

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



**BY
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PART THREE: - TWO INTO ONE

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.

TWO INTO ONE

1889-90

At the end of the 1888-89 season, the two Wealdstone sides joined forces to become one, many of the Cogswell & Harrison players joining The Oaks (Wealdstone) side and the Wealdstone FC name was adopted by the club for the first time.



Their season was not the greatest success as from the results we know, only two of nine matches resulted in victories, both against Harrow Colts. The club was also very much seen as the junior club in the district and that may be the reason that, for a couple of seasons, newspaper coverage was sparse. (Though Wealdstone FC was a combination of the two factory sides, after a couple of seasons two or three 'scratch' sides appeared once again under the Cogswell & Harrison name).

One match that was of particular interest though was against another new club on the 12th October 1889, when Victoria Halls were the visitors. This was a side representing the Victoria Halls in Harrow, the Halls themselves remaining until 2018 when a refurbishment of the building was started.

This was the first match of the Victoria Halls club and the side included a number of former Harrow Rovers, Harrow Town and The Oaks players. As shown in the report, Victoria Halls lined up as: Bates W*, Branston RC (formerly *The Oaks*), Isabell F, Pearce F*, Crook W (formerly *The Oaks*), Stream A (formerly *Harrow Town*), Darville HM (formerly *The Oaks & Harrow Town*), Darville AE (formerly *The Oaks*), Clowes J, Burcham T (formerly *Harrow Rovers*), Smith M#. (Note those marked * later joined Wealdstone FC, those marked # later joined Harrow Rovers). The Wealdstone side defeated 2-1 in the match is not recorded. Wealdstone also lost the return match with Victoria Halls by the same score.

Harrow Town were the most successful based on results known, winning ten and losing four of fourteen matches, though they were soundly beaten 6-0 by Victoria Halls. For Harrow Rovers, ten wins and three draws in twenty matches was a good return, and that included a little luck as in the first round of the West Middlesex Junior Cup they were beaten 1-7 by Brentford Gas Works (Southall Branch). There is no record found of any appeal by Harrow but it seems that the Brentford side must have been removed from the competition or beaten in a replayed match, as the Harrow side took their place in the next round versus Hermosa. It was a short-lived reprieve though as Hermosa won a replayed tie 3-0 after a drawn match.

FOOTBALL MATCHES ON HARROW RECREATION GROUND.
—On Saturday, the Old Harrovians played the Clapham Rovers, again the Old Harrow boys were in fine form and won a splendid match by four goals to two.—On the same day a match was played between Harrow Town and Highgate, this match was a very good one, although the Harrow men won by three goals to love. Their opponents were not a team by any means to be despised, and might any day reverse the order.—On the same day another match was played between the Harrow Rovers and Wealdstone, and although the two clubs at Wealdstone have amalgamated and formed one very good club, their representatives on Saturday were no match for the smart young Harrow Rovers, who gained a decisive victory by five goals to love.

Harrow Observer 21st December 1889

FOOTBALL.—Victoria Hall v. Wealdstone.—This match was played at Wealdstone last Saturday, resulting in favour of the "Vic.'s" by two goals to one. The first part of the game was closely contested, and two minutes before half-time resulted in a goal for Wealdstone. In the second half-time the "Vic.'s" played up well, and eventually scored two goals, kicked by T. Bircham and J. Clowes. Considering this is the first year of the "Vic.'s," and the first time they had met, they played remarkably well, and show promise of a good team. Victoria Hall team: W. Bates (goal); R. C. Branston and E. Isbell (backs); F. Pearce, W. Crook, and A. Stream (half-backs); H. Darville, A. Darville, J. Clowes, T. Bircham, and M. Smith (forwards).

Harrow Observer 18th October 1889

HARROW ROVERS AND HERMOZA (West Middlesex Cup Tie):—These two clubs first met on Saturday the 10th inst., when after a splendidly contested game, the result was a draw, each side securing two goals. On Saturday the 17th inst., they again met, at Ealing, when the Hermoza proved superior to their opponents and won by three goals to nil. The play during the first forty-five minutes was even, though the Hermoza had the advantage of scoring once. In the second half the play was fast and exciting. Hermoza rapidly secured two goals in succession, and notwithstanding the efforts made by the Rovers during the last fifteen minutes, were left the winners by three goals to nil. The Rovers were handicapped by the weakness of their backs. For Hermoza, Allcock, and Peck, (captain of University College, Cambridge), played exceedingly well throughout, while Smith, Cooke, and Cheffings did most work for the Rovers.

Uxbridge Gazette 21st February 1890

Local supporters were spoiled for choice of games to watch at Harrow Recreation Ground as there was often two games and sometimes three that could be seen on one afternoon. In December, there was an afternoon's entertainment for all football fans in the district, as Old Harrovians beat Clapham Rovers 4-2, Harrow Town beat Highgate 3-0 and Harrow Rovers beat Wealdstone 5-0. It is likely that at least two matches would have had staggered kick off times allowing those present to watch all or part of at least two matches.

