

walking in a wealdstone wonderland

BY TIM PARKS



Dante makes the difference! Above, Junior Tiensia fires home Baptiste saves brilliantly in the same goal to ensure victory



for 1-0 against MK Dons while Pics: Mike Renny & Sean Troup



WELCOME back to the Vale for two more tough tests for Sam Cox's Stones - first up is QPR's under-21s and then National League South Slough Town four days later - and once again we have produced one programme to cover both games.

It might be tempting to repeat the idea once the National League season kicks off in just a week's time: Truro City are the visitors on August 9 and then it's quite possible that FC Halifax Town will be London-bound on the 16th if the NL decree that their home game against the Stones should be switched to the Vale. It's not ideal for anyone but if we can repeat the heroics of last May against the Yorkshire side at least the home fans will be happy. Hopefully a decision will be made by the time you read this!

There will also be a home clash with Wolves' Under-21s (Premier B) side on Tuesday 12th as our National League Cup Group B fixtures get underway so - with Rochdale visiting on the 30th - that's FIVE

home games in August, six if you included the Slough friendly! At least the Vale pitch looks in great nick, and it even survived a biblical downpour on the morning of the MK Dons warm-up game.

Talking of MK Dons, a refreshing air of positivity flooded the Vale after the 2-0 win over a very decent League Two squad. Our football was crisp, decisive and entertaining... and the visiting fans sat behind me were left shaking their heads and wondering how they were being turned over by our National League underdogs. In previous season's warm-ups it has often been the trialists who have undermined results, but on this evidence Sam and his slowly-growing management team have selected well. A sharp finish from the impressive Junior Tiensia gave us a 1-0 lead at half time and the rejuvenated Anthony Georgiou - happily able to get on the ball more in a central midfield role - snapped in the decisive second after the break. It might have been different though, but for the razor reflexes of Dante Baptiste who was truly magnificent in the Wealdstone goal.

FOUR DAYS later we took on Charlton's formidable EFL Championship side and although we were beaten 3-0, two of those were penalties which means we had only conceded one goal from open play in the opening three friendlies (I always like to find positives!)

Dante again pulled off a worldie save from the Addicks' much-vaunted Isaac Alaofe but a mistake of judgement saw him flatten a Charlton forward minutes later - and Alaofe banged it in from the spot. Deon Woodman was then adjudged to have clipped an Addicks striker in the box and Daniel Kanu doubled the lead with another penalty.

Again, it was a controlled performance from the Stones - despite not being able to play through Charlton, as we had done MK - and

there were stand-out performance across the park. Not least from new capture from Torquay, Omar Mussa, in the second half as he stood up to some battering challenges from the Championship side and invariably emerged with the ball!

Sonny Carey headed the third goal, deep into the second half after Baptiste had almost parried the first effort to safety... Charlton manager Nathan Jones was very complimentary after the game as he knew his team had been given a real workout.

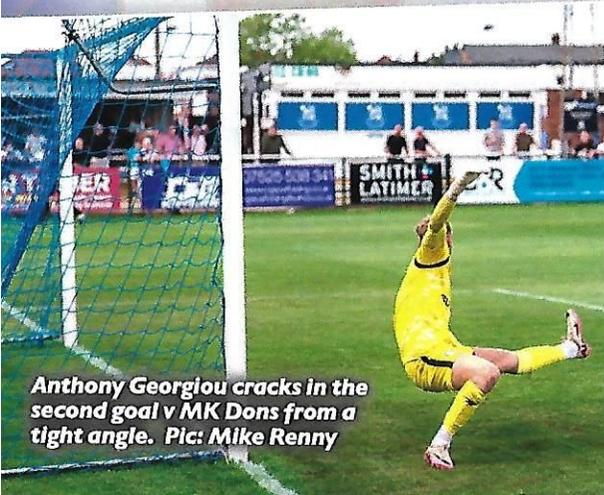
A BIG thank-you to Queens Park Rangers for bringing their talented Under-21s to face the Stones on Tuesday, and also to player-boss Scott Davies for bringing his National League South Slough Town side to the Vale for our final pre-season game.

