

Saturday September 1st 2025
V Gateshead FC

Welcome back to Grosvenor Vale for our National League fixture against Gateshead .

A warm welcome to all the Gateshead supporters, management and players who have made the long journey down from the north east to be with us today.

We would like to take this opportunity to offer our best wishes and hope for a speedy recovery to Daniel Nkrumah following his injury and subsequent complications late in last Saturday's away fixture at Scunthorpe. At the time of writing, the good news is Dan has been released from hospital and is continuing his recuperation at home. Thanks also to the medical teams from Wealdstone and Scunthorpe, as well as the paramedics who ensured Dan's distress and pain was minimised.

Our last home fixture was one for the football romantics. A packed Vale at both ends, floodlights, drizzle, a penalty, goals and ultimately 3 points. As supporters we shouldn't underestimate our part in the night. Opposition managers and players regularly reference the difficulty of playing at the Vale due to the atmosphere. Let's replicate that today and play our part.

In a week of negativity aimed at our club from many quarters, something important I would like to focus on is the work of the Wealdstone FC Foundation. The Foundation offers a range of

community programs, from youth football initiatives, like the Schools Project and Under 11s Tournaments, to mental health support through Head in the Game and inclusive activities like walking football and tea dances.

The Foundation is a dedicated and independent registered charity born from the rich heritage and community spirit of Wealdstone FC, established to harness the power of football. It serves as a bridge between the club's legacy and the broader community.

Full details can be found at www.wfcfoundation.org.uk

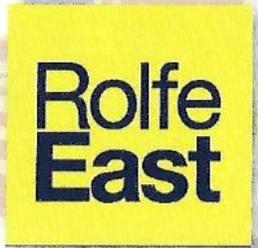
Mark



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WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2025/2026

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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

1981 / 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:
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 - 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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GOOD AFTERNOON and welcome back to the Vale everyone for this game against Gateshead.

The Heed have been more than competitive over the last few years and Alun Armstrong is a top, top coach who will doubtless get them ticking over again after a mixed start to the season. They will be aiming for a reaction and to bounce back after their loss to Woking last week, while we hope to follow up the win over Southend with another strong performance.

Your support over the first six weeks of the season has been pivotal in the start that we've made, getting points on the board and being the 12th man for us. Your backing at games and on social media really does go a long way.

We now have an onset of fixtures to challenge us plus the return of the National League Cup on Tuesday (at home to Leicester City under-21s, 7pm) which will give us the chance to use a few of the players who haven't featured as much.

Against Southend at the Vale I thought the atmosphere was electric - and it was a performance from the lads that matched the atmosphere...

they were excellent to a man, they excited and enthused, and the grit they showed in later stages epitomised what we are all about. We passed the ball and moved it with a purpose and I thought the game was a great advert for the National League. We were well deserving of the three points.

Unfortunately, the game against Scunthorpe was abandoned due to the injury

Gaffer's column

SAM COX

to Daniel Nkrumah - he is now recovering well after getting X-rayed and treated in hospital and I'd like to say a huge thank you to the Scunthorpe medical team and the paramedics. Dan will be out for the foreseeable months and will be undergoing intense rehab sessions with Georgie... of course we wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back on the grass soon.

For me, the priority at Scunthorpe was always going to be the welfare of my players, notably

Daniel and after that the rest of the players, their well-being and where they were at.

The whole thing was unfortunate and obviously not ideal - not least for the Stones' travelling fans who came to support us on a long old journey. I know these are not cheap days out so a big thank-you to them. We all really appreciate your unwavering support.

With Dan now being out of action, Nathan Young-Coombes has been back training for the last couple of weeks and he was back on full contact work this week... plus also we have Max Kretzschmar resuming full training this week so we have two attacking options there, plus the versatility of Micah Obiero being

able to operate as a No.9 too. So in the short term we will be making do with what we have - budget-wise we are in no position to chop and change and bring in new personnel. Our job is to improve the players we have and utilise every ounce of budget that we have! **Enjoy the game, God bless you and Up The Stones!**

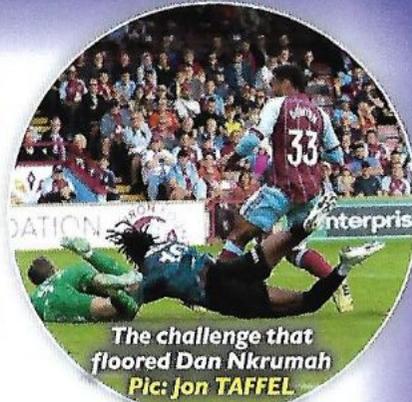
Dan will be out for months after that injury.... but NYC and Max are very close to a return

Taking it to the

M₃ A₁ X₈

By Max Kretzschmar

Gateshead's football on a low budget has been really, really impressive



The challenge that flooded Dan Nkrumah
Pic: Jon TAFFEL

WELCOME BACK to The Vale today for this important match against Gateshead, a unique club at this level powered by a loyal following in the North East.

They've built a strong possession-based identity on the pitch over the years. It's been very impressive the way they've consistently played an attractive brand of football, even while operating on a modest budget compared to clubs like York City, Carlisle, and Forest Green.

Our home fixture against them last season should be a strong warning to how good they can be. I was suspended that day and so I watched on as Gateshead played fantastic, attacking football made harder by a damp and boggy pitch.

They've been a little leaky this season defensively but we know that their attacking output hasn't dropped off. We'll need to be solid and dominant if we are to pick up three points today.

I'm writing these notes before the outcome of our abandoned match with Scunthorpe has been decided, following the injury to our striker Daniel Nkrumah. The most important thing is that Daniel is okay, and I really look forward to seeing him back out on the pitch whenever that may be.

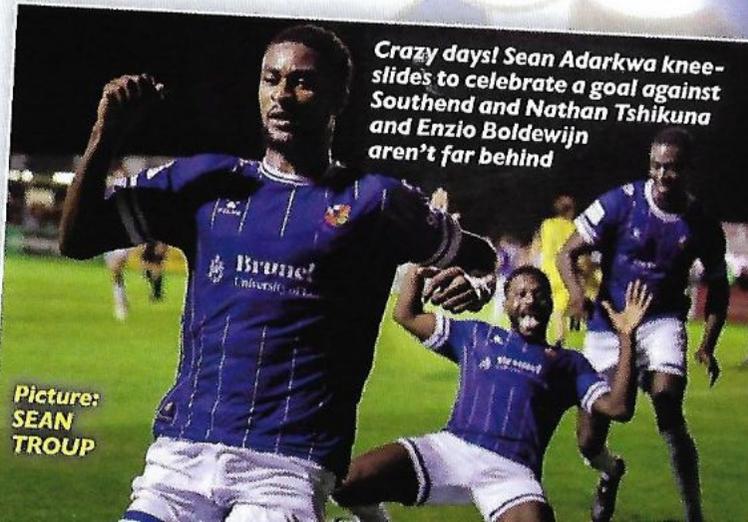
Watching it unfold on television at home was quite distressing, especially with the commentators unable to provide any clear details at the time. That confusion seemed to last an eternity but it's a huge relief to know the injury isn't as serious as it first appeared.

Prior to that, we earned a hard-fought victory against promotion hopefuls Southend. We

faced the Shrimpers very late last season in what was almost a catastrophic defeat - only avoided thanks to our final-day heroics against Halifax - so to put in the performance we did last week was especially pleasing. Watching it back in our debrief two days later only reinforced how good it was. The way we kept the ball, moved it side to side, and created numerous chances was excellent. But my favourite aspect was the commitment we showed in the final 15 minutes - the last-ditch tackles and the sheer determination to defend our lead.

That's something we've lacked at times during my spell here, and I really hope it becomes a hallmark of this team throughout the season.

This week has given us the chance to reset, regroup and recharge after what's been a very demanding start to the season physically. The squad is full of a range of characters and the energy in which the boys train every day has been brilliant. It's hard not to be lifted when the manager himself exudes positivity day in, day out. Now it's over to you supporters - let's feel that same positivity we've had this season from the stands today and hopefully collect another important home victory. **UTS!**



Crazy days! Sean Adarkwa kneel-slides to celebrate a goal against Southend and Nathan Tshikuna and Enzo Boldewijn aren't far behind

