

How they line up today

WEALDSTONE

HARROGATE T



Dante-Astor BAPTISTE 1

Jack COOK © 2

Joe NEWTON 3

Jack WELLS-MORRISON 4

Dion CONROY 5

Mason BARRETT 6

Luke NORRIS 7

Dylan KADJI 8

Olufela OLOMOLA 9

Jayden HARRIS 10

Dan CHESTERS 11

Aidan FRANCIS-CLARKE 12

Endurance JOHNSON 13

Micah OBIERO 14

Aaron HENRY 15

Josh MULLINS 16

Admiral MUSKWE 17

Kyle SMITH 18

Jeffrey SEKYERE 21

Connor McAVOY 22

Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23

1 Mark OXLEY

2 Lewis PAYNE

3 Ethan BRISTOW

4 Archie BAPTISTE

5 Tom BRADBURY

6 Warren BURRELL

7 George THOMPSON

8 Bryn MORRIS

9 Shawn McCOULSKY

10 Mason BENNETT

11 Will McGOWAN

12 Tom LEES

14 Morgan WILLIAMS

15 Bailey HOBSON

17 Josh HMAMI

18 Jack MULDOON

20 Rohan VAUGHAN

21 Ellis TAYLOR

23 Brad DOLOGHAN

24 Lewis CASS

26 Grant HORTON

27 Ben FOX

29 Lucas BARNES

30 Rory WATSON

31 Cathal HEFFERNAN

35 Ciaran McGUCKIN

Officials Referee: Isaac Searle **Assistants:** Thomas Holden and Grzegorz Kornasiewicz
Fourth Official: Ryan Whitaker **Coach:** Michael Murphy

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Fela Olomola is joyous after his late leveller at Fylde with Dylan Kadji and Jayden Harris (left) whose cross set up the goal

PIC: JON TAFFEL

v Harrogate T

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Wealdstone v Harrogate Town 15/08/2026

written in stone

 **Mark Hyde**

Welcome to Grosvenor Vale for our first home game of the new season, as the Stones welcome Harrogate Town.

After a summer of preparation and a busy pre-season, the competitive action is finally underway and there is nothing quite like the excitement of returning home for the first time.

The opening weeks of a campaign bring a sense of anticipation and optimism, and today gives us our first opportunity to see the team in league action on home soil.

Last Saturday, we were on the road against AFC Fylde, another important test as the squad continues to settle and build momentum.

Now, attention turns to Grosvenor Vale, where we are hosting our first in a series of Stones Family Matchday's which includes incentives like kids for a quid and access to a dedicated Family Fun Zone. What better way to kick off the new season at The Vale! where we hope to make home advantage count and give our supporters plenty to

cheer about and boost our Target 2K challenge.

Finally, as is tradition, my notes at the start of the season include a call to arms for volunteers around the ground or with help running the Supporters Club. Any free time given is truly appreciated and it is a great way to meet like minded supporters and contribute to the club's success.

You are unable to spare time but want to still help I hear you say.... fantastic. As always we have plenty of ways you can contribute at this time of the year.

A new season brings new challenges, new faces and new opportunities

Within these pages you will see Match Sponsorship, Ball Donations and Players Kit Sponsorships all waiting for you or a group of friends to commit. Please take a look as it directly impacts our on field performance.

A new season brings new challenges, new faces and new opportunities, but one thing remains

the same – the incredible support from the Stones faithful. We thank you for your continued backing and hope you enjoy what promises to be an exciting afternoon of football.

Mark

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The legal name of Wealdstone Football Club is Wealdstone Football Club (2000) Ltd (Registered Number 03953962).

Lakefront Football Partners hold 50.61% at 31 May - no other shareholder holds over 10%

GROUND REGULATIONS

People are only allowed entry to The Vale on match days subject to the following rules and regulations:

- 1) The club reserves the right to eject from the ground any person who is considered to have committed any of the following acts:
 - Entering the ground through any means other than through the turnstiles or entrances
 - Entering the field of play before, during or after a game without prior authorisation
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- 2) No spectator ball games.
- 3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.
- 4) Vehicles parked on the Grosvenor Vale site are at the owners' risk.
- 5) Wealdstone Football Club supports the FA's campaign on pyrotechnics (e.g. flares and smoke bombs). Any misuse of such items in and around the Ground will result in those responsible being asked to leave the ground and, in line with football authority guidance, may result in a report to the Police, potential prosecution and a ban from the Club of up to three years.
- 6) No Smoking or Vaping inside the ground.

Wealdstone FC Board of Directors

Wealdstone v Harrogate Town, 15/08/2026

gaffer's column gary waddock



Tim Parks

LAST Saturday at AFC Fylde was a tough start and today we face equally difficult opposition in Harrogate who chalked up an impressive 5-2 win over Solihull Moors on the opening day.

We've been working on how to approach this game, hopefully nullifying their threats. But we are pretty good ourselves. I want us to put on a show for hopefully a big crowd today... it's the first "family day" event at Grosvenor Vale and we want them to go home wanting more.

There were a lot of things we can improve on after the draw at Fylde so I wasn't overallly delighted with the performance - but you always have to respect an away point. We started like a train with that great shot from Luke (Norris) that the keeper somehow turned around the post - but we then became a bit predictable and allowed Fylde too much space to run at our defence. Dante(Baptiste) was fantastic in that first half and although he holds his hand up for a mistake



for their second goal, if it wasn't for his first half saves we wouldn't have even been in contention. Our fans were terrific - we gave them plenty to shout about in those last 10 minutes but they were very vocal all the way through and it was extraordinary to see how many people were there.

We changed things up in the second half and got Jayden Harris and Aiden (Francis-Clarke) to carry the ball - and Mason Barrett too - into midfield which caused them real problems. Kyle Smith was also terrific when he came on and with Fela gave them something to think about. Luke is so dangerous in the air and Smudge twice provided him with perfect crosses and he stuck one away (pictured left). I was really pleased that he scored on his debut. Fela was influential when he also came on and of course he popped up in the last couple of minutes to score an equaliser.

As for the weekend as a whole we travelled up really early on Friday morning and stayed in a hotel in Preston, with a gym, so we did some preparatory work and then later watched videos of Fylde to work out our tactics. The players were also spoken to on an individual basis and it was also good for bonding and introducing the new members of the squad to each other. There were no injury scares after the game although Cookie is still sidelined and there were various bumps and bruises, but we expect to have a fully available squad for the game against Harrogate today.

We weren't surprised at how good AFC Fylde were in their first game back in the National League: I watched a couple of their games on video and they have impressive rotation and movement with dangerous midfielders and strikers - and they can shoot too!

Get behind us today and hopefully we can produce the right result. UTS!

'The fans were brilliant and vocal all game'

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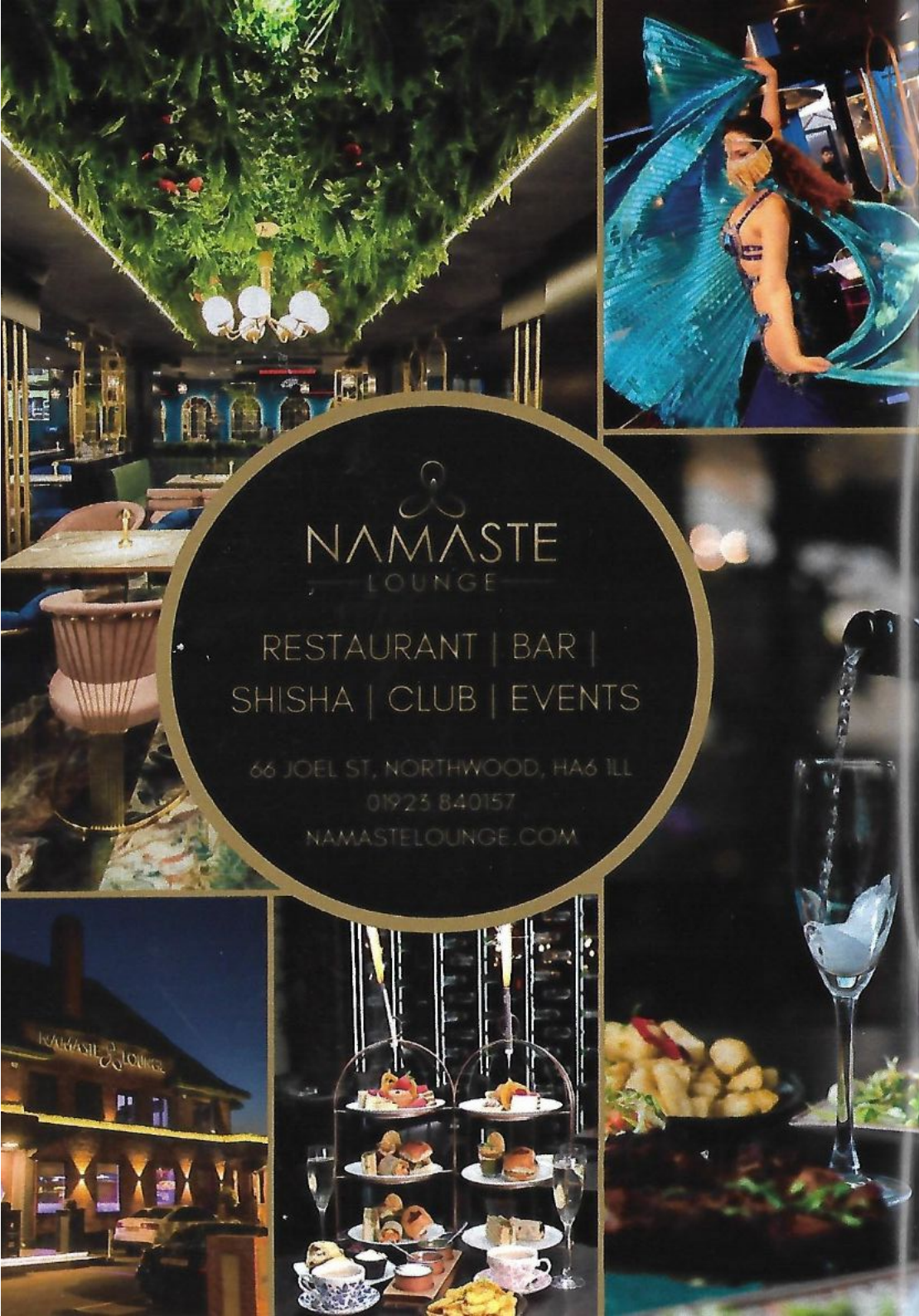
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YOU kicked off your career at Fulham at the age of 10... were you playing youth football before then? How exciting was it to be joining a big London club? I played for my Sunday league team Glebe for a year before joining the Fulham development team, and then eventually Fulham itself. I was just happy to be playing football after school twice during the week and then on Saturday and Sunday.

Did your parents play a big part in your youth career? Yeah my mum and dad would drive and pick me up from training and matches all the time until I was old enough to get the train by myself to football. Without them I wouldn't have got to where I have in my football career.

Who would you describe as a mentor in your early years? Well, I wouldn't say I had a mentor as such but the coach who helped me develop the best I'd say is Kevin Betsy. Every coach I had at Fulham was great but Kevin Betsy turned me from a centre back to a centre mid, and really instilled the ball-playing side of my game in me.

Where were you brought up? Do you still live in that area? I was born and raised in Croydon and I still live in Croydon now.

Are you married? Kids etc? No

Do you have any relatives who play the game? No

How did the move to the Stones come about? My agent knows the Wealdstone manager,

meet the new stones: it's jayden harris



Jayden in pre-season v MK Dons and (left) assisting for Fela Olomola's equalising goal at AFC Fylde
Pictures: Jon Taffel

Gary Waddock, so that's how it came about.

Have you played against the Stones in the past? What do you know about the club? Yes I've played against Wealdstone a few times in my career. The main

thing I know about the club is that the pitch is on a slant and every Wealdstone team I've faced always attacked downhill in the second half... which always made it a tough end to the game whether it ended

up as a win, draw or loss.

Did you know any of the players or management? Yes I've played against Wealdstone a few times and I know Conor McAvoey because we were at Fulham together. And I've played against quite a few others too.

Do you have a car share up to training/matches at Wealdstone? No car school for me this season I'm afraid.

When do you think you played the best football of your career so far? Was it over a whole season or a certain run of games? I think my run of football was in my first season at Sutton, 2024-25 before I got injured. I ruptured my Achilles in November and was out for the rest of the season.

Have you always played in central midfield? Or does your height enable you to be effective in other positions? I mainly play centre mid but I can play other positions - not just because of my height but I have an understanding of how to play other positions.

Was it a major upheaval to sign for Carlisle United four years ago? A great chance to play regular EFL football? No it wasn't really, I just enjoy playing football and moving to different places comes with it.

Nathan Tshikuna was a great success for the Stones last season with his presence, his trickery and control. Are you a similar player? Yes, I'm a box to box midfielder... I like to tackle, assist and chip in with a few goals

too.

You've regularly scored goals for Sutton over the last two years... which were your favourites? Can you describe them? I'd say my favourite goal at Sutton was one against Ebbsfleet a few years ago. It was cut back to me and it was only seeing it later on video that it was actually a really bobbly pass. So I did well to stick it the top corner. When it left my boot I knew it was in.

'I'm buzzing really...just looking to be a part of it'

TALKING to the Stones head of media Joe Campbell in pre-season, Jayden said: "I'm buzzing really... I've trained with the group a couple of times and gelled with them all very quickly.

"I've played at Wealdstone a few times and it's always a nice vibe there... the side always have good energy, they are very athletic and pass the ball well. I'm just looking forward to being part of it."

Gary Waddock, Wealdstone manager, said of Jayden's signature: "It's great to get someone of Jayden's experience over the line. "He had a good season last year, playing over 40 times for Sutton (pictured) with a number of goals and assists. That's no surprise, really, because he gets into good attacking areas."

A product of Fulham's academy set-up, Harris joined Aldershot Town in summer 2021 after a brief loan spell at Wok-

too.

What's playing on your air pods at the moment? I listen to a bit of everything but my favourite artists are NBA Youngboy and Fredo.

What's your go-to place when you want to eat out? Nandos

Who is your best mate in football? Joe Felix, who plays for York City

ing. His form earned a move to Carlisle United the following year, and then another loan at Eastleigh during season 2023/24.

"We've got to know him well recently, which is a real plus, and it's also a big positive that he's familiar with this level," added the Stones' boss.

"We'll have a group with more young players scattered around, so Jayden's extra experience will prove key."



Jayden in Sutton colours

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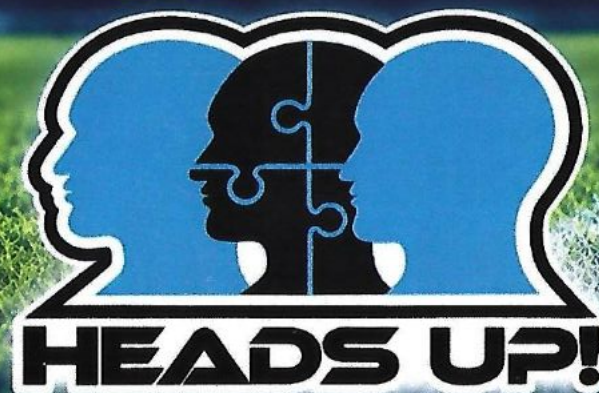
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THIS 'Fan in the Stand' feature is now in its 16th year and has interviewed some 350 WFC supporters. We kick off 2025-26 with a novel pair in Stones stewards Amar Zaman and Denise Moore. Let's start with Amar....

Your name and age?

Amar Zaman, 45

Whereabouts do you live Amar - have you always lived in that area?

Ilford and Leyton in East London, but now Southgate.

Whereabouts were you brought up? Are you married, any kids etc etc? Born and bred in East London and I have seven-year-old twin girls.

How long have you been involved with Wealdstone? 13 years.

Is it your own security and stewarding business? Yes it's my own business...we started up in 2013.

Has that always been your profession? No after I finished school, I started working in Perfect Fried Chicken before I bought the business. I then sold that business in 2007, moving into security work at train stations, printing factories and apartments - then came into events security 15 years ago. I've worked at almost every stadium in London for major tournaments and competitions like the London Olympics, when I was supervisor of the Aquatic Centre. I was also on the track for the 100m final! I've also worked at the ICC Champions Trophy, the Cricket World Cup and Euro 2021.

Did you start off as a Stones fan, or has it just evolved that way? A few years after working at Wealdstone I started to fall in love with the club, the fans and the people working at the club. It's my second family and non-league football is proper football.

What is a typical day for you when we have a home game, hour by hour? For a 3pm kick off I arrive around 11am, firstly setting

Denise and Amar enjoying the Wembley build-up in May... and (far right) in more familiar surroundings at the Vale



'A few years after I had started off stewarding at the club I just fell in love with Wealdstone...it's now my 2nd family'

up equipment for staff so they can sign in when they arrive and collect equipment. I would then do my ground checks inside and outside before briefing my match day supervisor - then we brief the SIA Security and stewards together on the day ahead. Once the police are onsite I have a short brief with them, then a briefing with the matchday referee. Once my supervisor has put all staff

fans in the stand



in position I give the go-ahead for all turnstiles to open, and then generally I walk around till kick-off making sure everything is okay. Then, just before kick-off I go to the players' tunnel ready for players and match officials to enter the pitch... then the game kicks off I usually stay at the players' tunnel or outside the Captain's Lounge during the game as I have a good view point from there of the whole ground, communicating with my supervisor and staff via radio. At half time and full time I escort the match officials off the pitch to the dressing rooms before a quick de-brief with the referee. Staff will start to clear the stadium and once it is empty I'll carry out ground checks and lock up any gates before another de-brief with staff and the police. Then I'll put all equipment away, lock up my control room and go home!

And I've noticed you travel to away games too! Yes I've been going with fellow steward Denise (see this page) to away games for the last two seasons whenever I can - if am not working elsewhere.

What are your most memorable Wealdstone games? They would have to be staying up on the last day of the season against Halifax, beating Marine in the FA Trophy Semi-Final... and of course seeing Wealdstone play at Wembley Stadium.

Have there been moments when stewarding has been tricky? Since I came into events

security, I have worked in some hostile environments and have been through a few tricky situations - the worst at Wealdstone being when we had Barnet and Brentford fans turning up to fight Stones fans outside the ground. They were throwing glass bottles and plant pots at me and my security team.

How many stewards do you control at a typical home game? On a normal game I have one supervisor, nine SIA security and four stewards - while for bigger games like Southend there will be more.

Have you ever



Your name and age? Denise Moore, 52

Whereabouts were you brought up? I was brought up in Tottenham, was married, and have two daughters aged 18 & 30.

How long have you been involved with Wealdstone? I have been with the club for four years now and used to work for a logistics company before.

Did you start off as a fan, or has it just evolved that way?

No, it has evolved over time since working at Wealdstone - I've become attached to the club and love the fans and the people who work at the club.

What is a typical day for you when we have a home game? I arrive around 11am, sign in and collect any equipment I need and then

followed another football team? Yes, am a Tottenham fan since I was seven - I did attend matches whenever I could but work takes up most my time so haven't been able to get to a game for a while. I also used to work at Tottenham doing security on matchdays.

How do you think things will go on the pitch at Wealdstone this season? I really hope we can have another season like last season - finish mid table and enjoy a good cup run. We have lost a lot of players and Nathan and Deon will be big misses - but Deon deserved the move he got.

...and Denise has also been bitten by the Stones bug!

attend the matchday briefing - then I take up my position at the players' tunnel where I remain for the whole game.

You travel away too...what's been your best away day/s? I travel up with Amar and the best away trips have been Brackley last season - one of our best away results - and Grimsby in the FA Cup 2nd round... apart from the result.

What's your most memorable Wealdstone experience? Getting to the FA Trophy Final and seeing Wealdstone play at Wembley Stadium. A great day.

Do you follow another team? Arsenal, but I'm not a die-hard.

How do you think things will go on the pitch this season? Hopefully will have a season like last season and finish higher up in the league. Up the Stones!

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The club was due to be formed for the 1914/15 season however, due to the Great War all games were postponed before fixtures could take place. Harrogate should have been playing at Bishop Auckland on Saturday 5 September, but sent a telegram two hours before kick-off stating they would not be arriving as most of the team had joined the Regiments.



Stadium: Marcy Fitness Stadium
Capacity: 5,000 No. of seats: 2,000
Opened: 1920 Record crowd: 4,280 (1949/50)

Horsforth. In that season Harrogate won the Whitworth Cup 4-0 against Ripon City, the first ever trophy won by the new Harrogate AFC.

The 1920/21 season saw Harrogate join the newly formed Yorkshire League, but also continue with a team in the West Riding League, while a move to the then named 'Wetherby Lane' was completed. The first Yorkshire League game at the new ground took place on Saturday 28 August 1920 with a 2-1 win against York YMCA, before a friendly with Sheffield United saw 15,000 supporters in attendance.

Harrogate's first major trophy arrived in the form of the West Riding County Challenge Cup as Fryston Colliery were beaten 3-1 at Elland Road on 9th May 1925; a trophy that would be won again two seasons later. The club then

disbanded following the 1931/32 season until 1935, when a team formed under the name Harrogate Hotspurs. The team played in the Harrogate League and West Riding County Amateur League until outbreak of war when the team returned to action in the West Yorkshire League.

After adopting the name Harrogate Town in 1948, the club joined the Yorkshire League nine years later, and finished Runners-Up, as well as County Cup Winners, in the 1962/63 season. Under Peter Gunby, Town had a successful side in the early 1970s, winning the County Cup again in 1973.

Under Alan Smith, Town were the last winners of the Yorkshire League Division Two in the 1981/82 season, as the Northern Counties East League was then formed with the Yorkshire and Midland leagues

joining forces. Under head groundsman George Dunnington, floodlights were installed in 1982 when Leeds United sent their entire first team to mark the occasion, and Eddie Gray switched on the lights. The first competitive match played under the lights was an FA Cup replay against Accrington Stanley which attracted a crowd of over 2,000.

November 1990 saw the official opening of the new impressive cantilevered grandstand and York City sent their first team before a prolonged period on the UniBond League Division One. In June 1998 Town appointed Maurice Hammond as Chairman, though was replaced in February 2000 by former Chairman of Leeds United Bill Fotherby.

The 2001/02 season saw the club become Champions of UniBond League Division One by ten clear

harrogate town



points under Manager John Reed and Coach Neil Aspin, after playing 15 seasons in the league since its inception. Reed and Aspin also guided Town to a first West Riding County Cup since 1986 with a 4-0 win over Farsley Celtic.

2002/03 saw the club finish 6th in their first ever season of UniBond League Premier Division, while The FA Cup First Round proper was reached for the first time in the club's history and the West Riding County Cup was won again, against Farsley Celtic. A 5th place finish in 2003/04 secured the club a place in the newly formed Conference North Football League.

The inaugural 2004/05 Nationwide North season saw the club achieve more success, despite the shock mid-season departure of John Reed. Neil Aspin returned to Wetherby Road as the new Manager having left the club at the end of the previous season, and an excellent 6th place finish was achieved. The 2005/06 season saw more success for Town; The FA Cup First Round proper was again reached, and Town were unfortunate to go out of the competition following a penalty shoot-out against Torquay United at Wetherby Road. A place in the Conference North promotion play-offs was secured on the final day of the season with a 1-0 win at Stafford Rangers, but just 3 days later the score was reversed against the same opposition in the semi-final.

Neil Aspin left the club at the end of the 2008/09 season, and soon after Simon Weaver was appointed the club's new manager. Having to operate on a severely restricted budget hampered the clubs progress during the 2009/2010 season and at the end the club finished in the unwanted bottom position of the league. However, with several clubs going bankrupt, Harrogate Town were handed a reprieve.

Despite a good start to the 2011-2012 season, Town once again hit a rocky patch and it took a 5-0 win over Corby Town on the final day of the season to guarantee safety and another crack at conquering the league.

The summer of 2016 saw the club lay a state of the art 3G pitch at the now named CNG Stadium allowing the club to avoid any weather disruptions and hire the venue out when not in use by the club. The 2017/18 season was one that will live long in the memory of Harrogate Town fans as the club achieved promotion to The National League for the first time in their history.

Simon Weaver couldn't have wished for a better start to life in The National League, as Town got through their first 11 games unbeaten and topped the

table in September, taking the football world by storm. A final league position of sixth meant Town qualified for the Play-Offs at the first time of asking and, despite elimination at the hands of eventual finalists AFC Fylde, the club received many plaudits for their performances over the season.

History was once again made in the 2019/20 season as Town earned promotion to the Football League. Weaver's side were second in the table, four points behind league leaders Barrow in early March when the season was brought to a halt due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With null and void a worrying possibility, the National League decided to award the league title and promotion to Barrow, while the teams placed 2nd to 7th would contest the one remaining place in the Football League via the Play-Offs. Town hosted Boreham Wood in the Semi-Final at a behind closed doors Wetherby Road, with Jack Muldoon's goal booking a first ever trip to Wembley Stadium. Notts County, members of the Football League for all but one of their seasons in existence, stood between Town and a place in League Two. Again with no fans in attendance, Town got the job down as goals from George Thomson, Connor Hall and Jack Diamond helped Weaver's side to a 3-1 win and ensured it would be a season that would go down in history.

With the Covid-19 pandemic continuing, Town's first season in the Football League was played almost entirely behind closed doors.

The 2021/22 season ended on a high as Town lifted the 2019/20 FA Trophy, which had been delayed due to the pandemic, at Wembley Stadium with Josh Falkingham scoring the winning goal against Concord Rangers.

The 2021/22 season saw more history made with Harrogate Town finishing 19th and securing a third season in the EFL. The club also reached the Third Round of the FA Cup for the first time in history.

The club would achieve its highest ever league position in the 2023/24 campaign, with a 13th place finish in League Two. The 24/25 season would also see history made in cup competitions with Harrogate drawn away at Leeds United in the Third Round of the FA Cup, with a crowd of 35,584 watching the home side's 1-0 win at Elland Road.

Town's six-season stay in the EFL would come to an end the following season, with Barnet's 2-1 win at Wetherby Road on the final day confirming the club's relegation back to The National League.

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**Mark
Randall**

WFCSC update

Good Afternoon and welcome to our first National League game of the season against Harrogate Town.

The summer break is well and truly over, and it is back to the results business of trying to win 3 points on a matchday. I hope you have all had the opportunity to reflect on last season, which has to be the most successful one since 1985. Getting to see your side play in a Wembley final at our level is something truly special. Meeting at the ground in the morning before getting the train to Wembley Park. Then walking down Olympic Way before taking your seat and looking round to see a sea of blue with friends and family close by is something to be cherished. That success belongs to everyone who has helped build the club since our move to Ruislip.

With Nick Semaca now officially on board as majority shareholder, the dream of getting a permanent home for ourselves is getting closer but it the hard work is about to begin. We are transitioning as a club off the field to a more professional footing with the creation of the CEO role. This does not mean that we weren't professional before, but what we are trying to achieve needs a full-time member of staff to oversee all the moving parts.

Where does this leave the volunteer work force? Well, we are needed more than ever. I consider this quite a dangerous time for the club in this respect. I've heard conversations and read comments that come across that now we have a money man, we can slow down. Go back to the first interview with Nick, which is on YouTube, and you will hear that first and foremost we need to be sustainable. Expenditure needs to be less than our total revenue and until we get to that point, we certainly need every volunteer

hour that we can muster.

Onto WFCSC news and Predict-a-Score entries can still be accepted at the megastore although you won't be eligible for the AFC Fylde game. Pop to the Megastore for an entry form and payment pre-kick-off for your chance to win cash prizes and more importantly the respect of your peers.

At the Megastore, you will also find Wembley merchandise at discounted rates for those who either missed purchasing some or want an extra mint example. We are just up by DD's so pop in to see us and don't forget the programme hut that has a huge number of programmes, books and bit and pieces.

I wish you all a successful 26/27 season and look forward to seeing you on the terraces.

07874846785. Come join the merry band!

Our Ball Donor for the MK Dons game (and also the upcoming pre-season games against QPR and Slough) is the Wealdstone FC Foundation, while Toby Jackson, of lapel badges fame, is match ball donor for the visit of Charlton Athletic.

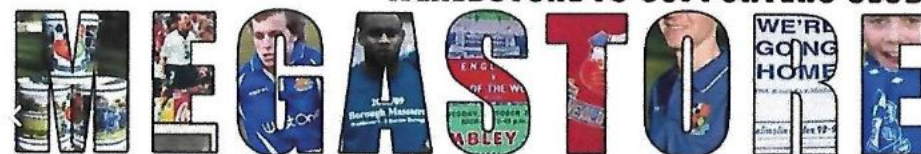
We've talked about Carlisle Utd already but the other relegated team from the EFL this summer, Morecambe, are in a plight that even namesake Eric wouldn't find funny.

Owner Jason Whittingham was supposed to be selling the Lancashire club to Panjab Warriors, who have already paid millions to cover the club's debts, but now says he has found a new buyer which leaves the Indian consortium considering legal action....while the fans see the prospect of administration or a points deduction looming.

WFC may not be flush but at least we're well-run and solvent!

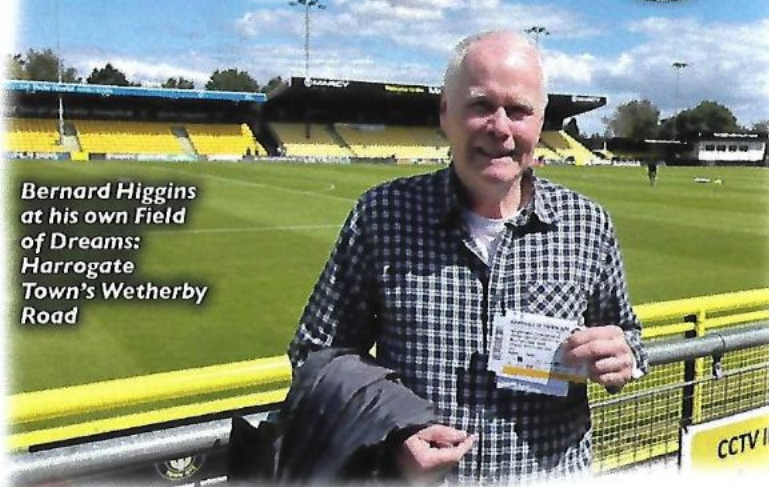
Mark

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view from the away end



Bernard Higgins at his own Field of Dreams: Harrogate Town's Wetherby Road

'My dad played for Motherwell but I've supported Harrogate after moving there 32 years ago'

Your name and age: Bernard Higgins aged 70.
When did you first watch Harrogate? My association with Harrogate Town AFC began when I moved there in 1994... before that I trained as a PE/History teacher at Carnegie PE College in Headingley, Leeds from 1974/77 and have had many affiliations with many clubs over the years! Probably my favourite other team, though, is Motherwell because my father was a registered Motherwell player from 1948 until 1974. He was also a member of the Glasgow Schools Football Committee and received tickets for all the major games in Glasgow. We went to Celtic Park, Ibrox and Hampden Park... and, with a friend, were at Ibrox Park the day of the disaster on January 2nd 1971 when 66 died and many hundreds were injured. It had a huge impact on all those who attended that day.

My first teaching post was in the Borough of Barking and Dagenham at Bishop Ward Secondary School, just a mile from West Ham Utd's training ground in Chadwell Heath - and my flat in Barking was a short distance from where Bobby Moore was born and brought up. I taught at many schools in East London, East Sussex and Hertfordshire before the move to Harrogate in December 1994.

How will the club adjust to the realities of relegation last season? After six seasons in EFL2

we (as supporters) felt established and that we could cope in a very competitive league - so relegation was painful, although we had been struggling in the lower part of the table for a large part of the season. A series of injuries seriously impacted on the squad. We began to turn things round and it went to the very last game of the season v Barnet before relegation was inevitable.

Now the National League is a very tough division with 90% full time professional clubs but we will take each game as it comes as we travel around the country from Halifax to Hornchurch and Southend to Sutton. The first 10 matches will set the standard and hopefully our performances and results will be positive.

How have the crowds held up?

Over the last 30 years, since I started watching the Town our attendances went from a core following of a few hundred to today's average support of just over 3,000. Season tickets have been selling well this summer with the fans looking forward to facing different teams in the National League.

Who are Harrogate's stand-out players? The stand-outs who have been representing the football club for many seasons are Mark Oxley (the goalkeeper), Warren Burrell (defender), George Thomson (midfielder) and striker Jack Muldoon while the eye-catching new signings are: Tom Lees, a defender from Sheffield Wednesday and Leeds; Will McGowan (a midfielder from Gateshead; Bailey Hobson (midfielder from Chesterfield) together with Ciaran McGuckin (No.9 from Rotherham, Morgan Williams (ex-Kings Lynn midfielder), goallie Rory Watson from York City and Lewis Payne the ex-Morecambe defender.

Harrogate have only really taken off since the turn of the century... what sparked it all off? It all started with John Reed, as manager, winning the NPL, Unibond League in season 2001/02 by 10 clear points. His coach Neil Aspin took over as manager, achieving sixth place before he left to join Halifax at the end of 2008/09 - when Simon Weaver became the new boss. In the Summer of 2011 his dad, Irving Weaver, took over as owner/chairman when Bill Fotherby retired and from then the football club have gone from strength to strength. We became a full time outfit in 2017-18 and

Bucking the relegation trend: Harrogate fans



DESPITE relegation, Harrogate's crowds last season were bigger than ever before as the club finished top of the EFL2 Family Excellence table! Assessors rate 12 areas of the club operations, including the quality of matchday activations and experience, stadium accessibility and facilities, retail and refreshments, and how the club communicates with supporters.

Mark Bradley, the founder/director of *The Fan Experience Company* says: "Just as in any other commercial business, sustainable growth is only possible when there is whole-hearted focus on putting customers first. In football, the belief still lingers that it's results on the pitch that drive growth but at Harrogate Town - where things have not gone to plan on the pitch - their commitment to embracing supporter engagement and delivering outstanding experiences off the pitch has led them to debunk this theory." Food for thought!

beat Brackley Town in the NL North play off final at Wetherby Road before a 3,000 sell-out crowd, to find ourselves in the National League for season 2018/19 - and it was an unbelievable start to the season as we went unbeaten in the first 11 matches to top the league by September 2018.

What are your top three Harrogate Town matches?

Well, in 2021/22 Harrogate went further than ever before in the FA Cup, losing 4-0 at Luton Town in the Third Round proper; and of course there were our pair of trips to Wembley in the Covid season - which meant we couldn't actually see the games in person.

We beat Notts County 3-1 at Wembley behind closed doors in 2020 to reach the Football League ... and then more anguish to add to the joy as we actually reached the final of the FA Challenge Trophy the same season. We were due to face Concord Rangers in the final but the FA decided to postpone the game until the following May, in the hope that stadiums would be opened up to crowds by then. But they weren't, and our 1-0 low-key win over plucky Concord will be remembered for nothing more than making the Yorkshire club the first and only club to win the FA Trophy while being a member of the EFL. A good quiz question!

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Wealdstone v Harrogate Town,
August 15th 2026

1st XI stats 2025-26

		Comp	Score	Crowd	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers	
AUGUST	9	TRURO CITY	ENL	2-0	1,572	170	6	Bouldewijn, Hutchinson
	12	WOLVERHAMPTON WAND.	NLC	2-1	215	TBD	6	Hassan, Tshikuna
	16	FC HALIFAX TOWN	ENL	2-1	1,134	115	4	Adarkwa, Cook
	19	Woking	ENL	2-1	1,942	269	1	Kretzschmar (p), Tshikuna
	23	CARLISLE UNITED	ENL	0-1	2,025	551	6	
	25	Boston United	ENL	1-2	2,077	135	7	Obiero
	30	ROCHDALE	ENL	1-3	1,365	280	8	Massey
SEPTEMBER	2	SOUTHEND UNITED	ENL	3-2	2,309	1,007	6	Bouldewijn, Adarkwa 2 (1 pen)
	6	Scunthorpe United	ENL	0-0	4,460	57	8	Bouldewijn
	13	GATESHEAD	ENL	2-2	1,109	50	9	Hutchinson, Kretzschmar
	16	LEICESTER CITY	NLC	2-1	226	TBD	9	Hassan, Kretzschmar
	20	Morecambe	ENL	3-4	2,256	150	11	Kretzschmar, Obiero, Massey
	24	Tamworth	ENL	1-1	845	50	12	Tshikuna
	27	EASTLEIGH	ENL	0-0	1,204	92	12	
OCTOBER	1	Brackley Town	ENL	2-0	837	157	11	Bouldewijn, Obiero
	4	ALTRINCHAM	ENL	1-1	1,217	58	10	McAvoy
	11	WHITSTABLE TOWN	FAC40	5-1	1,132	260	10	Obiero (2), Mussa, Olomola (2)
	18	York City	ENL	0-4	6,026	142	11	
	21	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	NLC	0-2	TBD	TBD	11	
25	SUTTON UNITED	ENL	4-2	1,536	250	11	Obiero, Hassan, McAvoy, Georgiou	
NOVEMBER	1	SOUTHEND UNITED	FAC1	1-0	2,146	1,020	11	Olomola
	4	Yeovil Town	ENL	2-0	2,337	52	8	Hutchinson, Kretzschmar
	8	BRAINTREE TOWN	ENL	1-0	1,407	79	8	Nkrumah
	15	Hartlepool United	ENL	1-1	3,394	105	8	Tshikuna
	22	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	ENL	1-1	1,560	192	9	Obiero
	25	WEST BROMWICH ALBION	NLC	2-0	126	TBD	9	Olomola, Nkrumah
	29	Solihull Moors	ENL	1-1	841	122	9	Mussa
DECEMBER	6	Grimsby Town	FAC2	0-4	3,365	322	9	
	13	CHESHUNT	FAT3	2-1	621	55	9	Obiero, McAvoy
	16	Truro City	ENL	0-2	2,014	50	11	
	21	FC Halifax Town	ENL	2-2	1,285	TBD	12	Hutchinson (2)
	26	BOREHAM WOOD	ENL	0-4	1,982	358	12	
	30	Aldershot Town	ENL	1-4	2,130	285	12	McAvoy
JANUARY	3	Carlisle United	ENL	0-2	6,853	108	13	
	10	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	FAT4	1-0	891	260	13	Obiero
	17	WOKING	ENL	1-0	1,622	360	12	Woodman
	31	Forest Green Rovers	FAT5	3-0	1,607	180	12	Bouldewijn, Olomola, Adarkwa
FEBRUARY	7	Eastleigh	ENL	2-2	2,152	180	11	Tshikuna (2)
	10	Altrincham	ENL	0-1	1,104	45	15	
	14	YORK CITY	ENL	0-3	1,984	650	16	
	21	Sutton United	ENL	0-3	2,543	220	16	
	24	BRACKLEY TOWN	ENL	2-1	1,092	30	14	Adarkwa, Tshikuna
	28	Kidderminster Harriers	FATOF	1-1, 6-5p	3,195	501	14	Adarkwa
MARCH	3	MORECAMBE	ENL	2-3	1,058	38	18	Olomola, Obiero
	7	Braintree Town	ENL	4-1	827	250	14	Tshikuna, Obiero, Adarkwa, Kadji
	10	TAMWORTH	ENL	3-2	1,032	50	10	Kadji, Adarkwa, Obiero
	14	SOLIHULL MOORS	ENL	5-1	1,317	46	10	McAvoy, Adarkwa, Tshikuna, Obiero, Tiensia
	17	Gateshead	ENL	0-1	528	34	11	
	21	Forest Green Rovers	ENL	0-2	1,738	78	11	
	25	YEOVIL TOWN	ENL	0-2	1,165	TBD	13	
APRIL	28	MARINE	FATSF	1-0	4,000	TBD	13	Obiero
	31	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	ENL	7-0	1,205	127	12	Obiero, Chirio, Georgiou, Bouldewijn, Kadji, Olomola
	3	Boreham Wood	ENL	1-5	1,611	334	12	Adarkwa
	6	ALDERSHOT TOWN	ENL	3-0	1,812	440	12	Hutchinson, Nathaniel-George, Olomola
MAY	11	Rochdale	ENL	1-2	3,021	51	12	Woodman
	14	BOSTON UNITED	ENL	1-1	1,402	148	12	Olomola
	18	SCUNTHORPE UNITED	ENL	1-1	1,636	TBD	13	Wells-Morrison
	25	Southend United	ENL	1-2	8,803	TBD	15	Obiero
	19	Southend United	FATF	0-0	43,306	14,141	15	(LOST 2-4 ON PENALTIES)

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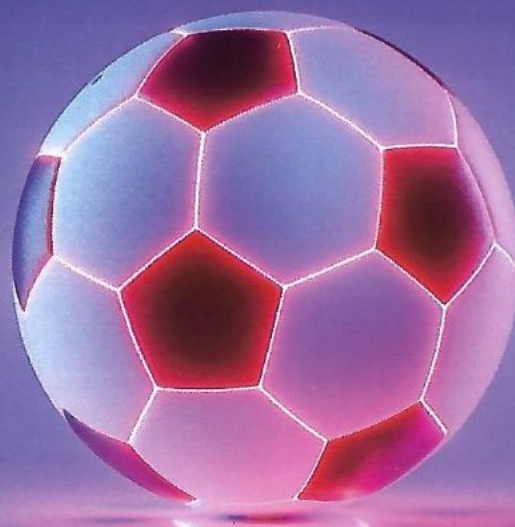
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Mick Fishman

As the club prepares itself for the momentous next stage of its development, the move into the new purpose-built stadium at Freezeland Way, one issue that I feel needs resolving is a formal recognition of the club's legends.

One hopes that - as at many clubs of similar standing - the "Wealdstone Superbowl" will feature displays concerning the club's history and a celebration of its stand-out players.

Mind you, how to identify and list our club's stars across its 127-year history is not straightforward. Maybe through a panel of club directors/ex-directors and supporters club officials? Maybe a straight-forward voting system much in the way of the end of season awards... or perhaps a combination of the two?

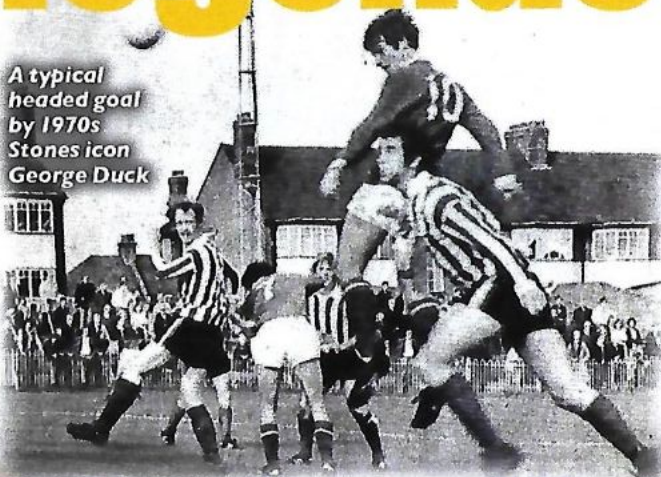
A look around to see how other clubs select their legendary players would give us an idea. But, irrespective of the selection system, the more basic issue to resolve would be the criteria for selection for a player to qualify as a legend.

For example, one criterion could be the number of club appearances maybe 200 plus. Another might be the number of goals scored, perhaps 50 or more. Would it be right to include every player who formed part of the teams/squads that won championships and major cups? And what about the teams that achieved promotion but were not champions, or last season's heroes who were beaten Trophy Finalists?

Should qualification embrace those who may not have been at the club for long but made a massive im-

the wealdstone legends

A typical headed goal by 1970s Stones icon George Duck



How do you define a legend? The club will have to decide pretty soon

pact on the team's performances?

And how do we handle those who represented the club in the early years between 1899 and 1922, at which point we moved into Lower Mead and entered senior amateur football in the Spartan League.

Those founding fathers surely need to be recognised, but information about their playing records is limited. My good friend Roger Slater possesses all available formation about that era that can be gleaned from historical sources... perhaps he can guide us on who might deserve

legendary status?

The pre-war Athenian years (1928-39) saw the club establish itself in the senior amateur game and players forged reputations that point more easily towards their being considered for legendary status (Arthur Loveday, Ken Baldwin and Charlie Bunce spring to mind).

A logical method for selection would be by playing position, the basic categories being goalkeeper, full-back, central defender, midfield, winger and forward.

This becomes trickier as we enter

the modern era with players being selected to play in multiple positions, while the concept of the wing-back is a modern invention: Sir Alf Ramsay must be spinning in his grave!

Going down the route of selecting those who played in title and trophy winning teams is also complicated... just 23 players formed the 1952 Athenian League title-winning team while, the Ryman Premier League title winning squad of 2014 numbered 39 - a dozen or so of whom played just a handful of games each.

Perhaps a minimum cut off point could be employed in those circumstances, but that might exclude a player or players who played few game but contributed massively to the success - Charlie Penny, anyone?

When discussing players both current and from the past, we so often claim enthusiastically that a particular player is or was "an absolute legend." Some are nailed on certainties, particularly those in the modern era. A dwindling number of us are still breathing who were privileged to see Charlie Townsend, Hughie Lindsay, John Ashworth, Bernie Bremer and others of that era play. We can attest to their greatness.

Many witnessed the team of the George Duck era and can be certain that he, Bill Byrne, John Henderson and Willie Watson were outstanding. The standout players from the double winning side, the Gordon Bartlett

title winning sides and the team that got us back into the National League level were seen by many. But surely there is no one still here who saw Charlie Bunce, Ken Baldwin and Arthur Loveday play? And precious few who saw the Athenian League title lifted in 1952 by Gordon Norman, Danny Wiltshire and the two Polish Henricks. We can only be guided by reports of the day and the club's collective memory passed down through the decades.

Players most likely to miss out are those who made massive contributions but went about their business without fuss, almost unnoticed. Dave Leonard is not a name that would come easily to most Stones fans lips. For example, Dave made over 150 appearances, mostly at left back, between 1966 and 1969. An experienced, untroubled defender, he was a mainstay of a solid defence in fine teams, one of which reached the Amateur Cup semi-finals in 1968. Gordon Sedgeley made just 60 appearances, 47 in the Cup winning side of 1966, but his name will be recognised by many. Some might argue that the players who represented the club when it competed in the lower reaches of the Ryman League should not be considered due to the level at which they

played. I would not make that distinction.

Judgement is to a degree subjective. Steve Brinkman and John Margerrison had brilliant spells at the club but enjoyed their greatest success at Barnet. Paul Goyette and Steve Tapley played many games for the club and might deserve inclusion but were largely part of indifferent teams. Why Billy Clifford and not Michael Phillips? Billy's performances were eye-catching while Michael's went a little under the radar, but both played major roles in that team's success. Other players were effectively one-season wonders like Paul Sheldrick and Keith Boreham. Tommy English played little over half a season for the club but was a shining light amongst deep gloom. Bradley Bubb played less than a season for us, but who can forget his debut in which he bagged a hat-trick in the demolition of then big spending Billericay Town!

Andy Graham (44 apps and 15 goals) and Glenn Little (37 apps and 4 goals) are nailed on. Andy Hedge (126 apps and 10 goals) and Ben Alexander (137 apps and 28 goals) probably not. It's not just about numbers; it's about perceived impact.

So how to identify those who deserve the moniker *Genuine*

Club Legends?

Over the next few issues I'll unveil the favourites, position by position. It may be controversial so strap yourselves in!



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sfc wealdstone the rebirth



The line up after the big day at the Vale and (above) skipper Hillsy celebrates his 25-yard strike with Enzo Boldewijn... well, John Lloyd actually Pictures: Mike Renny

'It's all about having fun, making friends and celebrating the Stones community'



Luca Rossetto

There are plenty of football clubs that start with grand plans, lengthy meetings and people sitting around discussing five-year strategies. SFC Wealdstone came about in a slightly different way.

It started with a group of Stones supporters, a football, a sunny Sunday and the realisation that we should probably do it again. The

date was 19 April, and the place was the Vale, the day after our final game against Scunthorpe. A group of fans got together to do what we all enjoy – play a bit of football. The pitch was looking like a carpet, the sun was shining and two teams were put together: Team Hillsy and Team Luca.

There was a decent crowd around, plenty of banter and, most importantly, plenty of goals. As for the result, Team Hillsy came away with a 5-1 victory over Team Luca. Yes, Adam's team won. No, we

don't need to speak about it any more.

The result was hardly the important part anyway. It was just a really good day with a group of Stones supporters doing what Stones supporters do – getting together, having a laugh and enjoying football.

After the game, we moved into the clubhouse for a few pints and to watch Man City v Arsenal. For a brief moment, City gave us all a false sense of hope that they might actually stop Arsenal winning the league, but there we go! Football was dis-

cussed, opinions were given and, as you'd expect, there was plenty of nonsense spoken along the way.

The day was then finished off with a very nice curry, which topped off what had been a brilliant day out. Everyone had enjoyed themselves, and it was one of those days where you come away thinking, "Why don't we do this more often?"

All of this was happening with the historic trip to Wembley for the FA Trophy Final on the horizon, which only added to the excitement amongst the Stones supporters. There was a great atmosphere around the supporters and that Sunday at The Vale was memorable....

And then, one afternoon shortly afterwards one of my best pals at the Stones – and a member of the Stones hardcore – Alex Kilroy, gave me a call. We got talking about the Sunday we had just enjoyed and how good it would be to make something like that a regular thing.

The idea was simple: get Stones supporters together; play football, have a laugh and give people another way to get involved with the club and, more importantly, with each other.

Kilroy then mentioned the idea to Adam Hills on a walk. Adam, being Adam, didn't hang around for long before getting a group chat together with everyone involved. From there, things started moving pretty quickly and SFC Wealdstone ("Supporting Football Club Wealdstone") began to take shape.

And that's essentially how we got here.



Jamie Clement-Foster scores the goal of the game past keeper Akhil Rawal and celebrates (right)



over as manager. We're told this is because of his managerial credentials, although there may also be something to do with the fact that his legs are completely gone.

The squad itself is a pretty good representation of what we're trying to achieve. Our players currently range from 17 to 41 years old, and that's something we're really pleased about. We're not trying to create a team for one particular age group or type of player. It's about getting Stones fans together.

The main objective of SFC Wealdstone is simple: bringing Stones supporters together through playing football.

We're going to be playing in Division 2 of the

Watford Sunday League, with our games taking place at Barton Way, Croxley Green. Before the league gets underway, we've got two friendlies lined up: Sunday 16 August against Nascot and Sunday 23 August against The Rifle. We're also hoping to arrange a potential third friendly against another supporters' club teams, which is still TBC. It'll be a good chance to get everyone together, get some minutes in the legs and, most importantly, start the Sunday routine properly.

We also held our first AGM on Thursday 6 August – I'm writing this before the AGM had taken place, so hopefully by the time this

continued overpage

It's not a new idea as the original SFC Wealdstone was founded by Stones fans in 1978, with exactly the same goals. That Sunday club lasted until around 2009, and its success can be measured by the fact that about a dozen of the original team of the mid-1980s can still be seen following the Stones.

Adam Hills is the chairman of the new SFCV, while I have taken on the role of club secretary – which has turned out to involve a frankly ridiculous amount of admin. Kaney (Mickey Kane) is our treasurer, keeping an eye on the money side of things, while River Dobson-Wallace takes care of our media (though not on this occasion).

Then there's JP, who has taken

Wealdstone v Harrogate Town, 15/08/2026

sfc wealdstone rebirth continued...

From previous page

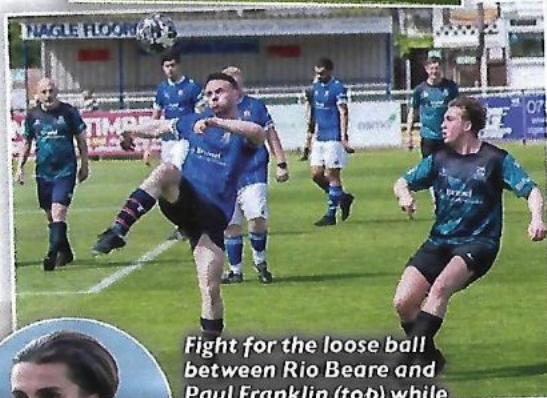
place, so hopefully by the time this is read, we can say it was a successful first meeting and another big step forward.

But while we're obviously going to want to win games, score goals and have a decent season, the results aren't really the only point of SFC Wealdstone. The bigger idea is bringing people together within the Stones community. We want to encourage people to come and follow Wealdstone, get involved, meet other supporters and, most importantly, enjoy themselves.

The Stones regulars will now be in action every Sunday, so don't be surprised if you start seeing plenty of familiar faces turning out for SFC Wealdstone. There'll be the hungover Stones fans making it down on a Sunday morning, those who are somehow still full of energy after the weekend, and plenty who just fancy getting a game of football in.

You'll probably see myself, Alex Kilroy and plenty of other regular Stones supporters at pretty much every Wealdstone game, home and away, as well as turning out for SFC Wealdstone. We're supporters at the end of the day, and that's really what this is all about.

We're not looking to create something separate from the supporters or distance ourselves from the club. We're simply creating an-



Fight for the loose ball between Rio Beare and Paul Franklin (top) while Rob Platt goes all balletic (above). Left: Will Cooney wins the best hair competition

it doesn't really matter.

The squad already has a good mix of ages, backgrounds and abilities, and that's exactly how we want it. You don't need to be the best footballer in the world, and you certainly don't need to be in peak condition at 10am on a Sunday morning.

What matters is that you're a Stones fan, you want to get involved and you want to enjoy yourself.

There will obviously be plenty of banter along the way, questionable refereeing decisions, missed sitters, dodgy tackles, hungover players and probably the odd disagreement about who should be playing where. That's all part of it.

Because ultimately, SFC Wealdstone is about the same thing that makes following Wealdstone so enjoyable in the first place – the people.

From that sunny Sunday at The Vale, to the pints afterwards, the football, the curry and the idea from Kilroy, we've ended up with something that hopefully becomes a regular part of the Stones supporters' calendar.

So, from Team Hillisy v Team Luca to Barton Way and Sunday League football, SFC Wealdstone is back.

We're supporters. We're football fans. We're Stones fans.

And now, every Sunday, we're going to be playing a bit of football together as well.

Cannot wait! Come on you Stones!

other way for Stones fans to get together, play football and enjoy themselves.

If you're a Stones fan and want to get involved, get in touch. We're looking for genuine Stones supporters who want to play football, meet other fans and be part of it. Whether you've played Sunday League for years or haven't kicked a ball in ages,

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	22	Worthing	ENL
	28	CARLISLE UNITED	ENL
SEPTEMBER	31	Sutton United	ENL
	5	KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS	ENL
	8	STOKE CITY	NLC
	12	Boston United	ENL
	15	FC HALIFAX TOWN	ENL
OCTOBER	19	Tamworth	ENL
	26	GATESHEAD	ENL
	29	Forest Green Rovers	ENL
	3	Barrow AFC	ENL
	10	YEovil TOWN	ENL
NOVEMBER	17	(To Be Determined)	FA Cup 4Q
	20	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	NLC
	24	Aldershot Town	ENL
	27	SOLIHULL MOORS	ENL
	31	SOUTHEND UNITED	ENL
DECEMBER	3	DERBY COUNTY	NLC
	7	(Match dependent)	FA Cup 1P
	14	Hartlepool United	ENL
	21	HORNCHURCH	ENL
	24	Altrincham	ENL
JANUARY	27	Scunthorpe United	ENL
	4	WOKING	ENL
	9	Yeovil Town	ENL
	12	(To Be Determined)	FAT 3P
	20	BARROW AFC	ENL
FEBRUARY	26	Boreham Wood	ENL
	29	EASTLEIGH	ENL
	2	ALDERSHOT TOWN	ENL
	9	Solihull Moors	ENL
	23	Harrogate Town	ENL
MARCH	27	ALTRINCHAM	ENL
	30	AFC FYLDE	ENL
	6	Hornchurch	ENL
	13	Gateshead	ENL
	16	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	ENL
APRIL	20	TAMWORTH	ENL
	23	FC Halifax Town	ENL
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14th July	QPR Under 21s	H	L	2-4	Olofola, Trialist	(Att: 354)
18th July	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN	H	W	1-0	Trialist	-
21st July	Chertsey Town	A	L	0-3	-	-
25th July	MK DONS	A	W	2-0	Obiero, Trialist	-
28th July	AFC WIMBLEDON	H	W	1-0	Chesters	(Att: 444)
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THERE is an ever-dwindling number of us old 'uns who can clearly remember the glorious 80s in Wealdstone history. But what is often forgotten is the grim beginning of that decade.

The 1980-81 campaign concluded with the first-ever relegation in the club's history - Jimmy Sweetzer's disastrous missed penalty against Leamington on the last day of the Alliance Premier League (now the National League) season saw the Warwickshire side leapfrog Allen Batford's Stones to safety.

But it wasn't a bad Wealdstone squad. In fact it was 80% the same team that won that famous non-League double five years down the line.

It was still a knock-back, though, for our club go from facing the cream of Non-League - Altrincham, Boston, Barrow, Kettering and Worcester City - to the Hounslow, Canterbury and Andovers of this world in the Southern League Southern Section.

The point was hammered home when the Harrow Observer published the Stones fixture list at the end of July: it was seemingly never-ending, with 24 teams contesting a single promotion place!

And to make it worse we failed to win our opening two games, starting with this goal-less kick-off down in Sussex, followed by a 1-2 home defeat by Dorchester Town at

on this day in history



Tim Parks

45 years ago, Stones travelled to the coast on the cusp of true 1980s greatness

Lower Mead on August 22.

I remember traipsing out of the ground that afternoon with a dark cloud of depression hanging over my head... I had just been appointed sports editor of the Enfield Gazette, covering an Es

team that had just switched to the APL from total domination of the Isthmian League and had convinced myself that Wealdstone v Enfield would soon become a staple of the non-League season.

But now it seemed a hollow

Aug 15, 1981
Southern Lge
South Division:
Hastings Utd 0
Wealdstone 0



Alan Cordice (left) leaps for joy with Ray Knowles after his second goal sealed the title at a rain-soaked Lower Mead

boast. What was going on?!

What we didn't know was that Stones had been handed the hardest-possible start. Hastings would go on to have a fabulous season, finishing just one point behind Batsford's boys in a stupendous late-season tussle. Wealdstone won 14 and drew 2 of the 16 games leading up to the titanic Thursday-night clash at Lower Mead which we won 2-0. It was Hastings' first defeat in 20 games... and it was enough to tip the balance in our favour.

It's incredible now to think of how gruelling that season was, with a squad that basically numbered just 15 competing in 73 games, with goalie Ray Goddard and Stuart Pearce playing in 72 of them!

Fred Barwick and Paul Bowgett both played 69

while Alan Cordice top-scored with 37 goals from his 57 appearances. Centre-back Bowgett netted 27 times including 17 penalties!

But going back to that sunny August day on the South Coast was a sobering reminder that there was a long, awkward season ahead. Alan Cordice would go on to have a wonderful 1980s, ending up with regular caps in the England non-League team, but he was contained by some wily defending at Hastings' Pilot Field on that afternoon 45 years ago.

And if Hastings turned out to have their best season in decades, Dorchester Town weren't far behind as they finished in third place on 60 points, 11 points behind the Sussex side.

For the Stones, of course, it was the start of some-

thing big. Sure enough, the tussles with Enfield were soon underway - they won the APL in 1982-3 while we finished 3rd - but it wasn't long before they were left in a blue slipstream.

Happy days!

Hastings Utd 0,
Wealdstone 0

TWO clubs who are clearly going to have a major say in this year's Southern League Championship were worth a point each at the Pilot Field on Saturday.

Wealdstone, a yard sharper than their Sussex

opponents, might have taken both points but for a fine display by Hastings goalkeeper Gerry Armstrong.

Armstrong flicked over a Stuart Pearce corner at 23 minutes, and then did well to palm away a stinging shot from livewire striker Alan Cordice. New signing Ray Knowles narrowly failed to make contact with the loose ball for a gift goal.

Armstrong drew long applause from the 556 crowd early in the second half when he took two paces back to tip over a thunderous effort from full-back Colin Hardman. Moments later the 'keeper

leaped low to his left to keep out a text-book header from Knowles.

Skipper Paul Bowgett and Robin Wainwright were in commanding form for Wealdstone, while track-suited 'keeper Ray Goddard

made a competent debut. Neil Cordice remains an enigma in attack for Wealdstone. He has the ability to turn the game in the space of a few seconds but seldom contributed on Saturday. On the few occasions he did work an opening for himself his final shot was sadly off target.

Nigel Johnson had a splendid cameo in an

unaccustomed midfield position, while the return of Dennis Byatt did much to steady a defence that has proved susceptible.

His only mistake came in injury time when, together with Bowgett, he failed to clear the ball properly. Peacock's shot was blocked by Pearce but strong appeals for a penalty fell on deaf ears.

Hastings United F.C. Ltd.

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE & PROGRAMME



HASTINGS UNITED
v
WEALDSTONE

Southern
League
SOUTHERN
DIVISION



Season
1981-82
Price
20p

Points shared in clash of Southern League titans

Weekend soccer

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Wealdstone v Harrogate Town, 15/08/2026

wealdstone fc foundation: harnessing the power of football in the community

ERIC Negraru, a local lad and ex-goalkeeper with the club, was appointed Community Coordinator for Wealdstone FC Foundation last summer and is already increasing the foundation's impact on the community.

He answers the key questions....

WHO WE ARE

The Wealdstone FC Foundation is an independent registered charity born from the heritage and community spirit of Wealdstone Football Club. Based in Ruislip and rooted in the London Boroughs of Hillingdon and Harrow, our vision is to inspire positive change by harnessing the power of football and sport to empower individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

OUR MISSION

We serve our community through four key pillars, Community Engagement, Education, Health & Wellbeing, and Sport Development. Together, we build a healthier, more inclusive environment where everyone can thrive.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

1) Football & Maths in Schools: In partnership with local schools, this innovative initiative combines sport and numeracy, using fun football exercises to build maths confidence and engagement. Funded in part by the National League Trust and Garfield Weston Foundation. We completed this programme in St Bernadettes, Lady Bankes, and West Lodge this academic year.

2) Tea Dances: Our weekly Tea Dances are a warm, welcoming social event aimed at older adults. These sessions offer Ballroom, Latin, Sequence, and Line dancing, encouraging social interaction, gentle physical activity and community bonding.

3) Walking Football: Perfect for over-50s and over-60s, walking football provides low-impact physi-



Eric at a school fayre and (below) Mason Barrett helps out in the classroom



cal activity and friendly competition. It's more than a sport—it's an opportunity to get active and fight isolation.

4) Work Experience: Throughout the year we had a student from Orchard Hill College (SEN) do weekly work experience at the club. Ashley did many tasks throughout his time at the club and learnt valuable skills. In addition, this summer we have a Brunel University student completing 240 hours of work experience.

He will be helping out with the summer camp, foundation and academy.

5) Women's Football: We hold a weekly women-only football session which is linked to the club's women's team that finished second in their first-ever season together and achieved promotion!

6) Mental Health: Men's mental health session is called 'Heads Up' and is a weekly session where men who struggle to open up about their feelings, come together and talk, finding ease and comfort with others in a similar position to them.

WHY IT MATTERS

Our work goes beyond the pitch. We connect people, improve wellbeing, support early education, and open paths to opportunity...ensuring local residents across Hillingdon and Harrow can benefit.

donation, sponsor, and volunteer helps us grow. If you're interested in partnering or supporting, please get in touch via ericnegraru@wealdstonefc.com

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Players' kit donation 2026-2027

SUPPORT your favourite player by donating their kit for every game of the 2026-2027 season!

It costs £165 to sponsor a player's home or away kit, or £250 to get a shirt signed by your chosen player at the end of the season. You'll

also get a mention below, a mention on the club website – and a mention on any player interviews we publish on X and YouTube.

To secure your favourite contact Peter Worby on 07967 698370 or John Young on 07874 846785

Gary WADDOCK Ron Moore	Danny PAYNE	Jason SCANNELL Sarah Gowdy	Brett AHERNE Mick Fishman
Dante BAPTISTE Matt Snell	Jack COOK David & Carolyn Edwards	Joe NEWTON Forum Charlie	Jack Wells-Morrison Jim Sorrell
Dion CONROY	Mason BARRETT Izzy Randall	Luke NORRIS	Dylan KADJI Sudhir, Akhil, Nikhil, Sarin & Kamran Rawal
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Endurance JOHNSON	Micah OBIERO James, John, Matt, Pete and Victor	Aaron HENRY StonesCast	Josh MULLINS
Admiral MUSKWE Norwich Singing Man and Hampshire Rose	Kyle SMITH Gary Smith	Jeffrey SEKYERE	Connor MCAVOY Jon Taffel
Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH SYL'S GOALS LIVE@ sylv_isylma	Joshua CLAY		
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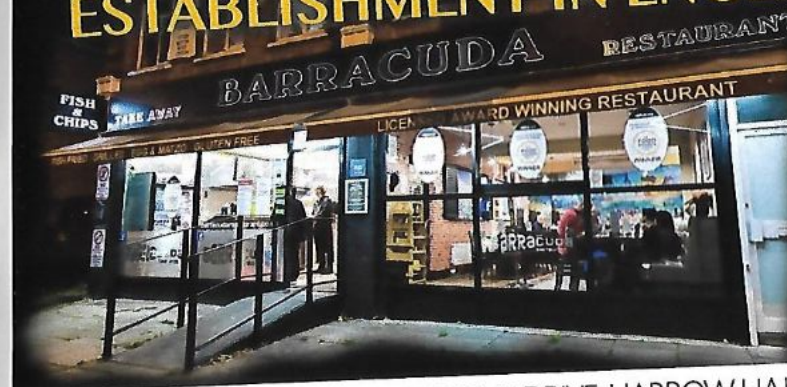
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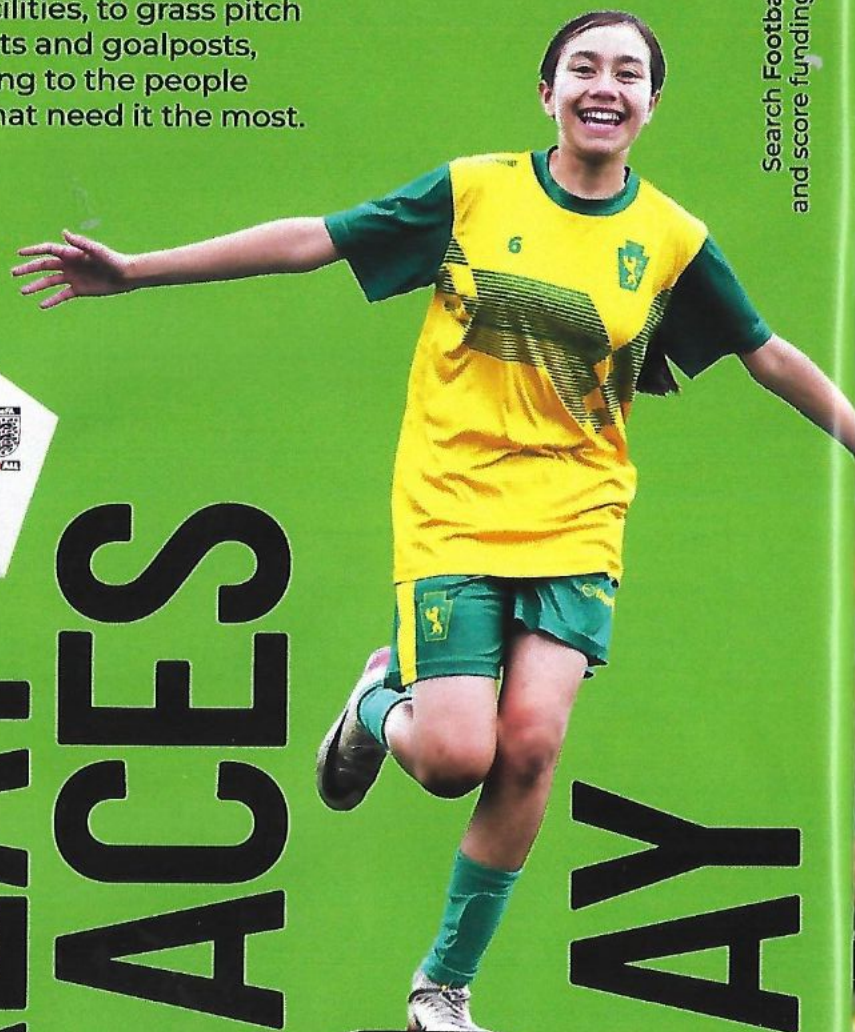
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Celebrate an occasion or advertise your support for the Stones with these great-value packages....

Sponsoring a match is a great way to celebrate an occasion or advertise your organisation's support. Packages start for fans at just £495 for 4 people, and for businesses at £595 + VAT for 4 people.

As a Wealdstone FC match sponsor you will enjoy match tickets for 4 people (inc. prime main stand seats if required); a fantastic advertising package, including publicity over the PA system; website and social media together with a piece in the programme; boardroom, Gordon Bartlett Lounge or Main Hall hospitality including a pre-match hot meal with wines and half-time refreshments courtesy of in-house caterer Lynn Evans; match-day programmes for all in your party;

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HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN July 18, Pre-Season Friendly

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MK DONS July 25, Pre-Season Friendly

BALL DONOR: NBM Technology Solutions

AFC WIMBLEDON July 28, Pre-Season Friendly

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BALL DONOR: Toby Jackson (Lapels Badges)

HARROGATE TOWN August 15, Enterprise National League

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WOLVERHAMPTON WAND. August 18, National League Cup

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CARLISLE UNITED August 28, Enterprise National League

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KIDDERMINSTER HARR. September 5, Enterprise National League

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STOKE CITY September 8, National League Cup

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FC HALIFAX TOWN September 15, Enterprise National League

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GATESHEAD September 26, Enterprise National League

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YEOVIL TOWN October 10, Enterprise National League

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NOTTINGHAM FOREST October 20, National League Cup

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SOLI HULL MOORS October 27, Enterprise National League

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SOUTHEND UNITED October 31, Enterprise National League

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DERBY COUNTY November 3, National League Cup

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HORNCHURCH November 21, