

**THE VERY FIRST  
WEALDSTONE FC  
A HISTORY FROM 1883 – 1895**



**BY  
ROGER SLATER**

**PART TWO: - THE BIRTH OF THE BLUE  
BLOODLINE**

*Cover photo: Early in 2016 I received an email from John Perry about a family member, George, who had played for the first Wealdstone FC in 1892-3 and had a medal from the Middlesex Junior Cup Final of that year. What transpired after some research and a couple of meetings was that George Perry had in fact played for the club over five seasons but had not played in the final as he had been injured in an earlier match. The medal, pictured on the cover, was attached to an Albert Watch Chain with a pocket watch. The 'set' had, we believe, been presented to George by the club to record his part in the cup run prior to the final. He was to return to play the following season before a further injury, a broken leg, which was to end his career.*

## INTRODUCTION

Thanks are due to Matteo Tonna for his efforts and assistance with researching match reports and details that have been used to build this history. Thanks also to Terry Hissey and Martin Read for the read through and corrections!

When I started research in 1997 for *'The History of Wealdstone FC'*, I began from the point that we all thought we knew, the formation date of 1899-1900. That had been detailed on club badges and noted as the formation of the club when the Golden Jubilee Handbook was published in 1950. Compiling the information available at the time didn't take long as much had been destroyed when the club left Lower Mead, still more was destroyed in a subsequent fire, but from the remnants, and armed with a few phone numbers, research began.

Reading the Jubilee Handbook, it was very soon apparent that 1899-1900 wasn't the formation date of the club but a step on the way, not least as the quoted match report from the fixture against Northwood in 1899 stated that *"the club wore the same colours"*. Further investigation in the Harrow Observers of the time also brought forward comments that *"a number of the same players were used"*. The question was: same as what? And when? It started a four-year process reading backwards in time establishing the facts as they were recorded and were then available. With reasonable clarity, links were established back to the formation of two clubs, 'The Oaks' and 'Cogswell & Harrison' in Wealdstone in 1887, though there were a couple of older Harrow clubs that at the very least had a number of players in common.

At that time, the path was outlined but some pieces of the jigsaw were missing, so the date of formation remained the same. In an effort to build as complete a record of the club as possible, research continued and, as more information has been found over twenty years later, gaps have been filled and we can now tell the story of two Wealdstone Football Clubs.

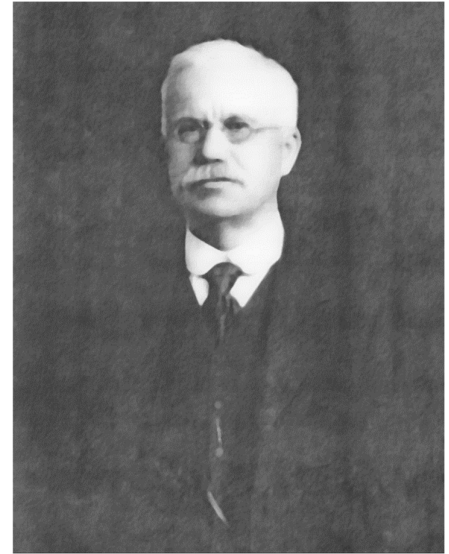
What follows here is the story of the first of these clubs and the earliest days of the modern club.

# THE BIRTH OF THE BLUE BLOODLINE

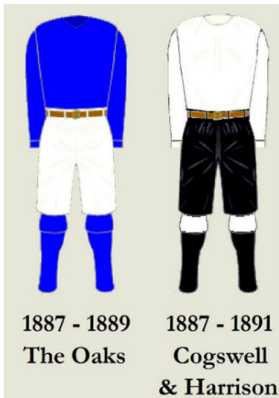
1887-88

*“The employees of a firm of gunsmiths, Messrs. Cogswell & Harrison, appear to have been the pioneers of football in Wealdstone. The firm came to the district from Birmingham in 1887 and its Managing Director, Mr. Edgar Harrison took great interest in his employee’s football activities.*

*As an example of their spirit, the employees became the pioneers of football in the area laying the basis for what is now known as the Wealdstone Football Club. We can sense the size and camaraderie of the Harrow staff since Cogswell & Harrison was able to muster two teams: the Cogswell & Harrison Works team and a team called ‘The Oaks’ made up from its clerical staff.*



**Edgar Harrison 1858-1938**



*Mr. Edgar Harrison, who at the time lived in Hindes Road, actively supported the football activities of the company and patronized the club.*

*A foreman called Mr. R Meadows (who also played as a forward) was elected Secretary.”*  
**An extract taken from the Cogswell & Harrison Centenary Brochure**

Prior to the arrival of Cogswell & Harrison we have been unable to identify any football teams in the village of Wealdstone, which was often referred to (even in the local paper) as *“a dirty and smelly and an unpleasant place should you ever have cause to find yourself there”*.