Picture: SEAN TROUP

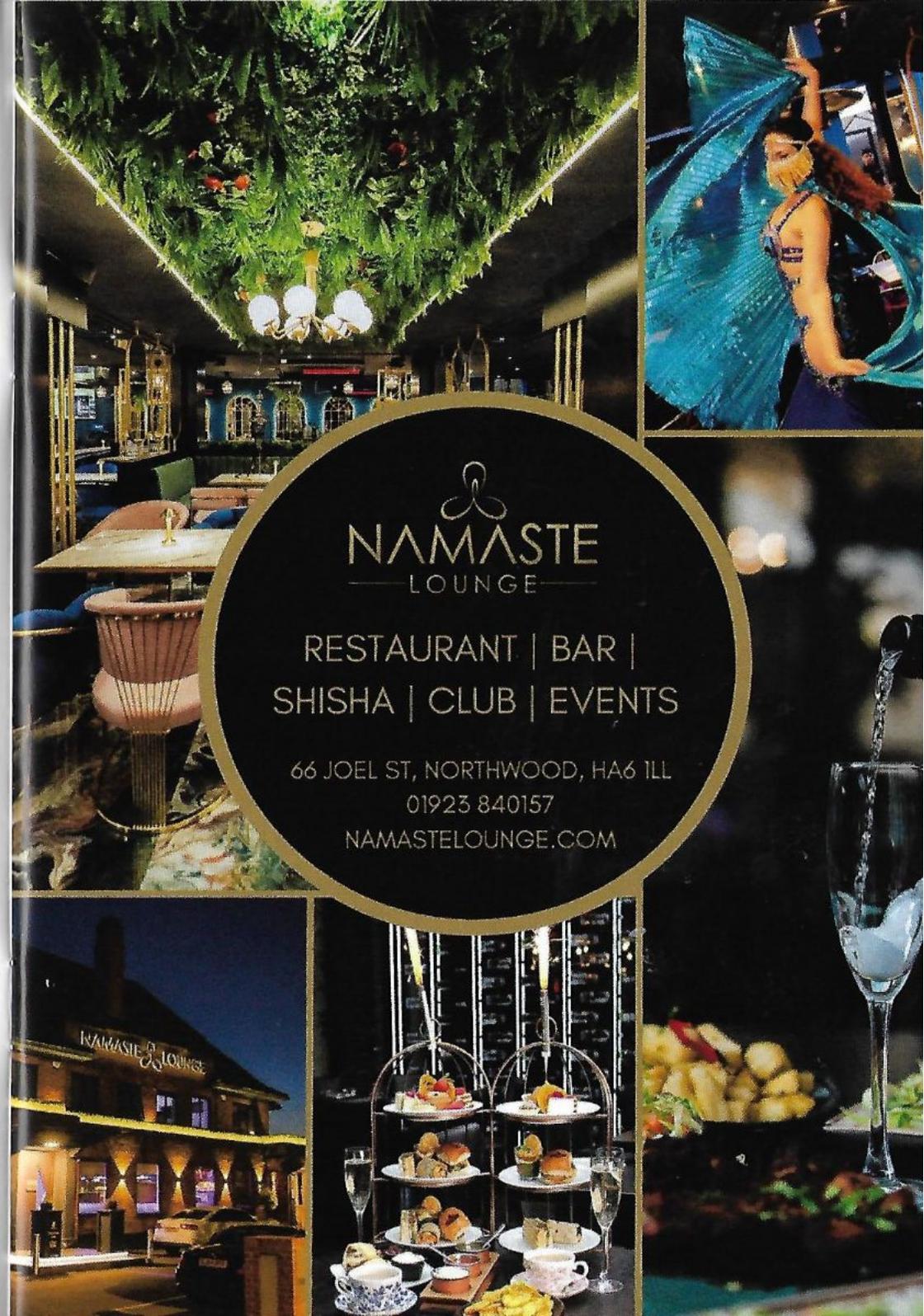


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©Elmslie Ender was among the first wave of football club magazines when it replaced 'Long Ball Down the Middle' as the Wealdstone fanzine in the mid-1980s. LBDTM's forerunner 'Wealdstone Whispers' was famously THE very first football fanzine in Britain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

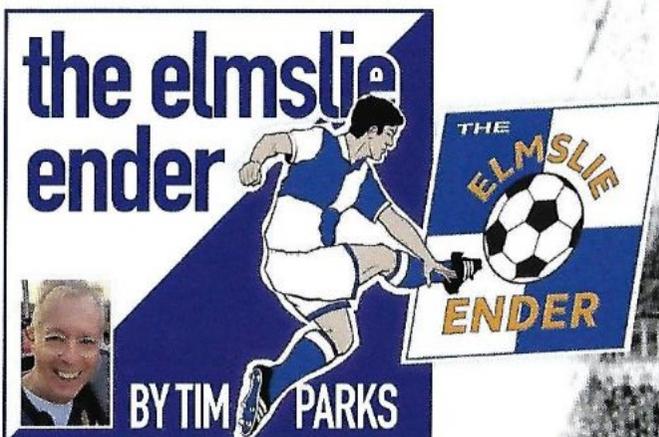
On my earliest visits to our old Lower Mead ground, whenever desperate defenders cleared the ball for a flag kick the inevitable cry would always go up from the Elmslie End (or Cinema End).... "Oooh it's a corner, oooh it's a corner"

The chant was redolent of trombones at a circus, excitedly greeting the high-wire act or troupe of fire-eaters as they strode into the ring. And we would leap up and down in anticipation behind the goal as the tallest among our stars from long ago manoeuvred their way into the crowded penalty box to await the arrival of the ball, swung into the six-yard box with varying degrees of success.

Having played the occasional game on that pitch in later years I take my hat off to the wingers who had the task of hitting the goal area without a run-up. The corner quadrant was tighter than a submarine door... particularly at the Elmslie End, hemmed in by its stone wall.

There was barely room to swing your leg back before contact with the ball.

Which is why one of my favourite memories of that old ground (home of the Stones from 1921-1991, for the youngsters among you) is the glorious moment in December 1977 when Keith Furphy leaned against that



Sak is just the latest Stone to savour the joy of a goal scored direct from a corner!

wall at the High Mead corner about to negotiate his flag kick in the opening stages of our FA Cup second round tie against Football Leaguers Reading.

The Fourth Division side were rocked by the early onslaught from our Southern League side but nobody - nobody - was expecting what came next.

Crammed behind the goal among the 7,000 crowd, the poor visibility from the wooden steps of The Elmslie lived up to its name as the bodies jostled and Furphy's left-footed delivery seemed to be arrowing towards the predatory George Duck at the far post. But the Royals' goalkeeper Steve Death was favourite to get a hand to the ball and help it over the crossbar. We held our breath.

At the last moment, the ball seemed to get momentary uplift and Death's clawing fingertips missed the ball by millimetres. And on it travelled. And then,

1977 George Duck (below) looks on with delight as Keith Furphy's corner finds the corner of the Reading net in the FA Cup 2nd round tie that we won 2-1 in front of a pulsating 7,000 crowd



1975 Woking can't keep out Johnny Henderson's flag-kick in the 1-1 draw at Lower Mead... which led to the famous defeat at Aldershot in Round One



2003 Rob Courtnage's corner flies in via the far post in the FA Trophy game at Leatherhead.. a 3-1 win

courtesy of the fantastic picture by the Harrow Observer's Doug Avent, above, came the moment that the delighted Duck realised the ball was headed into the net of its own volition..

The crowd exploded! The players ran to the corner and the gangling Furphy, son of Watford's 1960s legendary manager Ken, at first seemed non-plussed as to what had happened to the ball after it had left his boot. Then he cavorted with the mob of team-mates in front of the bellowing Elmslie, lapping up the praise and enjoying the definitive best few weeks of his career..

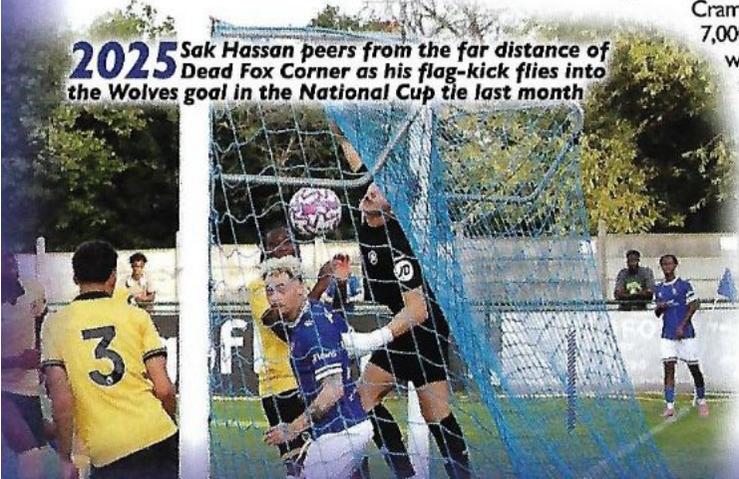
The 19-year-old had been the star of the shock 3-2 win at Third Division Hereford United in the 1st Round replay, providing three assists for Pat Ferry (2) and Bobby Moss and was our most dangerous forward in the 4-0 defeat at top-flight QPR in the 3rd Round. Furphy had been rejected by Rangers as a youngster and almost made them regret it - England keeper Phil Parkes pulled off one amazing stop to prevent Furphy levelling the scores in the first half. **So what's the relevance to corners, almost 50 years later today? Well, two reasons..**

Mainly, is sparked by the goal against Wolves under-21s last month from Sak Hassan when his flag kick, bent in deliciously from Dead Fox corner, beat the Wanderers keeper to dip in at the far post. You couldn't say that The Bulla (sorry, Smith & Latimer stand) rose to acclaim the feat a la Elmslie - but the 250-odd fans scattered around the ground were as delighted as we were at the **Furphy Moment** from the 1970s.

The other connection today - literally - is that on September 13th, 1975 (50 years ago) came a goal from a corner at the Elmslie End that pre-dated even the Keith Furphy goal. And it was also in the FA Cup: a 1-1 draw in the 1st qualifying round against Woking, from nominally a division lower. John Henderson, the fans' favourite winger, netted this one (pictured above) and it was a real saving grace as the rumbustious 5-3 win in the replay set us up for a run to the 1st Round proper for the first time in a decade... where we were beaten at Third Division Aldershot 4-3.

But maybe the most unusual **Corner Story** came in October 2003 when Tommy Williams and Rob Courtnage scored from corners **in the same game!** Leatherhead were the victims..and it's never happened again.

2025 Sak Hassan peers from the far distance of Dead Fox Corner as his flag-kick flies into the Wolves goal in the National Cup tie last month



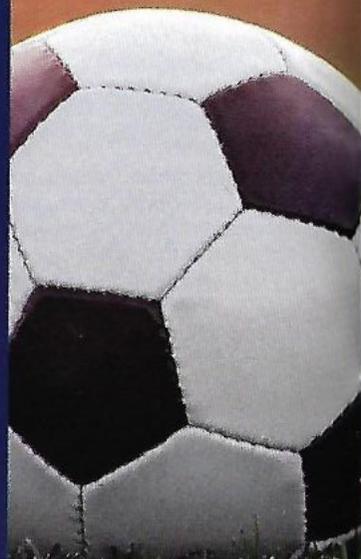
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the stones interview

It's Nathan Tshikuna

Nathan Muya Tshikuna, 26, was our surprise capture on a one-year deal from Eastleigh in the summer... and he says his Mum was the deciding factor as to which club he chose!

He started off in local South Mids football at Aylesbury Utd, Bedford, Kempston, Barton Rovers and Royston before making his name under our former player Andy Peaks at Tamworth.

The Lambs won promotion from the National League North in his first season - and had a tilt at Tottenham in the FA Cup in January when they famously took Spurs to extra time (denied the lucrative replay) only to eventually lose 3-0... a memorable day for Nathan, who came off the bench but was unfortunate enough to see the ball deflect off his knee into his own net for Tottenham's opening goal.

Whereabouts were you born and brought up, Nathan? I was born in Neasden, but I grew up in Milton Keynes.

Do you or your family still live in that area? Yes they live in Milton Keynes

Your career was fairly low key at local clubs to start with... when did your talent become recognised? At about the age of 8 when I signed for Brook End Colts

Who has been the most influential person in your career? My son has been my motivation... I had him pretty young and he's what kept me going.

Did you know that Andy Peaks is a former Wealdstone player? I didn't know that, that's interesting, he kept that one quiet!

Have you always been a midfielder? What is your most influential position, do you think?