The last result was a good indication of the new Wealdstone club's standing locally. They had little in the way of success losing twice to Harrow Rovers and once to Harrow Town, while between the Harrow sides, Town were winners on two occasions. The new Victoria Halls side had earned the season's local honours overall, having added to the two victories over Wealdstone FC with a victory and a defeat against Harrow Rovers (though the victory was over the Harrow Rovers 2nd XI, who played regularly throughout the season) and a convincing victory over Harrow Town by six goals with none conceded.

1890-91

Wealdstone scored greater success in the ten games that are known about for the 1890-91 season, winning five and drawing two, with victories against both Harrow Town and Victoria Halls included. The match against Victoria Halls was significant as F Pearce and HM and AE Darville, brothers who had represented the Halls in their first match the previous season, had by the start of this season returned to the Wealdstone fold.

It was also the season where, as Wealdstone FC, the club played their first competitive fixture. Like their predecessors Cogswell & Harrison, this was also in the Henesey Cup. The match itself had a similar outcome as, drawn away to Slough, the home side ran out winners in a very one-sided match by 9-0 in front of a crowd approaching 800.

It was also a season where the weather played a part for all the local clubs as a combination of frost and fog caused a number of fixtures to be called off, Wealdstone seeing

Wealdstone v. Cogswell and Harrison.—This so-called friendly match was played on Saturday last on the ground of the former at Greenhill, and, after a very rough game, resulted in a win for the villagers by four to nil. The rough play of Wealdstone is to be regretted, as the game was only got up to make play for Wealdstone, through their original fixture being scratched during the week. Great credit is due to the factory men for their plucky play, and the result of the match should be an incentive to combine and make a team of their own.

Harrow Observer 22nd November 1890
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On the same day, the newspaper also reported that the Wealdstone club had held a smoking concert at The Railway Hotel, Wealdstone from which the proceeds were handed to Fred Pearce, a Wealdstone player who had broken his collarbone a couple of weeks earlier in a match as he had been unable to work since.

Harrow Rovers continued a good vein of form, though it seems from the information available they played only challenge matches and did not compete in either Middlesex or West Middlesex Cups. Their 2nd XI also saw a reduced schedule of fixtures,

SLOUGH v. WEALDSTONE.

These clubs met last Saturday to play off their tie in the first round of the above competition on the Dolphin ground, before a good number of spectators. The ball was started at ten minutes to three by the home team. The game for the first five minutes was very even, but the home team's good combination soon told on the visitors, and before the game had been in progress ten minutes Gater registered the first goal with a splendid shot. Five minutes later Piner added another to the home team's score, and before half-time the home team, by their combination, had scored six goals to the visitors none. In the second half the home team simply made rings round their opponents and gained three more goals, and when the whistle sounded time Slough were qualified to enter the next round by nine goals to none. The Goals were obtained by Piner (5), Gater (2), Kember (2). Teams:—Slough: J. Willmot, goal; F. Spong and E. W. Bayley, backs; F. Parker, J. Palmer, and J. B. Day, half-backs; G. Palmer and J. H. M. Nash, left wings; H. Kember, centre; A. Gater and W. Piner, right wings. Wealdstone: A. Darville, goal; S. Senord and S. Gill, backs; A. Norris, G. Perry, and H. Hill, half backs; C. A. Fulcher and A. Poole, left wing; H. Darville, centre; F. Dickinson and S. Poole, right wing. Umpires, Messrs. A. E. Payne and J. Meadows. Referee, Mr. Gregory, West Middlesex Association.

Slough Observer 22nd November 1890

a number of matches postponed between 13th December 1890 and 14th February 1891.

Once they were in a position to return to playing, the scheduled match on the 21st February saw their opponents scratch, so they arranged a friendly match with a 'new' Cogswell & Harrison team.

The match report reads: *"This so-called friendly match was played on Saturday last on the ground of the former (Wealdstone)*

WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB.—A most enjoyable smoking concert was given at the "Railway" hotel by the members and friends of the above club, on Friday, Nov. 14th, the proceeds of which were handed over to Mr. Fred Pearce, who whilst playing some few weeks ago met with a severe accident, which prevented him from carrying on his occupation.

Harrow Observer 22nd November 1890

FOOTBALL.—Harrow Rovers v. Stonebridge Athletic.
 —Played at Stonebridge-park on Saturday last, and won by the Rovers (who played seven men only) by two goals to none. (Goals by Kavanagh and Jones. The following represented the Rovers:—Goal, M. Smith; backs, S. H. Smith and H. Jones; half-back, E. J. Page; forwards, Middleton, Kavanagh, and Kent.—Match for to-day, on Recreation Ground:—Harrow Rovers v. Harrow Town. Kick-off at 3-15.