Scotty, of course, spent a memorable year-and-a-bit in the Stones midfield a decade ago and I notice that he's still turning out at the age of 37 in their pre-season friendlies - starring in the 3-2 win over Brentford's B side a fortnight ago! The Rebels finished 16th in the NLS last season and will be hoping for a stronger finish... despite there being a lot of moneyed, full-time big-hitters in that division this season.

A LOT of Stones' fans were ambivalent about the National League Cup when the idea was mooted last season, but with a couple of wins in the group stages it became a bit of a money-spinner.

Again the cash incentives make it well worthwhile taking part and we find ourselves in Group B this time around, taking on Premier 2 sides Wolves, Leicester, West Brom and Nottingham Forest, all at the Vale.

Encouraging displays as Stones hold their own against EFL sides



Anthony Georgiou cracks in the second goal v MK Dons from a tight angle. Pic: Mike Renny

2025/26 FIXTURES

August

- 9 TRURO CITY (H)
- 16 FC HALIFAX TOWN (A) *
- 19 WOKING (A)
- 23 CARLISLE UNITED (H)
- 25 BOSTON UNITED (A)
- 30 ROCHDALE (H)

September

- 2 SOUTHEND UNITED (H)
- 6 SCUNTHORPE UNITED (A)
- 13 GATESHEAD (H)
- 20 MORECOMBE (A)
- 24 TAMWORTH (A)
- 27 EASTLEIGH (H)

October

- 1 BRACKLEY TOWN (A)
- 4 ALTRINCHAM (H)
- 18 YORK CITY (A)
- 25 SUTTON UNITED (H)

November

- 4 YEOVIL TOWN (A)
- 8 BRAINTREE TOWN (H)
- 15 HARTLEPOOL UNITED (A)
- 22 FOREST GREEN ROVERS (H)
- 29 SOLIHULL MOORS (A)

December

- 6 TRURO CITY (A)
- 20 FC HALIFAX TOWN (H)
- 26 BOREHAM WOOD (H)
- 30 ALDERSHOT TOWN (A)

January

- 3 CARLISLE UNITED (A)
- 17 WOKING (H)
- 21 TAMWORTH (H)
- 24 GATESHEAD (A)
- 31 MORECOMBE (H)

February

- 7 EASTLEIGH (A)
- 10 ALTRINCHAM (A)
- 14 YORK CITY (H)
- 21 SUTTON UNITED (A)
- 24 BRACKLEY TOWN (H)
- 28 HARTLEPOOL UNITED (H)

March

- 7 BRAINTREE TOWN (A)
- 14 SOLIHULL MOORS (H)
- 21 FOREST GREEN ROVERS (A)
- 25 YEOVIL TOWN (H)
- 28 BOSTON UNITED (H)

April

- 3 BOREHAM WOOD (A)
- 6 ALDERSHOT TOWN (H)
- 11 ROCHDALE (A)
- 18 SCUNTHORPE UNITED (H)
- 25 SOUTHEND UNITED (A)

*possibly at home



Brackley, Braintree and Forest Green Rovers from the NL make up our 16-club division. There will again be four divisions with the top two-placed teams in each moving on to the knockout stages. Leeds United were the winners last season, beating Sutton United in the final.

● It's that time of the year again when we ask nicely for fans and businesses to become Match Ball Donors and Kit Donors. Peter Worby on 07967698370 and John Young on 07874846785 are the men to contact. Come enjoy some hospitality in the Captain's Lounge! Thanks to our Ball Donor for both the QPR and Slough games, the Wealdstone FC Foundation.

● And talking of the Captain's Lounge, one of its most high-profile residents is Stones Ambassador Charlie Townsend (pictured left with snapper Mike Renny). We all know that Charlie was an English amateur international some years ago, and even played in the Olympic Games for Great Britain (as featured on ITV during the Wycombe FA Cup build-up last season) but it amazed us all to hear that he celebrated his 87th birthday at the MK Dons game! Time to share your skin care routine Chas!