'I like a one step run-up ...you may be seeing one of those penalties again'

I've always played midfield: I can play 6 or 8 but my favourite is the 10 so I can be closer to the goal

Have you ever played against Wealdstone before? Any memories? Yes last season I played against the Stones, and scored twice in the midweek game at Tamworth. Good memories for me but sorry, Stones fans. (Nathan got a tap-in for Tamworth's first goal in the 4-1 win, and two minutes later converted a penalty with a one-step run-up to make it 2-0 -Ed)

Did you have a successful season at Eastleigh? Was the full-time environment helpful? Yes I enjoyed my time at Eastleigh, a great club with some good people running it. The full time environment was really good, physically demanding at the start but once your body gets used to it the quality and the standards go up it makes a big difference technically and physically.

Who was instrumental in bringing you to Wealdstone? My mum, funnily enough. I told her of all the options I had on the table and she was rooting



Nathan (left) get the winning goal at Woking and his teammates go wild! Picture: Jon Taffel



Above: Nathan (20) is unlucky enough to turn this Spurs cross into his own net with Dominic Solanke (19) lurking and (below) look at the big names celebrating the breakthrough!



for Wealdstone.

Did you know any of the Stones players or history before signing? I didn't know before, but since joining the club, I've found out quite a lot about its history

How are you enjoying your first few months at the Stones? Yeah, I'm loving it. The environment is good, the players and the staff are top guys and girls and we've had a positive start to the season also which makes it that little bit better.

What's your feeling about the club and the squad that Sam is assembling at the moment? The club is run well and the squad is very strong. The competition for places is really high so that speaks volumes of what the gaffer is looking to achieve.

What is your favourite restaurant and favourite meal? Nandos, you can't go wrong. Peri flamer thighs, peri chips & halloumi starter.

What's the best holiday you've been on? Dubai

What's playing on your airpod at the moment? Gunna - wght

You're only in your mid-20s... what are your aspirations in football? To go and play as high up the football pyramid as I can

Were you in the frame to take that penalty against Southend after your memorable one-step run up when scoring against us for the Lambs? Yes, look I'm always wanting to get on the score sheet so maybe you'll see one of those penalties again.... time will tell.

Abandon hope! Stones have been here before

WHATEVER the rights and wrongs of the controversial abandonment of the game at Scunthorpe last Saturday (and this programme went to press before any judgement was made) here at Programme Towers we decided to look into the history of Wealdstone Abandonments.

And it's funny, but no soon have you decided that there can be no more than three or four in our long time-frame than you start remembering all sorts of strange incidents from the past.

In my second season of following this club (in 1970-71) there was one game I trudged down to South London to see, Tooting v Stones in the London Senior Cup at their old Sandy Lane ground when thickening fog forced the ref to call it off just as soon as the floodlights were switched on. There were also fogged-off games in the 70s at Ashford Town and Hampton, one at Cambridge City in the snow plus that monsoon at Dagenham in 1998 which led to a half-time abandonment of the FA Trophy tie.

In March 2001 we lost the brilliant goalkeeping prospect David Godfrey who broke several ribs on a frozen pitch at Edgware. That game was called off at half time, following his horrific injury as the giant teenager fell onto the rock-hard surface... and as far as I know that was his last game in senior football. Godfrey had kept clean sheets in successive 1-0 wins against Ryman One high-flyers Aylesbury and Bognor and was destined for greatness.

One game at Yate in the Southern League (2007) was abandoned when the floodlights failed while more recently (January 2015), Wealdstone were 3-0 down at half time to the very decent Hemel Hempstead team on a frozen surface at Vauxhall Road until the ref belatedly called it off. Hemel were understandably furious... especially as we then came from behind to grab a 1-1 draw in the replayed game thanks to a Johnny Wright header.

But the most high-profile abandonment (before last Saturday) was probably the FA Cup 1st Round replay at Swansea in 1986. The Swans were top of the old Division Four (EFL 2) but after we'd drawn 1-1 at Lower Mead - and the first replay attempt was rained off at the Vetch Field - the next game saw Swans leading 2-1 nine minutes into the second half when the referee called it off in the face of driving rain and ridiculously puddly conditions. It was barely better a few days later when the next attempt took place, but it finished 4-1 to Swansea and we were quite relieved.

By Tim Parks
Right: A packed Elmslie Stand at the first Swansea game.





Mountbatten View, recently completed in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire



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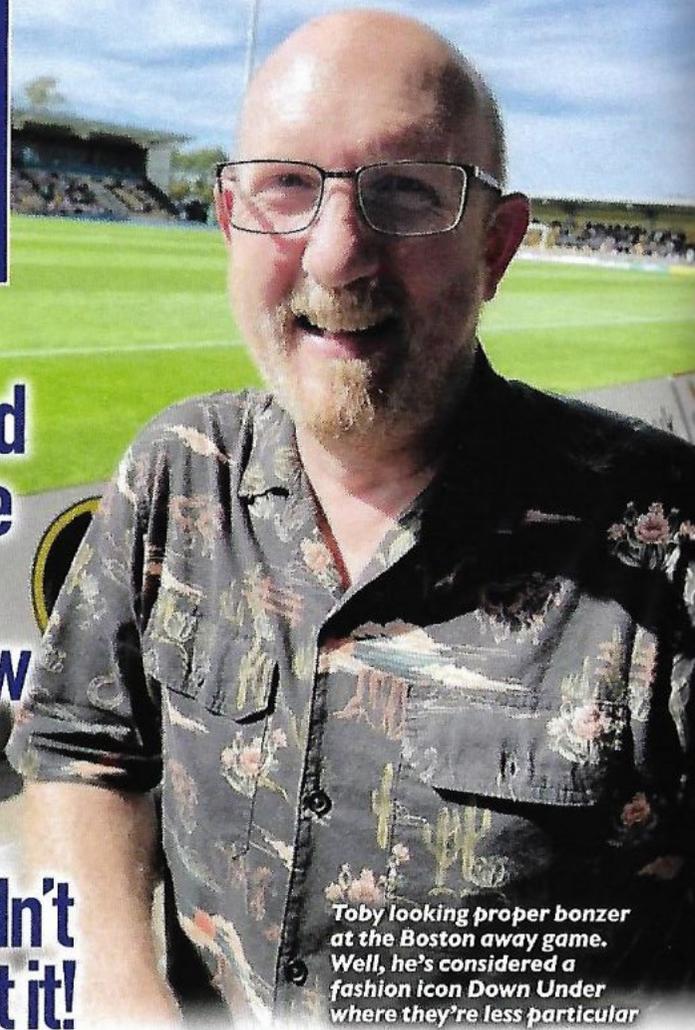
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stones fan in the stand

Toby
Merrill

It was Mike Gallagher and his incredible enthusiasm that first drew me to watch Wealdstone. He just wouldn't shut up about it!



Toby looking proper bonzer at the Boston away game. Well, he's considered a fashion icon Down Under where they're less particular

Your name and age? Toby Merrill, 51
Whereabouts do you live, Toby? Hackney
Have you always lived in that area? No, I grew up in Melbourne, Australia. I moved to London permanently in 2001 after living here on a working visa for a couple of years... I had never heard of Wealdstone Football Club!
When was your first Stones game (against whom and any memories)? I'm pretty sure it was at the Vale against Bognor Regis in September 2017. A 3-0 win. I can't recall much of the game to be honest. The match report says Danny Green scored a cracking 30-yard free kick. If Jon was the photographer at that time, I sure he's got a great photo of it.

(He didn't actually as Freddie Patmore was the club photographer then; but she did get a decent shot on the opposite page - Ed).

What were your first impressions of the club?

It was great. I hadn't been to a match where you could stand right up at the fence and change ends at half time. It felt unique and I think it still is a bit at this level. It was also a week or so after Gordon Bartlett had left, so my first view of the club was a time of big change. Things seem to have gone okay from there though.

Who introduced you to Wealdstone? Stones fan Mike Gallagher (who also lives in Hackney) and his incredible enthusiasm was the thing that drew me to



Greenie's freekick flies into the Bognor goal on Toby's debut and he is celebrating with Mike 'Student' Gallagher (below left) another goal in the 3-0 win. Below: The wonderful Danny G

Wealdstone. He wouldn't shut up about it. Also, we have kids the same age and it was good to bring them along together. My kids lost interest, maybe more in the travel across London for the game as they still ask me about the score.

Do you follow any other team? Manchester United. They were on the TV a lot and I'm the same age as the lads from '92. But I rarely watch now.

How devotedly? Home and away? Manchester United? No, have never been. Wealdstone though, as much I can, work and life permitting. I've been to a few memorable away games like Oldham at the end of the season in 2024 and the FA Cup game at Grimsby - I'm happy to have met a great group of supporters who have known each other forever and have welcomed me on the away trips.

They've taught me some important things, like how to cut bread, myths about jumpers or how to order the best takeaway pizza.

What level of football do you most enjoy, and why? The National League, for no other reason than Wealdstone are currently in it. I guess I'll be enjoying the the NLS if the Stones ever go down. I'm sure the other leagues are enjoyable.

What's the most memorable game you've EVER seen? The 1998 World Cup play-off game between Australia and Iran at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (in 1997). It was a 2-2 draw, but for 70 mins we were on the plane to France. It was amazing hearing 85,000 people from different ethnic groups belt out the national anthem. We were playing well until Peter Hoare got on the pitch and pulled the goal net down. Australia lost momentum after the 20-minute break in play and Iran got back into it. I'm sure the ball had gone out of play before their equalizer as well. It was definitely memorable.

And the best Wealdstone game? For me it was

the Barnet game when we won 3-1 away. The 900 Stones supporters singing at the end was amazing. It felt good to be part of that (apart from the bathroom remodelling that may have gone on).

How big a part of your life is the game?

Quite big, but I think I have it under control for the time being.

Do you have other hobbies? Not any more.

How do you fit watching football in with your family/working life? Fine, though there a quite a few jobs that need doing building up around the house.

Have you ever played the game yourself?

No, not really, just at primary school and some five a side games.

Who are the best Wealdstone players you've ever seen? Danny Green

made an impression, maybe not the best player; but when I first started coming to games he seemed to be involved a lot of the good things that were happening on the pitch.

Or maybe he was the only one with a song at the time. Kallum Cesay more recently was great - and good luck to him on his football journey. Jack Cook as well, has been brilliant, some outstanding off-the-line clearances and then the recent wonder goal

against Halifax, a great leader for the club. But I don't think I could name the best ever. I don't know enough about the players of the past, so it would be very 2020s player heavy. They did get a promotion though, so they must have been ok.