Harrow Observer 13th March 1891

so this may possibly have been due to a lesser number of available players. There was one outstanding victory however when in March they travelled to play Stonebridge Athletic in a return fixture, Harrow having previously been victorious at the Recreation Ground. In the return match on 7th March 1891, Harrow Rovers won 2-0. Unremarkable until you realise that Harrow played throughout with only seven players!

Less is known of Harrow Town's season, with only two wins and three draws known from ten fixtures. These did include four cup-ties, recording a draw then a victory over Acton in the first round of the West Middlesex Cup before being defeated by Southall in the second round. In the Middlesex Cup, Harrow Town were drawn to play Hounslow, but they gained a walkover when their opponents chose to play a West Middlesex Cup tie on the same day, thus forfeiting the Middlesex fixture. The result subsequently proved of no consequence as the Harrow Town side scratched from the following round when drawn against a strong London Caledonians team.

FOOTBALL.—*Harrow Town Football Club v. Victoria Hall.*—A very interesting match took place between these clubs on the Recreation Ground last Saturday. The Town was not strongly represented, and F. B. Barker did very good service on the wrong side, but after an hour-and-a-half's play the score stood two to one in their favour. The Town was then further weakened by Roseveare having to leave the ground, and the Hall managed to equalise matters during the extra quarter-of-an-hour, which was played by consent. *Harrow Town:* C. W. A. Trevor, W. N. Roseveare, L. Euthoven, W. Rafferty, J. Mann, R. Watson, A. Paine, G. Paine, S. C. E. Atkinson, and A. N. Other.
Harrow Town Football Club v. Hampstead on Recreation Ground, to-day, at three.

Harrow Observer 13th March 1891

One other fixture of note was the challenge against Victoria Halls played on 21st February. Harrow Town had played a strong game and were leading 2-1 at the end of ninety minutes, but the teams agreed for the first time to play a further period of fifteen minutes. During this first recorded extra-time period, Harrow lost two players to injury (they had to leave the field unable to continue), while the Halls went on to score an equaliser, making the final score 2-2.

It was announced in the Harrow Observer early in 1891 that a Harrow Athletic Club would be formed, to improve the overall performance of athletes and sportsmen in the area. The meeting, held in The King's Head at Harrow-on-the-Hill agreed that the headquarters of the club would be the Harrow Recreation Ground, and all efforts were made to prepare the facilities. Of the committee of twelve elected three were players for either Harrow Town or Harrow Rovers and it is likely this was the reason for discussions about a combination of the two Harrow clubs, to represent the Athletic club going forward.

ATHLETIC CLUB.—We mentioned in our columns some weeks back that an Athletic Club was about to be formed at Harrow, and that a provisional committee had been appointed to carry out the necessary arrangements. On Monday evening last a meeting was held at the King's Head Hotel for the purpose of publicly forming the club and to transact the necessary business. There was a very good attendance, and Mr. W. J. Overhead was elected chairman. The chairman in moving the resolution, "That this club be called the Harrow Athletic Club, its object being the encouragement of athletics and all sports in general."

Harrow Observer 23rd January 1891

1891-92



At the start of the following season the new Harrow Athletic side took the field in two matches: "The Athletic Club played their first two matches last Saturday in the Recreation Ground in a downpour of rain.

Versus Chesham: The game was started about 4 o'clock, the play being of a very even character from beginning to end, Harrow, if anything, having the best of it. About a quarter of an hour after the start Chesham scored their first goal from a good shot, but nothing more was done in the first half. After ends had been changed the game still remained very even, Chesham managing to again score before time, and thus won by two goals to love. For Harrow, the backs (Barker and Smith) played in excellent form, but special mention must be made of EJ Page who frequently cleared his goal in most brilliant manner. The halves were moderate. Of the forwards, the less said the better,

they lacked both combination and dash: but the wretched weather and heavy ball may have had something to do with their slowness.

The teams were: Chesham - (goal) W Ashton, (backs) G Payne and W Woods, (half-backs) H Spratley, W Lewis and F Sills, (left wing) R Russell and H Stone, (centre) H Holliman, (right wing) H Culverhouse and J Culverhouse.

Harrow - (goal) EJ Page, (backs) RR Barker and SH Smith, (half-backs) LF Enthoven, C page and GN Deans, (left wing) TJ Burcham and WF Wilkinson, (centre) AJ Kay, (right wing) CA Fulcher and CWA Trevor. Referee W Fletcher, Linesmen C Berry and WJ Page.

Versus Olympic: Little need be said about this match, Olympic having a walk-over scoring ten goals to nil. For Harrow, the most prominent were Smith, Paine and Fulcher, while the Olympic forwards were splendid.

