

CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE
MAINTAINING THE PAST

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written
in stone



BY TIM PARKS

Welcome back to the Vale for the visit of Eastleigh as the games continue to come thick and fast in this rollercoaster season.

We went to print before the game at Tamworth on Wednesday night but I'm still a bit breathless after the seven-goal thriller at Morecambe. The unrestrained joy in the away end when Alfie Massey levelled the score at 3-3 turned to head-shaking, outraged disbelief when Emerson Sutton bundled in the home side's 86th-minute winner just five minutes later.

We've run the whole gamut of human emotions in these past few weeks with the controversial abandonment of the Scunthorpe game followed by more late drama in the 2-2 draw here at the Vale against Gateshead. Every game is tough, every game is tight and it will be no different this afternoon against currently-managerless Eastleigh.

The Spitfires sacked gaffer Kelvin Davis after the surprise 3-1 home defeat to Braintree last Saturday... they've lost five of their nine National League games this season but we know how often teams manage to turn their form around when the manager leaves.

After the Stones had fought back to 3-3 from 0-3 down at Morecambe last week only to lose 4-3 the question was asked: When did we last do that? Well the answer is never (from my



What a comeback! Alex Reid runs to the Nagle Flooring stand to celebrate his late leveller in the thrilling 3-3 comeback against Eastleigh at the Vale last season. Picture: MIKE RENNY

Six goals? Or seven? How many will we see this afternoon folks!

long and compendious knowledge) although we did of course come back from 0-3 down here at half time against Eastleigh in the FA Trophy in the behind-closed-doors season (2020-21) and in fact went on to win 4-3!

And if that was dramatic, what about the spookily-similar 3-3 here last season (again v Eastleigh) when we again trailed 0-3 at the break only for debutants Tyler Walker and Mustapha Carayol to drag us back to a 3-3 scoreline... and Walker almost won it in the dying embers when Spitfires keeper Joe McDonnell pulled off a point-blank save.

It's hard to overlook the fact, though, that the Stones have only beaten Eastleigh once in ten National League games since we were promoted five years ago. Time to break that stranglehold!

● Off the pitch, of course (and for the first time in print) we've had the news of next Saturday's Extraordinary General Meeting of shareholders, here at the Vale

(11am) to vote on whether the club should change its Articles of Constitution to allow a majority shareholder to take over the club. It is a true history-making moment and the recommendation from the board of directors is to accept the bid from potential owner Nick Semaca and his Lakefront Football Partners.

As long-time fan Mick Fishman writes in his excellent *Elmslie Ender* column later in this programme, the club is at a crossroads and we must all be clear-sighted enough to make the right choice... whatever that will be!

● A big thanks today to our match sponsors Lynn Newman and Ian Austin, in memory of Eva and Peter Newman, and serial ball donor Tony Poulley. If you'd like to enjoy lavish hospitality please leaf to the pages at the back of this programme for full details.

● We're on the road again next Wednesday night at newly-promoted Brackley Town (7.45pm) so be there for more dramatics!

WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2025/2026

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2003 / 2004 Isthmian League Premier Division

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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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- 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.
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Wealdstone FC Board of Directors

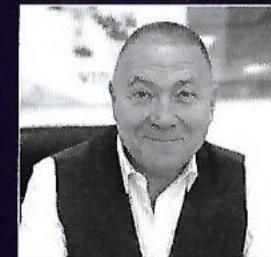
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Hello again to all our fans and welcome back to the Vale as we face Eastleigh this afternoon.

On our last appearance here, against Leicester in the National League Cup a dozen days ago I was very pleased with the performance. We've used the competition to rotate the squad, to get the players sufficient minutes and also to have a look at some prospective new players. The boys that came in showed that they were just as comfortable playing

in the style and system we're looking for and it was so pleasing to see such a good all-round performance against what was a strong Premier League Two under-21 side.

We got to see Sak Hassan, who really impressed and off the back of that performance was handed his deserved first NL start against Morecambe at the weekend - while young Marcus Day in midfield and big Moussa Diarra at the back also both did very, very well.

Last Saturday's defeat at Morecambe though, was a bitter pill to take. Their position in the league is a false reading in my opinion - they've added to the group over the past couple of weeks and have, pound for pound, on paper, one of the strongest squads in this division. They've had a huge cash injection from the new owners and their manager Ashvir Singh Johal is doing a good job constructing the squad.

I think they are probably the best footballing team we've faced this season - or at least, right up there. I was really disappointed with the goals that we conceded but the boys did excellently to get themselves back into the game. It was an emotional rollercoaster!

To come back from 0-3 down to 3-3 was a testament to the character of this group and at that point,

'Last Saturday's defeat to a good Morecambe side was a bitter pill to take... but we showed real character to come back from 3-0 down'

Gaffer's column

SAM COX

with the momentum, it looked like there was only going to be one winner.

Unfortunately it was Morecambe who grabbed it with a bit of a dubious goal. I think it would have flattered us to have won the game but our job now is to bounce straight back.

Obviously it's been a tough working week with Tamworth away last Wednesday night and now Eastleigh this afternoon. They have just lost their manager and as I'm writing this, no-one

has yet been appointed - but what we do know is that they have been a strong National League outfit for a long time now and they have some really good players... they'll be a real threat today.

Plus there's always the case of the 'new manager bounce' - when sides lose a manager, or when there's a gap before a new person is appointed there's always a reaction from the players to show what they can do.

It's time that we started capitalising on our own good performances and start getting a few more points on the board and get in a winning rhythm.

I hope you all enjoy the game and God bless.
- Sam



Taking it to the

M₃ A₁ X₈

By Max Kretzschmar



Saviour: Max smashes an equaliser in the Gateshead game...

'The distance between our attack, midfield and defensive units were simply just too big'

Welcome back to The Vale as we take on Eastleigh in what's a great opportunity for us to get back to winning ways at home.

Eastleigh have had a turbulent start to the season with the loss of their manager, but that can often make a team more dangerous. We've all seen the effects of a managerial change - performances lift, results can swing quickly, and sides often find an extra gear in those circumstances.

We'll need to be switched on from the very first whistle today. I think it's fair to say there's been some frustration with the goals we've conceded recently.

The Gateshead game at home felt like two points dropped, even with our late equaliser.

Then at Morecambe, it was a disappointing performance all round. Credit to them - they've managed to quickly put together a side full of high-quality individuals and it showed against us.

From our point of view, though, the analysis was clear: the distances between our attacking, midfield and defensive units were far too big. To score three goals away from home and come away with nothing simply isn't acceptable, and



...and then chips in from the edge of the green at Morecambe

it's something we know we must put right.

On a personal note, it's been pleasing to get on the scoresheet this season. I've always judged myself on goals and assists, so I'm happy to have a few already at this early stage.

That said, I know I should have more - Boston away still sticks with me after missing a sitter, and there have been a couple of good saves from keepers and half-chances I'd back myself to take.

But when I look at the volume of opportunities

I'm getting compared to the end of last season, it's night and day, and that gives me a lot of confidence moving forward.

So as we turn our focus to Eastleigh today, the aim is simple — to get ourselves back on track at home. We know that The Vale can be a really tough place for opponents when we're at it, and your support plays a massive part in that. The energy from the stands drives us on, especially in those tight moments where games can swing either way. Let's create that atmosphere again today and hopefully turn it into three points.

Come on you Stones!

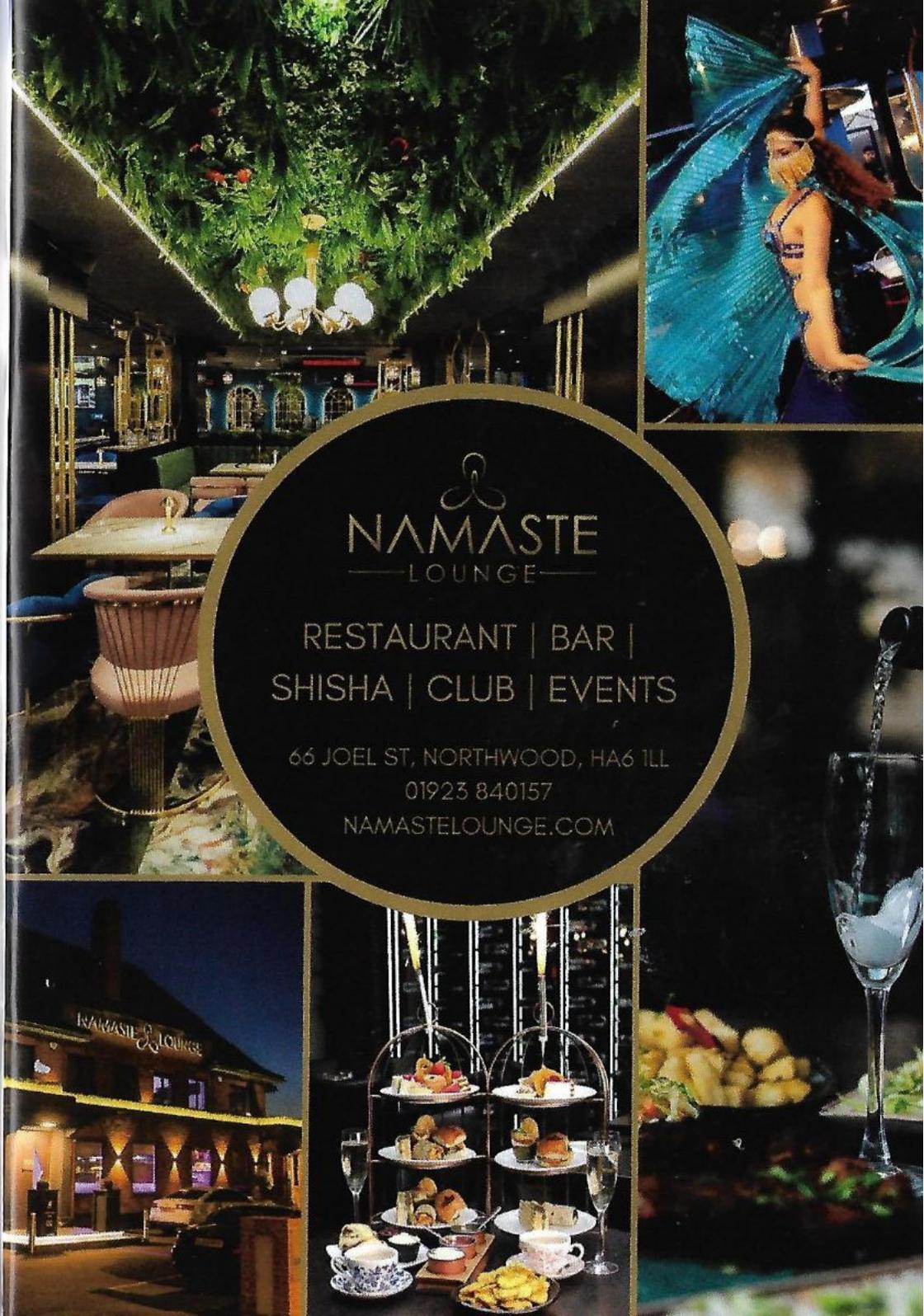
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©Elmslie Ender was among the first wave of football club magazines when it replaced 'Long Ball Down the Middle' as the Wealdstone fanzine in the mid-1980s. LBDTM's forerunner 'Wealdstone Whispers' was famously THE very first football fanzine in Britain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

Wealdstone Football Club is at a crossroads.