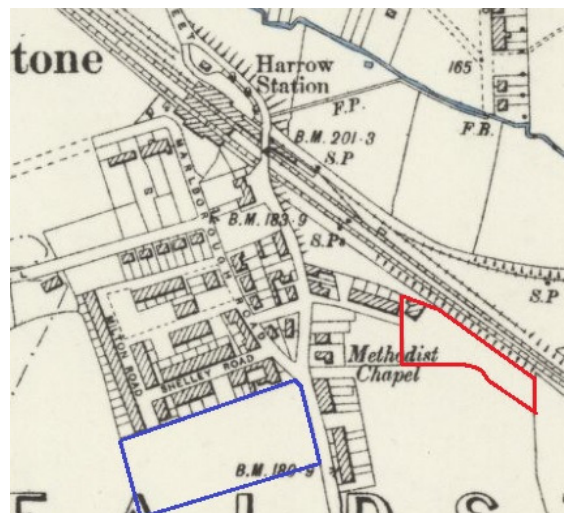
It is recorded that Edgar Harrison extended the factory lease later in the year, and aside from the factory itself, it seems that it also covered a parcel of adjacent land, part of which was initially used for storage. We know that the first pitch of the Cogswell & Harrison team was adjacent to the factory, so it is likely that this was on this piece of land in Ferndale Terrace.

**FOOTBALL.—Oaks F.C. (Wealdstone) v. Grosvenor.**  
 —Played on the ground of the former at Marlborough-hill, and resulted in a win for the Grosvenor by one to nil. The Oaks played against wind and hill in the first half. The Grosvenor scored their goal five minutes from commencement. On change of ends the Oaks had the best of the game, but could not score.—Oaks: (goal) T. Hole; (backs) S. Gill, H. Jones; (half-backs) S. Parker, S. Matthews, J. H. Whatmore; (forwards) W. S. Thorogood, A. Norris, T. Blake, H. Waghorn, J. Poole.

The Oaks initially played on a pitch opposite the factory near Rowe’s Farm (later the site of Bridge Schools and more recently the Civic Centre). On 1<sup>st</sup> October 1887 they became the first of the two sides to play, losing 0 - 1 to another Harrow side called Grosvenor.

From that first match, players’

**Harrow Observer 06<sup>th</sup> October 1887** career records (such as they are) along with committee members provide strong roots and branches that have given life to the sprawling tree that is the present Wealdstone FC.



**1895 map showing the Laundry that replaced the C&H factory and football field area in Red. The field by Rowe’s Farm field used by The Oaks is outlined in Blue.**

Harrow Town and Harrow Rovers were happy to add the two company teams to their growing fixture lists, and indeed the second match played by The Oaks was against Harrow Rovers, the more experienced Harrow side winning by 8-0.

From the reports and records available, that the two sides from Cogswell & Harrison look to have been made up entirely from staff and workers, as none of the players that appeared in the first season can be traced as having any previous connection to clubs in local football (though many did play for other clubs later).

On 19<sup>th</sup> November 1887, the two company sides played each other for the first time on The Oaks new ground at Marlborough Hill. (The map of today (inset) shows Queens Walk and Walton Road built on the area of the ground).

It's likely that The Oaks moved around playing on a number of local pitches, many made available by farmers and landowners, as they were also known to have played on a pitch adjacent to Nibthwaite Road, adjacent to the Greenhill Farm that later became Lower Mead.

Their first victory was to come on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1887 against a team called Arrow who they beat 7-0.

This was followed by a victory over Cogswell & Harrison two weeks later (3-0).

Mr. S Simons who played that day for the Cogswell and Harrison works team was to contribute to an article headed "Nearly Fifty Years On" printed in the Harrow Observer of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1938 recounting his memories of the club at this time.

Alive and active in supporting the contemporary Wealdstone side, Mr. Simons reported that he "had joined the old Wealdstone FC when moving to Harrow as a 19-year-old". In fact, the records show that he had initially joined the Cogswell & Harrison team and he played a number of matches for both them and The Oaks. Subsequently, he was part of the merge of those two clubs into the first named Wealdstone FC and again in 1894 into Harrow Athletic where his career was to finish.

He further recounted "In those days we only had 14 playing members and it was sometimes very difficult to get a team together. We paid our own subscriptions, for our clothes and everything else and to fulfil an away fixture meant several shillings from our meagre pocket money."

