	11 Sak HASSAN	12	13 Endurance JOHNSON	14 Mirah OBIERO	15 Philip CHINEDU	16 Moussa DIARRA	17 Dom HUTCHINSON	18 Christian SCOTT	19 Daniel INKRUMAH	20 Nathan TSHIKUNA	21 Jeffrey SEKYERE	22 Connor MCAVOY	23	24 Nathan YOUNG-COOMBES	25 Alfie MASSEY	26 Marcus DAY	27 Sean ADARKWA	28 Lucas COVOLAN	29 Junior TIENSIA	30
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### KEY

- P Yellow card
- R 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



Pictures from our second home win against FC Halifax Town in less than four months courtesy of @RonnieRaffle

### PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

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

Date in Red = MIDWEEK fixture

**ROBSONS**

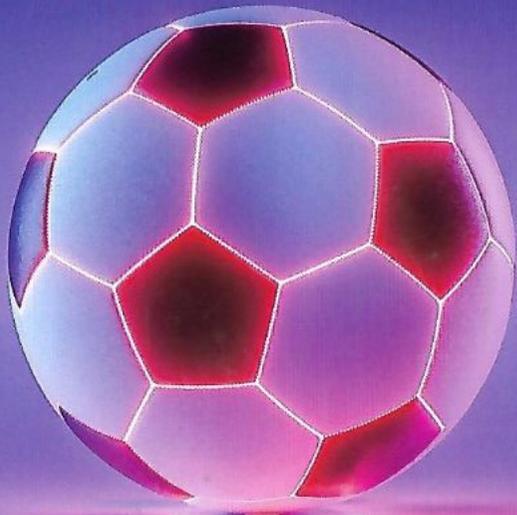
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Many of the photographs in this temporary set of kit donor images courtesy of Jon Taffel

## CARLISLE UNITED SATURDAY 23RD AUGUST 2025 SUPPORTERS CLUB UPDATE

BY MARK RANDALL

**Welcome to today's National League match versus Carlisle.**

As WFCSC members will already know, today we are proudly announcing to the wider Wealdstone community that we are donating £15,000 to assist with the playing budget for the upcoming 25/26 season.

On the pitch before the game, James Klarfeld will be presenting a cheque to the main club.

With the well documented headwinds that the main club are facing, the WFCSC committee felt that this would be a fantastic gesture, a good use of club funds and hopefully get a few more signings across the line.

A large proportion of these funds have come from the Wembley Fanzones which would not have been possible without the huge commitment and dedication of our fantastic committee members and volunteers.

We spend a lot of time talking about Fanzones but I've realised that I have never explained the mechanics behind the scenes. It all starts with monitoring who will get to Wembley. We have hosted many of the teams before so often we will be contacted by fans even before their pivotal pre-Wembley encounter. A worst-case scenario for us is having two previously hosted teams meeting in a final! Once the finalists have been decided we quickly look to contact fans. If they have been before, we email each fan to give them priority booking. After that we contact club forums, coach companies, local newspapers etc to get our fanzone advertised.

Now the hard work starts with phone calls and emails coming in to book coaches, mini-buses and cars. It sounds simple but anyone that has worked with the general public knows that some questions are well founded whilst others make you wonder how some people are able to get dressed in the mornings!

There are also other considerations. What time is kick off? Do we need to apply for an early licence? Can we contact the visiting club for a signed shirt or other item that we can auction off?

As the bookings come in, we start to formulate



how many people are going to attend. How many will no show or walk straight out to sample the full Wembley experience? Once we know that we know we can work out how many bodies we need and how much food to purchase.

The day before we do the shopping for all the food and other items that we may need like sauces, napkins etc and deliver them to the club.

Now for the day itself and it's down the club to get set up, put up a welcome sign, and wait for the first visitors. Once the days gets going, if we have enough people, that is the easy part. The bars are flowing and the burgers are flipped at varying speed to keep the queues down but the food fresh.

If we have enough volunteers, we will also run an auction or 50:50 to raise extra funds. When the fans go to Wembley, that is our half time. We now have a few hours to clean up, stock up and get ready for them to return.

You won't be surprised to learn that victorious teams spend more on their return but the two-hour period before they go home is manic. Many fans have enjoyed their libations and a double cheeseburger goes down very well.

One that is over then there is the tidy up. Everyone has been working hard and it is now either dark already or it is about to be. Everything has to be put away and washed up before we leave tired but content that another few thousand pounds have been raised for WFCSC, not to mention what is spent over the bar.

We are very grateful for everyone that has helped out but we always need more so keep a look out for our next dates as we reckon we could have raised an extra £3-5k if we had more boots on the ground.

Thank you, enjoy the game and up The Stones

Mark

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# view from the away end

Carlisle fan  
Dan MacLennan

## Your name and age?

Dan MacLennan, 47.

## Do you live in Carlisle?

Yes, born and bred. Though I did live in London for six years through work, remarkably spending a lot of time in the Ruislip and Harrow areas!

## When was your first Blues game?

Bradford City (H), 17th August 1985, lost 1-2.

## What do you recall of it?

A lifelong addiction was born! 5,000 folk screaming over two teams and a ball!