Next Saturday, at the EGM called to discuss a historic change to the constitution of the club, shareholders will vote on whether to allow outside investors to take control of WFC - and just writing that sends shivers up my spine.

It is an even more seismic moment than 55 years ago, when the club shrugged off its amateur status to make the brave step into the unknown - the semi-professional world of the Southern League.

The custodians of Wealdstone FC, back in 1970, knew their decision would govern the club's progress for decades to come and while some supporters were excited, others were horrified. There were even resignations from the management committee - but the majority decision was to join the new Southern League venture.

Shamateurism was rife at the time, and it had become clear that Wealdstone were unable to compete financially with the likes of Hendon, Enfield and Wycombe... and there is no doubt the decision was the right one.

It laid the foundation for progress to be made in the Southern League and for the golden Alliance Premier League years of the early 1980s. And, of course, just three years after our decision, the amateur status was abolished.

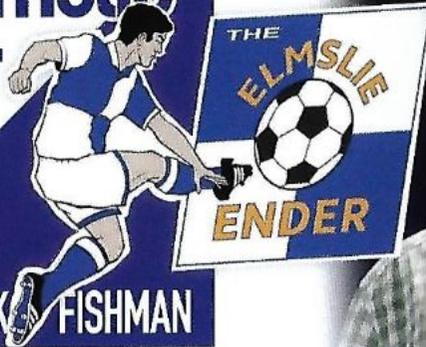
The club is now at another *Sliding Doors* moment. We have recently started our 6th straight season in the top competition outside the EFL, the National League, and it has been, and remains, a brilliant achievement. **But is it sustainable? The answer must be no. The Board members know it; the supporters know it; even our fellow National League clubs know it.**

Leaving aside ground grading requirements and the

the elmslie ender



BY MICK FISHMAN



I'm shaking in my boots at the punt we have to take to preserve the club's future... but it's really the only solution

need for decent facilities, a standard playing budget to comfortably maintain a position in the league is now not measured in thousands, or even hundreds of thousands of pounds per season, but in millions. When it comes to finances, we are minnows in a sea of whoppers. That is why the Board have been actively seeking someone to come in with significant

Nick Semaca wins over the Supporters Club audience during the meeting a fortnight ago
Pic: Mike Renny

Nick is a shareholder at Preußen Münster, in Bundesliga 2. The club's stadium (above) is currently under renovation on three sides and its 12,000 capacity will reach just under 20,000 with seats and safe standing areas

club in order to invest for the future.

I was fortunate to be able to attend the supporters' meeting a fortnight ago with Nick, Dom Whyley and others before the home game against Gateshead. It was hugely interesting. Nick came across as a decent, affable, sensible bloke who, despite being American (can I say that?) appears to have an understanding of football in England with all its traditions and foibles.

He certainly ticked two of the most important boxes in that he referred to our national game as 'football' and not 'soccer' and he also got our name right - Wealdstone not Wealdstn (someone should inform BBC Radio 5Live presenter, Mark Chapman, about the correct pronunciation of the club's name).

For me, the two most interesting contributions from the floor were made by long-standing Stones fans Tony Platt and Jon Taffel.

Tony was firm in his assertion that he welcomed the potential new investment that might be coming our way - but had no interest in the club's individuality being sacrificed on the altar of progress. He highlighted the danger (as he sees it) of our potential new ground becoming an identikit, impersonal stadium that completely restricted free movement and how you could view the games. We needed to retain a sense of welcome and informality that makes for the 'Wealdstone Experience'.

What Tony was saying resonated with me. I have spent over 60 years supporting an amateur and semi-professional club and the informality of proceedings, with directors, management, players and supporters all mixing freely in the Social Club on matchdays. The link and relationship between all of those involved has been, and remains, something special.

Part of the reason we have been able to sustain National league football at the club has been exercises

Continued overpage>>>

Private Lives
by Noel Coward. What
is his rather toffish way is that now

Football fans experience something similar
in recalling shared experiences, whether

managers and even ex-fans who for different

championship or major cup victory. Many

winner at Margate on 15th April 2014 to secure

again the elation experienced at the time.

both straight after that match in Margate and

The Vale at the season's conclusion. Slightly
more mature supporters will, I am certain,

shoot-out against Dulwich Hamlet on 3rd May
2004.

Personally, I cannot visualise Richard Jolly's

much. As Jolly ran in to take the penalty I had

Danny Green

game at
Havant... and
the crowd go
wild!

new investment. My understanding is that it has not been difficult to attract interest. Potential investors have been flying out of the woodwork with all sorts of plans for the club. The problem for Rory, Dominic and co has been to sort out the wheat from the chaff, the serious from the frivolous, the rational from the irrational and, most importantly, the honest from the cowboys.

It has been an unenviable task. Get it right, we could be set up to progress for a very long time ahead. Get it wrong and we could be out of business and re-born as a phoenix club, AFC Wealdstone, competing in Division 2 of the Combined Counties league.

It has taken two years, but the hard work has finally come to fruition with the recommendation to shareholders to amend the club's articles of association to allow Nick Semaca and his Lakeland Football Partners the ability to take control of the



The Vale: fit for purpose?

the elmslie ender, continued

from previous page

like the annual Jez Albert e-mail asking supporters to dig into their pockets to get a player's signature over the line.

We have all groaned and then coughed up... but how much closer could the relationship be between fans and players? I have never found an occasion when Gordon Bartlett, Stuart Maynard or Sam Cox hadn't been prepared to stop for a chat when approached; and the same goes for the players. To lose any or all of that would be so sad for me.

And this is where Jon's contribution kicked in. He expressed, far more fluently than I could have done, the long experience of supporting a non-league club and the sadness that us long-in-the-tooth supporters feel about moving on to what must be a different model for the club - a proper professional model - and the necessary dilution of what makes Wealdstone so special to us.

He went on to pose the question that, to retain the status quo would mean dropping back to Southern or Isthmian league football. What's wrong with that, he asked? His view was (and one with which I completely concur) is quite a lot!

Time moves on; football moves on; football clubs must move on. Most of our current supporters have been introduced to the club following our move to Grosvenor Vale. They have seen us promoted up the leagues to where we now compete in the National

league. Why would they wish to see the club go backwards? They want to see the club thrive, initially in the National League, and then moving up into the EFL to coincide with a

spanking new ground.

Our collective hats should always be tipped towards our club's history and traditions, but that should never stand in the way of the club's ability to progress.

When the club took the decision to turn semi-professional in 1971, I was an 18-year-old, very excited at the prospect of what might lie ahead. I was impatient with some of the old farts (as I saw them) wishing to cling on to the amateur status for no good reason other than tradition.

How ironic is it that at this moment of even greater risk, I am now an old fart shaking in his boots at the punt we have to take to preserve the club's future.

As shareholders, we are being asked on 4th October to vote on amending our articles of association to allow a person or organisation to take majority ownership of the club. Why in heaven's name would anyone be willing to invest millions of pounds in the club if they did not have the power to spend the money largely as they saw fit?

And that's when it becomes an issue of genuine jeopardy. There is no absolute guarantee of preventing someone taking over the club and through idiocy, greed or incompetence, imploding it; but maintain the status quo and relegation from the National League, and possibly a slide further down the pyramid, becomes not just a genuine risk, but in fact an inevitability.

This article is in no way designed to influence fellow shareholders ahead of next Saturday's vote. It is a hard decision for us all, but when the time comes to make our choice it will take some hugely powerful argument to persuade me not to appropriately amend our constitution.

The past:
Wealdstone's old
Lower Mead
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Harrow, its iconic
home during the
amateur years

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the stones interview

It's Daniel Nkrumah

DANIEL Kwaku Amankwah Apraku Nkrumah will be 22 on Fireworks Night - and the striker seemed about to light the blue touchpaper on his Stones career before he suffered that devastating shoulder injury at Scunthorpe three weeks ago. Now the young East Londoner faces months of rehabilitation. His high-energy game, playing on the shoulders of defenders was proving a game-changer for Sam Cox and here he answers a barrage of questions...

Whereabouts were you born and brought up Daniel? I was born in Dagenham London and also brought up there, but we moved as a family to Basildon in Essex a few weeks ago.

Do you have any relatives who have played the game, to any level? Not that I'm aware of. **Who has been the most influential person in your career?** I'd say my older brother probably - he's watched me all through my career and has helped me along the way through the highs and lows... and is always on at me to do better!

Have you always been a striker? What is your most influential position, do you think? Growing up I've always been a forward I would say - when I moved to Middlesbrough is when I would say I became more of a No.9 or a No.10, whatever you want to call it. I think my most valuable position is definitely a 9 or 10 maybe in a two up top, because I'm able to drop deeper to get on the ball as well as run in behind.