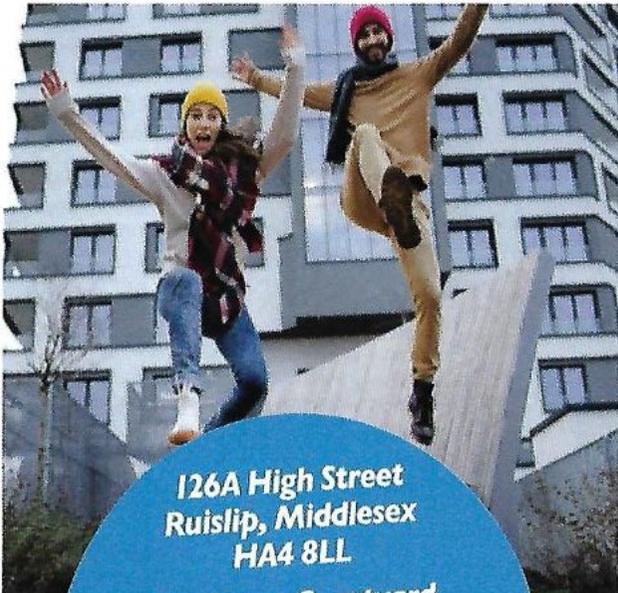
And finally, where do you think the Stones will be in five years? Probably NLS, considering the money spent by other teams. But if we can stay up and fight a few more years, then I think we'll be in the National League waiting for the final decision on which way the pitch will face at the new stadium.



Mike and his dad

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today's opposition in focus

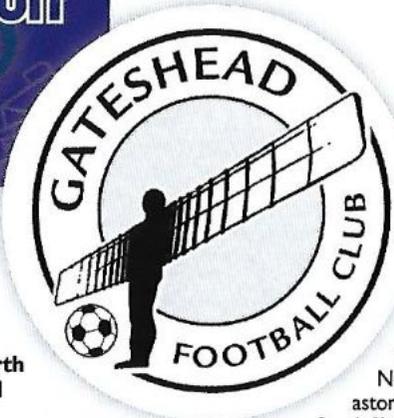
The original Gateshead AFC was formed in 1930 when neighbours South Shields – members of the Football League's old Third Division North – moved to Gateshead because of financial difficulties.

The newly formed "Tynesiders" almost capitalised immediately on their good fortune when only Lincoln City's superior goal average denied them promotion to the second division in just their second season of League football. However, it was to be the FA Cup that was to provide the club with its finest hour when cup fever gripped the Tyneside town in 1953. After accounting for Liverpool in the Third Round, Gateshead progressed to the quarter-final only for their Wembley aspirations to be denied by a single Nat Lofthouse goal for eventual finalists Bolton Wanderers. A sell-out Redheugh Park crowd of 17,692 had witnessed the spectacle, but within five years the North Easterners were founder members of the newly formed Fourth Division after they missed the cut for the Third Division by just one point.

Despite an average placing of ninth in 21 Third Division North campaigns – interrupted by the Second World War – two years after the introduction of the Fourth Division came Gateshead's shock dismissal from the Football League. The club had applied for re-election only once before in a relatively successful 30-year period, but were unceremoniously cast aside in favour of the more geographically favourable Peterborough United in 1960. Gateshead had finished third-bottom with both Oldham Athletic and Hartlepool United below them, but polled only 18 votes and were unjustly voted out of the League. An unsuccessful bid to join the Scottish Football League was followed by a brief spell in the Northern Counties League and then six years in North Regional League.

In 1968, Gateshead became founder members of the Northern Premier League, but their stay in the new competition lasted only two years. Their place was, ironically, taken by another demoted Football

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GATESHEAD FC, THE HEED



League outfit, Bradford Park Avenue, and Gateshead were forced to replace their own reserve side in the Wearside League.

Finishing as runners-up, the Tynesiders then had two seasons in the Midland League until – in 1973, seven leagues and 43 years after its inception – Gateshead AFC ceased to exist.

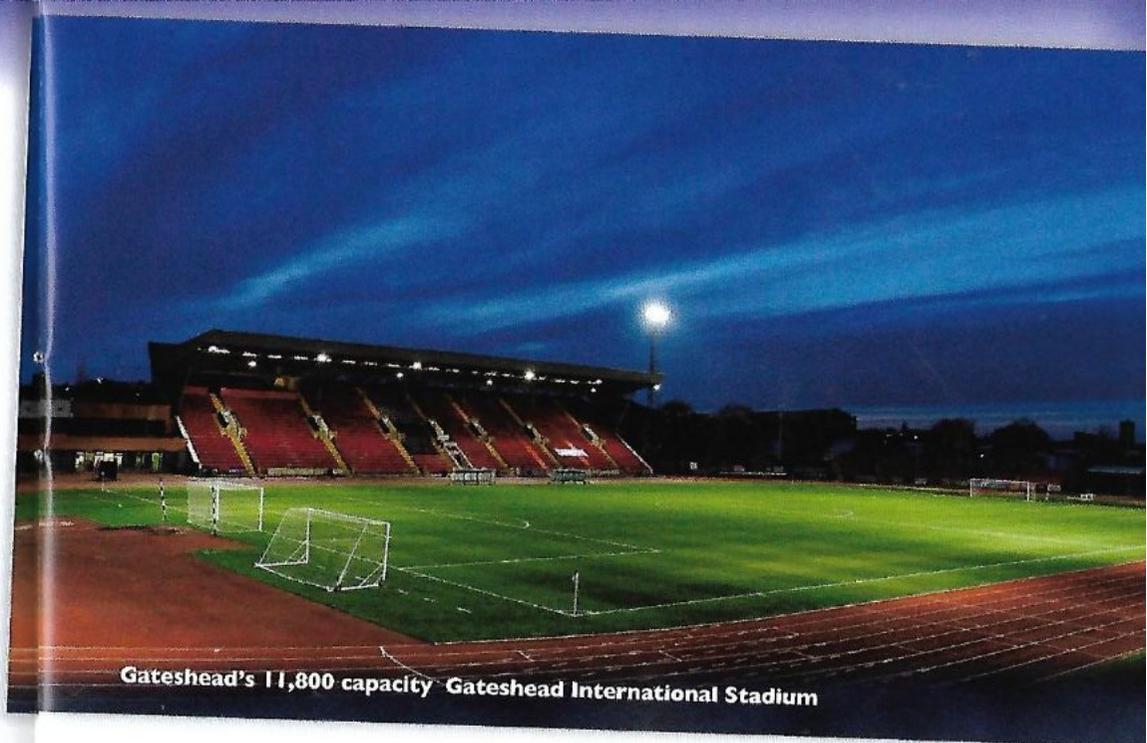
A new club called Gateshead Town played the following season in the local Northern Combination League but, astonishingly, history was soon to repeat itself. South Shields, then members of the Northern Premier League, sold their Simonside headquarters and moved to a new home at Gateshead Stadium.

Renamed Gateshead United, the club soon became a force in the Northern Premier League. However, in 1977 – after only three years of operation – came the shock announcement that United were to disband. It looked like the end of senior football in the town until another phoenix, this time in the form of the current Gateshead FC, rose from the ashes in 1977. Replacing Gateshead United in the Northern Premier League for the 1977-78 season, the new club won the title in 1983 with a record 100 points and 114 goals. After two years in the Conference, the Tynesiders returned to the Northern Premier League and were crowned champions for the second time in 1986. Their second spell in the Conference lasted just one season, though they were quick to bounce back, and reclaimed their place at the top table of non-league football in 1990.

A productive period ended in 1998 when the club was relegated back to the Northern Premier League after eight consecutive seasons of Conference football.

The Heed's very existence was then threatened early in the new millennium when long-time sponsors Cameron Hall Developments pulled out. Relegation to the Northern Premier League First Division followed but, after one season, Gateshead were back in the top-tier of the NPL following the introduction of a geographically split First Division. The future for a club with a proud, if somewhat chequered, past took a turn for the better when wealthy Gateshead-born businessman, Graham Wood, took over in 2006.

Gateshead finished third in the renamed UniBond Premier Division in 2008 & seeing off Buxton in the play-off final. Back-to-back promotions were achieved when the rejuvenated Tynesiders claimed the runners-up spot in the Conference North and then overcame AFC



Gateshead's 11,800 capacity Gateshead International Stadium

Telford United in the Conference North play-off final.

Gateshead marked the 50th anniversary of their harsh expulsion from the Football League by again becoming a full-time professional club in 2010.

The 2013 campaign, however, saw chronic pitch problems at the International Stadium, which resulted in half of the club's home games being staged away from Tyneside. The following year, however, Gateshead recorded their highest placing in English football since their Football League days and made it to Wembley for the first time in their history. The Heed finished third. Hopes of reclaiming their League status were quashed, however, as Gary Mills' side were edged out by Cambridge United.

The highlight of the 2017/18 season was undoubtedly their remarkable FA Trophy run which saw them see off National League opposition in every round en route to the semi-final.

The Tynesiders missed out on a second Wembley trip when they were beaten by Bromley over two legs but still equalled their best ever finish in the competition.

In April 2018, owners Richard and Julie Bennett confirmed their intention to sell the club after three years in charge. They agreed a deal with an overseas consortium the following month but that later collapsed. Gateshead remained up for sale until just over a week before the start of the 2018/19 National League season when Hong Kong based businessman Dr Ranjan Varghese completed his takeover of the club.

The 2021/22 season proved a historic one for Williamson's men, who defied 20/1 odds to become

Vanarama National League North champions and return to the National League three years after their demotion.

The 2022/23 season began with the club stepping into an entirely different National League to the one they left four years prior, and survived relegation with a 14th-placed finish. Mike Williamson's side also made history in the FA Trophy. Gateshead would fall just short of another historic moment in the capital, with FC Halifax Town edging a closely fought final 1-0 in front of over 27,000 at Wembley Stadium.

In the 2023/24 season the Heed lived up to expectations and ended the season in sixth place.

The Heed's play-off hopes were controversially put to a halt less than 24 hours after a final day win over Bromley, with an inability to secure a 10-year security of tenure at Gateshead International Stadium seeing the club expelled from the National League play-offs and potential promotion to the EFL.

Gateshead still had history to write – and redemption to claim – at Wembley Stadium in the 2024 FA Trophy final however, after becoming the first team to reach consecutive finals in the competition since Grays Athletic in 2005 and 2006. Gateshead won their first ever FA Trophy against Solihull on penalties.

In 2024/25 Gateshead finished the season in 8th position on 67 points

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GATESHEAD FC

SATURDAY 13th September 2025

SUPPORTERS CLUB UPDATE

BY JAMES KLARFELD

Good Afternoon folks. As mentioned in my last set of notes, for those that don't know me, I am James otherwise known on X(Twitter) as @wealdstonejames - If you don't follow me and would like to, please feel free to do so!