**MESSESS. COGSWELL AND HARRISON'S V. KING'S LANGLEY 2ND XI.**—This match was played at King's Langley, on Saturday, and after a very exciting game, the visitors, who came from Harrow, left the field victors by two goals to one. Both teams played in good style, but the visitors were the strongest, and the game ended with the above result.

Watford Observer 18<sup>th</sup> November 1887

**FOOTBALL.—Harrow Rovers v. Oaks (Wealdstone).** Played on the Recreation Ground on Saturday last, the Rovers winning easily by eight goals to nil, their opponents being unable to reach their goal, although several good runs were made by H. Jones on the right wing. Some goal play was also shown by the Oaks backs, H. Darvill and S. C. H. The goals were obtained by G. Goshawk (three), W. Ham (one), C. Page (one), C. Tyler (one), E. Smith (one), and one from a scrimmage. Teams: Harrow Rovers: C. Page (goal), C. Tyler and S. Smith (backs); H. Woodbridge, R. Webb, H. Goshawk (half-backs); E. Smith, W. Ham, G. Goshawk, P. Warden, E. Cooke (forwards). Oaks: T. Hole (goal); H. Darvill, S. Gill (backs); W. Thorogood, S. Matthews, A. Norris (half-backs); J. Poole, T. Blake, H. Wagburn, H. Jones, H. Bindon (forwards).—The match on Saturday, Oct. 16th, (Harrow Rovers v. Abdenham Institute) will also be played on the Recreation Ground.

Harrow Observer 06<sup>th</sup> October 1887



**FOOTBALL.—Oaks v. Arrow**—Played on the ground of the former, Marlborough-hill. Oaks kicked off and at once began to press their opponents, and had it not been for the great number of backs they had the score would have been much larger than it was. The Arrow only broke away once in the first half, score at half-time being 1-0 against them. In the second half, the Oaks' forwards put in a lot of work, and soon scored. Altogether six more goals were got, of which Matthews was responsible for four and Jones two. Thorogood played well at half-back, as did Stephenson at back. The Arrow, who played two substitutes, were altogether overmatched, and retired beaten by seven to nil.

Harrow Observer 11<sup>th</sup> November 1887

In their first season, 1887-88, Cogswell & Harrison played in five matches that we have details for, winning two and losing three. Their first known match was a victory away to Kings Langley 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and over the season, they won one and lost two against The Oaks, their factory counterparts, losing their final game of the season against FG Cooper-Brown's

2<sup>nd</sup> XI, a select side made up of players from the two Harrow clubs. (The Oaks had been beaten by the select first XI on the previous Saturday). The Oaks played in thirteen matches where we have found some or all of the details, winning three and drawing one and their opponents included both Harrow sides as well as Watford Rovers.

**WEST MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP.**

**Southall Swifts v. Harrow Rovers.**

This match in the junior contest was decided at Harrow on Saturday last. A great amount of interest was taken in the Swifts (Southall second team) owing to their being such a small eleven but playing a good combined game, while their opponents were a strong heavy team and their individual play at times very good, while their record remained unbroken this season.

Play commenced at 3.25 (the Rovers being late) and both teams settled down in earnest at once, the Rovers having the advantage of playing down hill, but by clever play the ball was kept well in the home teams quarters and several corners fell to Southall the Rovers soon following suit, and a good low shot was stopped by Marks but in clearing his goal from a rush of the Harrow forwards he accidentally placed the ball through the goal. Nothing daunted the visitors replied with some warm shots at the Harrow goal, Nash placing the ball along the cross bar and dropping in goal but the charge of the forwards was borne down by the superior weight of the opposing backs. After change, the game was kept up to its former pace the visitors having slightly the best of the open play and giving the Rovers back plenty of work. Time wore on and yet no further point was secured till 5 minutes to time when Norton (full back) from a pretty run up made a praiseworthy effort to redeem the day and struck the cross bar with a splendid shot, but the goal keeper listed well out, the ball was placed to the forwards and finding the backs weak for the moment made a clean run the length of the field, and secured their second point. Southall again attacked their goal but were repulsed and retired beaten by two goals to nil. It should be stated in fairness to the losers that Moody had not recovered from a sprained leg, while Veitch, their captain, was partially disabled the whole time of play. Southall Swifts were represented by:—Marke, goal; Moody and Norton, backs; O. Wallis, Moore, and J. Wallis, half backs; Nash and Horton, left wing; Veitch, Captain, and Hows, right wing; Sarwood, centre.

For the two Harrow teams, eleven fixtures are known for the Town side (won 6 drew 1 lost 4) and seventeen fixtures are recorded for the Rovers team (won 8, drew 3, lost 5 with 1 unknown result), but the season was notable for the first competitive fixtures played. In addition to the challenge matches, both sides entered the West Middlesex Junior Cup. Harrow Rovers were drawn at home to Southall Swifts, (not, as reported at the time the second-string of Southall FC, but a separate club), winning 2-0. They were soundly beaten in the second round, a strong Chiswick Park side visiting Harrow and running out winners 5-0.