So do you prefer to play off a big striker or have you played as a lone forward? Yeah I think I've always preferred being one of two strikers -

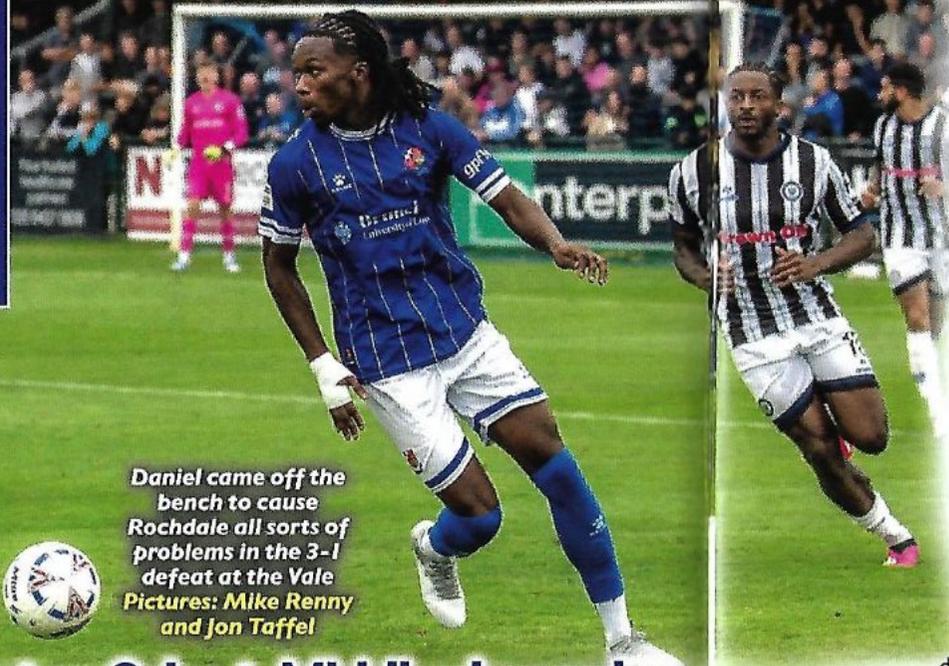
Leyton Orient, Middlesbrough and the injury at Scunthorpe.. the Daniel Nkrumah story is one of many ups and downs

Daniel came off the bench to cause Rochdale all sorts of problems in the 3-1 defeat at the Vale
Pictures: Mike Renny and Jon Taffel

I can the lone striker but balls in the air are not my strongest attribute. So having a No.9 to play off, like Sean Adarkwa, always helps.

What have been your most memorable three moments in football? Firstly, definitely my professional debut for Leyton Orient in the EFL Trophy against Southampton in 2021 - that was a special moment having come through the academy. I'd say signing for Middlesbrough from Leyton Orient was also a memorable moment... plus scoring a hat trick in the FA Youth Cup also was a memory I will never forget. (He scored three times in the 6-1 obliteration of Newport County in Nov 2021, but sadly the Os crashed out 4-1 to Chelsea in the next round - Ed)

How do you compare the pace and physicality in the different leagues you've played in? I've played in the EFL2, National League and Youth and Under-21s level and they are all very different. I'd say National League and League Two are the most



similar - the intensity of the game is always very high and you have to win your physical battle to earn the right to play football. The only difference I guess is that the teams fighting for the titles are usually the ones who have special players due to a higher budget.

Do you support a football team? Either now or as a kid?

Yeah, I support Leyton Orient and Manchester United. Leyton Orient because I came through the academy - and I'm still very close to the players and staff who are still there. And United because when I was younger it's the team I wanted to play for.

How did the move to Middlesbrough come about, and were you ever destined for the first team at The Riverside?

I was on loan at Welling Utd from Orient the season prior and did very well, which got a lot of hype around my name which got a few clubs interested in me. That summer I ended up signing for Boro. Unfortunately, injuries hindered me a lot and I made a few ap-

pearances on the bench in the Championship but the injuries meant I didn't have much momentum in order for me to kick on.

Who was instrumental in bringing you to Wealdstone?

Definitely the gaffer Sam Cox - someone that I know quite well having played with him at Welling. The opportunity to come and play under him excited me as he knows me very well as a player and as a person.

Did you know any of the other Stones players or staff before signing? Yeah a fair few to be honest: Sean, Anthony and Micah I



...and Daniel is flattened at Scunthorpe

"Nkrumah unleashed a stunning strike into the top corner"

What Ghana Soccernet said about Daniel's best-ever goal. "Daniel Nkrumah was on target in Middlesbrough Under-21's 3-2 defeat to Blackburn Rovers in a thrilling Premier League 2 clash. Blackburn's Harrison Wood opened the scoring in the 8th minute but English-Ghanaian forward Nkrumah almost equalized instantly, thwarted by Blackburn goalkeeper Jack Barrett. However, the striker didn't have to wait long for his moment of brilliance. In the 17th minute he unleashed a stunning strike into the top corner to level the game.

Despite the loss, Nkrumah's (pictured right in Middlesbrough red) all-round display and sharp finishing stood out."



knew before. **Do you know very much about the Stones' rich history?** Before signing, not so much if I'm honest - but I have definitely done my research and can see what a great family club it is.

How are you enjoying your first few months at the Stones (until the Scunthorpe game)?

Yeah it has been good - it took me a while to get into the team but I feel like I've taken my chances. I'm just excited to get back to playing now really.

Tell us about the injury at Scunthorpe... to many people's eyes it was actually a penalty as both players shoved you off the ball before the collision with the keeper... Yeah... I thought it might be a penalty as well - from the impact of the collision with the keeper it caused a dislocation in my shoulder which was painful to say the least! But the medical team were great in keeping me calm and helping my shoulder get back into the socket.

What's your feeling about the club and the squad that Sam is assembling at the moment? The vibes around the club are definitely on a high. I think what Coxy is doing is amazing for the club... we're in a good place and I think it's just the start for us. Everyone has bought into his philosophy and I think it's reflecting in our performances.

What is your favourite restaurant and favourite meal? Probably Nando's for me. My order is four chicken thighs, in peri tamer sauce with sides of Mac & Cheese and peri salted chips. Goated!

What's the best holiday you've been on? Marbella for me with a few of my friends

What's playing on your airpod at the moment? Again by Gunna

What's the best goal you've ever scored? Probably one last season for Middlesbrough U-21s against Blackburn because it was with my weaker foot.

Who's the best player you've played with or against? Probably Hayden Hackney at Middlesbrough - an England youth international midfielder and a proper baller.

By Tim Parks



Mountbatten View, recently completed in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire



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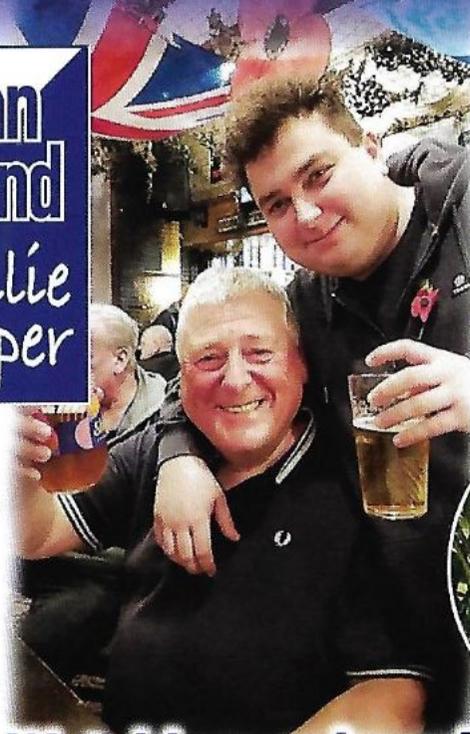
stones fan in the stand

Ollie
Leaper

Your name and age? My name is Ollie Leaper, 24
When was your first Stones game Ollie? What were your first impressions? Unfortunately I cannot remember my first Stones game - however my earliest memories of Wealdstone was getting dropped off in Northwood (where we were ground-sharing) under the bridge and walking through the park right by the skate park and over to the ground, down Chestnut Avenue. For some reason all my memories have combined and I can only picture the games taking place at night with the floodlights lighting the pitch and the scarce fans dotted around the sides of the pitch. I remember being amazed by the fact that I was able to go to a football ground and watch football regularly at a young age, and I find it great that I remember there were probably no more 150 fans there... and how the club has risen and risen each year, while the community of the club still somehow manages to stay tight-knit and welcoming to everyone, new and old.

Whereabouts do you live, Ollie? Have you always lived in that area? I grew up in South Harrow, not too far from the Borough's ground but luckily my dad was a Wealdstone fan so I managed to avoid that fate! It was great living so close to Earlsmead though, because every time we played there my dad would host a few friends before we all went off to watch the game - a great start to the day, even before the game.

From the age of about ten (2010) we moved just around the corner from Grosvenor Vale (I think that was close to Wealdstone FC was a priority for my



Ollie and his dad Clive post-match at Grimsby (left), and (right) their mates line up in the Leaper garden before the Wycombe Cup tie. And below: Dua Lipa, remarkably no relation

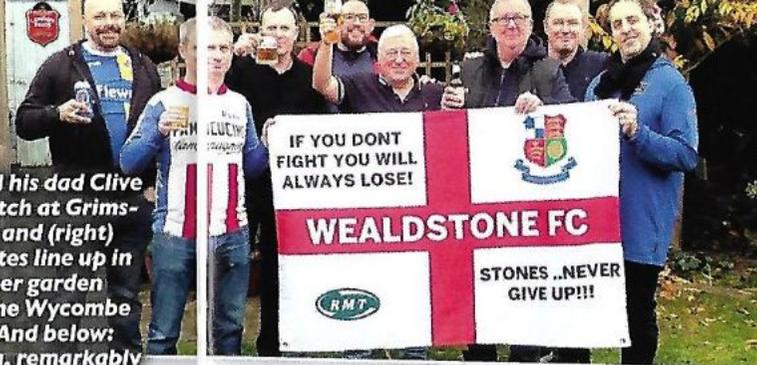


Watching and working at the club has given me some great life skills... it's growing into a paradise for beer and football

dad when house-hunting). I was briefly relocated for my apprenticeship up in Huddersfield for up to six months at a time but this didn't stop me from making it to Wealdstone games.... I would travel down on the Friday night and then drive back to Huddersfield for college on the Monday morning, at least a couple times each month.

How has Wealdstone shaped your life? I started playing for the club's Youth B team from the age of six and had a great time - I could go to practice on a Saturday morning and then watch the Stones play in the afternoon. I would then go on to play matches on the Sunday in a Wealdstone shirt so my weekends were very much surrounded with football.

This carried on to my teen years when Wealdstone Youth put me forward - and paid for me - to become an official referee for the Harrow Youth FA. This was a fantastic opportunity given to me by the club - it allowed me to officially learn the laws of the game while



helping me develop personally a lot. It allowed me to become confident in my choices and my decisiveness. Also, around the same age (15) I began working at the social club as a glass collector under Wealdstone Royalty (Leo F***ing Morris) and Karen as my managers. They taught me even more about the club and I rose through the ranks, becoming a bartender and looking after the bar by myself. Which gave me some great life skills helping me get my apprenticeship in engineering.