Firstly, I would like to say it was a great privilege to present a cheque on behalf of the Supporters Club for £15,000 to Acting Chairman Dom Whyley before the Carlisle match on Saturday 23rd August.

Unfortunately due to the change of kick off time (as the match was being broadcast live on DAZN) I missed most of the game as I had already organised a fundraising evening in the clubhouse. I had to help set up the hall for a special gig which featured the incredible voice of Harry Cambridge - a tribute to Luther Vandross - along with a great disco. I am pleased to report that it was a great success being a total sell out.

At the end of the night many people fed back to me what a great time they had, and the good news is that Harry will back in July 2026!

Whilst on the subject of gigs I can tell you that acts so far booked in for next year are February: Electromantics, April: Oasis, May: The Soul Man plus disco and, as previously mentioned, Harry Cambridge as Luther Vandross also with disco. I am still in discussions to return our very popular UB40 band, Johnny2Bad, along with Legend who are recognised as one of the very best Bob Marley tributes.

Back to today and you will find us in and around the clubhouse selling 50/50 tickets - please buy a ticket or if possible a book! .. as it really does make a difference and translates into significant donations to the main club. So far, from the first few home games, we have made more than £1500 which is a great start to the season. Thanks for your continued support.

Lastly, as we always say, we are always on the lookout for more people to volunteer to help us raise funds for the club; if you would like to help,



please speak to any committee member, or if you can't find anyone just go to the Captains Lounge or the Supporters Shop who will be able to assist you.

Thank you, enjoy the game and up The Stones
James



Pic. Jon Taffel

WEALDSTONE FC

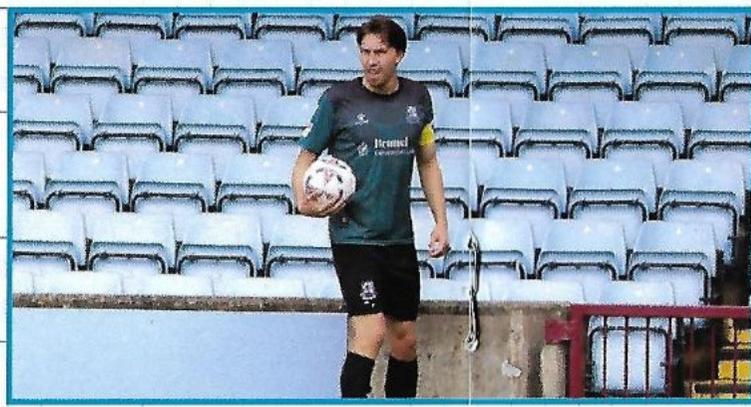
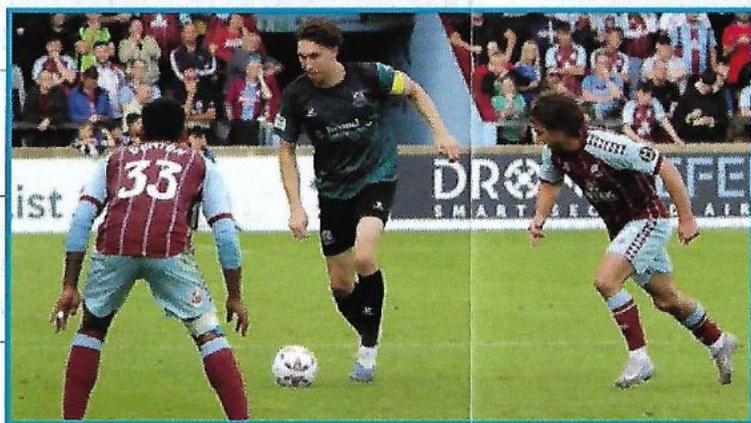
1st Team Results 2025/2026

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

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

Month	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	2-1	1,942	269	1 Kretzschmar (p), Tshikuna
	23 CARLISLE UNITED	ENL	0-1	2,025	551	6
	25 Boston United	ENL	1-2	2,077	135	7 Obiero
	30 ROCHDALE	ENL	1-3	1,365		8 Massey
SEPTEMBER	2 SOUTHEND UNITED	ENL	3-2	2,309	1,007	6 Bouldewijn, Adarkwa 2 (1 pen)
	6 Scunthorpe United	ENL	1-2*	4,460	57	8 Bouldewijn
	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 FA Cup 4th Qualifying	FAC40				
	18 York City	ENL				
	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 YEOVIL 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				



Pictures from our abandoned tie at Scunthorpe United last weekend courtesy of @RonnieRaffle

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

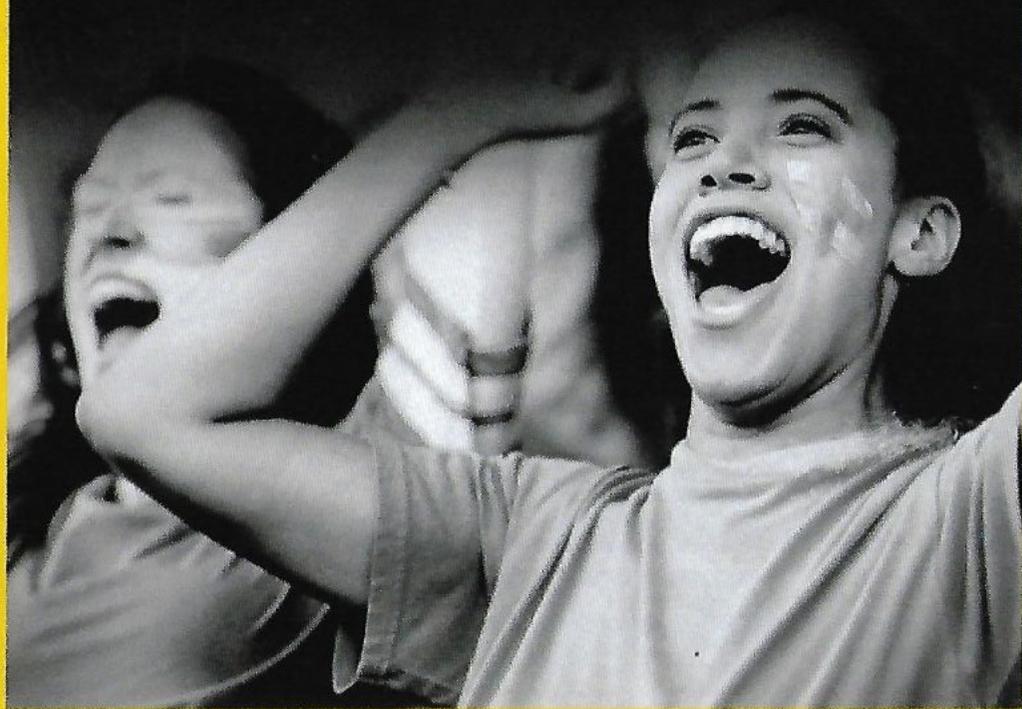
12th July	Northwood	A	W	4-1	Trialist, Trialist, Kadji, Trialist	(Att: 330)
19th July	MK Dons	H	W	2-0	Tiensia, Georgiou	(Att: 325)
23rd July	Charlton Athletic	H	L	0-3		(Att: 675)
26th July	St.Albans City	A	L	0-1		(Att: TBA)
29th July	QPR Under 21s	H	W	6-2	Adarkwa (4), Trialist, Other Trialist	(Att: 615)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

* = Match abandoned
Date in Red = MIDWEEK fixture



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Beverley
Bruce-Mills



14

Nicole
Cho-Yee

Pete Edwards & Nick
Symmons



5

Georgina
Cale

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16

Danni
Holland

VERSIA



8

Millie
Badham

Todd Family



2

Mya
Juj

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19

Ellie
Cullen

Ruislip Windows



3

Sumaiya
Dadabhoy

Stockport Stones



12

Alicia
Ramkinsson

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6

Emma
O'Hare Doiley

StonesCast



1

Tammy
Kidd

GOALS



16

Emma
Wright

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20

Gabi
Racut

Gary Smith



7

Paige
Kwaskowska

Hennessey



11

Saj
Vigneswaran

DFG Training



Libby
Salmon

Roger Slater



4

Tetiana
Laishchuk

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10

Simon
Henry

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your name here



Lola
Doyle

Blossom's Little
Explorers



17

Aisha
Abdullahi

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your name here



9

Izzy
Anderson

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your name here



view from the away end

Gateshead fan
Lee Calder

What's your name and age? Lee Calder, 26

Do you live in Gateshead, and where were you brought up? I live in the town of Birtley, which is right on the Southern-most cusp of the Borough of Gateshead, bordering County Durham, but I am proud to tell people that I'm Gateshead born and bred. I'm very proud of my hometown and its history.

When was your first Heed game and what do you recall of it? My first Heed game was a 1-1 draw with Darlington in what was then the 'Blue Square Bet Premier', it was Boxing Day 2011. I could quite literally recite the entire game to your readers, but I won't bore you all with that. I thoroughly enjoyed it, so much so, I'm still here almost 15 years later. Martin Brittain scored an absolute pearler of a free kick to give us the lead in the second half, then with a few minutes left on the clock, Heed full back Chris Carruthers conceded a penalty and was subsequently dismissed, with Marc Bridge-Wilkinson equalising for Darlo. I absolutely loved that game, I felt part of something.

Who introduced you to the club? No one, and it is genuinely the most bizarre introduction to a football club. There's a bus route that runs past Gateshead Stadium, our home ground - the number 93, I was on that bus with my old mucker David one Saturday, heading into Gateshead Town Centre and as the bus went past the ground, we noticed that there was a football match going on. Intrigued, we got off the bus and had a little peek through the gates. I did a bit of research on my old Blackberry mobile (this was

Proud pose: Lee (left) and his partner Josh with the FA Trophy, won last year

'Being so remote, our away followings aren't large but we'll all be on the Riviera night train for Truro away'

2011), and discovered it was Gateshead FC, and the game was an FA Trophy tie against Kettering. The next game according to the Heed's website was that Boxing Day tie against Darlington, and the rest is history.

How do you fit football around your family/working life? I am incredibly lucky to have a very understanding partner. My other half, Josh, is also a Heed fan, and he travels to most of the away games with me (when he isn't working on weekends!) I'm also incredibly lucky to have a VERY understanding boss. I work for a local bus firm, and I manage to wangle every weekend off for the football, and my uber-understanding colleagues help out with the occasional shift swap for midweek away games, other than that - most of my holidays are used for midweek football!

How do you rate your hopes of NL success

this time around? This season is all about survival. We've had our fair share of drama over the last few years. This season is all about staying in the league and returning to Gateshead's ethos of bringing in local, young players who have a pride in playing for their hometown club.