Harrow Town beat an Uxbridge 2<sup>nd</sup> XI away in their first tie and we know they won their second-round match (though no records have been found of opponent or actual result) before exiting the competition at the semi-final stage, losing 1-2 away to Colnbrook. These first competitive fixtures were a milestone in the development of football in Middlesex as there were no leagues at this time, the matches offered the opportunity to compete in more than a friendly challenge set between two sides. The senior club in the district at the time was very much the Old Harrovians side, yet they also received little coverage in the local newspapers of the time.

**Harrow Observer 25<sup>th</sup> November 1887**

*Oaks v. Cogswell and Harrison's.*—From the kick off the Oaks carried the ball into their opponents' territory, Jones just putting the ball the wrong side of the bar. After ten minutes play Waghorn scored first goal for Oaks. The Oaks' forwards were now putting in a lot of work, and Norris soon added a second goal. Simons and Collins were playing a good game for Cogswell and Harrison's. Score at half-time two in favour of Oaks. In the second half the game was more even. Cogswell and Harrison's tried hard to score. Norman made some good attempts but was unsuccessful, the Oaks' half-backs being too good for him. About five minutes to time Waghorn added a third goal for his side. The Oaks thus won by 3-0, after a very fast and exciting game. Oaks: Goal, T. Hole; backs, S. Gill, W. Stephenson; half-backs, G. Browne, W. Parker, H. Darville; forwards, H. Jones, A. Norris, S. Matthews, H. Waghorn, J. Poole. Cogswell and Harrison's: Goal, F. Hughes; backs, C. White, G. Horton; half-backs, J. Walker, T. Blake, G. Gibson; forwards, S. Simons, J. Collins, T. Smallwood, G. Dickenson, A. Norman.

**Uxbridge Gazette 18<sup>th</sup> November 1887**

**LONDON SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP. THE SEMI-FINAL TIES.**  
The following have been arranged as the dates, places, and officials for the semi-final ties of the above competition:—  
Old Harrovians v. Casuals, at the Oval, January 21. Umpires, Messrs. F. J. Wall (Rangers) and C. G. Broadhurst (Hendon); referee, Major Marindin, M.E. (president Football Association).  
Clapton v. Old Westminsters, at Leyton, January 21. Umpires, Messrs. F. Barnett (Woodville) and W. H. Harding (Hotspur); referee, Mr. M. P. Betts (Old Harrovians).  
**OLD HARROVIANS V. CASUALS.**—To be played on the Recreation Ground at Harrow to-day (Saturday). Old Harrovians.—J. H. Morrison (goal), H. T. Grundtvig and A. L. Barwell (backs), W. F. Wilkinson, T. Grentorez, and M. Hayward (half-backs), M. J. Daughish and H. C. Buckingham (left), H. G. Kinloch (centre), J. H. Farmer (captain), and M. Kinloch (right). Train 1.25 Baker-street (Metropolitan). Match to be played frost or no frost.

**Sporting Life 31<sup>st</sup> December 1887**

Nationally, their profile was higher, The Sporting Life reporting their forthcoming fixture in the edition of 31<sup>st</sup> December 1887. It noted that they were drawn to play Casuals at The Oval on January 21<sup>st</sup> 1888 in the London Challenge Cup semi-finals but prior to that, on the date of publication, they would face the same opponent on the Harrow Recreation Ground "Match to be played, frost or no frost". The Harrovians team that day featuring five players that were regularly turning out for the Harrow Town team.

As the season progressed in the district, matches between the four local sides were prominent and keenly contested. As well as providing a good test for each side there were local honours to be won. The more established Harrow Rovers were victorious over both The Oaks and Harrow Town in the early weeks of the season and they also won the return match against The Oaks in December, though they were soundly beaten by Watford Rovers Reserves in the meantime.

Aside from their defeats to Harrow Rovers, and the matches against their factory counterparts, The Oaks were also soundly beaten by Harrow Town, yet lost a close match against Watford Rovers Reserves by the odd goal in five. Harrow Town though, were victorious over Watford Rovers by three clear goals. It all seemed to point to fairly even competition in the main, decided by the quality of the actual players selected on any particular day.