Who introduced you to Wealdstone? It was my dad Clive Leaper of course! He has been going to Wealdstone for decades, and my grandad also used to go to games which really made football a family event. It was inevitable that I would be introduced to Wealdstone

Do you follow any other team? In my youth I would go to the occasional Chelsea game, following them in the background. But Wealdstone has always had my main attention.

What level of football do you most enjoy, and why? I would definitely have to say that non league football is my football of choice. I haven't had too much exposure to the higher leagues but I enjoy the way the players are playing for passion and the joy of the game - I think this really comes across and makes up for the occasional lack of skill. And in these lower leagues you can actually get to know the players: the whole team to come into the clubhouse for food and drink and for a chat to fans after the games. I highly doubt this happens in the higher leagues.

How big a part of your life is the game? Do you have other hobbies? Wealdstone has been a

big part of my life growing up. Unfortunately certain variables like work patterns has meant that Wealdstone has been like a yoyo - I'm sometimes able to go to plenty of games before being forced to have a break. But I always make my way back to watch again and I think the club will always play a large part in my life. I don't have many hobbies though I enjoy working on cars and overall just messing about with mechanical and electrical ideas.

How do you fit watching football in with your family/working life? Have you ever played the game yourself?

Fitting football in with my family has always been the easy part considering the whole family has worked at the club throughout the years (sisters working on the turnstile, dad helping run the half time drinks) which means the club has always played a big role - we have often made adjustments to make sure that we could fit football and the club into our lives (including making sure we opened the clubhouse on Christmas Day for a few hours in the past).

What's the most memorable game you've EVER seen? And the best Wealdstone game?

Growing up I have a lot of memorable moments from Wealdstone that have sort of all blended into one. The main memories was being a mascot for the Wealdstone vs Rotherham FA Cup tie back in 2009 at the Vale which at the time seemed like the biggest event I had ever experienced. I still have a signed ball from the game to make sure I always remember it.... even though we did lose 3-2.

In more recent times my best game would probably have to be playing against Grimsby in the FA Cup last season. Seeing Grimsby hit the post with that early penalty and then Alex Reid's last-minute goal... it was just fantastic to witness the 1-0 result and, for the first time in decades, making it past the First Round. Hopefully it won't be such a long wait again.

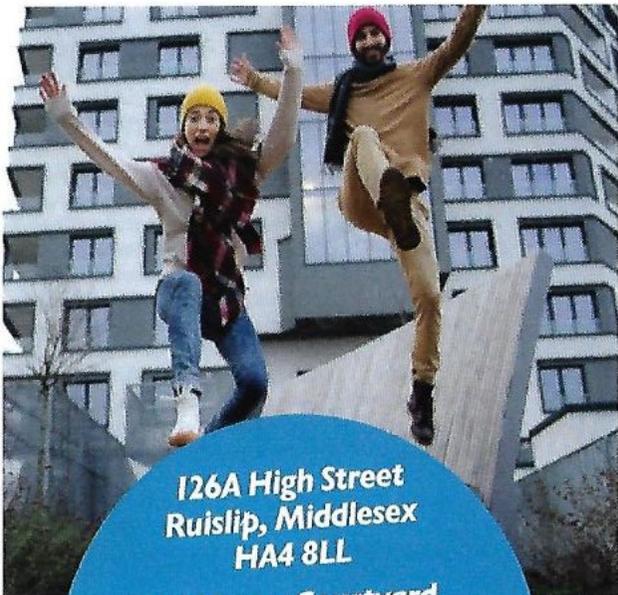
Who are the best Wealdstone players you've ever seen? Growing up I got see some great players for the Stones. The full line-up is on the graphic (below left) and I would probably say my highlights are Jonathan North, who had an incredible presence on and off the pitch - I would trust him with any penalty he faced - while Lee Chappell was also great. He would always answer my questions after the games and was a superman of a player (Aylesbury v Wealdstone in 2008, remember his pants?!)

And finally, where do you think the Stones will be in five years? I can see Wealdstone being a comfortable member of the National League with an even larger fan base, becoming an even larger community. I think that the new stadium will be underway and I think the club will just be growing into a paradise for beer and football :)



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today's opposition in focus

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EASTLEIGH FC THE SPITFIRES

Eastleigh FC was founded on May 22, 1946, by Derik Brooks and a group of friends at the Fleming Arms public house in Swaythling, Southampton.



Playing home matches firstly on Southampton Common, and then at 'Westfield' in Swaythling, the new club were promoted into the Hampshire League in 1950 after two campaigns spent in the Southampton Senior League (West). Within another year, Athletic, (that appellation was dropped in 1973) had topped Division Three (West) and won the Hampshire Intermediate Cup. By 1956, Swaythling were playing in the 1st Division of the County league. They would return to that level in 1970 as champions of Division 2. In keeping with their early progress, the club moved to a new ground at Ten Acres in 1957 – which remains home to this day. The change to their current name was made in 1980, six years before Eastleigh F.C. became founder members of the Wessex League. The club settled at that level, until a distinguished period under the management of present Sutton United boss Paul Doswell which began in 2002/2003. Eastleigh were that season's Wessex League Champions. Twelve months later, they finished 4th in the Southern Football League Division One East. The club were beneficiaries of the FA's restructuring of the non-league pyramid, and were elevated to begin 2004/2005 in the Premier Division of the Isthmian League. On-pitch advancement was being matched off the field. A new stand was constructed in time for the Isthmian campaign, which the team finished with a run of 14 unbeaten matches. That was enough to earn Eastleigh a play-off berth, which they capitalised on fully. Victories over Braintree Town (2-0), and Leyton (1-0) ensured that Doswell had taken his team from Wessex League to Conference South in the space of three heady years. Development of the ground has continued, with improvements made in 2006 both to the stand opposite the main grandstand, and that behind the goal furthest from the clubhouse. Eastleigh's present owners,

Bridle Insurance, whose purchase of a majority shareholding in the club was confirmed in February 2012, have further upgrading of the 'Silverlake Stadium' high on their list of priorities. Over nine years in the Conference South, Eastleigh have twice flirted with promotion to non-league's highest tier. In 2009, under the management of former Leeds United forward Ian Baird, the Spitfires lost a play-off semi-final against Hayes & Yeading United. A 4-0 extra-time home defeat cancelled out Eastleigh's 4-2 first-leg victory. In 2012/2013, a campaign which saw Baird replaced by current boss Richard Hill in September, the Spitfires' second half of the season form took them from 21st to 4th place, and a play-off meeting with Dover Athletic. A 3-1 home reverse was wiped out with a 2-0 win in Kent, but, ultimately, a losing penalty shoot-out ended Eastleigh's promotion aspirations. The intervening years brought the Spitfires' only ever appearance in the FA Cup first round, and some silverware. The 2009/2010 cup adventure was ended by a last gasp goal which earned then Conference Premier team Barrow a 2-1 home win. Eastleigh's trophy joy came in the 2011/2012 Hampshire Senior Cup. In a final played at Southampton's St Mary's Stadium against AFC Totton – on a night which featured the first live testing of goal-line technology – the Spitfires were 2-0 winners. Eastleigh can lay claim to their part in football history then, but they hope to make headlines all of their own in the coming years. The high ambition of all involved with the club comes at no cost to the inclusive and fan friendly atmosphere which exists at the Silverlake Stadium. That is a fact to which founder, Director, and Life President, Derik Brooks will undoubtedly testify. Eastleigh's success didn't stop there – promotion was gained from the Conference South in 2014, where they won the league title. The following season, the Spitfires made the play-offs, however they couldn't get past a strong Grimsby Town outfit who went on to gain promotion. The following season saw an impressive FA Cup run, in which Eastleigh took Championship side Bolton Wanderers to a replay. The following season was the same story, with Eastleigh losing away to Championship team Brentford in the Third Round. In the 2018/19 season, under the guidance of Ben Strevens, Eastleigh finished 7th in the Vanarama National League. This meant they would



Eastleigh's 5,1920 capacity Silverlake Stadium

face Wrexham in the Play Off Eliminator. The game finished 0-0 after normal time and it took a Danny Hollands wonder strike to send Eastleigh through to the Play Off semi finals versus Salford. Again the semi final went to extra time after the game finished 1-1. Only for Eastleigh to narrowly avoid a trip to Wembley after being knocked out on penalties.

In 2014, Eastleigh clinched the Skrill South title, gaining promotion to National League and are now in the tenth season competing at this level.

When formed, Swaythling Athletic began playing its home matches on Southampton Common behind where The Cowherds pub is now located.

In 1957, Swaythling Athletic moved to Ten Acres where the club has remained to this day and has been known as the Silverlake Stadium over the last ten seasons due to Eastleigh's stadium right naming partnership with local automotive recycling company Silverlake Automotive Recycling.

The stadium has undergone several renovations and expansions over the years, including the addition of floodlights in 1976, the construction of a grandstand, and since Stewart Donalds arrival the ground has saw Sherwoods restaurant, Brooks hospitality suite as well as the brand new south stand developed in recent years.

The old club crest came into being when the club changed its name to Eastleigh FC following the Annual General Meeting in May 1980.

Eastleigh Borough Council gave the club permission to use the Borough's shield but not the borough motto. The crest is explained as follows:

The Bishop Mitre refers to the connection of the Bishops of Winchester with Bishopstoke.

The Two Sheaths of Corn symbolise the rural and agricultural nature of the Borough.

The Two Narrow Bands represent railway lines, recalling the historical importance of railways. They also represent the cable making activities within the Borough.

The Chequered Strip recalls that Eastleigh was once a Manor held by the Chamberlains of the Royal Exchequer.

The Winged Wheel signifies the theme of progress and transport.

The Medieval Ship represents shipbuilding and yachting activities within the Borough (at Bursledon and Hamble-le-Rice).

Eastleigh adopted their 'Spitfires' moniker after consultation with supporters during the close season of 2005. Southampton International Airport (previously known as Eastleigh Airport) was home for the assembly of the Supermarine Type F37/34 Spitfire once the aircraft had been built in nearby Woolston. The F37/34's maiden flight, piloted by 'Mutt' Summers and watched by designer R.J. Mitchell, took place at Eastleigh Airport on 5th March 1936.