Who are the new signings? Who have been the big losses over the past few years? We've had some outstanding players over the last five or so years, but with personal success, larger EFL teams will inevitably swoop in. We've lost Macauley Langstaff to Millwall, Owen Bailey to Doncaster, Ed Francis to Exeter, Callum Whelan to Carlisle, Regan Booty to Barrow, Owen Oseni to St Mirren and Luke Hannant to Oldham... to name a few. This means it's been a summer of overhaul on Tyneside, with a squad built around an ethos of young, local players who want to play for their local team. Incomings include David Ferguson from Hartlepool, Callum Johnson from Bradford, Harry Chapman from Barnet, Josh Home from Birmingham City and Dom Telford from Barrow. Retaining the services of club captain Kenton

Richardson was essential.

Were you at The Vale for the previous two four-goal Heed performances? I really enjoy visits to The Vale, and our performances here always seem to be reasonably decent! I was here for the two previous games, and both were great days. One of our best performances of the season last year came down here.

How do Gateshead keep unearthing gems, season after season? The club had a cracking Head of Recruitment, Luke Clark, who unfortunately left in the summer to pursue new opportunities. He was great at his job.

Do Heed fans travel in numbers, and by car or train or coach? I make it my mission to travel to every single game, over the course of the last five or so years, I've only missed a handful of games. My

life revolves around following this football club! Our away following isn't particularly large, but we always try and make as much noise as we can. It's very rare that we run a supporters coach, but many fans arrange coordinated train travel to away games, so we can all be together. I co-chair Gateshead FC's Supporters Society, and we provide a handy guide for all supporters, which the club kindly shares on its website, and this allows fans to plan their away trips. For our trip to Truro, we'll be taking the Night Riviera Sleeper train!

How many will make the trip today, and for Truro? We tend to bring around 50/60 fans to most away games, and it's likely to be a similar number today. For our trip to Truro, I think it'll be closer to 100, maybe more - there'll be a lot

of hype about that game being the longest journey in English football.

What are your three most memorable Heed games of all time? I suppose I should say our three trips to Wembley in 2014, 2023 and 2024, but, on a personal level, that first ever game against Darlington started my love affair with Gateshead

Football Club, and as such that is my most memorable Heed game of all time. Secondly, our 2-1 Wembley defeat to Cambridge United in the Skrill Premier Play-Off Final 2014, I bawled my eyes out at full time, I was absolutely devastated. Thirdly, the 2024 FA Trophy Final against Solihull, we won on penalties, another game I could write every single detail about. Again, I was bawling my eyes out at Wembley, but this time with pure joy. I was surrounded by my closest

friends, and Josh, my partner. It was an incredible moment, shared with my nearest and dearest friends.

How many Stones v Gateshead clashes have you seen over the years? Every game since we returned to the National League, and they're always great games.

Are Heed now our bogey team? Well, we've won 5 of the last 6 games between the two sides, I'd say so - I hope I'm not eating my words at full time!

Finally, what's your prediction for a score line today? A Heed win, 2-1!



HERO AND FAN: A young Lee is pictured with Gateshead legend Phil Turnbull in 2013. Below: He is pictured last season, celebrating a home victory against Eastleigh at the Gateshead Stadium



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2025-26



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Sometimes, just leafing through your loveable collection brings back memories..

BY TIM PARKS

Right: The 'United Review' for the 1-1 draw at Old Trafford and (far right) the wrongly-dated Watford programme that was re-issued for the postponed replay. To the very far right, the team line-ups

TWO PROGRAMMES

AS you're reading this, it's probably fair to assume that you're comfortable with printed matter. It's probably what you grew up with.

My children refuse to believe this, but before the internet it's all we had!

For followers of football outside the top divisions, the local press and the programme were the sole dispensers of information and that's why club publications are revered by fans of a certain age.

And that's why programmes such as those featured today stir such passion in the hearts of grown men. And today's youngsters too, if they have a sense of football's place in history and the world order.

Manchester United v Watford! A fixture that became commonplace in the Premier League in the new (or now not so new) millennium - but when the teams met 56 years ago there was an absolute chasm between the respective

clubs.

It was the fourth round of the FA Cup. Watford had recovered from a dreadful start to sit top of the Football League Division Three (EFL One today) while Man United, European Champions, were the nation's favourites.

Every schoolboy (and I was one of them) had fallen in love with the team of Best, Law and Charlton as they became the first English team to lift the Euro title by beating mighty Benfica 4-1 at Wembley the previous May.

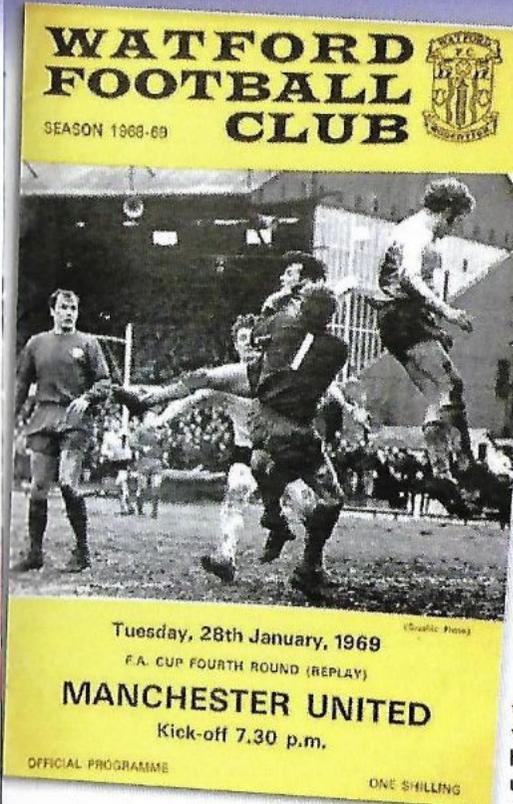
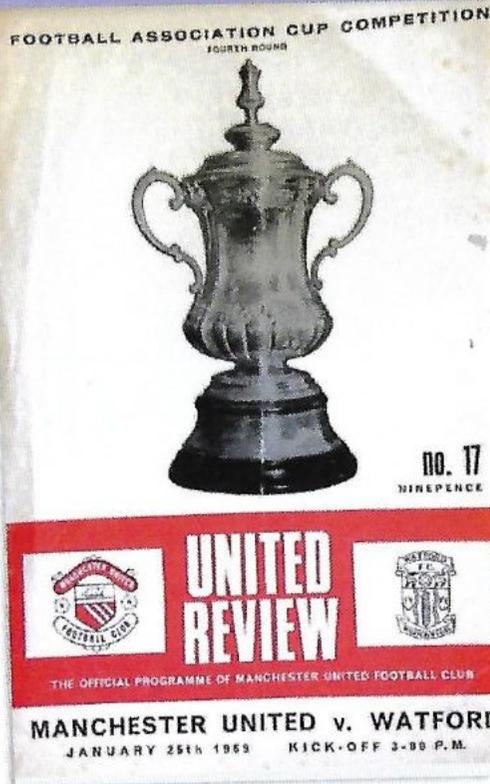
Watford were the team from up the road (three stops on the line from Hatch End, where I lived) who played in a scruffy stadium with a dog track, fielding a team of rag tags whom me and my primary school mates had been to watch a couple of times.

On the first occasion - and it's embarrassing to mention it now, but I was only 10 - I got separated from my pal and his dad who had seats, and couldn't work out how

to get in the terrace turnstile. The signage was very confusing and I was too shy to ask. So I ended up walking miserably back to Watford High street station, making out at school that I had seen the 2-0 Third Round win over Port Vale while in reality my only memory was of the dreary shops and the echoes of the 14,000 crowd.

When they were drawn to meet Matt Busby's legends at Old Trafford our first thought was 'massacre!' How on earth could little Watford survive against the best team on the planet, as Man Utd were generally agreed to be?

My dad wasn't particularly interested in football but he had contacts and he managed to get hold of the programmes for both Manchester United-Watford games... yes, BOTH games as the Horns astonishingly forced a 1-1 draw in the tie at Old Trafford. They even had the temerity to take the lead



through a terrific 25-yarder from mercurial winger Stewart Scullion, who would pretty soon be off to play in the more rarefied surroundings of Division One with Sheffield United.

Tickets for the replay were like gold dust, naturally, and thus I was

at home that Tuesday evening, clutching my programme for the game (left) and waiting for the crackling Radio Two commentators to describe the action from Vicarage Road. But it was called off! The pitch was waterlogged and, joy of joys, my Dad returned from work the following evening with news that one of his co-workers was unable to make the re-arranged date -

and he had the tickets!

It turned out to be one of the great nights of my life, sitting in the Shrodells Stand spellbound by the presence of Bobby Charlton and George Best, who created

both goals (netted by Denis Law, see report below) as United won comfortably enough, 2-0, in the end. The legendary Law was a genuine predator and his hard work was a feature of the game - but if there was one player who stood out it was buzzing Hornet Dixie Hale who managed to make Charlton look pedestrian.

So what has all this got to do with Wealdstone, you are wondering? Well, when I picked up the replay programme just a few weeks ago I recognised the Orient goalkeeper pictured on the cover, grasping the ball from The Horns' Barry Deanean.

It was **Roy Goddard**, who earned Godlike status for the Stones by keeping goal for us as we won the Southern League in 1982, and was a key part of my favourite-ever Wealdstone team the following season.

The Watford manager was Ken Furphy, whose son **Keith Furphy** was a member of the Stones' famous giant-killing team of 1977-78 and of course, just a couple of years after his starring performance against Man United, **Dixie Hale** was wearing Wealdstone blue as we kicked off our first season as semi-professionals in 1971. He was terrific for us but, sadly, moved to Wales on business in 1972 and never played again.

.. UNITED—THANKS TO LAW

Denis leaps and Watford dream ends

WATFORD'S FA Cup run ended last night when Denis Law scored twice to see Manchester United through to a fifth-round tie at Birmingham on Saturday.

With three goals advanced to edge with a hard, heavy kick, United took six chances and Watford could not take the few which arose their way.

Three back attacks were thrown back by unimpeachable defensive play with Robinson's steady outwitting in the United defence.

Watford tried to play over the top rather than through United as the second half got away and the game ended with the home side leading the match.

George Best's 45th minute goal was the only one of his kind in the match as he scored the first goal of the game.



Watford are on the way out of the Cup! Denis Law, Manchester United's Scottish international, scores his one in delight as his leader hits the net.

