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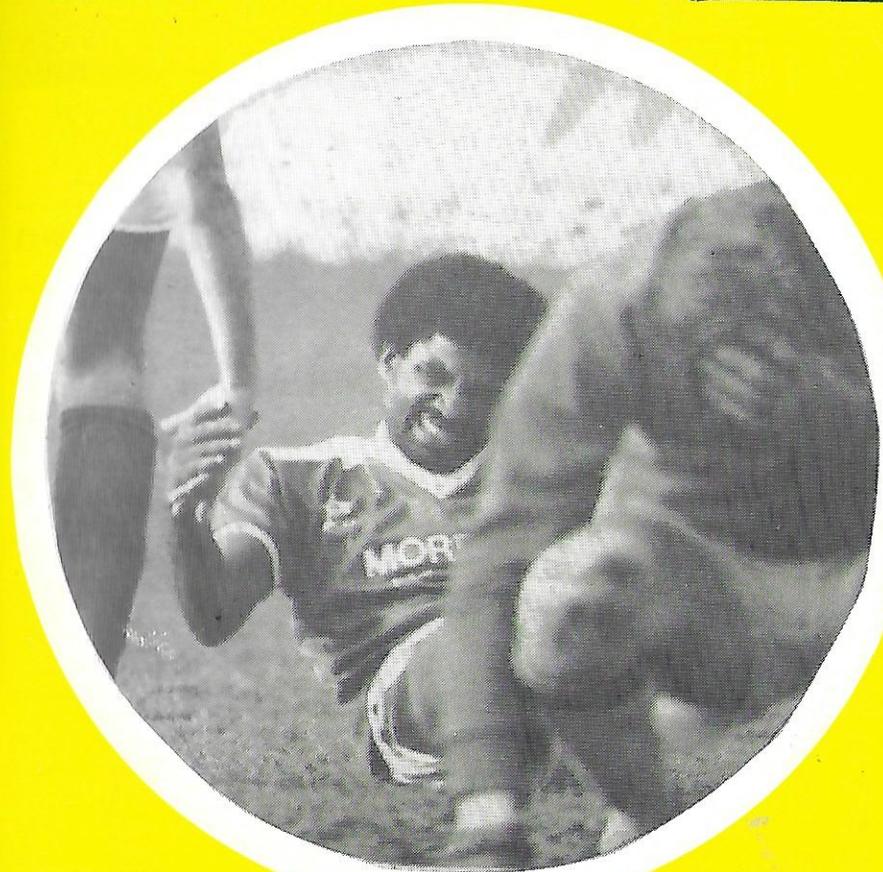
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TEAMS

Wealdstone v Basildon
(All Red) (Royal Blue)

BOB ILES	1	BARRY WILSON
STEVE PERKINS	2	BOBBY GIBBS
STUART PEARCE	3	GEORGE YOUNG
DENNIS BYATT	4	BOBBY PAGE
PAUL BOWGETT	5	DANNY PRAGER
DAVID PRICE	6	COLIN RUSSELL
BRIAN GREENAWAY	7	STEVE BUTLER
GARY DONELLAN	8	VINCE COTTER
ALAN CORDICE	9	FRANK HERITAGE
MARK GRAVES	10	ALAN HULL
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**ON THE
BALL**

with



BRIAN HALL

STUART PEARCE SIGNS FOR COVENTRY

Watch out for changes today, especially when the team comes out to toss up, as I have appointed a new captain. His name is Stuart Pearce. Keep an eye on him as I think he has a future in the game! Obviously so do other people, especially Football League scouts, as we are proud to announce that terms have been agreed for Stuart to join First Division Coventry City. This opportunity to play in the Premier Division of the best Football League in the world is just too great an opportunity to miss and I know that you will all join the Directors, players, staff and myself in giving Stuart the greatest send off possible, and wishing him great success in the Football League.

Thank you all for waiting last Saturday until 4.45pm for our advertised 3pm kick off against Boston United. The late arrival of the opposition threw our preparations for the game into a state of total confusion and frustration and the award of a penalty against us in the 89th minute just about capped it all.

However, today is FA Cup day and we start afresh with a job to do. The FA Cup has its own set of Football clichés - "Giant Killers", "Great Leveller", and "The better side on the day", etc., to name a few. I shall be strongly emphasising those words to our side as we ourselves must ensure a successful run in the Cup.