The teams were: Olympic - (goal) Muncton, (backs) McNaughton and Bell, (half backs) Smith, Dickie and Kerr, (left wing) McNaughton and Ellis, (centre) Cunningham, (right wing) Truman and Bidlake. Harrow - (goal) WJ Webb, (backs) R Lang and RW Deans, (half backs) C Fulcher, HF Goshawk and GL Paine, (left wing) AA Jones and E Fisk, (centre) GE Goshawk, (right wing) E Smith and WE Kavanagh. Linesman H Burcham"

An interesting similarity with the 2nd XI fixture v Olympic was that in 1899, in what was believed for many years to be the first game of the modern Wealdstone FC, the first team played Northwood. On the same afternoon, the Wealdstone 2nd XI played their first match versus a team called Queens Park Olympic and were soundly beaten, on this occasion 0-12. Locality if not the exact name suggests that Olympic and Queens Park Olympic may have been the same club.

FOOTBALL.—The Athletic Club played their first two matches last Saturday on the Recreation Ground in a downpour of rain.—v. *Chesham*. The game was started at about four o'clock, the play being of a very even character from beginning to end, Harrow, if anything, having the best of it. About a quarter of an hour after the start Chesham scored their first goal from a good shot, but nothing more was done in the first half. After ends had been changed the game still remained very even, Chesham managing to again score before time, and thus won by two goals to one. For Harrow, the backs (Barker and Smith) played in excellent form; but special mention must be made of E. J. Page, who frequently cleared his goal in the most brilliant manner. The halves were moderate. Of the forwards the less said the better: they lacked both combination and dash: but the wretched weather and heavy ball may have had something to do with their slowness. The Teams were: Chesham—(goal) W. Ashron; (backs) G. Payne and W. Woods; (half-backs) H. Spratley, W. Lewis and F. Sills; (left wing) R. Russell and H. Stone; (centre) H. Holliman; (right wing), H. Culverhouse and J. Culverhouse. Harrow—(Goal) E. J. Page; (backs) R. R. Barker and S. H. Smith; (half-backs) L. F. Enthoven, C. Page and G. N. Deans; (left wing) T. J. Burcham and W. F. Wilkinson; (centre) A. J. Kay; (right wing) C. A. Fulcher, and C. W. A. Trevor. Referee, W. Fletcher; Linesmen, C. Berry and W. J. Page.—v. *Olympic*. Little need be said about this match, Olympic having a walk over, scoring ten goals to nil. For Harrow the most prominent were Smith, Paine and Fulcher, while the Olympic forwards were splendid. The teams were: Olympic—(goal) Muncton; (backs) McNaughton and Bell; (half-backs) Smith, Dickie, and Kerr; (left wing) McNaughton and Ellis; (centre) Cunningham; (right wing) Truman and Bidlake. Harrow—(goal) W. J. Webb; (backs) R. Lang and R. W. Deans, (half-backs) C. Fulcher, H. F. Goshawk, and G. L. Paine; (left wing) A. A. Jones and E. Fisk; (centre) G. E. Goshawk; (right wing) E. Smith and W. E. Kavanagh. Linesman, H. Burcham.

Once again, the 1891-92 season is one where Wealdstone information

Harrow Observer 25th September 1891

FOOTBALL.
HARROW ATHLETIC CLUB v. WEALDSTONE.
 These teams met last Saturday on the Recreation Ground, and, after an evenly-fought game, Wealdstone were left the winners by two goals to nil. Harrow kicked off, having lost the toss, and the ball was at once kicked into the Harrow territory, where R. Lang, by mistake, put the ball through his own goal. The game after this became more even, both goals being attacked in turn, till a mis-kick by one of the Wealdstone backs let in Trevor, who, however, shot wide, though soon after the new penalty kick was given against Wealdstone for a "deliberate hands" in goal. This also proved a failure, Page's attempt going behind. Ends being changed, give-and-take play ensued, till Astil, after a good run, enabled Wealdstone to add another goal. After this the game became rather slow, both teams

visibly tiring on the heavy ground, till just before the close, when Gill had to save three hot shots; and thus ended a good game, which might have been pleasanter had there been less wrangling and a more rigid observance of the rules of the game. For Harrow, Page, in goal, was invaluable, and had it not been for his splendid services the defeat, we fear, would have been far heavier: Smith, R. Lang, and E. Fisk all worked hard to avoid defeat. For Wealdstone, Darville, Astil, and Bentley all played splendidly. The teams were:—
 Wealdstone: W. Gill (goal), Isbell and T. Gill (backs), Pearce, H. Darville (capt.), and Perry (half-backs), Castle and Pool (right wing), Dickenson (centre), Simons and Bentley (left wing).
 Harrow: E. J. Page (goal), W. N. Roseveare and S. H. Smith (backs), C. Page, R. C. V. Lang, and E. Lang (half-backs), G. E. Goshawk and E. Fisk (left wing), F. A. Marriette (centre), C. W. A. Trevor (capt.) and C. A. Fulcher (right wing).

is scarce at best. Only five results and fixtures have been found over the whole season, though these do include a victory by 2-0 over Harrow Athletic in the opening match of their season (10th October 1891) and a second round Middlesex Junior Cup tie defeat to Shortwood Rangers 0-5 on 12 the December.