## Do you follow any other club?

I've always had an interest in world football from a young age, and go to occasional Rangers and Hamburg matches.

## How involved are you with CUF?

I'm currently Chair of Carlisle United Supporters' Trust, who own a 10% Voting Sharing in the Parent Company that owns the majority of the Club. I'm also a regular co-host on the *Brunton Bugle Podcast*.

## Do you think United can bounce back into the EFL?

Yes. Number one mission for 25/26!

## Are the club prepared for the demands of the National League?

I think so. We did it 20 years ago, and yes the game has moved on, but we know what to expect...

**Right: the long journey from Carlisle to Truro: 439 miles and seven-and-a-half hours. Local derby!**



Carlisle wrap up the opening-day 2-0 win at Woking in their new blue and red striped shirts...which can only remind you of one thing



The first time Carlisle were relegated into the Conference (2003-4) they bounced straight back after beating Stevenage in the play-off final in May 2005. The club had famously avoided relegation five years earlier when loan goalkeeper Jimmy Glass came up for a last-minute corner against Plymouth Argyle at Brunton Park and headed the winner. There is more on this remarkable game on other pages of this issue....

# The first fixture we looked for was Truro away...every man & his dog will be there!



hopefully. **Travelling is probably in your DNA but is there a novelty for the fans about the away trips this season?** The one match on everyone's radar when the fixtures came out was Truro away. It's our last trip of the season and every man and his dog wants to do it! **Will you be at the Wealdstone game and have you been to the Vale before?** Yes I'm travelling. Despite living local, I never made it the Vale. I did used to get my shopping at the Tesco in Harrow that is on the site of your old Lower Mead ground....does that count? **Will the late 5.30 kick off today cause extra problems?**

It has for me, no chance of making the last train back to Carlisle!

**How do CUF fans usually travel? By coach, car or train?** A mix of all three, train is my preference, but us Cumbrians are resourceful folk and our numbers are impressive given the distances we travel!

**Will you be flying to any games?** Not personally, but I know some have booked to Exeter for the Truro trip.

**Is there a London-based Carlisle supporters club?**

Yes, a well established one of some 50 years with roughly 300 members.

**What were your average crowds last season and do you envisage them rising or falling?** Amazingly, we had a steady average of nearly 7,500 despite being awful. If we push on at the top end of the table, 10,000 could be regular.

**Who are the key additions to your squad?**

Regan Linney from Altrincham (goals) and Morgan Feeney (leadership).

**Do you see Mark Hughes' managerial pedigree as a bonus?** I'm only interested in how

Mark Hughes does for us.

**Does he know the NL territory?** Likely not too much, but our new Head of Football Operations was with Altrincham last season and will no doubt lend his knowledge and experience.

**Carlisle have never met Wealdstone in the past but what do you know about the Stones without resorting to Wikipedia?** From the top of my head... Stuart Pearce and Vinnie Jones; did the Non League double in the mid 80's (League and FA Trophy); the stadium troubles of the early 2000's (was all when I lived in Harrow!);

rivals with Barnet and Harrow Borough; oh, and your former kit man was from up here, the famous Carlisle fan Tony Waugh!

**What do you think of the new CUF kit?** I'm a traditionalist and red isn't a colour for our home kit in my eyes, but I completely get what the club has done this season in producing a home version of our iconic 'deckchair' kit.

**Are you a replica kit man?** I'm not too fussed, but always buy our shorts!

**And finally, what's your prediction for the first ever meeting between the clubs?** Sorry folks, 0-3 to us hopefully!



It's Dan the Fan!



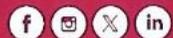
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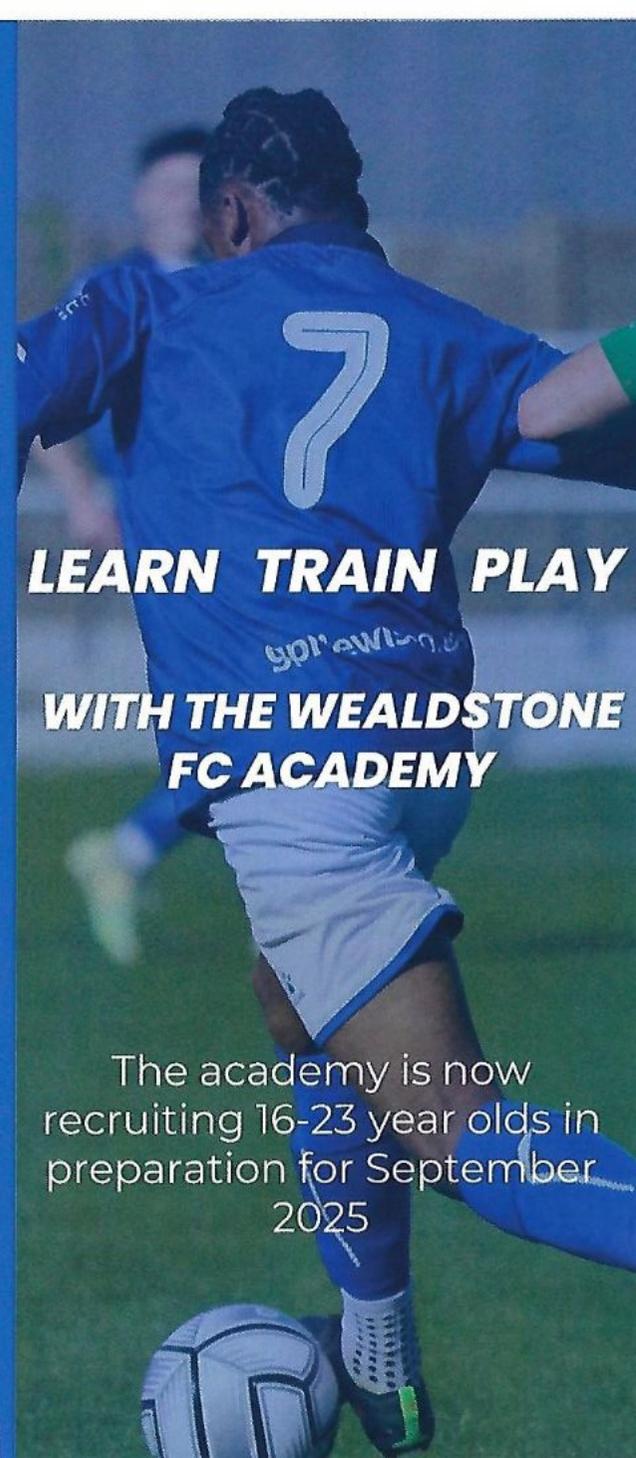
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# 35 years ago today was 'Bish Bosh at The Bash'.... rose tinted memories of a great evening