I congratulate Paul Bowgett, Fred Barwick, Mark Graves and Alan Cordice on being selected to play for Middlesex FA next Wednesday against a strong FA II at Harrow Borough. I would point out that Stuart Pearce has also been selected but tells me he has other plans for next week. Good luck Stuart.

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LET'S LAY THE BOGEY TODAY!

by COLIN POPE

THE DRAW for the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup – commonly known as the Divisional Finals – will be made at the FA Offices, Lancaster Gate at noon on Monday, and we shall know it by around 1 p.m. Always assuming, of course, that we are still interested, for many of our Supporters have perhaps not yet recovered from the traumas of our previous ties against Cambridge City and Aveley! These matches will be played a fortnight today, October 29th.

We are delighted to welcome Basildon today, making their first ever appearance at Lower Mead Stadium. It is not often that we get the chance to entertain clubs whom we have never previously met. Basildon play in Div.2 of the Isthmian League, and so far are enjoying only a moderate season, currently being placed 12th in the table, although with games in hand over the clubs above them. They had no mid-week match but lost 2-1 at St. Albans last Saturday. So it can fairly be said that they have nothing to lose, and everything to win today, not a position Wealdstone usually like to find themselves in! Over the years we have had some pretty hair-raising experiences in the FA Cup against sides from lower leagues, so hope today to lay the bogey well and truly... They've already had one giant-killing act to reach today's stage – beating Leytonstone/Ilford 2-1.

I would like to comment briefly on last Saturday's home game against Boston, and explain why we were not able to keep Supporters as informed as we would have liked. Once we had managed (with difficulty) to get a firm to send out a relief coach to collect the stranded Boston party on the A1 between Welwyn and Letchworth we had no contact whatever, and so had no idea at all what time they would finally arrive here. We even contacted the Hertfordshire Police motorway patrols but without positive information. That is why we were unable to announce what actual time the delayed kick-off would be. Grateful thanks to the 600 or so who waited in heavy rain for nearly two hours for the game to start.

I have received an extremely interesting and constructive letter from Mr. H. Edward Palmer, a season ticket holder, from Whitmore Road, Harrow on a variety of topics, all of which will be aired in future programmes. Among them he suggests a quiz in the programme seeking supporters views on why our gates are not bigger, and lists five possible reasons. These will be given, together with the ideas he puts forward, shortly. Mr. Palmer's gesture in giving us some sound views is much appreciated. Anyone else like to make their views known? It is YOUR club, so why not get involved?

ALLEN B. SAYS 'THANKS'

GENERAL MANAGER Allen Batsford wishes to thank everyone for their letters, and messages following his recent heart operation. He is making excellent progress and has delighted his doctors, and is busy most days fulfilling their wishes to walk anything up to 7 miles every day!

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SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

AS USUAL, we bid a very warm welcome to our visitors Basildon – their players, officials and supporters. We trust they enjoy their first ever visit to Lower Mead although I hope our hospitality does not extend to the field of play! Today's game is of course in the F.A. Cup which should add a little spice (those who saw our earlier games against Cambridge and Aveley will no doubt beg to differ). Basildon have already disposed of "mighty" Leytonstone/Ilford and will be out for another giant killing today.

Last Saturday's game was of course something out of the ordinary. I arrived at the ground at 1.30 p.m. only to be told that the Boston team coach had broken down at Welwyn Garden City. For some reason or other no coaches/transport etc. in Welwyn could be found and the local Police contacted us for assistance. I immediately phoned Chalfont Coaches who were able to supply a coach; their driver left his home in Ruislip at 1.45 p.m., drove to Southall to where the coach was garaged and then drove to Welwyn Garden City and back to Wealdstone, arriving here at 4.20 p.m. In the circumstances, Chalfonts did extremely well to help us out at such short notice. As you are probably aware, the Supporters Club have struck up an extremely good relationship with Chalfont Coaches whom we use on our away trips. We are pleased to announce for the 2nd year running that Chalfonts have sponsored us to the tune of £250 – a fantastic gesture. Are we the only Supporters Club to be sponsored?

The Supporters football team recorded another win last Sunday beating Harrow Service 3-2. Paul Fruit and Tony Hayes (2) got the goals.

Committee member John Young has announced his forthcoming engagement to Janice Hoy – congratulations. Rumour has it that they heard the announcement up in Gateshead, loud chap that John is.