Harrow Gazette 10th October 1891

For Harrow Athletic, after the first pair of matches, three wins were recorded and conceding no goals prior to the Wealdstone fixture. The Athletic frequently fielded a reserve team throughout the season, with both sides also entering their respective cup competitions, the first team in both the Middlesex and West Middlesex Senior Cups and the Reserves entering the Middlesex Junior Cup alongside the Wealdstone team.

With their cup exploits not starting until December, both the Athletic sides were able to record some notable victories in friendly matches, their joint capability exceeding what either of the two clubs had achieved in previous seasons. The first team recorded victories against Willesden and Ealing, scoring six goals in each match and they then scored nine times without reply against a West Herts reserves team. (In 1893 West Herts and Watford Rovers joined forces under the West Herts name, entering the Southern League in 1896 and changing their name to Watford FC in 1898).

The Athletic reserves too were prolific in front of goal in the early part of the season, scoring eight against Colne Valley and six against Hillhouse without reply, the following week beating a Royal Veterinary College side 8-3.

Within a matter of weeks, they had also beaten Queens Park Rangers Reserves 6-1 and a scratch Cogswell & Harrison side 10-0. It augured well for the forthcoming cup ties.

Having received a bye in the first round of the Middlesex Senior Cup, Harrow Athletic were drawn at home to Fulham FC in the second round. The match took place on 5th December and was played at the Old Harrovians ground. It was reported in the Harrow Observer that *"The Old Harrovian Football Club placed their ground at the disposal of the Athletic Club, enabling Ladies, of whom a great number were present to view the game from the Pavilion, and they were rewarded for braving the dirt with one of the best games played there, and certainly the very best of this season"*.

An excellent 4-1 win was recorded, but Fulham appealed the result as they felt the pitch was unfit and the match was ordered replayed at the Half Moon ground, Putney the following week. Harrow were weakened as one of their best players, the full back RR Barker was unavailable. That aided the Fulham side who ran out winners 6-3.

HARROW ATHLETIC v. SOUTHALL.
JUNIOR COMPETITION.
This match was to have been played at Harrow, but, the ground being unfit, the tie will be played at Southall. A break will leave the "King's Head" hotel at one o'clock. The following will play for Harrow :—
W. G. Bates, goal; W. Coleridge and G. L. Paine, backs; W. Woodbridge (capt.) and L. F. Enthoven, half-backs; C. A. Fulcher and W. E. Kavanagh, left wing; W. E. Wilkinson, centre; T. Burcham and E. J. Fisk, right wing.
Referee, Mr. Hopkins; linesman, Mr. Berry.

Harrow Gazette 11.12.1891

On the same afternoon, the Reserves fared better. They had been drawn at home to Southall Reserves in the Junior Cup, but due to the condition of the ground, the match was moved to Southall. Advertising the means of transport for a difficult journey at the time, it was advertised that *"a 'brake' will leave the Kings Head hotel at 1 o'clock sharp"*.



A Victorian Shooting Brake

Following a 3-3 draw at Southall, the Athletic Reserves won the replay 4-1 the following week, while the first team were again in cup action gaining a 0-0 draw away to Ealing Dean in the West Middlesex Senior Cup. They duly won the replay 1-0 to progress to and through the third round (fixture details unknown).

At the end of January, the Reserves faced Brentford in the Middlesex Junior Cup 4th round, winning 4-2, however once again, their opponents appealed the result on the basis of the ground being unfit. This time the appeal was overturned and the result stood as the Brentford club had not informed the referee of their intention before the start of the match. This allowed the Athletic side to progress though the reprieve was short lived as they were beaten in the quarter finals, 5-1 at Barnet.

The last two matches known of that season were both first team cup ties, the semi-final and final of the West Middlesex Challenge Cup. The semi-final saw Harrow Athletic travel to a neutral venue, the ground of Southall FC to face a Hanwell side. *"Hanwell scored in the first half and Harrow equalised in the second, resulting in a 1-1 draw as time was called. The Association however ordered that, as it was late in the season (the match was played on 5th March) an extra thirty minutes should be played, in which Harrow scored twice more, thus running out winners of a good game by 3-1 in front of a crowd of 400"*.

Three weeks later, the final of the competition was played at White Hart Field in Southall (just behind Southall High Street) in front of a crowd of 1,000, a large contingent noted to have travelled from Uxbridge.