rewind:  
on this  
day



BY TIM PARKS

**Tuesday August 22 1990, Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Bashley 0 Wealdstone 1**

IF THERE is one away trip from the past that fans look back on with fond memories it is this jaunt down to the New Forest three decades ago to see the Stones take on newly-promoted village side Bashley.

So many people have waxed lyrical about the game that it deserves some scrutiny. And of course there are many parallels with our FA Cup trip to nearby Brockenhurst in 2015.

Yes, it was a summer evening's trip, in 26 degree heat, down to one of the loveliest parts of the country. Yes, we had a decent team (assembled at ridiculous expense, almost half a million pounds overspent since relegation from the Conference two years before) and many were tipping Alan Gane's side to make it back to non-League's top flight at the third attempt.

And yes, the bar was open throughout the game and we won the points in the best possible way, a

# THE BASH!

Official matchday magazine of Bashley FC + 50p



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ESTATE AGENTS

**BASHLEY v WEALDSTONE**  
Wednesday  
August 22  
Kick-off 7.30pm  
Beazer Homes League Premier Division

1990

## TODAY'S TEAMS

BASHLEY ----- (Amber & Black)		WEALDSTONE ----- (White & Blue)	
1	JOHN SIMPKINS	1	CHRIS VAGG
2	BARRY BLANKLEY	2	STEVE SMART
3	BRIAN O'DONNELL	3	MARK HARRISON
4	STEVE INGMAN	4	STEVE TAPLEY
5	JOHN WILSON	5	IAN FERGUSSON
6	STUART RITCHIE	6	LEO DONNELLAN
7	JEREMY STAGG	7	STEVE BROWN
8	LEROY WHALE	8	PAUL GOYETTE
9	JIMMY SHEPPARD-Capt	9	STEVE JENKINS
10	CLINT WEBBE	10	BARRY BLACKMAN
11	KEVIN GREEN	11	TONY LYNCH
12	NICKY BRIDLE	12	PAUL GREGGIDI
14	GARY FLETCHER	14	TONY KELLY
TREVOR PARKER	MANAGER	ALAN GANE	

REFEREE: MR. P.M. SCOBLE - Portsmouth.  
A.FARRAR (Red)- LINESMEN- D.WITHERINGTON (Yellow)

late winner from new fans favourite Tony Kelly.

But I believe we look back on this game with rose-tinted specs because it was the club's last season at Lower Mead. In many ways, it was the final season of the 'Old Wealdstone', the

club we'd all grown up

supporting in its iconic old ground, with the security of owning the freehold. It was therefore protected and nothing could possibly go wrong. Could it?

In the bitter autumn and winter that followed, Chairman Alan Clifton reneged on his promise to lend the club £1m of his own money to tide the Stones over while a new site for a new stadium could be found. Tesco's had offered £7m for the large Lower Mead plot (believed to be worth £10m by our outgoing chairman David Morritt) and while the negotiations for a new site were ongoing the club appeared safe in the hands of Mr Clifton. We had

some breathing space.. But, instead, Lower Mead was sold at Christmas and suddenly the disastrous deal to move in with Watford was rushed through in the space of a few short months. Any other options were abandoned.

And nothing was ever the same again.

That is why this balmy August evening's trip to Bashley was such a wonderful outing, as the 150-strong legion of Stones fans travelled back though the sleepy New Forest with dreams of challenging for the Beazer Homes League title, seeing our crowds rise back towards 1,000 and winning a place back in the Conference.

Manager Gane was feeling the pressure of expectation and even delivered a rant in his programme notes for the home Gravesend game the week after Bashley. He wrote: 'It was quite depressing to read some of the articles in last week's programme against Rugby' (when we opened the season with a 1-1 draw).