Don't forget that the Club Shop now has a full range of souvenirs in stock. Jumpers, scarves, mugs, pennants, pens, etc., are all available not to mention our enormous range of programmes. Just in case you haven't got one – on't forget your copy of the Club magazine 'Long Ball Down the Middle' – not to be missed.

Lastly, don't forget to keep the jumble rolling in: since our last request we have received virtually nothing from you. Surely 700/800 people should be able to do better – please try to help us. Chairman David Morrill is wondering when our next donation will be but we can only RUN raffles, disco's, jumble sales, coach travel, tea huts, etc. We need YOU, the Supporters, to actually HELP us in our fund raising activities.

UP FOR THE CUP (RAH, RAH, RAH, etc.)

PETER WORBY, Treasurer

N.B. Supporters Club Chairman, Raymond Kemp, tells me that his Sunday side, AFC Embassy have a fixture against Harrow Borough Supporters (can they raise a team?). We await the result with interest.

AWAY TRAVEL

22 OCTOBER 1983 – WEYMOUTH.

Coach leaves Lower Mead car park at 9.45 a.m. Please book your seat today at the Club Shop or phone Peter Worby on Chesham 775483. BRING YOUR BUCKET & SPADE!!

**WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB
VICE-PRESIDENTS**

1983 / 84

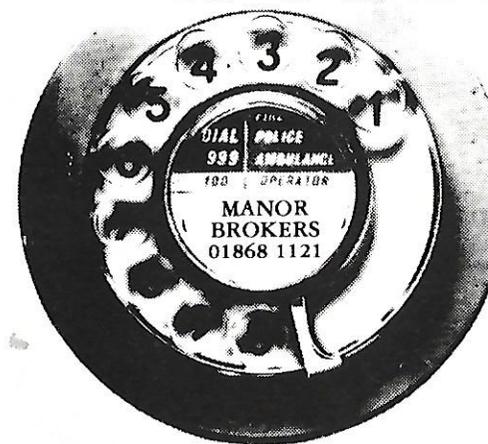
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A TIME TO RESTRAIN THE PRESS

By ROBERT NOTHMAN

THE TIME has come, I think, for the British footballing press to receive some of its own spiteful medicine. After all, THEIR mistakes and inaccuracies never seem to be highlighted or sensationalised; instead they are allowed to consistently over-react to a single performance or an isolated blunder.

Take the national team's defeat at the hands of the Swiss in June 1981 for example. In the customary after-match post-mortem, Ron Greenwood and his players were systematically dissected and virtually disowned by the so-learned incumbents of Fleet Street. "Drastic changes must be made", the howled, "the whole structure of the game in this country must be reformed". For some reason though, I seem to remember that the barrage of abuse stopped abruptly a week later, when a very similar England team proceeded to outplay Hungary in Budapest. Suddenly, the players were heroes, their apparently 'low-skill factor' was conveniently forgotten, and everything in the garden was rosy. Eighteen months later, following the Greek scoreless tragedy at Wembley, out came the same criticism again—carefully dusted off ready for public consumption. But the storm passed, the clouds began to disperse and with two comfortable home victories over the once again obliging Hungarians and then the Scots, the sun could be seen peeping through once more.

And now some Danes have done the dirty on us. Manager Sepp Piontek cunningly engineered some changes in a Shakespearian script so that this time an Englishman, in the shape of Bobby Robson was cast as the tragic Hamlet-like figure as he trooped disconsolately away from the Wembley pitch. True England were awful, but, for want of a better expression, the Danes hardly set the crowd alight. The pre-match press build-up, which predicted an open, attacking game proved to be hopelessly inaccurate, as the Danes put nine or ten men behind the ball at every opportunity. They were branded as a team far better at attacking than defending—I saw very little evidence of that. Hence, an England midfield lacking the unique leadership of Bryan Robson and the skill of Glenn Hoddle, never had an earthly of opening up a packed and determined defence. The strikers certainly had an off day, but the service which 'right-angle' Ray and John Gregory provided was so appalling that Trevor Francis was forced to retreat into midfield to look for the ball.