"Every attention had been paid to the ground, and in consequence it played remarkably well. The ball was started about ten minutes to four. The pace for the first twenty minutes was terrific, both teams possessing fast forwards. Uxbridge first showed to advantage, Bates having to negotiate a nasty shot from AR Woodbridge. Harrow retaliated, but Trevor shot wide, however for a time the ball was kept up in the Uxbridge half, and Stevens was called upon to fist out on two occasions. EW Woodbridge relieved the pressure by a run up the left wing and put in a long low shot but Bates was equal to the occasion and the ball was quickly transferred to the other end, where a corner was conceded. From the kick a loose scrimmage occurred in front of goal, and Mariette succeeded in placing the ball between the posts, thus drawing first blood for Harrow."

On the ball being re-started the play was confined pretty much to midfield for about ten minutes. Harrow then broke away and Trevor put in a shot which Stevens failed to stop. This turn of affairs caused the Uxbridge partisans great anxiety and particularly so as Harrow still kept up the pressure, and the opposing backs had a very bad time of it. A corner fell to Harrow but EW Woodbridge getting possession transferred the ball to the other end, and put in a good shot, but the goalkeeper cleared.

A few minutes later 'hands' was given for Uxbridge about 15 yards from their opponents goal. Borton took the kick and placed the ball well in the goal mouth, and it went through off one of the Harrow players. The ball was no sooner started than AR Woodbridge ran down, and passing to Donnington, the latter shot through amidst great excitement, thus equalising. Half-time was called shortly after.

On changing ends Uxbridge showed to much better advantage, but Harrow men were first to become dangerous, Stevens being called upon to stop several difficult shots. KW Woodbridge then came to the fore, and running through the backs, he put in a high shot, which struck the crossbar and went through placing Uxbridge one to the good. Uxbridge still pressed, and a corner fell to them, but the backs cleared. Harrow retaliated, and for a time looked like equalising, three corners falling to them, but Uxbridge offered stubborn defence and frustrated all their efforts. Each side continued to exert themselves to their utmost for the remainder of the game and both goals were in turn placed in jeopardy, but no further score was obtained, and Uxbridge therefore continue to hold the trophy. After the match the cup and medals were presented to the winning team by Mr. Clinton.

The teams were:

Uxbridge – E Stevens (goal), HH Gaylard and GH Woodbridge (backs), W West, HE Borton and RG Woodbridge (halves), AR Woodbridge and W Leno (right), C Donnington (centre), VR Gaylard and EW Woodbridge (left).

Harrow Athletic – WG Bates (goal), SH Smith and WN Roseveare (backs), RR Barker, RCV Lang and GN Deans (halves), G Astle and CWA Trevor (right), FA Marriette (centre), AJ Kay and WE Kavanagh (left). Referee Mr. White, Windsor Phoenix.”

WEST MIDDLESEX CUP.

FINAL.

UXBRIDGE v. HARROW ATHLETIC.—This, the final tie in the above cup competition, was played in the White Hart Field Southall, on Saturday afternoon, in the presence of a large number of spectators, of whom a large contingent journeyed from Uxbridge. Every attention had been paid to the ground, and in consequence it played remarkably well. The ball was started about ten minutes to four, the pace for the first twenty minutes being terrific, both teams possessing fast forwards. Uxbridge first showed to advantage Bates having to negotiate a nasty shot from A. R. Woodbridge. Harrow retaliated, but Trevor shot wide. However, for a time the ball was kept in the Uxbridge half, and Stevens was called upon to fist out on two occasions. E. W. Woodbridge relieved the pressure by a run up the left wing, and put in a long low shot, but Bates was equal to the occasion, and the ball was quickly transferred to the other end, where a corner was conceded. From the kick a loose scrimmage occurred in front of goal, and Mariette succeeded in placing the ball between the posts, thus drawing first blood for Harrow. On the ball being re-started the play was confined pretty much to midfield for about 10 minutes. Harrow then broke away and Trevor put in a shot which Stevens failed to stop. This turn of affairs caused the Uxbridge partizans great anxiety, and particularly so as Harrow still kept up the pressure, and the opposing backs had a very hard time of it. A corner fell to Harrow, but E. W. Woodbridge getting possession he transferred the ball to the other end, and put in a good shot, but the goalkeeper cleared. A few minutes later "hands" was given for Uxbridge about 15 yards from their opponents' goal. Borton took the kick and placed the ball well in the goal mouth, and it went through off one of the Harrow players. The ball was no sooner started than A. R. Woodbridge ran down, and passing to Donnington, the latter shot through amidst great excitement, thus equalising. Half-time was called shortly after. On changing ends Uxbridge showed to much better advantage, but the Harrow men were the first to become dangerous, Stevens being called upon to stop several difficult shots. E. W. Woodbridge then came to the fore, and running through the backs, he put in a high shot, which struck the cross bar and went through, placing Uxbridge one to the good. Uxbridge still pressed, and a corner fell to them, but the backs cleared. Harrow retaliated, and for a time looked like equalising, three corners falling to them, but Uxbridge offered a stubborn defence and frustrated all their efforts. Each side continued to exert themselves to their utmost during the remainder of the game, and both goals were in turn placed in jeopardy, but no further score was obtained, and Uxbridge therefore continue to hold the trophy. After the match the cup and medals were presented to the winning team by Mr. Clinton. The teams were:— Uxbridge: E. Stevens (goal), H. H. Gaylard and G. H. Woodbridge (backs), W. West, H. E. Borton and R. G. Woodbridge (halves), A. R. Woodbridge and W. Leno (right), C. Dennington (centre), V. R. Gaylard and E. W. Woodbridge (l-ft). Harrow Athletic: W. G. Bates (goal), S. H. Smith and W. N. Roseveare (backs), R. R. Barker, R. C. V. Lang and G. N. Deans (halves), G. Astle and C. W. A. Trevor (right) F. A. Mariette (centre), A. J. Kay and W. E. Kavanagh (l-ft). Referee: Mr. White, Windsor Phoenix.