**FOOTBALL.—Oaks v. Cogswell and Harrison's.**—These rival teams met on the ground of the latter, the Oaks, after a very close and pleasant game, winning by 1 to 0. After a quarter-of-an-hour's play Poole scored the only goal from a scrimmage. For the winners Browne, Jones and Whatmore played well, while for the losers Norman, Hughes and Collins played a good game. *Oaks*.—Goal, A. Darville; backs, G. Browne, W. Stephenson; half-backs, W. Parker, H. Darville, J. Whatmore; forwards, J. Poole, H. Jones, S. Gill, E. Wright, S. Matthews (captain). *Cogswell and Harrison's*.—Goal, H. Becket; backs, F. Hughes (captain), G. Horton; half-backs, G. Poole, R. Meadows, H. Gardner; forwards, S. Simons, J. Collins, T. Blake, A. Norman, G. Dickenson.

Harrow Observer 27<sup>th</sup> January 1888

**COLNBROOK v. HARROW TOWN.**—These teams met at Southall, in the semi-final of the West Middlesex Association Cup tie, on Saturday last. Both teams have been playing well this season, and it was very generally anticipated that the meeting would be productive of a good fight, although Colnbrook were fancied the most. Considerable interest was consequently evinced in the contest, the spectators probably numbering between 300 and 400. Colnbrook won the toss, and chose to play with the wind at their backs the first half. The ball was no sooner started than Colnbrook rushed it down the field, and for some few minutes it remained in that portion of the ground, Gardiner having to ward off one or two warm shots. The Colnbrook forwards still pressed, Playford requiring a lot of watching, while his efforts were well seconded by the wings. At last Kinloch relieved his side by a good run, but, not being backed up by the other forwards, the attempt proved futile. The game then for a time assumed a somewhat more even character, the only point worthy of note being a shot by Weedon, which went through, but, the off side rule having been infringed, the goal was disallowed. A little later on, the ball being in close proximity to the Colnbrook goal, Kinloch had a splendid opportunity of scoring, the goal-keeper having run out and missed his kick, but he failed to steer the leather straight. In retaliation Colnbrook broke away, and Gardiner was called upon to use his hands. However, before he could clear he was charged and the ball put through, the first blood thus being drawn by the wearers of the amber and black. Half-time was called shortly after, no other point having been scored, although Harrow had considerably improved in combination. On the ball being re-started Kinloch made a splendid run and shot, the ball only just going a few inches the wrong side of the post. Not to be denied, the same player once more returned to the assault, but this time success crowned his efforts, and the scores were thus equalised. From a throw in in mid-field, a loose scrimmage occurred about twenty yards from the Harrow goal line, out of which Playford with a sharp low shot scored a second point for Colnbrook. A little later the same player passed to Piner, who put the ball through, but was given "off-side." From this stage to the finish the Harrow team had considerably the best of the game, but were unable to increase their score, their weak point being shooting when in front of goal, several good chances being badly missed. Colnbrook thus qualified for the final by two goals to one, and will have to meet Uxbridge. *Colnbrook*.—H. S. Ibotson (goal), J. I. Ward and W. Stribling (backs), C. Wakely, R. Major and W. Young (half-backs), W. Piner, and M. Hampshire (right), R. Playford (centre), T. Ibotson and F. Weedon (left).—*Harrow Town*.—T. Gardiner (goal), A. L. Barwell and R. R. Barker (backs), W. Wilkinson, A. H. Jones, and L. M. Jones (half-backs), F. Conway and J. H. Early (right), H. G. Kinloch (centre), J. Mann and Rev. E. H. B. Simpson (left). Umpires: Messrs. A. H. Murray (Uxbridge), and T. Pym (West Drayton). Referee, Mr. J. Baaley (Southall).

Uxbridge Gazette 24<sup>th</sup> February 1888

On the ball being restarted, Kinloch made a splendid run and shot, the ball only going a few inches the wrong side of the post. Not to be denied, the same player once more returned to the assault, but this time success crowned his efforts, and the scores were thus equalized. From a throw in in mid-field, a loose scrimmage occurred about 20 yards from the Harrow goal line, out of which Playford with a sharp low shot scored a second point for Colnbrook. A little later the same player passed to Piner, who but the ball through, but was given 'off-side'. From this stage to the finish the Harrow team had considerably the best of the game, but were unable to increase their score, the weak point being their shooting when in front of goal, several good chances being badly missed. Colnbrook then qualified for the final by two to one and will have to meet Uxbridge.

*Colnbrook*- HS Ibotson (goal), JI Ward and W Stribling (backs), C Wakely, R Major and W Young (half-backs), W Piner and M Hampshire (right), R Playford (centre), T Ibotson and F Weedon (left).  
*Harrow Town*- T Gardiner (goals), AL Barwell and RR Barker (backs), W Wilkinson, AH Jones and LM Jones (half-backs),

Harrow Town continued their West Middlesex Cup run to the semi-final stage in February 1888. Their victory at Uxbridge against the hosts 2<sup>nd</sup> XI was followed by two further victories (in which opponents and results are unknown), then, on 18<sup>th</sup> February they ventured to a neutral ground at Southall for the semi-final tie. The match report is repeated below.