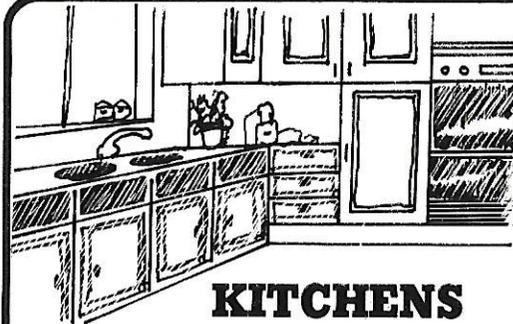
The subject of the England national team is not the only one to which Fleet Street over-reacts. The first match reports of a new season always include phrases like: "on this showing they will surely be candidates for promotion" and "unless changes are made soon, I'm sad to say, relegation beckons". Such informed comment with still 41 matches remaining!

Indeed, Arsenal have been the focus of much media attention in the early weeks of this season, with the purchase of Charlie Nicholas transforming their image almost overnight. However, Arsenal's weakness since the departure of Liam Brady, has always been the inability of their midfield to create enough chances for the strikers to convert, and home defeats by Manchester United and Liverpool amply illustrated that this limitation has not been corrected. However skilful a striker may be, the lack of a good service from the midfield removes his potency. Ask Alan Cordice . . .

So to end, a plea to the so-distinguished and articulate football journalists of Fleet Street. You are very powerful men. You have a unique opportunity of influencing the way the public views the national game. Don't abuse your position and submit to Machiavellian editors, who demand the sensational and controversial when there is nothing sensational or controversial to report. Show some integrity and pride—I'm sure you have some—and don't over-react and exaggerate. To criticise is one of the easiest things imaginable, and by painting such a consistently bleak picture of the state of the English game, you are discouraging spectators from attending and more importantly youngsters from pursuing their footballing ambitions. Be conscious of your responsibility—football has enough problems of its own at the moment, without needing you to compound them.

PROGRAMME FAIR

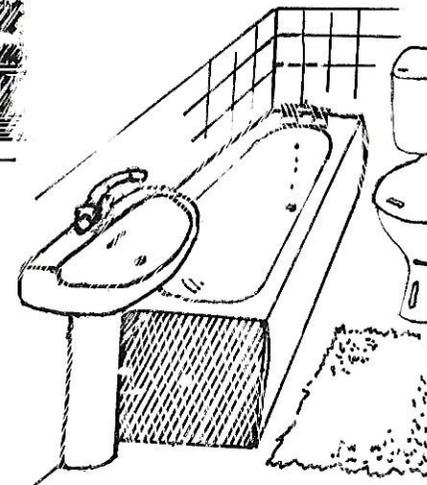
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INTRODUCING BASILDON

BASILDON UNITED F.C. came into being in 1963; before that it was a junior club called Armada Sports. The first major step was in 1970 when the Essex County Football Association granted the club Senior Status and it became one of the founder members of the Essex Senior League.

It was in this competition that the club began to establish itself and from 1977 to 1980 created a League record by winning the championship in four successive seasons. In 1980 the club gained admission to the Athenian League and in its first season finished runners-up and were promoted into the Isthmian League.

The club's manager is Ron Hanley, being appointed in 1976, and he has played a major part in the club's success. Ron is married and has three daughters. His playing career saw him at Ilford, Barking and Maidstone and he collected several County honours. Ron's early career saw him alongside Terry Venables playing for Dagenham Schools and they have been firm friends ever since.

The ground at Gardiners Close is leased from Basildon Development Corporation. All the facilities, floodlights, social club and dressing rooms etc. have all been obtained through the efforts of successive club committees over the past 10 years or so.

THANKS TO ERIC AND CHRISTINE

GRATEFUL THANKS to Vice President Eric Fletcher, and his wife Christine, both of whom have been active Wealdstone supporters for many years, for the magnificent donation of £75 for match kit sponsorship. Eric is a key figure in the organisation of the Vice President dinner in the Morrill Suite on November 30 which is to be attended by Harrow MP Hugh Dykes.

AROUND THE ALLIANCE CLUBS . . .

Altrincham have signed former Everton striker David Esser, and have a serious injury problem, six players being out of action.

Boston Utd have signed Kevin Bird from Huddersfield. Bird played for Huddersfield's League side on the opening day of the season.

Maidstone have signed striker Paul Lazarus, who has been playing in Finland.

Scarborough will report at their AGM on October 20th a loss on the year's working of £19,000 — due largely to a drop of around £55,000 in their lottery revenue, and a shortfall of £12,000 from their Social Club. However, chairman Tony Burnard reports: "We are in credit at the Bank to the tune of £35,000, and are again in a very healthy financial position".