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1st Team Results 2025/2026

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

Month	Match	Comp	Score	Crowd	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers	
AUGUST	9	TRURO CITY	ENL	2-0	1,572	170	6	Bouidewijn, 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	
SEPTEMBER	25	Boston United	ENL	1-2	2,077	135	7	Obiero
	30	ROCHDALE	ENL	1-3	1,365	280	8	Massey
	2	SOUTHEND UNITED	ENL	3-2	2,309	1,007	6	Bouidewijn, Adarkwa 2 (1 pen)
	6	Scunthorpe United	ENL	0-0	4,460	57	8	Bouidewijn
	13	GATESHEAD	ENL	2-2	1,109	50	9	Hutchinson, Kretzschmar
OCTOBER	16	LEICESTER CITY	NLC	2-1	226	TBD	9	Hassan, Kretzschmar
	20	Morecambe	ENL	3-4	2,256	150	11	Kretzschmar, Obiero, Massey
	24	Tamworth	ENL					
	27	EASTLEIGH	ENL					
	1	Brackley Town	ENL					
NOVEMBER	4	ALTRINCHAM	ENL					
	11	FA Cup 4th Qualifying	FAC40					
	18	York City	ENL					
	21	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	NLC					
	25	SUTTON UNITED	ENL					
DECEMBER	1	FA Cup 1st Round Proper	FAC1					
	4	Yeovil Town	ENL					
	8	BRAINTREE TOWN	ENL					
	15	Hartlepool United	ENL					
	22	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	ENL					
JANUARY	25	WEST BROMWICH ALBION	NLC					
	29	Solihull Moors	ENL					
	6	Truro City	ENL					
	13	FA Trophy 3rd Round	FAT3					
	20	FC Halifax Town	ENL					
FEBRUARY	26	BOREHAM WOOD	ENL					
	30	Aldershot Town	ENL					
	3	Carlisle United	ENL					
	17	WOKING	ENL					
	21	TAMWORTH	ENL					
MARCH	24	Gateshead	ENL					
	31	MORECAMBE	ENL					
	7	Eastleigh	ENL					
	10	Altrincham	ENL					
	14	YORK CITY	ENL					
APRIL	21	Sutton United	ENL					
	24	BRACKLEY TOWN	ENL					
	28	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	ENL					
	7	Braintree Town	ENL					
	14	SOLIHULL MOORS	ENL					
21	Forest Green Rovers	ENL						
25	YEovil TOWN	ENL						
28	BOSTON UNITED	ENL						
3	Boreham Wood	ENL						
6	ALDERSHOT TOWN	ENL						
11	Rochdale	ENL						
18	SCUNTHORPE UNITED	ENL						
25	Southend United	ENL						

Date in Red = MIDWEEK fixture

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	Omer MUSSA	Deon WOODMAN	Mason BARRETT	Enzio BOLDEWIJN	Dylan KADJI	Max KRETZSCHMAR	Sak HASSAN	Endurance JOHNSON	Micha OBIERO	Philip CHINEDU	Moussa DIARRA	Dom HUTCHINSON	Christian SCOTT	Daniel NKUMAH	Nathan TSHIKUNA	Jeffrey SEKERE	Connor MCAVOY	Nathan YOUNG-COOMBES	Alfie MASSEY	Marcus DAY	Sean ADARKWA	Lucas COVOLAN	Junior TIENSI				

KEY

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



Pictures from our narrow 3-4 defeat up at Morecambe 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	Chariton 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)

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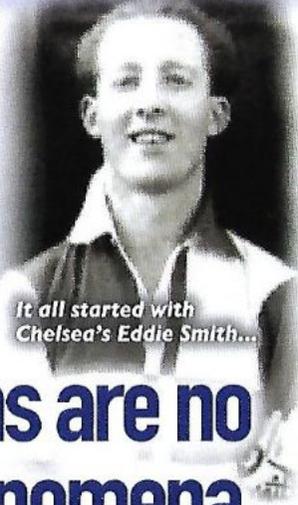
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Stones loans: The good, bad & sensational



BY MICK
FISHMAN



It all started with
Chelsea's Eddie Smith...



...while it wasn't a bad
debut for Alex Reid, here
saluting his sensational FA
Cup hat-trick against
Gosport Boro last October
PIC: SEAN TROUP

Player loans are no recent phenomena... Chelsea, no less, were sending us their stars way back in the 1940s

I WAS recently enjoying the *Stonescast* podcast in which the conversation turned to how good a footballer Alfie Massey is.

The 19-year-old Millwall midfielder is one of those modern phenomena, a player taken on loan. I say 'modern phenomena' because, to me, it is a recent thing.

My memory is not the best but I couldn't recall our taking players on loan prior to the 1980s - yet having undertaken some research there was one very short period way back in the mists of time that involved the club doing just that. For the 1948/49 season, when the amateur Stones were competing in the Athenian League they entered into an arrangement with Chelsea to blood one or two of their promising younger players into competitive senior football. Eddie Smith was one such lad

and he made an instant impact, scoring twice on his debut against Redhill in a 4-0 win. His second game was a personal triumph as he scored six goals in a 7-1 hammering of league champions Barnet! The exciting young player did manage 32 goals in all matches by the season's conclusion. **Bobby Walker**, a left winger, had also joined with Smith from Chelsea, but his stay with the club was to be less successful. At the end of the 1949/50 season Chelsea signed Smith on professional forms, but seemingly he was found to be not quite up to the standard for the top level - but he did enjoy a decent professional career at Bourne mouth, Watford, Northampton, Colchester United an QPR before dropping into non-league football with Chelmsford City and, finally, Wisbech Town. The arrangement with Chelsea

appeared not to survive into the 1950s.

The first player I can actually recall us taking on loan was **Martin Sperrin** from Barnet in 1980. Our toothless attack under

Ken Payne was struggling to score goals and the colourful Bees manager, Barry Fry, appeared to want to unload Sperrin. The player made three appearances, one in the league (in which he scored twice in a 3-1 win over Gravesend) and then a famously dramatic equaliser at Harlow Town in an FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round tie. Sadly, we lost the replay, manager Payne was sacked and the expected transfer of Martin Sperrin didn't go through, much to the annoyance of Barry Fry. Shame.

In came the great management team of Allen Batsford and Brian Hall and they were never too proud to make use of their Wimbledon connection to take in short-term loan players from their former club. Centre half **Mark Morris** played the first game of the 1983/84 season away at Gateshead while a young forward, **Paul "Windy" Miller**, arrived on loan from Plough Lane during the 1986/87 season and scored six important goals from 16 starts.

In the same season forward **Steve Galloway** came on short-term loan from Maidstone United and scored twice in three games. In the 1987/88 season, another centre half, the giant **Terry Evans**, arrived from Brentford to play three matches for the Stones (including a towering performance in the goalless draw with eventual champions Lincoln City). And from what I can recall, that was just about it until the new millennium.

It wasn't until we ground-shared at Northwood that we started to take loan players from full time clubs on a regular basis. We hit an arrangement with Watford, and several players came to us on loan, some successfully, others less so. A few came and went making little impact - such as **Francisco Francis**, **Rob Ursall**, **Alex Campana** and **Robbie Rice** - while

others made significant contributions. **Aaron Goode** and **Andy Howells** arrived on loan from QPR to stiffen up our defence, but the loan players who stick in the mind from that period are **John-Joe O'Toole**, **Theo Robinson** and **Gavin Massey**. Despite their tender years, John-Joe imposed himself in midfield, Theo formed a deadly partnership in attack with Dean Papali and **Alan Massey** was already proving to be a colossal figure in central defence.

Manager Gordon Bartlett continued to recruit talented youngsters on loan once we were ensconced at The Vale. In the 2011-12 season three Watford youngsters made a big impression in their different ways: **Connor Smith**, all drive and energy in midfield while **Tommy Hoban** came in as an

emergency central defender and learned very quickly what "grown up" football was all about. And, of course, **Britt Assombalonga** scored 11 goals from 13 starts and helped the imperious Richard Jolly to put the fear of God up opposing defences.

A couple of seasons later **Luke O'Nien** played 34 games for us on loan from Watford in which he showed the promise that has led him to the captaincy of the Sunderland team that gained promotion to the Premier League last season.

In recent seasons it has become de rigueur for clubs to take on loan young players from clubs competing in more senior leagues. Watching the EFL highlights show (as I do) the commentators frequently refer to players at teams being on loan from higher ranked clubs; and that arrangement works all the way down to the National League. It is now accepted practice for clubs to incorporate six-month or season-long loan players as an integral part of their playing squads.

Currently, we have just two lads on loan, the impressive man-mountain **Phillip Chinedu** from Leyton Orient and the dazzling **Alfie Massey** from Millwall. **Both are proving to be massively influential in the relative success we are currently enjoying. Which brings me full circle to the question posed by host Adam Hills on the podcast and by others on the fans' forum - is Alfie Massey the best loanee we have had at the club?**

Leaving aside the fact that Alfie has only played a few games for the club, there are several

Continued overpage >>>



Millwall loanee
Alfie Massey on the ball
PIC: MIKE RENNY



One of the all-time great Wealdstone supporters pictures as our fans celebrate a goal from 2006-2007 salvation Theo Robinson, on loan from Watford
PICTURE: ADAM WILLIAMS

The history of Stones loans... continued

from previous page issues to consider which make the question nigh-on unanswerable. Account must be taken of the player's position on the field, the level at which the club competed during his loan period and the relative impact he might have made on the team's performance. There can be little question that **Theo Robinson's** 13 goals from 13 games almost certainly saved us from relegation in 2007, but that was from the Southern League Premier Division –two levels below where we are now.

In the 13 games **Britt Assombalonga** (right) played for us during the 2011/12 season, his 11 goals contributed greatly to the team's progress up the league and towards the FA Trophy semi-finals. But, again, that was two divisions lower than the



National League.

Loan goalkeepers **Aston Oxborough** and **George Wickens** both enjoyed outstanding seasons for us, while midfielder **Aaron Henry's** first spell with us from Charlton was highly impressive. **Sam Bowen** also had a rock-solid season with us in midfield on loan from Newport County, and Palace youngster **Jack Wells-Morrison** did well for a short time.

Others have played their part.

So, is **Alfie Massey** the best of the lot? To my mind he is a wonderfully talented lad who should go on to enjoy a long and successful career in football, but

he will have to go some to usurp **Alex Reid's** position as our most important loanee. Prior to Alex joining on loan last season, the team had played 13 league games, won 1, drawn 5 and lost 7, scoring just 9 goals. Alex

played in 30 of the remaining league matches of which 13 were won, 7 were drawn and 10 were lost. The contrast is stark. Had he not joined us we would certainly have been relegated. However talented young Alfie is, I wager he will have to perform minor miracles to have a greater impact.