**FOOTBALL.**—On Saturday last, at Marlborough-hill, the match came off between the Cogswell and Harrison and Oaks Football Clubs. As these clubs are both composed of residents of Wealdstone, rather more than usual interest was shown in the game, both by the visitors and club men, and as on two previous occasions the Oaks had taken the honours, every effort was made to turn the scale. Play commenced at three o'clock, both sides playing well. The Oaks scored first, and in a few minutes a goal was got by the Cogswell and Harrison. On the players changing ends some sharp and lively play followed till near the end of the game, when the Cogswell and Harrison scored again, making two goals to the Oaks one. The following are the names of the teams—*Cogswell and Harrison Team*: G. Horton, W. White, W. Jackson, T. Blake, F. Hughes, H. Beckett, S. Simons, R. Meadow, T. Dickinson, J. Norman, and G. Poole. *Oaks Team*: T. Short, H. Darville, S. Gill, A. Darville, W. Parker, T. Hole, H. Jones, A. Norris, S. Matthews, H. Waghorne, and J. Poole.

Harrow Observer 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1887

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*F Conway and JH Early (right), HG Kinloch (centre), J Mann and Rev. RHB Simpson (left). Umpires- Messrs. AH Murray (Uxbridge) and T Pym (West Drayton), Referee- Mr. J Basley (Southall)."*

One note of interest in the Harrow Town line-up, the inclusion of Rev. RHB Simpson who made a number of appearances over the five-year period between 1885-90. He was one of two ordained ministers to represent the club in the early years, the other, Rev. EH Kempson played over three seasons from 1888-91.

As the season drew to a close, on the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> February 1888, The Oaks put on what was described as a 'first class concert' in the Wealdstone Schoolrooms. Club president JE Lilley presided over the event in which members of the club, players, their wives and families, put on a musical extravaganza, taking the floor in turn to sing popular songs of the day accompanied by a Miss Jeffrey on piano.

**CONCERT.**—A really first-class concert was given in the Wealdstone Schoolrooms on Friday evening, the 24th February, under the auspices of the Oaks Football Club. Mr. J. E. Lilley presided, and there was a large attendance notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather. Space will not permit us to enumerate the merits of the various performers, all of whose efforts were successful. The concert was a great success in every way, and the members of the Football Club are to be congratulated upon providing such a long and attractive programme, the like of which has seldom been put before the public of Wealdstone. Miss Jeffery worked hard as the accompanist, and deserves praise for her valuable assistance.

Mr. JE Lilley was a founding father of both the first Wealdstone FC and the modern club. He was president in 1887 and remained as president, vice-president or chairman of the primary Wealdstone sides until 1907-08 missing only one season. He remained with the Oaks then Wealdstone FC until the merger with Harrow Athletic in 1894, then returned as the figurehead for the Wealdstone Athletic side in 1895. When that club failed, he was involved in the formation of Wealdstone Juniors, Wealdstone Albion and the early years of Wealdstone FC where he was president until 1905. He once again became vice-president the following year remaining in that position with Wealdstone Church Athletic in 1905, who he then served as chairman in 1906 and 1907. In 1908, the Wealdstone Church Athletic president, Rev. EH Chapman and the secretary Mr. FA Pluck returned after one season to re-establish Wealdstone FC while Mr. JE Lilley remained with the Church Athletic side.

**Harrow Observer 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1888**

**1888-89**

The Oaks had started to prove themselves the better of the two Wealdstone sides and by the turn of the year, the newspapers had started to record them as The Oaks (Wealdstone). Following a positive start with a couple of early wins against Tavistock and Watford Swifts, the season throughout became one of mixed results. There were some close fought matches, one in particular a defeat by the odd goal against a Watford Rovers 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, but there was no joy to be had in the fixtures against the two Harrow sides, Harrow Rovers winning 5-1 and 4-0, while Harrow Town won 4-2.

The Cogswell & Harrison team is better recorded, but once again the season was short on success as defeats in Harrow, Hendon and Watford prevailed. They were the first of the Wealdstone sides to play a competitive match however, as they were invited to take part in the new Henesey Cup competition. It was a challenge competition sponsored by a Mr. R Henesey who provided a 10" tall engraved and worked silver trophy for the winners. He was a benefactor of Uxbridge FC and prior to his return to India, he had placed the organisation and running of the competition with his local side. The only stipulation he made was that none of the 'pro' sides be invited to play.