*'Before the season had even started, the 'Good Old Days' were being rammed down our throats once again. The days when Wealdstone were the undisputed kings of non-League football are temporarily over although that is obviously what we are trying to achieve again... We must accept that the times have changed and perhaps Wealdstone were not changed with them. We are only one division below the Conference, not a million miles away as some of the comments would have us believe.'*

Those barbed remarks seem to be aimed at



Above: Tony Kelly (left) is pictured the week after Bashley (at Burton Albion) and below, the Elmslie Ender's take on the trip to the New Forest

22.8.90 - BHL Premier  
BASHLEY 0  
WEALDSTONE 1 (Kelly)  
att: 620

Bar the first and last ten minutes Stones totally dominated the match and ran out deserved winners. The fact that the goal came from man of the match Tony Kelly was almost as surprising as an away win. On a beautiful playing surface, Stones stroked the ball about to the great delight of their huge travelling support. But we couldn't turn our vast superiority into goals until a Lynch cross bobbed around the area and Kelly, who should have been sent-off for an ugly challenge, fired home. We looked extremely dodgy in the last ten minutes, but despite some nervy flaps from Vagg, Stones ran out winners. A great victory, in a lovely place with great hosts.

Neale Harvey, whose 'Sidelines' article in that issue pointed out that the Conference - now that there was automatic promotion and relegation from the League - was a transformed competition with burgeoning crowds and financial muscle.

His comments were palpably fair.

And how bizarre that Gane should somehow make out that the Stones had been left behind in the money stakes when we probably spent far more on players in the previous two seasons than the majority of the 'big' Conference outfits - £10,000 on

Tony Kelly, £5,000 on John Margerrison, £15,000 on Steve Smart, £5,000 on Steve Tapley, £5,000 on David Gipp etc etc. That's why we ended up with debts of some £1.2m, necessitating the sale of Lower Mead.

Gane was told, unsurprisingly, that there would be no money for new signings, but he brought in a few canny faces in Leo Donnellan (brother of double winner Gary) from Fulham and strikers Barry Blackman (on a free transfer from Yeovil) and Steve Jones from Witney Town.

Midfielder Neil Price had been sold back to Staines

for £5,000 and a similar fee took Margerrison to St Albans City. Yet the team that travelled to Bashley was very decent; in fact the 'Elmslie Ender' reckon that it played more constructive and free-flowing football than even the great Double team (sorry Alan Gane, you've got me doing it now) with genuine stars

CONTINUED OVERPAGE >>>



For many people, the enduring memory of that season was the awful FA Cup defeat at Grosvenor Vale to Ruislip Manor. Above: Stones attack the 'Bulla' end in front of their fans. Below right, chairman Clifton faces the flak

### CONTD FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Even the loss of the mercurial Tony Lynch to Barnet (another £15,000 recouped) in October wasn't greatly lamented.

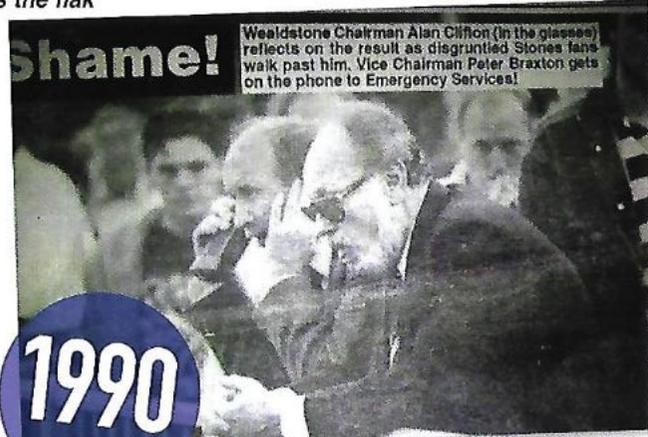
Chris Vagg in goal was a disaster waiting to happen, but two creative fullbacks in Smart and 'Stroller' Harrison (the latter with a dynamite shot) and dominant central defenders in the towering Ian Ferguson and Steve Tapley were an excellent rearguard. Paul Goyette, Kelly, Browne and Donnellan were all hard working and creative in midfield, while Jenkins and Blackman weren't the most inspiring strikers but were always showing for the ball. The want-away Lynch was on the bench.

Bashley's rise up the divisions was remarkable. Just seven years before, while the Stones were finishing third in the Conference, The Bash were in the Bournemouth and District League! But their ascendancy showed no signs of abating, as they had kicked off this 1990-91 season with a 1-0 win at reigning Beazer Homes League champions Dover.

So to chalk up victory on this lovely evening against the flying Bash was quite an achievement... and the rest of August, and September, saw Gane's team winning week in, week out in the league and FA Cup.

Our season turned, in the end, on an unlucky 1-0 home defeat in October to Worcester City (who took over from ourselves at the top of the table) followed by a frankly embarrassing 1-0 FA Cup 3rd Qual Round defeat at Ruislip Manor (yes, here at The Vale) when 700 Stones fans were left open-mouthed at the ineptitude of Gane's team.