Middlesex & Bucks Advertiser 26th March 1892

Following Harrow Athletic's defeat in the cup final, it was anticipated that the club would go one step further the following season, but it was Wealdstone FC that opened the season on top form, their first three matches all resulting in victories. They had scored 20 goals and conceded only 3, the largest win being the first match against St Mary's Watford, when an 11-0 victory was recorded. Three weeks later, Harrow Athletic travelled to play the same team and were soundly beaten, 1-7.

At the end of October, Wealdstone suffered their first reverse, losing 0-2 to Rickmansworth Rovers, but the following week they made amends, beating Soho (Crosse and Blackwell's) 7-0. The cup competitions started with Harrow rescued by a darkening evening in the Middlesex Senior Cup. They were trailing hosts Vulcan by 6-4 when the game was abandoned, and the replay the following week ended in a 4-3 victory for the Athletic. They also beat Ealing 2-0 before a 1-3 defeat to Hampstead in the first round proper ended their involvement in the competition.

Both Harrow Athletic Reserves and Wealdstone received byes in the first round of the Middlesex Junior Cup but at the start of December played their respective second round opponents, Uxbridge Reserves and Southall Reserves, with Harrow losing 2-4 and Wealdstone winning 2-1. Among mixed results for both teams, early in January, Harrow Athletic drew away and then at home to Hounslow the following week in the West Middlesex Cup, before losing the third tie at the end of the month by 1-2 to bring a disappointing end their cup involvement for the season.

On the same day, Wealdstone travelled to GN Railway Athletic in the Middlesex Junior Cup and won a close game by the only goal to set up a quarter final against Uxbridge Reserves, previous conquerors of Harrow Athletic. The game at Uxbridge resulted in a draw, with Wealdstone winning the replay 2-0 a week later.

The report noted: *"The tie between these two teams was played at Greenhill on Saturday last attracting a very large number of spectators. We were pleased to note a rope had been placed right round the ground. It was lucky such an arrangement was made, as otherwise, considering the hundreds that were present an inconvenient state of things must have existed.*

The game had not been started long when two of the visiting team had to retire hurt. These players were unable to resume again, which was unfortunate for Uxbridge Reserves and also for the onlookers, in as much as the result was a foregone conclusion. Nevertheless, there were some exciting moments and also much noise. Perhaps there was a little too much of the latter, mingled with cries that were anything but courteous to the visitors, but the Wealdstone players were not responsible for that....."

THE WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL TEAM.—This club has had a most successful run in the Middlesex Junior Cup tie, and last Saturday it beat the Old Argyle at Southall, when qualifying for the final. A large number of local people journeyed to the neutral ground to witness the play, and were highly delighted with the game, the frequent shouts of "Play up, Stone," showing the enthusiasm. Wealdstone scored the first goal a few minutes after kick-off, but the Old Argyle soon equalized, and then went ahead. This seemed to raise the ire of Wealdstone, who began to press severely and quickly rushed their opponents, scoring three goals to their opponents' two.

Watford Observer 25th March 1893

WEALDSTONE v. UXBRIDGE RESERVES.—The Middlesex Junior Cup Tie between these teams was played at Greenhill on Saturday afternoon last, attracting a very large number of spectators. We were pleased to notice that a rope had been placed right round the ground. It was lucky such an arrangement was made, as otherwise considering the hundreds that were present an inconvenient state of things must have existed. The game had not been started long before two of the visiting team had to retire hurt. These players were unable to resume again, which was unfortunate for the Uxbridge Reserves, and also for the onlookers, inasmuch as the result was a foregone conclusion. Nevertheless, there were some exciting moments, and also much noise. Perhaps there was a little too much of the latter, mingled with cries that were anything but courteous to the visitors, but the Wealdstone players were not responsible for that. The following made up the home team:—Goal: H. Hills; backs, H. M. Darville and F. Pearce; half-backs, G. Lee, E. Isbell, and W. Bentley; right-wing, P. H. Smith and A. J. Norris; left-wing, A. H. Stevens and G. Simons; centre forward, D. Justice. All played well, Smith and Darville particularly so, but they should have scored more than two goals, and would have done so had the shooting been not so erratic. However, we congratulate them on their victory of two goals to none, and hope their promising play will be followed up by greater successes still in the future.