● Now, having added my own two-pennyworth to this discussion sparked by the *Stonescast85* podcast, I must say how impressive young Hillisy is at running the proceedings. He clearly prepares scrupulously to ensure he has all the salient facts to hand; and he steers the conversation towards the agreed items for discussion at just the right points.

Most impressively, he brings in the other contributors seamlessly to ensure everyone gets a fair crack of the whip - and the discussions are both lively and informative. He really is turning into Wealdstone's very own Des Lynam.



enterprise



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Enzio Boldewijn Izzy Randall	7	Dylan Kadji Sudhir, Akhil, Nikhil, Sarin & Kamran Rawal	8	Max Kretzschmar Sarah Gowdy	10	Sak Hassan Norwich Singing Man & Hampshire Rose	11
Micah Obiero Darrell Parsons	14	Moussa Diarra Cltr Richard Mills	16	Dom Hutchinson Adam Rowlands aka Turf Doctor	17	Christian Scott Contact us to put your name here	18
Nathan Tshikuna Mark Evans with Jennor Timbers	20	Jeffrey Sekyere Contact us to put your name here	21	Connor McAvooy Jon Taffel	23	Nathan Young-Coombes The 3 amigos	24
Sean Adarkwa SYL'S GOALS LIVE @syl_isylma	27	Junior Tiensia Matt Snell	29	Phillip Chinedu Mick Fishman	15	Daniel Nkrumah Barry Benveniste	19
Jack Cook (A) Mike & Val Weston	2	Omar Mussa (A) Trevor Davies	4	Deon Woodman (A) Gary Smith	5	Enzio Boldewijn (A) @StonesCast85	7

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

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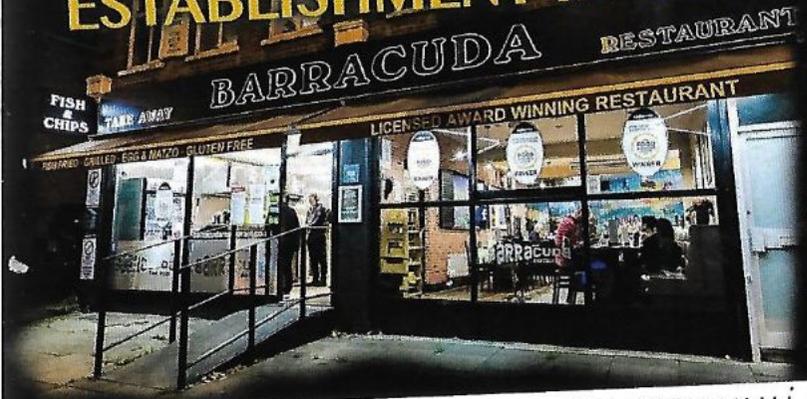
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Beverley BRUCE-MILLS

Position: Forward



Danni HOLLAND

Position: Midfielder



Ellie CULLEN

Position: Defender

Ruislip Windows



Emma O-HARE DOILEY

Position: Forward

@Stonescast85



Gabi RACUT

Position: Forward

Gary Smith



Libby SALMON

Position: Midfielder

Roger Slater



Lola DOYLE

Position: Midfielder

Blossom's Little Explorers



Millie BADHAM

Position: Defender

Todd Family



Paige KWASKOWSKA

Position: Forward

Hennessey



Sumaiya DADABHOJ

Position: Defender

Stockport Stones



Tammy KIDD

Position: Midfielder



Aisha ABDULLAHI

Position: Midfielder

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Alicia RAMKISSOON

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Manager

DFG Training



Simon HENRY

Assistant Manager

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FIXTURES & RESULTS

Date	Opposition	Type	KO/Res
SEPTEMBER			
Sun 7	Fusion	L	A 0-6
Sun 14	Rose	L	A 5-2
Sun 21	London Football School	L	H 2.15pm
Sun 28	Frenford & MSA	L	A 2.15pm
OCTOBER			
Sun 12	Balham	Cup	H 3pm
Sun 26	Wandsworth Borough	Cup	A 11am
DECEMBER			
Sun 2	London Football School	Cup	A 1pm
Sun 9	Edgware & Kingsbury	Cup	H 2.15pm



Head of Women's Football, Gabi Racut, scored a magnificent four for Wealdstone in their recent fixture versus Roses.





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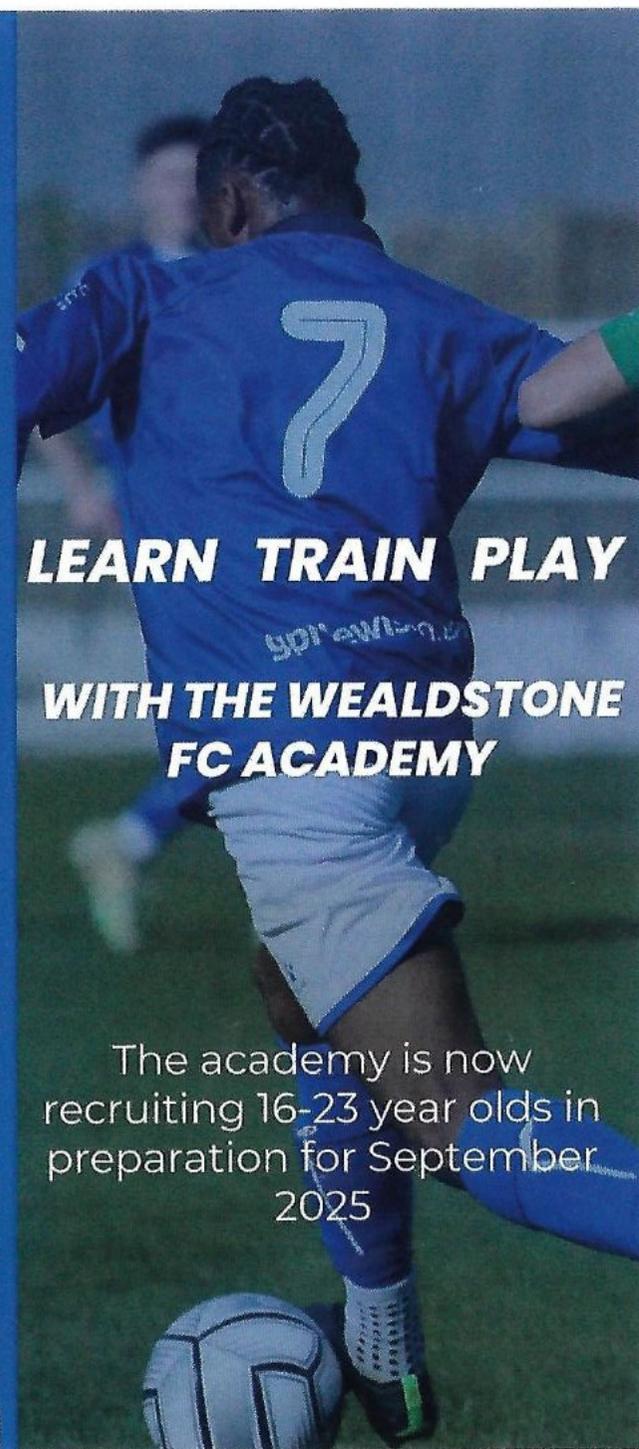
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15 years ago: Chesh hoodoo is banished on a wet night at the Vale

rewind:
on this
day



BY TIM PARKS

2010

Monday September 27 2010, FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round replay: Wealdstone 4 Chesham United 1 Oh, those desperately worrying yet exciting days of the FA Cup Qualifying Rounds!

Now we are a National League 'big fish' (in non-League terms) the thrill and unpredictability of the early knock-out stages are now pretty much behind us. We come in at the final (fourth) qualifying round and are denied the potential banana skin of taking on clubs from lower levels... and the joy of a visit to a Brockenhurst, Newbury or Burgess Hill. Oops, of course best not to mention Burgess Hill as that, unfortunately, is the flip side of the coin.

These days, even when we meet a lower-level side who have undoubtedly carried out a few minor giant-killings en route, we are overwhelmingly expected to progress through to the First Round proper.

Witness the 4-1 execution of Southern League Gosport Borough at the Vale last season, although we needed the three-goal intervention of Alex Reid on his Stones debut.

But when I started



Scott Fitzgerald is mobbed by team mates including Sean Cronin (9) after putting the Stones ahead
Picture: Steve Foster

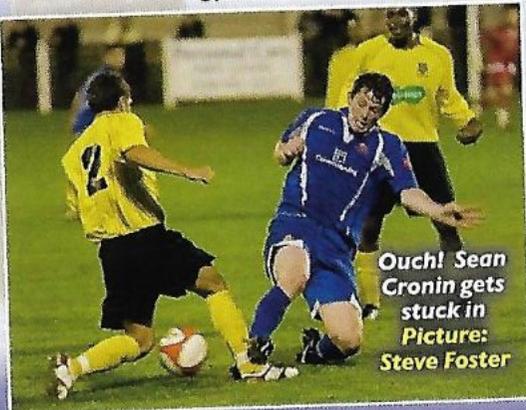
watching the Mighty Stones back at the turn of the 1970s, the club was smarting from a lack of FA Cup success. Although Wealdstone were a force in amateur football we had only reached the First Round twice in over 70 years! Way back in 1949 when lost 1-0 at Third Division Port Vale, and then a 3-1 defeat at Div Three Millwall in 1965.

It was only six years until my own first sighting of the Stones in the First Round and that seemed like a lifetime as we crashed out to Leighton Town in 1970 (nominally three levels below), Boreham Wood in '71 (then two levels below), Hayes (1972), Chesham United in '73 (also two levels below) and also Tooting & Mitcham in 1974 (both one below). In 1975 we finally got to face a Football League side in Aldershot, and went down heroically 4-3.

But even 37 years on from the ignominious exit to Chesham (2-4 in a home replay after a 1-1 draw in Buckinghamshire), the spectre of that shameful defeat hovered over us fans when we drew them again in 2010. Some, even older than me, recalled the

apocalyptic 2-0 defeat by Athenian League Second Division minnows Chesham in the 1968 Amateur Cup semi-final, played at Craven Cottage in front of a shell-shocked 8,500 crowd.

But back to 2010. It ended in joy for the 366 Vale crowd on the Monday night following a 2-2 draw at the Meadow. The agony of Chesham's late equaliser was forgotten as we set up an away tie at unbeaten Metropolitan Police in the 3rd



Ouch! Sean Cronin gets stuck in
Picture: Steve Foster



Qual Round (which we lost in a replay) despite a number of changes from the game at The Meadow. Scott Fitzgerald replaced Greg Ngoyi up front, paired with centre back Sean Cronin in an unfamiliar No.9 role. 'Sir Cronin' was (and still is) technically a very good footballer and he provided a physical presence up front.