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR LOCAL CHAMPIONSHIP SIDE QPR

TONIGHT we take on Queens Park Rangers' under-21 side at The Vale hoping for a more flattering scoreline than when the clubs last met in pre-season.

On July 20, 2022, Michael Beale brought his full-strength 1st XI and rather exposed the gulf between the National League Stones and the QPR side that had just returned from a successful training camp in Germany: We subsided to an 8-2 defeat in front of a buzzing 2,500 crowd.

That attendance confirmed Ruislip's demographic as a Rangers stronghold (like most of London, largely dictated by the railway network) with probably 2,000 Hoops fans eager to see Beale's side in action. On the night, Scottish international striker Lyndon Dykes (with a hat-trick) and Moroccan international playmaker Ileaas Chair had the Championship club's fans purring and looking forward to a successful season as they powered to a 6-0 lead by half-time kicking down the slope. Stones were much improved after the break - helped by Rangers bringing on a pretty much all-new XI - and a smart

The last time we faced QPR at the Vale we were 6-0 down at half time!

goal from Nathan Ferguson and one from a trialist saved our blushes to a degree.

As it turned out, Rangers finished a hugely disappointing 20th in the Championship with just Cardiff separating the Hoops from the bottom three relegated clubs Reading, Blackpool and Wigan Athletic. Beale was gone by the end of November, succeeded by his assistant Neil Critchley and eventually by Gareth

Ainsworth in February. Results lurched to and fro (including a 6-1 defeat by struggling Blackpool) but the ex-Wycombe boss just about kept them clear of the trapdoor. The Stones finished safely in lower mid-table.

Although we've met Rangers pretty regularly in pre-season over the years, this was only the second time we've faced the full might of the Hoop. For the older fans among us, who will ever forget our sortie to the Third Round of the FA Cup in January 1978 (the only time Stones had progressed that far) and the wonder of being drawn to play our local top flight side at Loftus Road.



Good to see: A packed crowd on the newly-extended terrace at The Vale for the game 3 years ago

QUEENS PARK RANGERS

WEALDSTONE

Colours: Red & White halved Shirts, Black Shorts

Manager: Frank Sibley
Assistant Manager: Derek Healy
Substitute:

1 PHIL PARKES	3 IAN GILLIARD
2 DON SHANKS	6 TOMMY CUNNINGHAM
4 JOHN HOLLINS (Captain)	8 ERNIE HOWE
5 GERRY FRANCIS	10 STAR BOWLES
7 LEIGHTON JAMES	11 DON GIVENS
9 PETER EASTOE	

Referee: Mr. R. Crabb

Linesmen: Mr. G. Rigby (Yellow Flag), Mr. E. Hopper (Red Flag)

11 BOBBY MOSS	6 KEITH FURPHY	7 PAT FERRY
10 GEORGE DUCK	8 STEVE BRINKMAN	
9 FRED BARWICK	5 DAVID PARRATT	4 JOHN WATSON
3 PAUL THOMAS	2 ALAN FURSDON	
1 CHRIS LIGHTFOOT		

Manager: Alan Fogarty
Substitute: Nicky Griffiths

WEALDSTONE

Colours: Yellow Shirts, Yellow Shorts

RESULT-QPR WEALDSTONE



Man in the Middle
This week's featured player is goalie Phil Parkes, seen here in fine form during the US FA Cup game against Steven Branta's before he sustained the injury which made him miss so many matches this season. (Photo: Colosport)

NOW THEY LINE-UP TODAY

WEALDSTONE
Royal Blue/White/White

QUEENS PARK RANGERS
All Black

Sam HOWES
Jack COOK
Lewis KINSELLA
Ashley CHARLES
Sam HABERGHAM
Nathan FERGUSON
Max KRETZSCHMAR
Matt YOUNG
Tarryn ALLARAKHIA
Josh UMERAH
Rhys STEPHAN BROWN
Dom HUTCHINSON
Alex DYER
Malachi NAIPA
Jordy MONGY
Tecane SHROWDER
Solomon BALOGUN
Eric NEGRARU