It wasn't long before he was replaced by Brian Hall



1990

(previously manager of our legendary Double team - sorry) and the season petered out into the usual mid-table mediocrity. Things were to get very ugly once Lower Mead was demolished and we moved into Vicarage Road - but that's another story.

#### Where are they now?

Bashley have endured a bit of a rollercoaster 35 years with relegation back to the Southern League Division One in the mid-90s, followed by a move across to the Isthmian League - and then promotion back to the Southern Prem after another move across the pyramid.

Under Jimmy Case, the ex-Liverpool player, they had a few good years but were relegated back to the Southern League Div One South & West ten years ago. With virtually no budget to speak of, their young side twice finished in a relegation position (reprieved on one occasion) and have since fluctuated between the Wessex League and the Southern League South division, where they now reside having finished 14th last season.

## Why Warming Up, Stretching & MSK Health Matter in Football

Warming up isn't just a formality—it's a crucial part of preventing injury and enhancing performance.

#### A proper warm-up:

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### MSK Health = Long-Term Performance

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#### Common football MSK concerns:

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- Lower back tension

#### How to protect your MSK system:

- Strengthen core and stabilising muscles
- Maintain proper footwear
- Use recovery time wisely (rest, foam rolling, hydration)
- Seek early physio advice if pain persists



### The Role of Stretching

Stretching improves flexibility, posture, and joint health—and it's especially important after playing to aid muscle recovery. Before games, focus on dynamic stretches like leg swings, walking lunges, arm circles, and hip openers. After games, switch to static stretches such as hamstring, quad, calf, and groin holds—aiming to hold each one for 20–30 seconds without bouncing.

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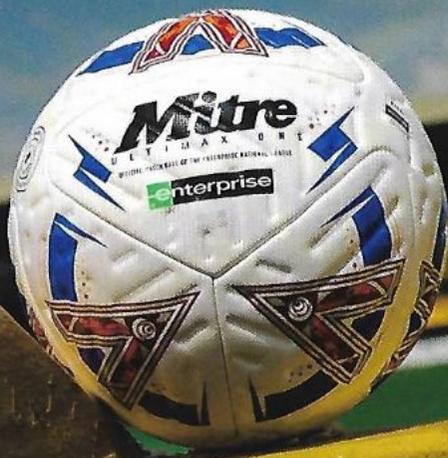
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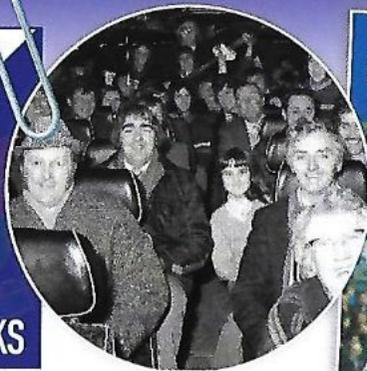
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We've  
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before

BY TIM PARKS



# 51 years ago, the day that Wealdstone and Carlisle's stars aligned

1974



**WELL this is a strange one! This feature routinely covers previous results between the Stones and today's visitors but - of course - we've**

**never met the Cumbrians in our club's long history.**

And why should we have done? Carlisle United have been a full-time professional Football League outfit since 1928 and spent just one season out of the League in 2004-5 ... when still they bounced back from the Conference at the first time of asking.

At that time, Stones had just climbed back into the Ryman Prem but were still two divisions below Carlisle and light years away from competing with the Conference's little guns, let alone an established BELT from 300 miles away.

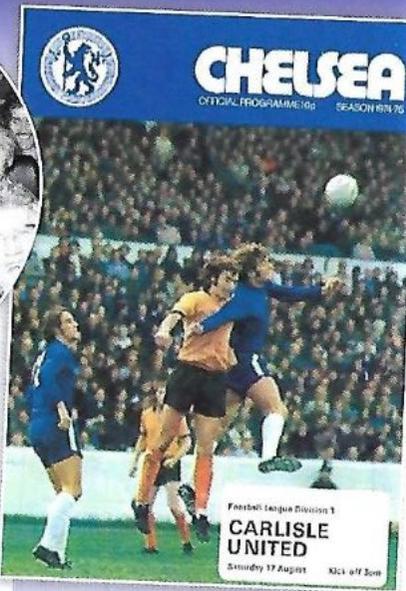
And yet.... there was a strange, mystic coming-together of Wealdstone and Carlisle - in the Parks household, if nowhere else, 51 years ago when the fixture 'computer' (probably two blokes in

blazers with a ledger at FA headquarters) threw up Chelsea v Carlisle Utd for Saturday August 17th 1974.

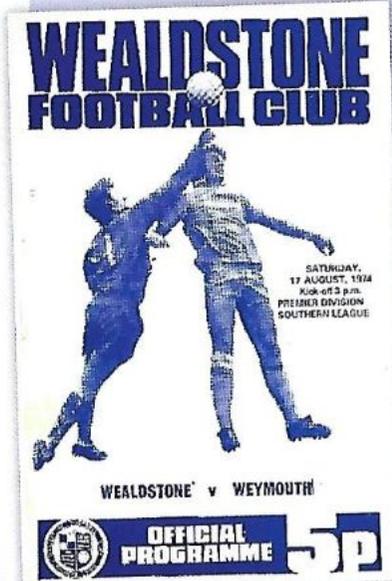
My grandfather, Tom, and my uncle Terry were season ticket holders at Stamford Bridge (and had been for 25 years) and I occasionally used my uncle's ticket when he was away on business and the Stones were playing away in the Southern League's lower reaches. It was no hardship to see the cavalier Chelsea side of Osgood, Hudson and Cooke play Leeds or Manchester United when Wealdstone were away at Andover or Canterbury.