We took the lead with an excellent goal on 21 minutes, Kieron Forbes picking up the ball deep in his own half and taking off on a typical surging 75 yard run down the right flank, beating four players, before pulling the ball back for Fitzgerald to side-foot past Shane Gore in the Chesham goal.

The second came three minutes from half time, Lee Chappell's long throw flicked on by Fitzgerald for Peter Dean to superbly flick the ball into the top corner with the outside of his right foot.

Things were at times becoming over-physical, and Chris O'Leary was perhaps

lucky to escape a red card when his late tackle caught Gabriel Fanibuyan. Having already been booked in the first half he escaped with just a ticking off from the referee despite the protests of the away side. Cronin also put his foot in when it mattered!

Chesham did pull one back from a corner, Rob Bartley's towering header going in off the cross bar but four minutes later Lee Chappell ran onto O'Leary's smart through ball and produced a classy finish from the edge of the box, curling the ball into the bottom corner with his left foot.

It was 4-1 on 75 minutes when man-of-the-match Deano ran onto a through ball and rounded the keeper to the delight of the baying crowd.

Wealdstone: North, Forbes, Chappell, Parker (sub Locke), Massey, Brooks, Dean (Spendlove), O'Leary, Cronin, Fitzgerald (Ngoyi), Dyer. Subs not used: Thomas, Pattison, Lavers, Martin

...but 45 years ago Stones crushed by 3 red cards and young Stu Pearce in goal!

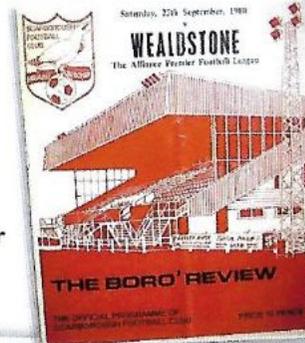
1980

Saturday September 27 1980, Alliance Premier League:

Scarborough 4 Wealdstone 0

THERE ARE certain games that, if you were present, you are destined never to forget them. They enter into club folklore, and you can say "Yes, I was there"....

Such was this Alliance Premier League match played 45 years ago on the North Yorkshire coast. Following a deceptive 4-0 trouncing of Telford on the opening day of the season, we had gone six league matches without a win. Most supporters had started to get an inkling that we were no great shakes as a team, but it had not yet become evident that, in addition to being short on quality in



Jon Taffel's historic snap of Stones manager Ken Payne (left) and the two goalkeepers that bizarre afternoon at Scarborough - former QPR and Sheffield Wednesday international Peter Springett (middle) and Stuart Pearce (right)



some positions, we also had several "head cases" who needed to be closely controlled.

That all became clear at Scarborough after keeper Ian Cranstone was kicked in the head by the onrushing Bob Gauden. Despite soldiering on for a while, Ian was not well and was eventually carted off to hospital. Paul Bowgett and other notable characters such as Willie Watson and Tom Murphy took the law into their own hands and exacted retribution. They all got sent off and we ended up with eight players on the field and Stuart Pearce in goal. The fact that we lost 4-0 seemed fairly immaterial. Oh yes... and we were relegated.

Wealdstone: Ian Cranstone, Alan Fursden, Stuart Pearce, Fred Barwick, Paul Bowgett, Robin Wainwright, Tom Murphy, John Watson, Alan Cordice, Nigel Johnson, Mark Adams.

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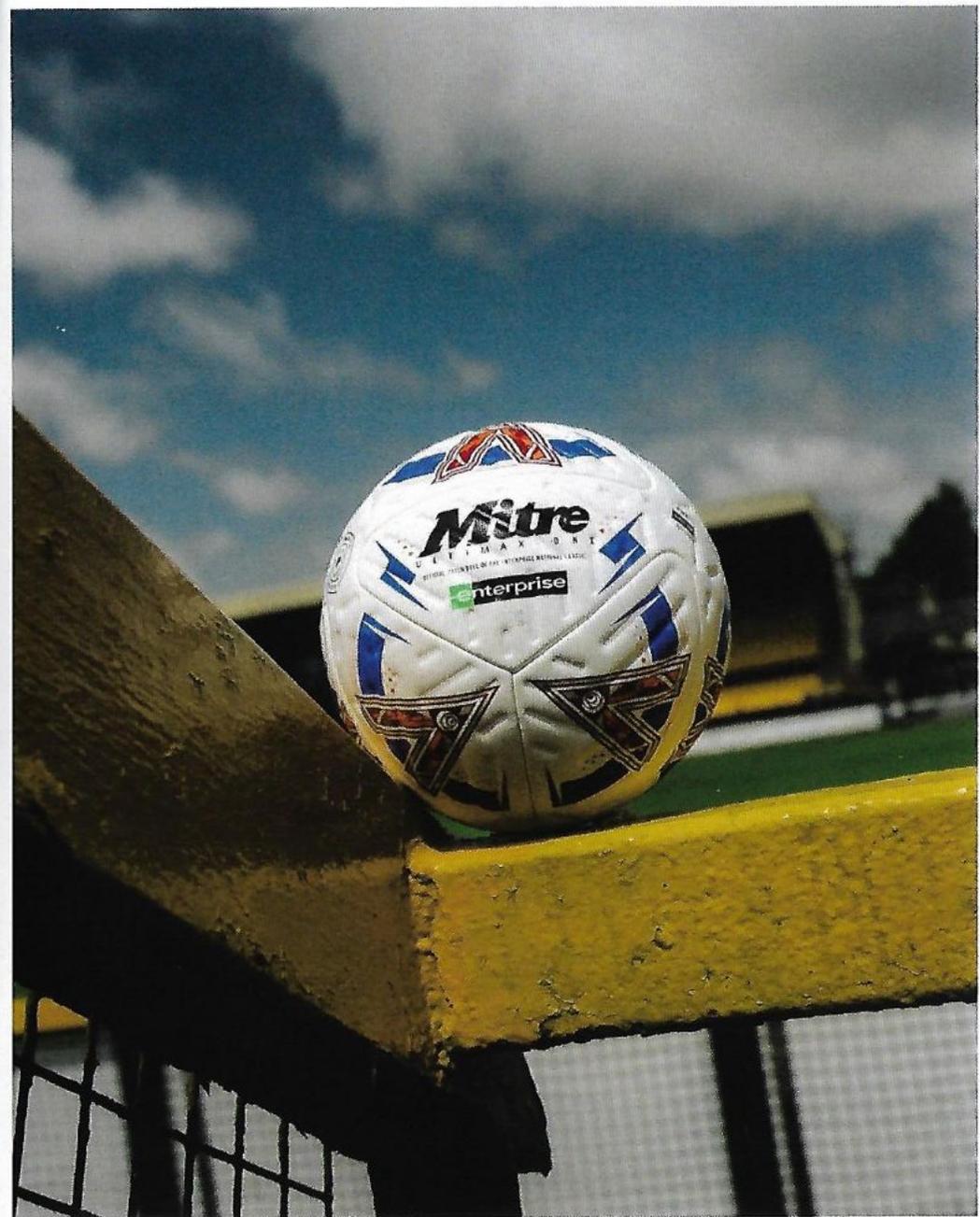
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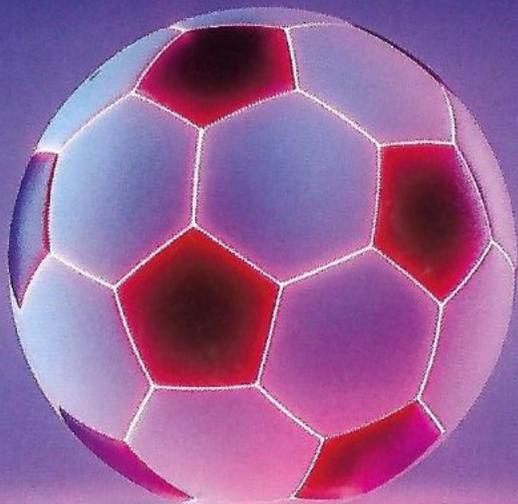
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First Team Appearances 25=26

A = APPEARANCES AS STARTER
 S = APPEARANCES AS SUBSTITUTE
 G = GOALS SCORED
 * = HAS SINCE LEFT CLUB

CORRECT AS AT 13TH SEPTEMBER 2025	ENTERPRISE NATIONAL LEAGUE			FA CUP			FA TROPHY			NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP			MIDDLESEX CHARITY CUP			TOTALS			STONES CAREER		
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G
Adarkwa, Sean	8	1	3												8	1	3	29	20	14	
Baptiste, Dante	9														9			18	1		
Barrett, Mason																		49	16	2	
Boldewijn, Enzo	9		3												9		3	56	4	5	
Chinedu, Phillip	5	4							1						6	4		6	4		
Cook, Jack	8		1						1						9		1	177	6	16	
Covolan, Lucas									1						1			1			
Day, Marcus										1						1		1			
Diarra, Moussa		2							1						1	2		1	2		
Georgio, Anthony	9								1						10			41	11	1	
Hassan, Sak		5							1		1				1	5	1	1	5	1	
Hutchinson, Dominic	4	5	2						1						5	5	2	41	27	4	
Kadji, Dylan	6	2							1						7	2		7	2		
Kretschmar, Max	3	3	2												3	3	2	91	30	22	
Kurtaran, Teo *										1						1		1			
Massey, Alfie	7	1	1							1					7	2	1	7	2	1	
McAvoy, Connor																		43	3	2	
Mussa, Omar	6	3													6	3		6	3		
Nkrumah, Daniel	1	4							1						2	4		2	4		
Obiero, Micah	5	4	1							1					5	5	1	89	35	14	
Tiensia, Junior	4	1													4	1		4	1		
Tshikuna, Nathan	6	3	1						1		1				7	3	2	7	3	2	
Woodman, Deon	9									1					9	1		20	7	1	
Young-Coombes, Nathan	2								1						1	2		1	2		