Weymouth have signed utility player Derek Dawkins from Bournemouth.

Leading Alliance goal-scorers: Paul Culpin (Nuneaton) 10; Paul Moss (Worcester) 10; MARK GRAVES (WEALDSTONE) 9 in company with Jim Lumby (Boston) and Steve Mahoney (Barnet).

ANYONE BEAT FRANK HARBUD?

WE'VE GOT many supporters who have been watching Wealdstone for several decades, and quite a lot still attend virtually every home match. Do you know who they are? I should be interested to hear. In this context, who else but Frank Harbud should spring to mind, for Frank, now in his 85th year, rarely misses a home match and has been connected with Wealdstone, as a player, official and supporter for more than 60 years. Frank was a 'hard' man at centre-half in some great Wealdstone sides between the wars and I would be surprised if anyone can beat his attendance record?

Mr. Paddy Power
of

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wishes Wealdstone FC lots of luck this season

OUR STATISTICAL EXPERT . . .

ALL OF you must have been impressed at some time or another at the all-encompassing, highly accurate statistics we carry in every issue of this programme. Indeed, I always regard it as one of the best features, and I know it has impressed other Alliance Clubs.

The man behind this important feature is Roy Couch, known to most of you, no doubt, by sight if not by name. Roy has been supplying statistics and current league tables since the run-up in the 1973/74 Southern League title season. A supporter for the past forty years, he watches all our home games from the High Mead side of the ground, and also follows the fortunes of Arsenal and Watford. Other sports which interest him are cricket, ice hockey and snooker.

Roy's football watching has not been confined to Wealdstone alone, for he has visited 58 out of the 92 Football League grounds, and in 1954 travelled to Switzerland to see West Germany beat Hungary 3-2 in the World Cup Final.

His hobbies (you have time for hobbies, Roy?) include gardening, photography and visiting steam railways (he is a member of the Bluebell Railways Preservation Society in Sussex).

Employed as a cashier at Smiths Industries, Cricklewood, Roy will be made redundant early next year after 24 years service. Maybe then he'll have time to catch up on the 34 remaining League grounds!

Roy's brother Alan, is also an ardent Wealdstone follower, and indeed looks after the financial side of the Stadium's tea bars.

ALLIANCE TRIBUTE

QUOTE from Trevor Dance, Stafford Rangers £10,000 goalkeeper (One of the costliest-ever Non-League goalkeepers): "Some Fourth Division sides would struggle in the Alliance. Sides like Scarborough, Wealdstone, Enfield, Maidstone and Telford play more football than some League sides".

MATCH POST SITES WANTED

WE'RE still looking for people willing to display a match poster. We are in the midst of a big drive to get plenty of posters out, so if you know of anyone willing to display one, we would be delighted. They are always available at least a week before the next home game, and Judith, in the Club office will be only too pleased to reserve you as many as you can get displayed. Do your best, please!

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE

(Up to and including Wednesday 12th October 1983)

	HOME			GOALS			AWAY			GOALS			Pts	WEALDSTONE RESULTS	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	HOME		AWAY	
Nuneaton Borough	11	6	0	1	15	5	3	0	1	4	2	21			
Northwich Victoria	12	5	1	1	13	7	3	1	1	5	3	21			
Runcorn	11	5	1	0	13	5	2	2	1	7	6	19			
WEALDSTONE	10	4	1	0	12	2	2	3	0	4	2	18			
Telford United	11	3	0	2	8	7	3	3	0	9	6	18	W 1-0		
Weymouth	12	1	2	3	8	10	4	1	1	10	5	17			
Worcester City	12	3	1	1	13	5	3	0	4	10	12	16			
Scarborough	12	5	2	0	15	3	1	1	3	5	11	16			
Altrincham	13	4	0	3	15	11	2	2	2	6	8	16	W 3-1		
Enfield	12	2	1	2	8	6	3	1	3	14	9	15			
Maidstone United	12	3	1	1	8	2	2	2	3	9	8	15			
Boston United	12	2	1	1	10	7	2	2	4	8	14	13	D 1-1		
Barnet	11	1	2	3	5	9	2	2	1	9	6	12			
Yeovil Town	11	3	2	0	7	2	1	1	4	2	12	12	W 1-0	D 0-0	
Kettering Town	11	3	0	3	5	7	2	1	3	7	10	11			
Frickley Athletic	10	5	0	1	15	3	0	0	4	2	12	10			
Dagenham	12	2	1	2	8	8	1	1	5	7	17	9			
Batch City	11	1	3	1	4	2	1	0	5	10	17	8	D 0-0		
Gateshead	11	2	3	2	7	6	0	1	3	2	11	8	D 1-1		
Trowbridge Town	11	0	1	5	5	16	1	1	3	6	9	5	W 2-1		
Bangor City	10	2	0	3	9	10	0	0	5	2	15	4	W 5-0		
Kidderminster Harriers	10	0	2	3	2	16	0	0	5	1	10	2	W 2-0		