MANCHESTER UNITED		WATFORD	
Shirt: Red Shorts: White		Shirt: Gold Shorts: Black	
1 RIMMER	REFeree: W. G. Handley (Cancock, Staffs.)	WALKER 1	
2 DUNNE	LINESMEN: D. G. Mainwaring (Sutton Coldfield) (Red Flag) W. J. C. Cowdon (Leeds) (Yellow Flag)	WELBOURNE 2	
3 BURNS		WILLIAMS 3	
4 FITZPATRICK	Next Home Game: F.A. Cup 4th Rd UNITED	EDDY 4	
5 JAMES	Next Home Game: CENTRAL LEAGUE UNITED	GARVEY 5	
6 STILES	BLACKBURN B. JANUARY 28th Kick-off 7.30 p.m.	WALLEY 6	
7 MORGAN	DERBY COUNTY FEBRUARY 1st Kick-off 2 p.m.	SCULLION 7	
8 BEST		HALE 8	
9 CHARLTON		GARBETT 9	
10 LAW		ENDEAN 10	
11 SARTORI		OWEN 11	
S.		GREEN S.	



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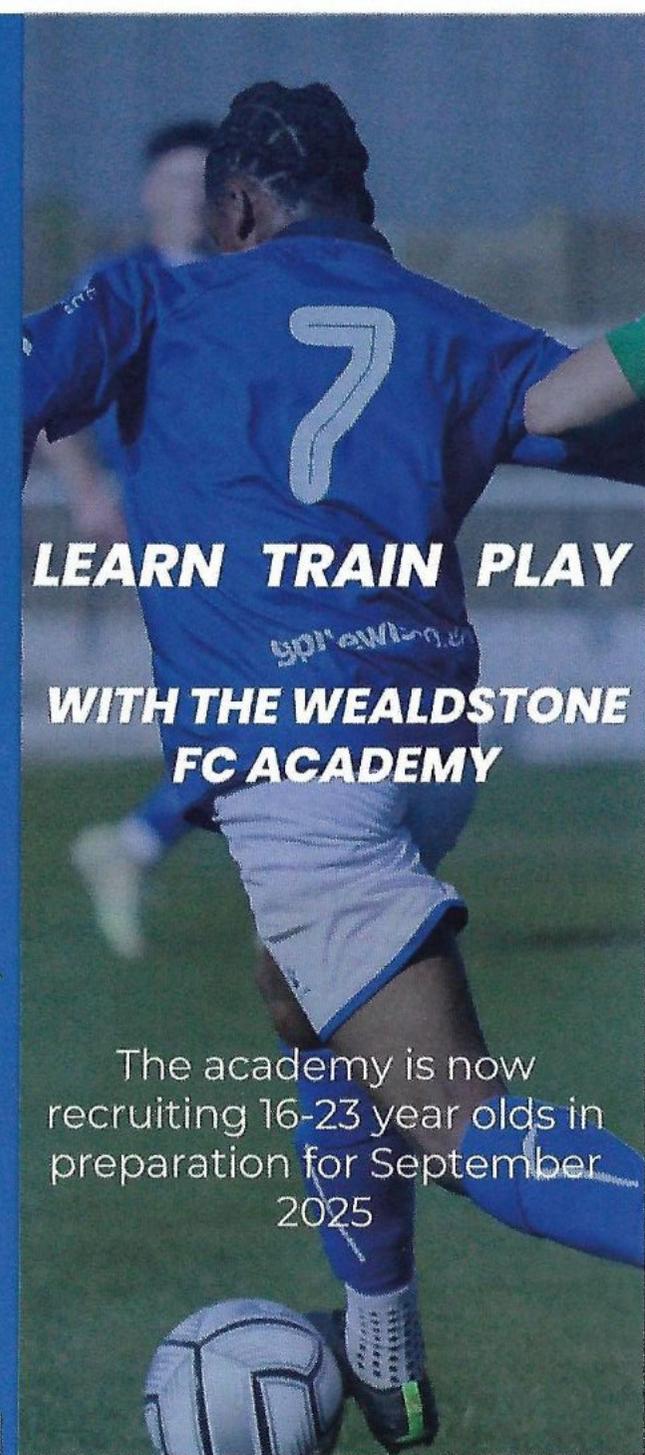
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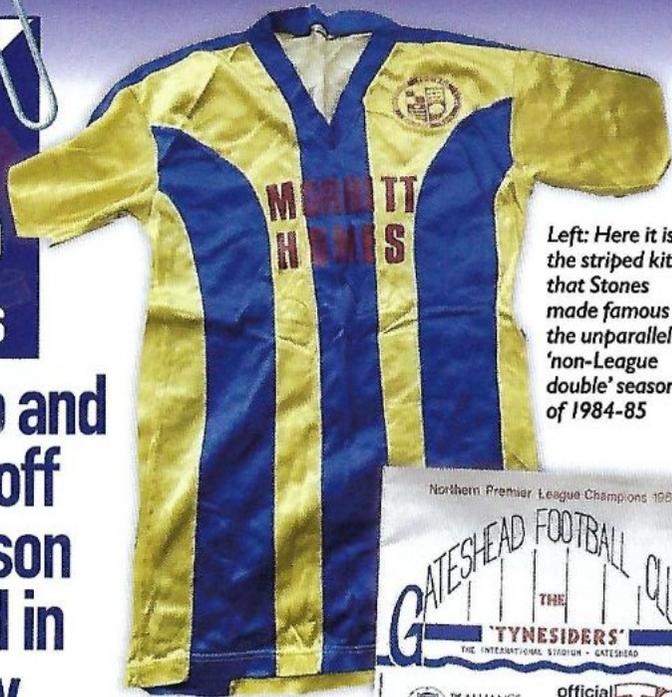
The academy is now recruiting 16-23 year olds in preparation for September 2025



Heed, we have met you before



BY TIM PARKS



Left: Here it is, the striped kit that Stones made famous in the unparalleled 'non-League double' season of 1984-85

42 years ago and Stones kick off the new season at Gateshead in garish yellow and blue stripes!

GATESHEAD used to stick in my mind as being a club we always beat - and indeed we hadn't lost a single game in seven meetings until the 2-1 defeat here at the Vale to the Heed in January 2023 sparked a run of FIVE successive defeats for Stones.

But the most glorious memory of bygone days clashes was the opening day of the 1983-84 season when the Stones trotted out in yellow and blue pyjamas. Well, maybe not jim-jams exactly, but the effect was pretty similar. We rubbed our eyes in disbelief!

August 20 1983: The season kicked off a little later in those days and it was a genuine shock for the 150 or so Wealdstone fans to see our heroes emerge from the tunnel at Gateshead's international stadium in that crazy outfit.

With the athletics track separating us from the players, the Stones were in the far distance and we

presumed they were wearing some garish tracksuit tops. But pretty soon it became apparent that this was the new strip for the 83-84 season.

In Jon Taffel's *Stones Alphabet* feature of a few seasons ago he spent a lot of time mulling over the worst Wealdstone kits of all time - and the red shirts won the prize for 'most distasteful' with the white 'Enfield' shirts of the early 90s coming a close second.

It was no secret that our then-manager Allen Batsford was a devotee of blue and yellow, from his days as Wimbledon boss, but this was a real knock-your-socks-off moment. No big Twitter or Instagram build up in those days. No canvassing of supporters or online voting. Just a wham-bam here-you-go debut for the Yellow & Blue that would become a backdrop to the club's most memorable moments in history...

So nobody's complaining now,



nor indeed six years ago when we kicked off the 2019-20 season in bold blue/yellow stripes and won the National League South! **It's worth lingering a moment over that first game, four decades ago. It was the Stones' second season back in the Alliance Premier League (the fore-runner of the National League) and we were a powerful force.**

Batsford and Brian Hall, his assistant, had steered us to third place in the first season and it was to be November until we suffered our first defeat. A record of 13 wins and 4 draws in the next 17 games after this

opener at Gateshead was amazing considering that we kicked off the season without stalwarts Robin Wainwright, Dennis Byatt, Neil Cordice and Steve Perkins...and were even without boss Batsford who went into hospital three days later for a heart bypass operation!

We had signed ex-Arsenal Cup winner David Price but his debut was so quiet that, if you squint carefully at the team in the Harrow Observer match report (above right) he isn't even listed as playing! But it was central defenders we were missing, so Stones had to go to Wimbledon on the scrounge for loans the day before the game and came back with centre-back Mark Morris, who was excellent at Gateshead alongside skipper Paul Bowgett.

The home side had won the Northern Premier League (and promotion) by a street the previous season and were a dangerous proposition. But we weren't to know quite what a formidable outfit the Stones were going to be... the reshuffled side coped admirably with everything The Heed could throw at us with former Division One midfielder Terry Hibbitt their main man.

Stuart Pearce was growing into the left-back that top-flight Coventry were to sign just a couple of months later, and the midfield (despite the strutting Price) was rock solid with Gary Donnellan, Fred Barwick and Nigel Johnson carrying on their good form of the 1982-3 season.

Mark Graves and Alan Cordice were a reliable front pairing and it was no surprise when this side

started purring in September with the squad back up to strength. Gateshead finished 16th out of 22 teams.

What happened next?

Well, Allen Batsford returned from his convalescence in a new role as General Manager only to find out that the club could no longer afford to pay both him and team boss Brian Hall...so Batsford had to bite the bullet. It reflected poorly on the club as a whole, although the team rallied to finish fourth in the table. Then, in 1984-1985, with Hall solely at the helm, came the title!



But into the 21st century and the boot's definitely on the other foot...

OUR dismal recent record (pictured below) against The Heed was preceded by that amazing game at the International Stadium at the end of

August 2022 when the clubs first met in the National Lge.

I was unable to get to the game, having an impacted tooth removed, and woke up from the anaesthetic to check Football Web Pages on the phone (as you do)...and I thought I was hallucinating when the Stones were top of the table! The match report on the next page shows how Rhys Browne's sensational solo goal helped ten-man Stones hang on for an amazing three points... four wins from the first five games! The Heed managed to puncture our good form with a 2-1 win at the Vale at the end of January

Continued overpage

Sat 8 Feb 2025	Vanarama National League Home	L 0 - 4 Att: 1323
Sat 5 Oct 2024	Vanarama National League Away	L 0 - 1 Att: 1147
Sat 17 Feb 2024	Vanarama National League Home	L 2 - 4 Att: 1108
Tue 3 Oct 2023	Vanarama National League Away	L 1 - 2 Att: 896
Sat 28 Jan 2023	Vanarama National League Home	L 1 - 2 Att: 1302
Sat 27 Aug 2022	Vanarama National League Away	W 1 - 0 Att: 1104

A point for starters

Gateshead 1, Wealdstone 1

MAKESHIFT Wealdstone, missing four first team regulars, battled bravely against Gateshead to earn a point at the International Stadium on Saturday.