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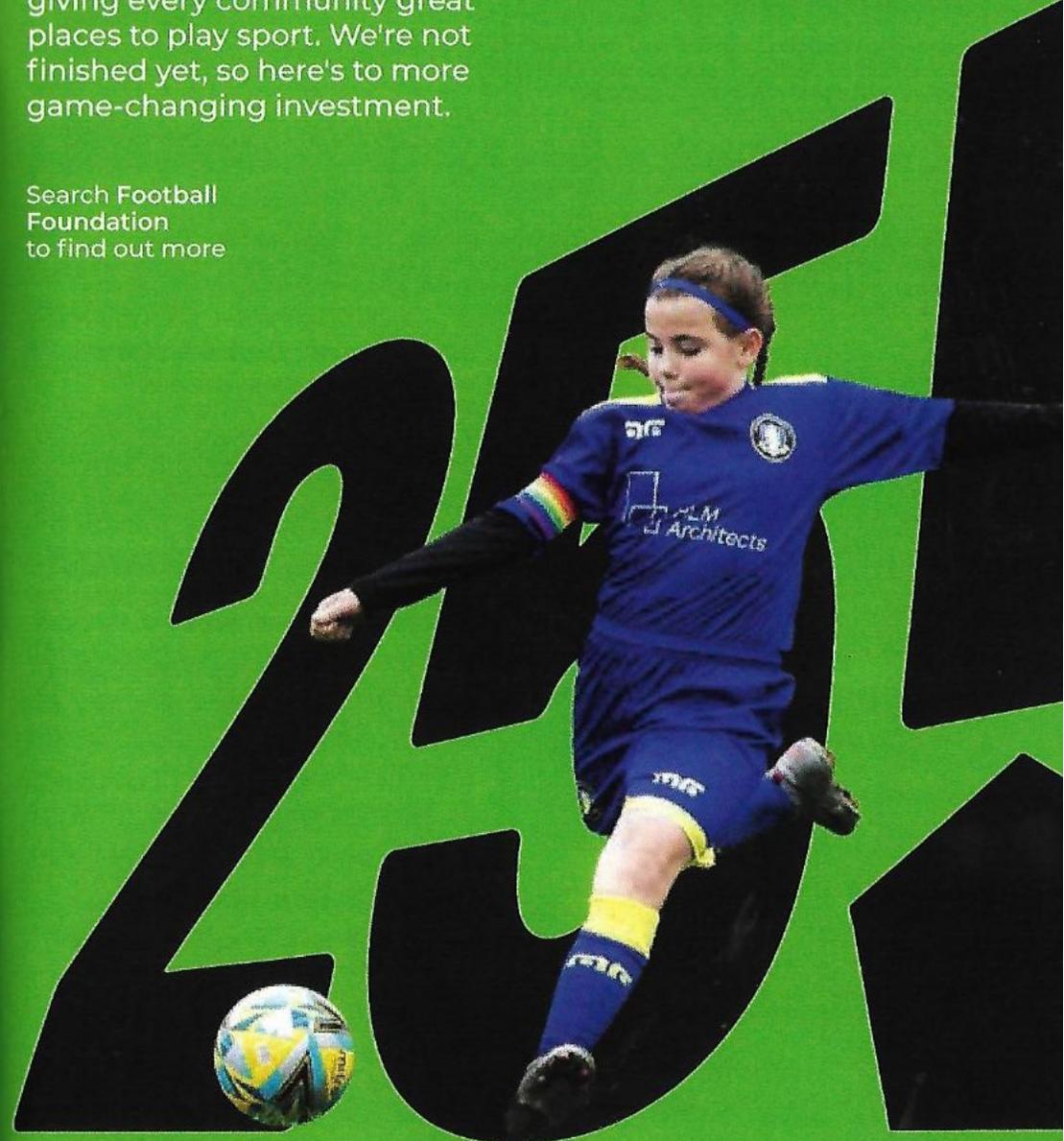


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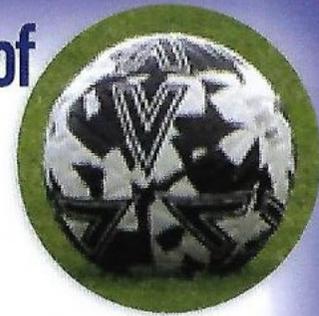
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MATCH SPONSORS: Enterprise
BALL DONORS: Your name here?

BOSTON UNITED March 28, Enterprise National League
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BALL DONORS: Your name here?

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BALL DONORS: Your name here?

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Upcoming Fixtures 2025/26

Today's other Enterprise National League fixtures

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- Braintree Town vs Gateshead
- Carlisle United vs Rochdale
- FC Halifax Town vs Aldershot Town
- Hartlepool United vs Tamworth
- Solihull Moors vs Brackley Town
- Southend Utd vs Scunthorpe Utd
- Sutton United vs Boston United
- Truro City vs Morecambe
- Yeovil Town vs Altrincham
- Forest Green Rovers vs York City

Home

Altrincham



Saturday
4th October
3:00pm

Enterprise National League

Nottingham Forest



Tuesday
21st October
7:00pm

National League Cup

Sutton United



Saturday
25th October
3:00pm

Enterprise National League

Away

Brackley Town



Wednesday
1st October
7:45pm

Enterprise National League

York City



Saturday
18th October
3:00pm

Enterprise National League

Yeovil Town



Tuesday
4th November
7:45pm

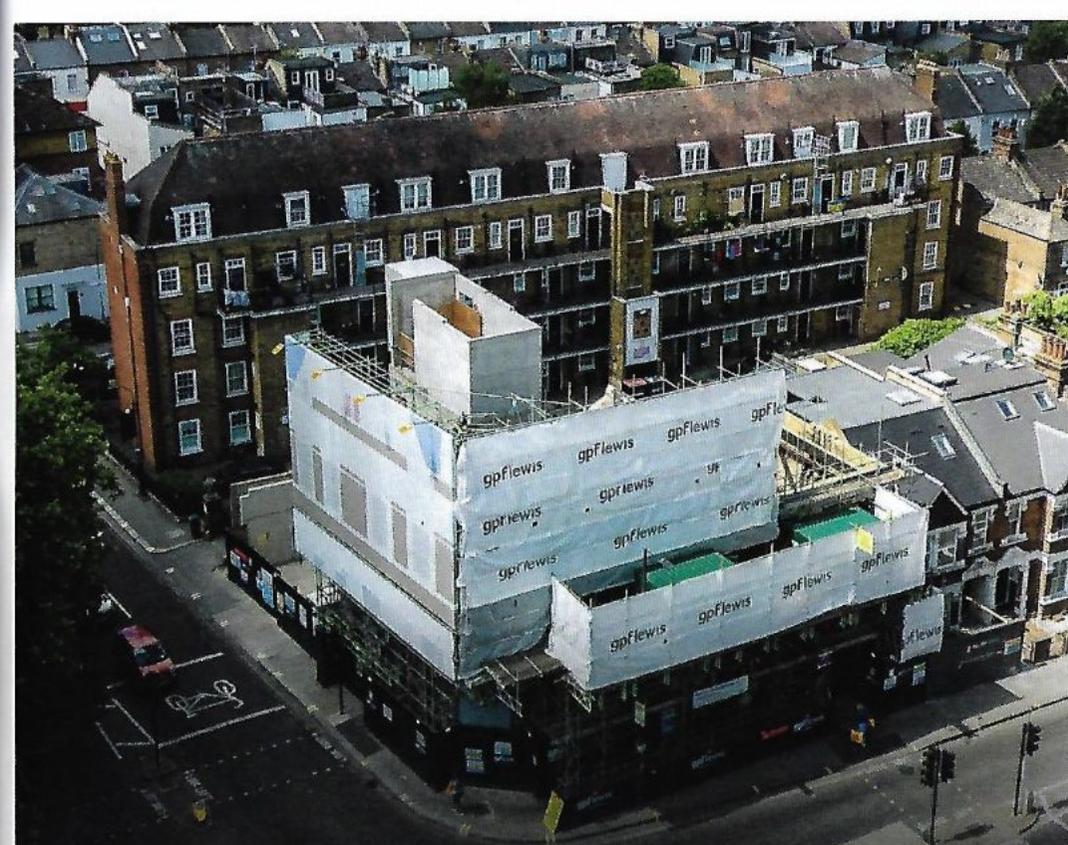
Enterprise National League

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



Enterprise National League 2025/2026 @ Monday 22nd September 2025

	P	HW	HD	HL	AW	AD	AL	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts	H	A
1 Forest Green Rovers	10	4	1	0	3	2	0	7	3	0	18	5	13	24		
2 Carlisle United	10	3	2	0	4	0	1	7	2	1	21	7	14	23	0-1	
3 Rochdale	8	4	0	0	3	0	1	7	0	1	16	4	12	21	1-3	
4 Boreham Wood	9	4	0	1	2	2	0	6	2	1	19	11	8	20		
5 Southend United	9	2	3	0	3	0	1	5	3	1	15	6	9	18	3-2	
6 Scunthorpe United	8	3	1	0	2	2	0	5	3	0	15	7	8	18	0-0	
7 Tamworth	10	3	1	1	2	0	3	5	1	4	12	14	-2	16		
8 York City	8	1	1	1	3	2	0	4	3	1	15	7	8	15		
9 Hartlepool United	10	2	3	0	1	2	2	3	5	2	9	4	5	14		
10 Brackley Town	9	3	1	1	0	3	1	3	4	2	9	8	1	13		
11 Wealdstone	10	3	1	2	1	0	3	4	1	5	16	16	0	13	-----	-----
12 Aldershot Town	10	2	1	2	1	2	2	3	3	4	23	19	4	12		
13 Altrincham	10	3	0	2	1	0	4	4	0	6	14	16	-2	12		
14 FC Halifax Town	10	1	2	1	2	1	3	3	3	4	12	17	-5	12	2-1	
15 Gateshead	10	1	1	3	2	1	2	3	2	5	14	25	-11	11	2-2	
16 Eastleigh	9	2	0	2	1	1	3	3	1	5	10	13	-3	10		
17 Yeovil Town	10	2	1	2	1	0	4	3	1	6	10	15	-5	10		
18 Solihull Moors	10	0	2	3	2	2	1	2	4	4	12	18	-6	10		
19 Braintree Town	10	2	1	2	1	0	4	3	1	6	11	17	-6	10		
20 Woking	10	1	1	3	1	1	3	2	2	6	11	15	-4	8	2-1	
21 Boston United	9	1	0	3	1	2	2	2	2	5	8	15	-7	8	1-2	
22 Morecambe	7	2	0	2	0	1	2	2	1	4	11	20	-9	7	3-4	
23 Sutton United	10	1	1	3	0	1	4	1	2	7	12	21	-9	5		
24 Truro City	10	1	1	3	0	0	5	1	1	8	6	19	-13	4	2-0	



CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE
MAINTAINING THE PAST

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