**COLNBROOK V. COGSWELL AND HARRISON (HARROW).**—Played at Poyle Manor, Colnbrook, on Saturday, and resulted in a victory for Colnbrook, by five goals to nil. Notwithstanding that rain was falling sharply during the whole of the encounter, there was a very fair attendance of spectators. From the commencement it was evident that the home team had a very easy task, and ten minutes from the kick-off a good piece of combination by their forwards, enabled Playford to score the first goal. Immediately after this the home team suffered a severe loss, when, owing to an injury, Playford had to retire. Nothing daunted, however, the wearers of the black and amber played up determinedly, and quickly added a second goal, T. H. Ibotson doing the useful, and at half time the score stood two to none in their favour. On change of ends the visitors, who were one short, made strenuous efforts to break through, but were unsuccessful, Wakely and Young at half-back exhibiting grand form, for which they were repeatedly applauded by the onlookers. Weedon also was the recipient of well merited applause. At this period of the game the home forwards received valuable assistance from their captain, who had vacated goal (Playford filling that position), and although Gill at back played in rare style, the Colnbrook representatives had the satisfaction of obtaining three more goals previous to the call of time. The goals were kicked by Playford (1), H. S. Ibotson (2), T. H. Ibotson (1), and one from a scrum-ge. The teams were as follows:—Colnbrook: H. S. Ibotson (goal), J. I. Ward and Stribling (backs), Wakely, H. P. Ibotson and Young (half-backs), Piner, Weedon, T. H. Ibotson, Playford and Hampshire (forwards). Cogswell and Harrison: Horton (goal), Gill and Dickens (backs), Wagborne and Long (half-backs), J. Poole, Simons, Ham, Jackson and G. Poole (forwards). Umpires: Messrs. R. Meadows and Arthur Ratcliff. Referee: R. H. Major, Esq.

The first draw paired Windsor Phoenix v Watford Rovers, Southall v Uxbridge School, Uxbridge FC v Uxbridge Caxtonians and the Cogswell & Harrison side drawn against Colnbrook, who had defeated Harrow Town in the West Middlesex Junior Cup Semi Final the previous year. The match at Colnbrook was scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> December 1888.

On the day the home side showed only one change from the previous season, and they were far superior in a match played in driving rain. They ran out winners 5 – 0. The emphatic win was achieved despite them having played for 80 minutes with only ten men, as Playford, who scored the opening goal had injured himself in the process and was

**HARROW RECREATION GROUND.**—Matches for this day:—Second round Football Association Cup tie—Old Harrovians v. Crusaders. This will no doubt be an interesting game, and should attract a large attendance. Harrow Rovers v. St. Mary's, Vincent Square. Our Harrow Rovers are getting on splendidly, and bid fair to become one of the leading suburban football clubs at no distant date. There will be no charge for admission to the ground.

unable to take any further part.

For the two Harrow sides, there was greater success. Harrow Rovers starting the season by scoring 8 goals in each of their first three matches against St Mary's (Acton), Venetians and Watford Rovers 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. Only the Watford side proved able to breach the Harrow Rovers defence, scoring twice. The Rovers were noted in

**Harrow Observer 20<sup>th</sup> October 1888**

the Harrow Observer as “*getting on splendidly, and bid fair to*

*become one of the leading suburban football clubs at no distant date*”. They eventually went on to record thirteen wins, two draws and nine defeats, but this season cup success evaded them as they lost in the early rounds of both the West Middlesex and Middlesex competitions.

**FOOTBALL.**—Harrow Town v. Cogswell and Harrison's 2nd XI.—In this match, on Saturday last, the Town should have been represented by a weaker team, but as it happened the visitors had to contend with what looked very like a first team. During the first half the game was very even, no goals being scored on either side. On changing ends the visitors quickly scored their first and only goal, then the Town adopted the aggressive, and by call of time had scored eight goals—H. C. Kinloch (3), M. W. Kinloch (3), P. Warden (2). The teams were—Harrow Town: E. Isabel (goal), A. H. Jones and L. M. Jones (backs), C. H. Russell, M. H. Hayward, A. E. Conway (half-backs), L. G. Haygarth-Brown, R. Watson (left wing), H. G. Kinloch (centre), P. Warden and M. W. Kinloch (right wing). Cogswell and Harrison's 2nd XI.: Whitehouse (goal), Hills and Meadows (backs), White, Mann, and Beckett (half-backs), Dickinson and Ham (right wing), J. Peole (centre), G. Peole and Astle (left wing, forwards).

Harrow Town were less successful overall, both winning and losing eight matches and drawing two. However they did emulate the goalscoring exploits of their local rivals in three matches between 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December, when they beat Harrow School 8-1, Cogswell & Harrison 2<sup>nd</sup> XI 8-1 and St Georges United 10-0.