Harrow Observer 10th March 1893

The semi-final saw a tough draw against a club that had never been faced before, Old Argyle. The match was once again played at Southall FC and Wealdstone, though playing well, found themselves 2-1 behind at the change of ends.

The second half though belonged to Wealdstone as they scored three times without reply, winning 4-2 on the day. It meant that the club would play in their first cup final and the first Middlesex Final contested by either local side.

The final was to be played against a side called Robin Hood. They were in fact a nursery side of Tottenham Hotspur, and as if that wasn't enough to make the tie difficult, it was to be played at the Northumberland Park Ground, a stadium they used for home games, also used by Spurs! In fact, the stadium stood a matter of yards from where White Hart Lane was built six years later.

The Wealdstone side had suffered a number of injuries in the weeks leading up to the game and that weakened the side against their North London opponents.

On the day both sides played in white shirts and blue knickers, the Wealdstone team wearing a red sash over their kit, this being deemed enough for the referee to differentiate between the two sides!

"The Robins win by Three to Nothing"

On Saturday last the Middlesex Junior cup competition was brought to a close at Northumberland Park, Tottenham by the decision of the final tie betwixt the Robin Hood and Wealdstone clubs. There was a big crowd present, fully 1,000 spectators witnessing the play, which, taken all through was of excellent character. The 'Robins' however, as will be seen below proved far too strong for their opponents, who were beaten pointless.

Fourteen minutes after the advertised hour the ball was set into action by the Robins, who at once attacked in grand style and keeping up the pressure looked like scoring on several occasions, but the defence of their opponents proved perfect for a period, but continuing to press, they were at length rewarded by Gilderson kicking a goal. Give and take play was now the order, but try as each side would, nothing further was registered up to half-time when the Robin Hood representatives crossed over with an advantage of a goal to nil.



Northumberland Park 1893

The blue box is the site of White Hart Lane



†MIDDLESEX JUNIOR CUP.
FINAL TIE.
ROBIN HOOD v. WEALDSTONE.

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ROBIN HOOD.—G. Ross (goal), J. Shepherd and E. Markham (backs), W. Webber, W. Markham and F. Norman (half-backs), W. Godfrey and W. Fortnam (right wing), E. Gilderson (centre), F. Pallett, and H. H. Hepburn (left wing).

WEALDSTONE.—H. Hills (goal), H. M. Darville (captain), and F. Pearce (backs), G. Lea, E. Isabell and W. Bentley (half-backs), P. H. Smith, A. J. Norris (right wing), D. Justice (centre), A. H. Stevens and S. Simons (left wing).

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Teams: Robin Hood – G Ross (goal) J Shepherd and E Markham (backs) W Webber, W Markham and F Norman (half-backs), W Godfrey and W Fortnam (right wing) E Gilderson (centre), F Pallett and H Hepburn (left wing).

Wealdstone – H Hills (goal), HM Darville (captain) and F Pearce (backs), G Lea, E Isabell and W Bentley (half-backs), PH Smith and AJ Norris (right wing), D Justice (centre), AH Stevens and S Simons (left wing).



Wealdstone Football Club 1893

(Players only) Back: M Isabel, A Darville, F Pearce, E Stevens, Middle: A Norris, H Darville (Capt.) P Smith
Front: J Poole, G Poole, T Dickenson, W Bentley, S Simons. (© Roger Slater original image re-coloured by RGS 2020)

(Also in the picture, second from the right of the bowler-hatted officials centre-rear behind the team is Mr. Harry Bentley, licensee of The Queens Arms, Wealdstone. It was there that the club held meetings and functions and was later to become changing rooms for the club).

The difference in abilities of the two teams that took the field for the cup final is well shown by a look at the Robin Hood team members and their careers as detailed in the Tottenham Hotspur club records.

E Gilderson played twice for Spurs and scored on his debut. He had a career with Ilford in the Southern League.

E Markham had actually made his Spurs debut in the weeks prior to the Cup Final, and though he only made a handful of appearances for Spurs, he also had a good career at Southern League Ilford.

AE Hepburn had made his Tottenham debut a year earlier, he totalled nine appearances and five goals.

J Shepherd made 72 appearances for Tottenham Hotspur scoring twice and also played for Millwall Athletic.

W Fortnam made 3 appearances, 2 goals.

Each of those named had played for the Tottenham team during the 1892-93 season.

This is the third part of the online version of
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