WEALDSTONE GOALSCORERS 1983/84

MARK GRAVES	8	-	1	-	-	5	14
NIGEL JOHNSON	2	-	2	-	-	2	6
PAUL BOWGETT	2	-	-	-	-	2	4
ALAN CORDICE	2	-	-	-	-	1	3
GARY DONELLAN	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
DENNIS BYATT	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
TOTALS:-	16	-	5	-	-	10	31

(Fixtures, League Table and Goalscorers compiled by Roy Couch)

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FIXTURES - SEASON 1983-84

Date	Opponents	Venue	Comp	Result	Scorers
Aug. 9	Wimbledon XI	Home	FR	D 2-2	Cordice (A), Johnson
Aug. 13	Q.P.R. XI	Home	FR	L 1-5	Johnson
Aug. 16	Luton Town XI	Home	FR	D 1-1	Bowgett
Aug. 20	Gateshead	Away	APL	D 1-1	Donellan
Aug. 23	Yeovil Town	Home	APL	W 1-0	Bowgett
Aug. 27	Kidderminster Harr.	Home	APL	W 2-0	Cordice (A) 2
Aug. 30	Trowbridge Town	Away	APL	W 2-1	Graves 2
Sep. 3	Telford United	Away	APL	W 1-0	Graves
Sep. 10	Bangor City	Home	APL	W 5-0	Bowgett, Donellan, Graves 2, Johnson
Sep. 12	Wimbledon XI	Home	FR	W 6-0	Graves 5, Bowgett
Sep. 17	Cambridge City	Away	FAC	W 2-1	Johnson, Graves
Sep. 20	Bath City	Away	APL	D 0-0	
Sep. 24	Altrincham	Home	APL	W 3-1	Graves 3
Sep. 28	yeovil Town	Away	APL	D 0-0	
Oct. 1	Aveley	Away	FAC	D 1-1	Byatt (pen)
Oct. 4	Aveley	Home	FAC	W 2-0	Johnson, Byatt (pen)
Oct. 8	Boston United	Home	APL	D 1-1	Johnson
Oct. 15	Basildon United	Home	FAC		
Oct. 22	Weymouth	Away	APL		
Oct. 29	Frickley Athletic	Home	APL		
Nov. 8	Barnet	Home	APLT		
Nov. 12	Dagenham	Away	APL		
Nov. 19	Boston United	Away	APL		
Nov. 26	Nuneaton Borough	Home	APL		
Nov. 29	Barnet	Away	APLT		
Dec. 3	Worcester City	Away	APL		
Dec. 10	Bath City	Home	APL		
Dec. 17	Maidstone United	Home	APL		
Dec. 26	Kettering Town	Away	APL		
Dec. 31	Enfield	Away	APL		
Jan. 2	Kettering Town	Home	APL		
Jan. 7	Maidstone United	Away	APL		
Jan. 14			FAT		
Jan. 21	Weymouth	Home	APL		
Jan. 28	Runcorn	Away	APL		
Feb. 4	Enfield	Home	APL		
Feb. 11	Kidderminster Harr.	Away	APL		
Feb. 14	Trowbridge Town	Home	APL		
Feb. 18	Northwich Victoria	Away	APL		
Feb. 25	Frickley Athletic	Away	APL		
Mar. 3	Scarborough	Home	APL		
Mar. 10	Nuneaton Borough	Away	APL		
Mar. 17	Telford United	Home	APL		
Mar. 24	Runcorn	Home	APL		
Mar. 31	Scarborough	Away	APL		
Apr. 3	Worcester City	Home	APL		
Apr. 7	Barnet	Away	APL		
Apr. 14	Northwich Victoria	Home	APL		
Apr. 21	Gateshead	Home	APL		
Apr. 23	Dagenham	Home	APL		
May 5	Altrincham	Away	APL		

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