**Harrow Rovers v. St. Mary's (Vincent-square).**—This match was played on the Recreation Ground on Boxing-day, and resulted in a walk over for the Rovers by fourteen goals to nil. The Rovers started the ball and had the game in their hands all through, scoring six goals before half-time, and after changing ends added eight more. The visitors were unable to break the Rovers' defence, Page being in excellent form, while Fletcher deserves praise for his play as half-back. Harrow Rovers' team:—A. N. Cooke (goal), G. Kay, C. Page (backs); W. Fletcher, R. Webb, H. Goshawk, A. Kay, G. E. Goshawk (right wing), P. E. Warden (centre), E. A. Cooke, R. Burns (left wing).—Match for to-day (Saturday), Harrow Rovers v. Highgate School, on the Recreation Ground.

In fact, knowing that at the time both Harrow sides played at Harrow Recreation Ground, one has to hope that, for the supporters, the home games

**Harrow Observer 28<sup>th</sup> December 1888**

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On Boxing Day were scheduled at different times to enable them to watch both games. Not only did Harrow Town score ten goals (as above) but Harrow Rovers despatched St Mary's (Acton) 14-0 in their fixture.

There are fewer results known in this season for matches between the four local sides, but the details we do know show that The Oaks (Wealdstone) played Harrow Rovers twice, losing by four clear goals each time, and they lost against Harrow Town 2-4 in the single match recorded. Cogswell & Harrison played a 2<sup>nd</sup> Team match against Harrow Town losing 1-8, however in a match between the two first teams late in the season, Cogswell & Harrison ran out winners 4-3. There were also two matches between Harrow Town and Rovers and, though each won one, Town took the overall honours winning the second match 8-0 after losing the first by the odd goal in three.

With Harrow Town becoming noted as an up and coming suburban club, there was something to celebrate in February 1889, when the teams for a representative match were announced. Perhaps one step down from County representative honours, Harrow Town forward HG Kinloch was selected at centre-forward for the West Middlesex team against the Berks and Bucks Junior side. It is believed to be the first representative honour for players from any of the local sides.

**BERKS AND BUCKS JUNIOR v. WEST MIDDLESEX.**  
The following will represent the counties in the above inter-association match at Uxbridge on Wednesday next.  
Berks and Bucks Junior: E. Harrowell (Reading Kendrick) (goal), W. Knight (Reading Albion) and F. Heall (Cookham) (backs), J. G. Moskes (Marlow) S. V. Pennington (Newbury), and H. Piers (Maidenhead Norfolkians) (half backs), E. Hopson (Newbury) (centre), R. J. Freebody (Newbury), W. Gilroy (Maidenhead Norfolkians) (left), R. Collins (Cookham) and A. Paine (Marlow) (right).  
West Middlesex:—H. S. Ibbotson (Colbrook) (goal), E. T. White (Uxbridge) and J. S. Ward (Colbrook) (backs), E. Stevens (Uxbridge) J. Saunders (Southall) and C. Hobbs (Uxbridge) (half-backs), C. Coles (Uxbridge) and A. R. Woodbridge (Uxbridge) (right), H. G. Kinloch (Harrow Town) (centre), E. Pratt (Uxbridge Caxtonians) and H. Hanson (Southall) (left).

**Uxbridge Gazette 12<sup>th</sup> February 1889**

**THE ROVERS.**—The Harrow Rovers Football Club closed a most successful season with a popular smoking concert, at the King's Head Hotel on Wednesday evening. Mr. J. L. Winkley occupied the chair. The proceedings opened with a cleverly rendered piano solo by Mr. Hayes. "Forty years ago," by Mr. H. Woodbridge was well received, while the cornet solos of Mr. H. Cheffings created loud applause. Mr. W. Ham was most successful in his singing, being loudly encored on each occasion, and a similar compliment was paid to Mr. C. Berry, Mr. A. A. Winkley, as usual, delighted his audience with two pretty ballads, while Mr. E. Kennedy, too rarely heard on these occasions, gave a capital rendering of "I couldn't." "Two Vagabonds," and "Told by the Roadway" were powerfully recited by Mr. S. H. Crawford. The Nation Anthem brought to a close a very enjoyable evening.

In April 1889, in common with other clubs at the time Harrow Rovers also held a Smoking Concert, an evening of monologues, music and singing in which most if not all of the performers were players and officials of the club.

The audience at the time would also have been made up exclusively of men and was seen as a celebration of the end of their season as a club, with a look forward to the following year when they would all meet again!

**Harrow Observer 11<sup>th</sup> April 1889**

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