But the glamour was rubbing off Dave Sexton's Blues and when Uncle Terry called me to ask if I'd fancy going to see the Carlisle game I was in an awkward position.

My elderly grandad had died in March and Terry was in Africa on business so his now-single season ticket was available.... but



Above and below, the programmes for that memorable afternoon of 17th August 1974. And top left, the Carlisle fans on their way to another long-distance away game that year



the Stones were facing Weymouth at Lower Mead that same afternoon in our very first game in the rarefied surroundings of the Southern League Premier Division. What a conundrum! To be honest, it wasn't much of

...and congratulations to the Dorset Echo for one of the all-time awful match reports!

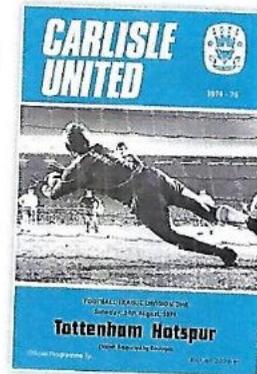
Imagine my bemusement when this Dorset Echo cutting popped up on the magnificent Wealdstone History website to illustrate the game half a century ago. You can sort of understand why the reporter got ALL THREE names wrong of the Stones players he mentioned (George Duck, John Henderson and John Morton for you younger fans) but Weymouth FC has never been known as 'Town' in all its 135-year history. George and John will be here today so ask their opinion!

a decision. Stones were my first love and I was never going to miss seeing Eddie Presland's free-flowing side take on the highly-fancied Terras. We won 2-1, and later that evening Barry Davies was on Match of the Day commenting on the Chelsea-Carlisle game which was treated almost as a bit of a novelty: Chelsea's Champagne Charlies v the upstarts from way up North on their First Division debut.

So what I'm trying to say is that I was almost present to see Carlisle's first-ever game in the top flight, in their one-and-only season at football's top table as they were relegated just eight months later... and what made that day even more special for United fans is that they actually topped the First Division at the end of the month after beating Chelsea 2-0, and then repeating the trick at Middlesbrough (2-0) before beating Tottenham 1-0 in their first-ever Division One game at Brunton Park (programme

pictured below). Imagine how exciting that must have been for Cumbrians' fans!

I was beside myself after seeing Stones beat Weymouth and then Champions Dartford 4-1 three days later... and the sense of disappointment when we then lost 1-0 to an agricultural Tonbridge side stays with me to this day. I'd be interested to know if any Carlisle fan reading this is of

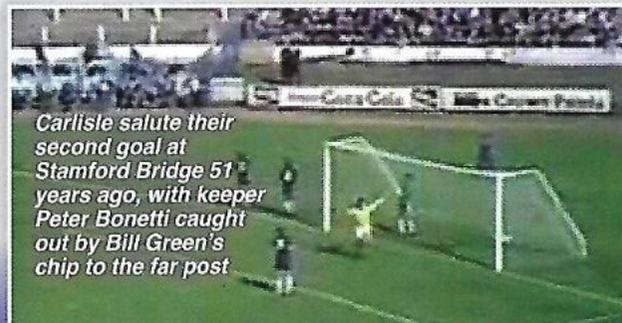


similar vintage to myself (late 60s) and can recall the wonderment of those three-wins-on-the-spin to top the table. Heady times!

Ironically, Chelsea had lost most of their stars by 1974 and finished second from bottom - also relegated to Division Two along with Carlisle and Luton.

So, this is the 51st anniversary of when Wealdstone and Carlisle stars aligned, and we finally meet on the pitch rather than in my imagination.

I have a feeling this might be a short-lived pleasure!



Carlisle salute their second goal at Stamford Bridge 51 years ago, with keeper Peter Bonetti caught out by Bill Green's chip to the far post

Two are  
booked  
as **Town**  
slip up

Wealdstone 2,  
Weymouth Town 1

WEYMOUTH will quickly want to forget their frustrating display in this opening Southern Premier League match at newly-promoted Wealdstone.

Apart from seeing an early lead — secured by Brian Owen in the second minute — wrested from them late in the game, Weymouth also wasted chances and had Keith Walley and Tony Hobson booked.

Yet, it all started so promisingly for the Dorset side, who impressed in the first 45 minutes with their slick approach work and considerable skill. They looked both fitter and faster than Wealdstone.

It was from a well-placed through-pass from Bobby Brown that Owen snapped up the chance to put Weymouth into their early lead.

They continued to break through a suspect Wealdstone defence, but failed to cash in on several great chances to increase their lead.

Jem Olsen, for example, had a glorious opportunity to make it 2-0, but he contrived to hook the ball over from five yards.

Owen also missed a fine chance with his head just after the restart — and, eventually, Wealdstone took full advantage.