'Stones were without the injured Steve Perkins, Neil Cordice and Robin Wainwright, and the suspended Dennis Byatt.

General manager Allen Batsford was more than happy with the point as 'Stones opened their Alliance Premier League programme.

"We have had terrible problems putting together a side and to come away from home and get a draw can't be bad," he said after the match.

'Stones survived early Gateshead pressure to take a fifth minute lead. A 30 yard free kick by Stuart Pearce was fumbled on the slippery surface by keeper Dodds and the ball bounced free to Gary Donallan who had the easiest of tasks to slot home.

Gateshead continued to pressurize 'Stones but had to wait until midway through the second half before they pulled back the goal — skipper Terry Hibbitt, the former Newcastle United player, scoring from a 22 yard free kick. Wealdstone: Iles, Waddock (Wailes 83), Pearce, Morris, Bowgett, Donallan, Barwick, A. Cordice, Graves, Johnson.

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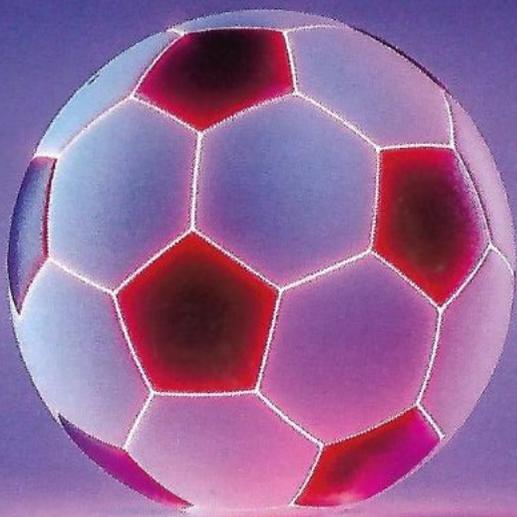
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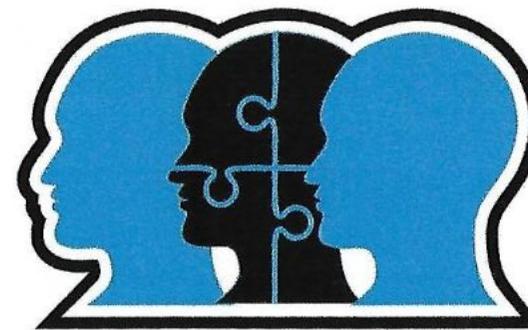
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BY IAN STAPLETON



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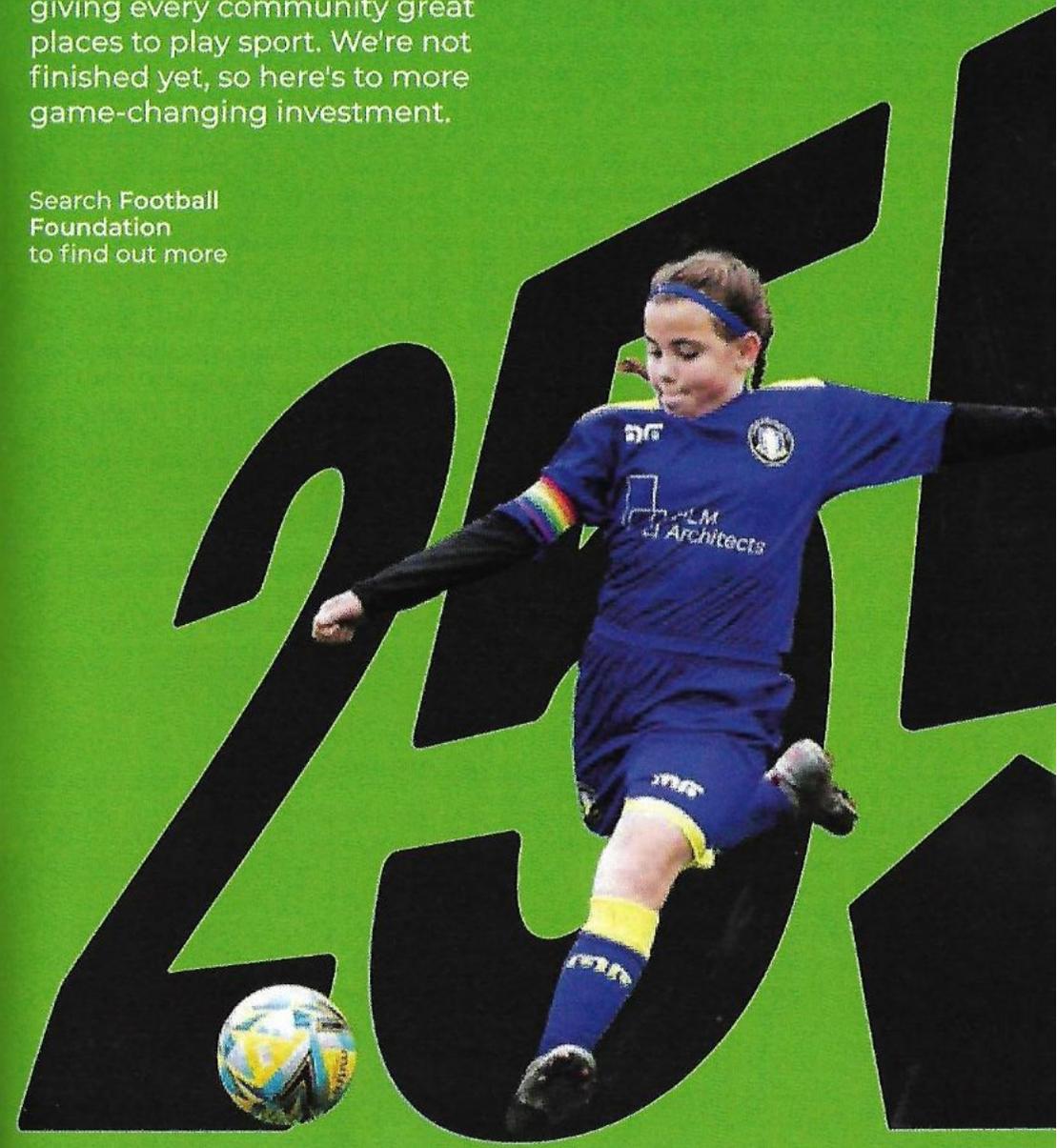
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Today's other Enterprise National League fixtures

Yeovil Town vs. Woking
 Boreham Wood vs Altrincham
 Braintree Town vs York City
 Carlisle United vs Aldershot
 Forest Green vs Scunthorpe Utd
 Hartlepool Utd vs Brackley Town
 Solihull Moors vs Mrecombe
 Southend Utd vs Boston Utd
 Sutton Utd vs Tamworth
 Truro City vs Rochdale
 FC Halifax Town vs Eastleigh

Home

Leicester City

 Tuesday
 16th September
 7:00pm
 National League Cup

Eastleigh

 Saturday
 27th September
 3:00pm
 Enterprise National League

Altrincham

 Saturday
 4th October
 3:00pm
 Enterprise National League

Away

Morecambe

 Saturday
 20th September
 3:00pm
 Enterprise National League

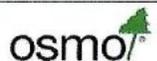
Tamworth

 Wednesday
 24th September
 7:45pm
 Enterprise National League

Brackley Town

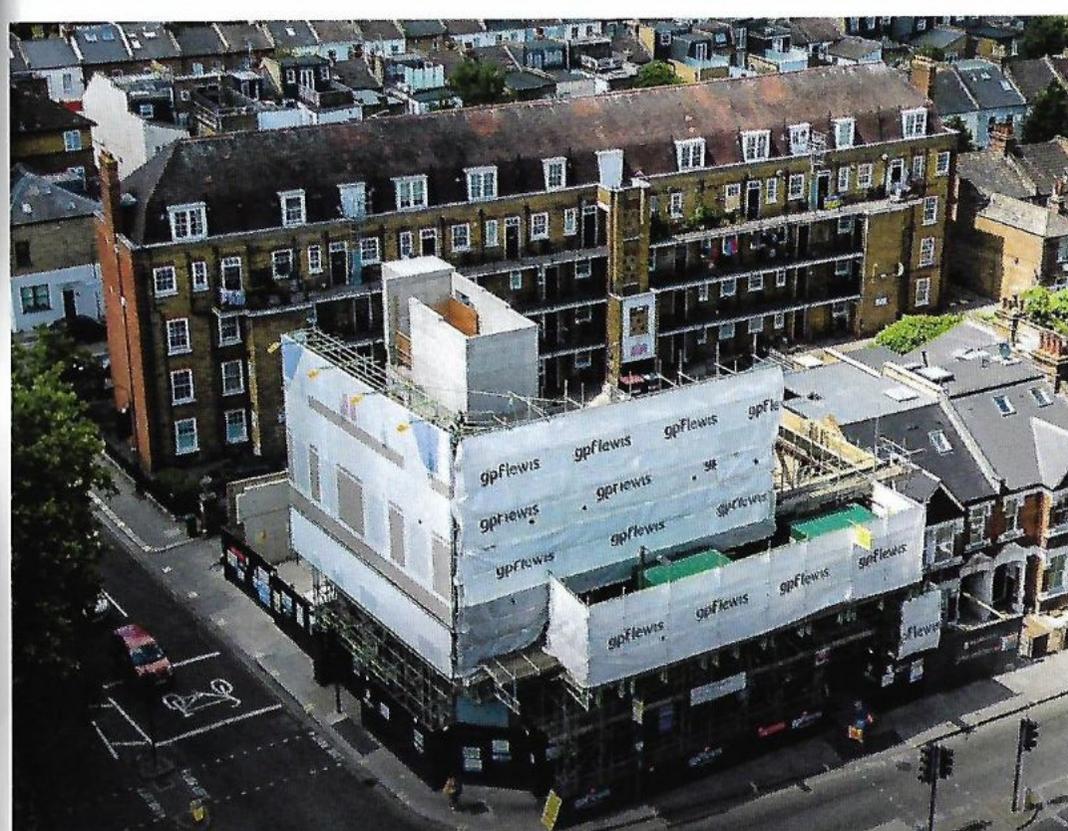
 Wednesday
 1st October
 7:45pm
 Enterprise National League

Wealdstone FC's first team travel is sponsored by Osmo, specialists in the supply of wood finishes



Enterprise National League 2025/2026 @ Monday 8th September 2025

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



CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE
 MAINTAINING THE PAST

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