Senny DIENG
Ossie KAKAY
Lyndon DYKES
Ileaas CHAIR
Albert ADOMAH
Rob DICKIE
Stefan JOHANSEN
Macaulay BONNE
Luke AMOS
Jake CLARKE-SALTER
Jimmy DUNNE
George THOMAS
Sam FIELD
Jordan ARCHER
Kenneth PAAL
Andre DOZZELL
Charlie KELMAN
Chris WILLOCK
Conor MASTERSON
Olamide SHODIPO
Charlie OWENS
Niko HAMALAINEN
G Joe WALSH
Murphy MAHONEY
Sinclair ARMSTRONG
Joseph AJOSE
Arkeil JUDE-BOYD
Faysal BETTACHE
Aaron DREWE
Joe GUBBINS
Stephen DUKE MCKENNA

Referee: Sunny Gill
Assistants: Michael Webb and Sophie Dennington

RESULT: WEALDSTONE... QUEENS PARK RANGERS

Next at the Vale:
Wealdstone v Southampton
Wealdstone v Chelmsford
Wealdstone v Bromley

Main club sponsor: **gpflewis**

INSIDE RANGERS v STONES, 1978

Programme covers from the two occasions the Stones have faced QPR's first team

Above left is pictured the programme cover from that memorable clash and just looking through the Rangers names brings back the enormity of the occasion. England internationals Stan Bowles, Gerry Francis and Phil Parkes, plus international Welsh wizard Leighton James and the Republic of Ireland's Don Givens were all on show against our brave Southern League side - four levels lower.

No surprise that we were beaten 4-0, though after a storming first half that saw Keith Furphy and

Steve Brinkman coming close to opening the scoring. In front of an 18,000 crowd, Given, Mick Leach, Bowles (with a penalty) and James twisted the knife in the second half but it remains our best-ever season in the competition.

To reach that stage we had beaten Maidstone Utd 2-1 at Lower Mead in the 4th Qualifying Round, then 3rd Division Hereford United 3-2 at Edgar Street in Round One (after a goalless draw at home) followed by a glorious 2-1 win over 4th Division Reading, also at Lower Mead, with 7,000 turning up to

watch. Wealdstone's best-ever result against the Hoops came 85 years ago (no, I don't remember it, thanks for asking) when Gale with a hat-trick and Dyke with two goals were the main men in an 8-0 pre-season friendly win at Lower Mead. The second World War was in its second year, with the Football League suspended, and Rangers were competing in the South Regional Championship. Our season in the Herts & Middlesex League was continuing more or less as normal which might have accounted for the scoreline. Nevertheless I bet the Stones fans were crowing after that win!

We also faced QPR XIs in pre-season 1982 (losing emphatically 5-1) and then again in August 2015 when Conor Calcutt, Sean Lucien and Johnny Wright scored in an impressive 3-1 win. The following pre-season the Rangers under-21s recorded a 2-1 win here at the Vale (pictured left).

OUR RECORD v QPR P8 W2 D1 L5 GOALS: F19 A27

LINE UPS

STONES v HOOPS
Sly blue & white all navy blue

Jonathan Hoops	Conor Haddock
Josh McLeod-Argue	Marky Thompson
Eddie Deane	Chris Peck
Wes Parker	Jeremy Arthur
Frank Beatty	James McEneaney
Frank Beatty	Don Derbyshire
Jack Smith	Wym Jones
Tom Curran	Stewart Adams
David Green	Erp Kelly
Jason Wright	Richie Carter
Richie Carter	Neil Carter
David Hunt	Glenn Christie
Elmer Williams	Al Fisher
Josh McLeod-Argue	Jack Eales
Glenn Anderson	Steven Mills
Travis Barker	Michael Klass
George Butler	Josh Bowler
John Clark	Shane Eddan
Raven Colquhoun	
Frankie Jones	
Way Jones	
Kieran McCaffrey	
James McCre	
Dean McEneaney	
Nathaniel Mansell	
Robbie Parsons	
Russell Rode	
Callan Wilson	