In the 78th minute, Brian Duck followed up to score after Brian Lawrence had only partially cleared.

Then, three minutes later, Alan Henderson climaxed a lightning Wealdstone attack, by beating goalkeeper Barry Smith with a powerful shot into the roof of the net.

Even then, Weymouth had a chance to pull back a point.

Owen took possession in the last minute after home goalkeeper Trevor Morton had lost the ball in the air, but his shot was cleared off the line by a defender.

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2025-26

# Celebrate an occasion or advertise your support for the Stones with these great-value packages

**Sponsoring a match is a great way to celebrate an occasion or advertise your organisation's support. Packages start for fans at just £495 for 4 people, and for businesses at £595 + VAT for 4 people.**

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 [abbeychandler@wealdstonefc.com](mailto:abbeychandler@wealdstonefc.com)**

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**FC HALIFAX TOWN** August 16, Enterprise National League

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

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**ROCHDALE** August 30, Enterprise National League

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

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**GATESHEAD** September 13, Enterprise National League

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**EASTLEIGH** September 27, Enterprise National League

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**BALL DONORS:** Your name here?

**ALTRINCHAM** October 4, Enterprise National League

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**BALL DONORS:** Darrell Parsons

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

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**BALL DONORS:** John Morton

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

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

**FOREST GREEN** November 22, Enterprise National League

**MATCH SPONSORS:** Ruislip Windows | Harrow Windows  
**BALL DONORS:** Your name here?

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

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## ..or be a part of matchday by donating the match ball!



A package for businesses (from **£225 + vat**) or fans (**£180**) for four people that gives you the satisfaction of knowing you've paid for the ball that Wealdstone are banging into the net (or out of the ground!). You get:  
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**Call Peter Worby on 07967 698370 or John Young on 07874 846785 for more details.**

**WOKING** January 17, Enterprise National League

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**TAMWORTH** January 21, Enterprise National League

**MATCH SPONSORS:** Brunel University  
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**MORECAMBE** January 31, 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

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

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

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

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

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

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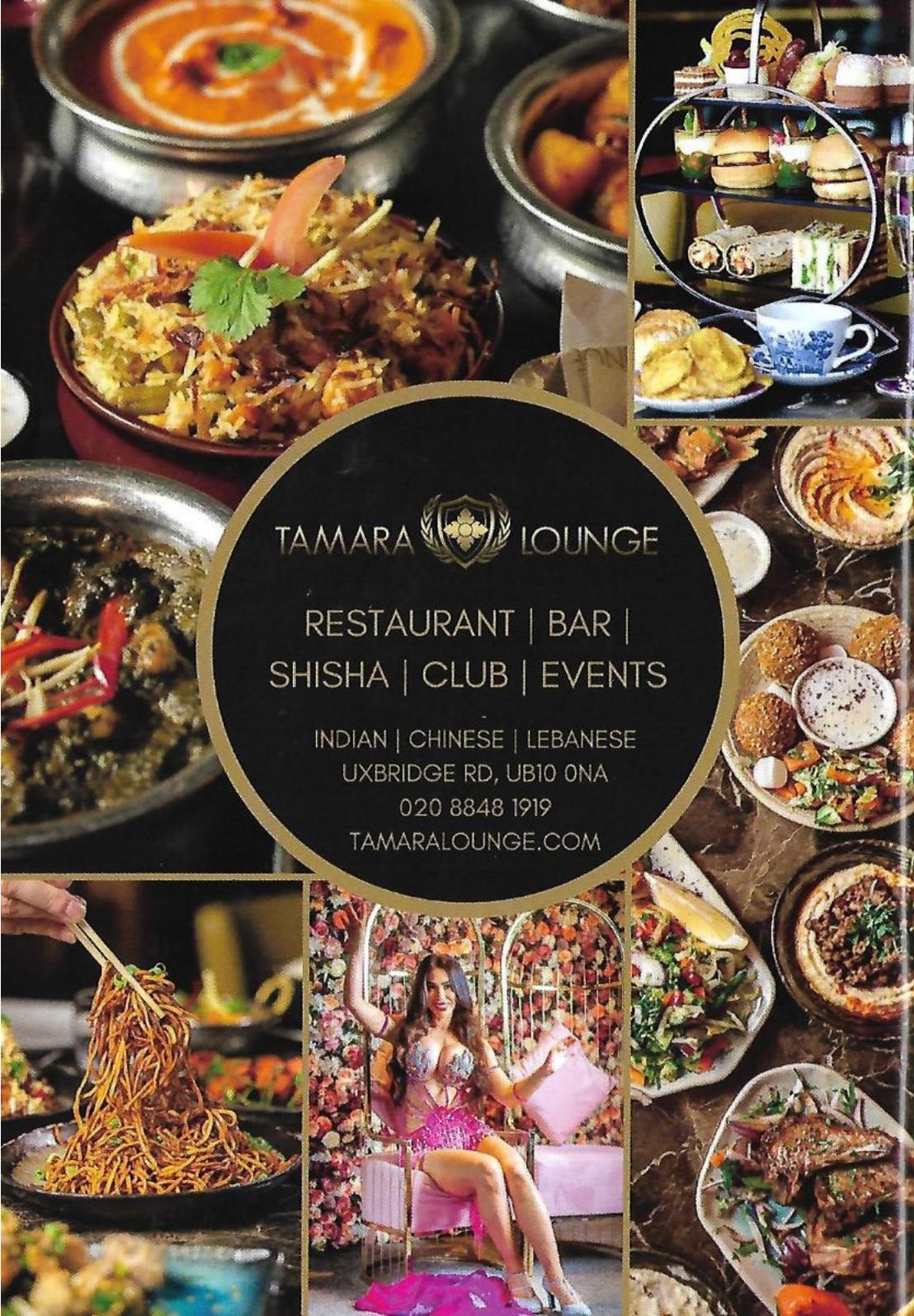
**ALDERSHOT TOWN** April 6, Enterprise National League