OTHER CHANGES

Referee: David Kemp
Assistants: Jamie Pope and Rob Clouston

STONES

QUEENS PARK RANGERS U-21s
July 2, 2016 Pre-season

Main club sponsor: **gpflewis**

SEASON 2022-23 PROGRAMME £2

WEALDSTONE FC

v QUEENS PARK RANGERS
FRIENDLY: WEDNESDAY 20 JULY 2022, NO 7.45PM

Main club sponsor: **gpflewis**

League sponsors: **ESB**, **WINDSOR**, **WINDSOR**

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR OLD FRIENDS SLOUGH TOWN



84 years of rivalry: The long old story of Stones v The Rebels

The youngsters and 'newbies' at the Vale for this afternoon's final warm-up friendly might recall Stones meeting Slough Town back in the National League South six years ago.

The Rebels gave Dean Brennan & Stuart Maynard's side two really tough games over the Christmas 2019/ New Year 2020 period - a time when we led the NLS by five points over Havant & Waterlooville, with third-placed Slough also nipping at our heels. We were beaten 2-1 at New Arbour Park on Boxing Day in front of a boisterous 1,307 crowd. A first half penalty from Ben Harris, (after William Edjenguele's rash challenge) and a brilliant long-range second half strike from Max Worsfold, secured the points for Slough with Michee Efete scoring a late consolation goal for Stones.

A week later Efete and Ross Lafayette scored early goals to reverse the scoreline, with Ryan Bird heading a late goal for the visitors, as 1,289 celebrated inside the Vale. The programme cover is pictured below.

But this was just the latest incarnation of the rivalry between our clubs that has ebbed and flowed for over eight decades. Like the Stones, Slough have had a topsy-turvy, transient past as they moved up and down the

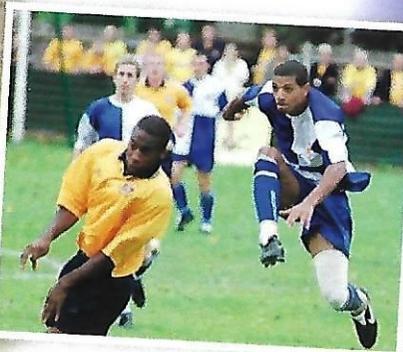
football pyramid. We spent just eight seasons in the Conference National back in the late 1970s-1980s - far fewer than you might imagine with our chequered record - and then plummeted four divisions (three of them admittedly out of choice).

Slough enjoyed just one season less in non-League's top flight after clambering through the divisions in the late 80s/90s (just missing the Stones, headed in the opposite direction) and then suffered the same fate by tumbling into the Ryman League in 1998 - although this was not for footballing reasons.

The consortium that owned their then ground (Wexham Park) decided that they wouldn't stump up for the ground improvements needed to stay in the Conference, leading to understandable anger from the fans and the whole Slough



We faced Slough for four seasons between 2001-2006 in the Ryman Prem, and the final two games were graced by three goals from our sharpshooter Jermaine Beckford. Below, he volleys an amazing 35-yarder in the home 2-2 game at Northwood, and (left) he nets in the return at Windsor where Slough were groundsharing. That goal - his 35th goal of the season - was his last in the league and earned an £80,000 move to Leeds United.



PICTURES BY ADAM WILLIAMS

community as the club were demoted despite finishing eighth in the table.

The heart was ripped out of the Rebels, but as they suffered another demotion to the Ryman Div One I remember our clubs meeting in 2001 and being impressed by the passion of their fans. We were smashed 6-0 at Wexham Park one evening in front of a noisy crowd and I remember thinking that this was still a 'big club' who were suffering the same indignities as the Stones for reasons beyond our control.

Slough were eventually levered out of Wexham Park (suffering even more pain as the ground lay derelict for a decade) and moved to groundshare first at Windsor's Meadow Park, and then at Beaconsfield Town. But finally, ten years ago, Slough Council gave the club the lifeline of a move back into the town by developing the Arbour Park stadium, with its 3G pitch, cover on three sides and the potential for expansion - perfect for a side at our level and a reward for the long-suffering supporters who never deserted their team.

Remarkably, despite being only an hour's drive apart, the Stones and the Rebels never met for some 33 years - between November 1968 and September 2001. The 1968 meeting was a titanic FA Cup 4th Qualifying round tie which went to a replay after a 1-1 draw at Athenian League Slough's original Dolphin Stadium. The crowd of 2,900 was bettered by 90 for the replay at Lower Mead, when Keith Searle and an own goal gave Vinnie Burgess' Stones team a 2-0 win

and a home game with league rivals St Albans in the first round proper. However, a disjointed display ended with a 1-1 draw (attendance 3,505) and a 1-0 defeat in the replay at Clarence Park in front of a heaving 5,100 crowd.

In 2001 the 33-year bubble burst and our two clubs met in the Ryman League for four seasons with honours even... and then later in the National League South, as mentioned on previous page plus a couple of friendlies since the Stones' elevation to the National League five years ago.

You may recall a rather embarrassing 1-0 defeat by the Rebels behind closed doors, a week before the start of the NL season and the visit of Chesterfield (a game that was delayed by a couple of weeks after the equally-embarrassing cloudburst that rendered the Vale unplayable). Then the Rebels faced the Stones in another warm-up friendly three years ago at Arbour Park.

Jonathan North was in goal for the Rebels but powerless to stop Josh Umerah and 'a triallist' - from memory Olufela Olomola - scoring the goals in a 2-1 win for Stuart Maynard's side.

Scott Davies is in charge of The Rebels these days and we remember Scottie for his full-blooded displays in the Stones midfield some ten years ago... and he still does a very tidy job there with his old mucker Jefferson Louis joining him in a coaching role (and probably coming off the bench this afternoon to score!)

OUR RECORD v SLOUGH P8 W2 D1 L5 F19 A27

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR FROM THE STONES 'FAMILY'

ST ALBANS CITY YELLOW/BLUE/YELLOW	WEALDSTONE BLUE/AMBER/BLUE	SLOUGH TOWN SKY BLUE/WHITE
Dean Snedker	Harry Isled	Jack Turner
Tom Bender	Michee Efete	Josh Jackman
David Lange-King	William Edjenguele	George Wells
Joe Howe	Billy Clifford	Sam Togwell
David Diehiau	Connor Stevens	Guy Hollis
Lewis Knight	Jerome Okimo	Lee Topwell
Oli Sprague	Michael Phillips	Max Worsfold
David Noble	Jack Jebb	Matthew Lench
Sam Merson	Ross Lafayette	Ben Harris
Zane Barton	Ashley Charles	Manny Williams
Scott Shulton	Dannon Lewis	Warren Harris
James Kalocz	Danny Green	Joe Grant
Solomon Nwabuziel	Connor Smith	Mark Wabset
Taylor Miles	Jacob Mandy Mandy	Scott Davies
Joe Iancifano	Dejon Noel-Williams	Dan Roberts
Jamie Fielding	Fumanya Shometan	Ryan Bird
Albert Adu	Herschel Watt	Simon Dunn
Allie Benfield	Afolabi Coker	Nojes Trinoas
Munasho Sundire	Ashley Charles	Sean Fraser
Joshua Oyinsan	Jonathan North	
	Lewis Everett	

WEALDSTONE v ST ALBANS REFEREE
Robert Massey-Ellis
ASSISTANTS
Kieran Bailey and Stephen Parkinson

WEALDSTONE v SLOUGH REFEREE
Callum Walchester
ASSISTANTS
Mark Chalidze and Paul Burtham

MATCH SPONSORS (St Albans) Tony Platt; (Slough) Recycle DNC
BALL DONOR In memory of Bob Hill

NEXT HOME GAME v BATH CITY (Vanarama National League South) Saturday, January 25, Kick-off 3pm

WEALDSTONE v ST ALBANS CITY
Vanarama National League South,
Saturday 28 December 2019, 3pm

WEALDSTONE v SLOUGH TOWN
Vanarama National League South,
Wednesday 1 January 2020, 10am

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Main club **gpflewis**