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

**SCUNTHORPE UNITED** April 18, Enterprise National League

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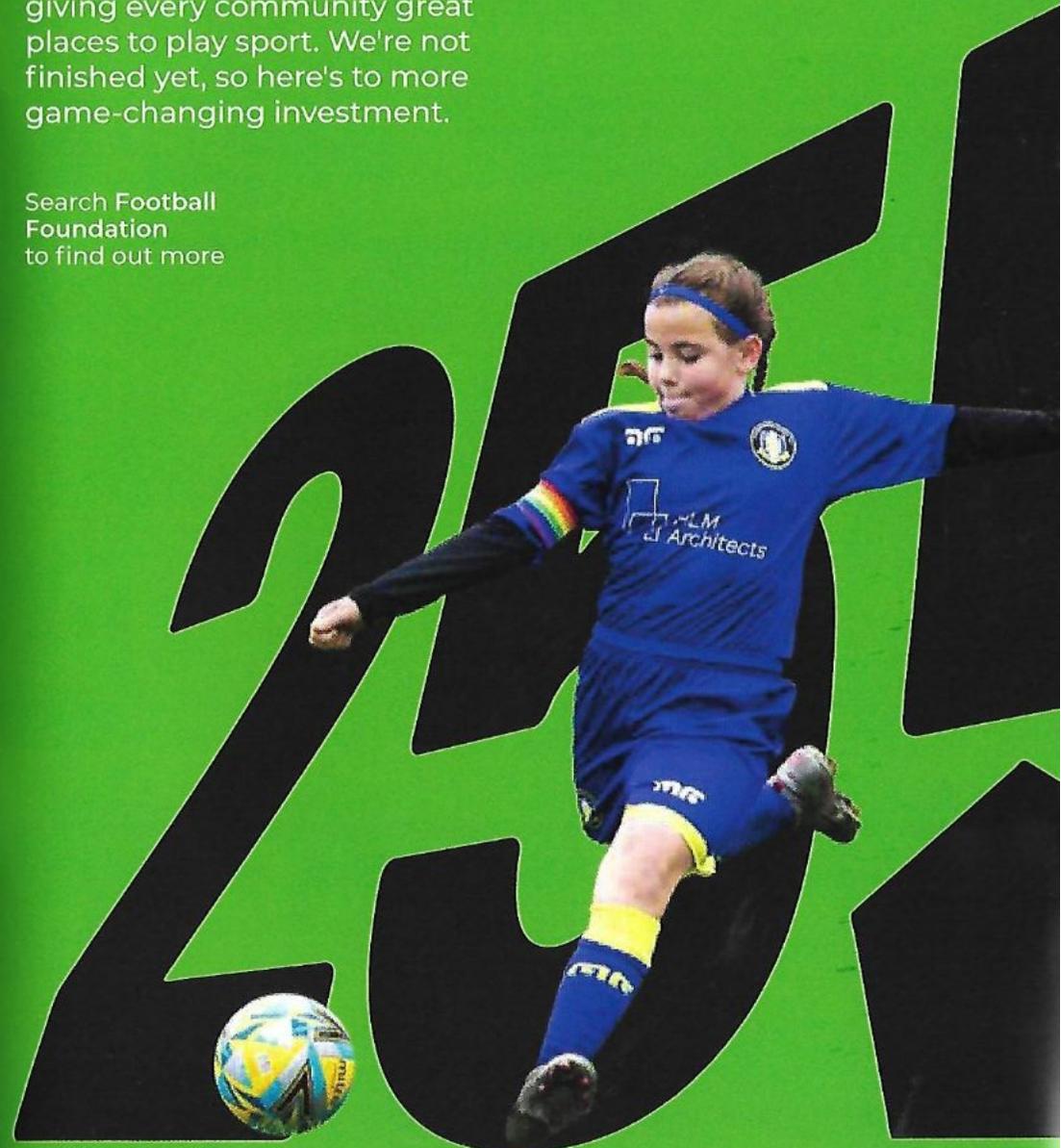
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TOGETHER  
FOR FOOTBALL



# Upcoming Fixtures 2025/26

## Support the Stones here and across England



### Home



#### Rochdale

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



#### Southend United

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



#### Gateshead

Saturday 13th September,  
Enterprise National League

### Away



#### Boston United

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



#### Scunthorpe United

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



#### Morecambe

Saturday 20th September, 3:00pm  
Enterprise National League

### Enterprise National League 2025/2026 @ 17th August

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



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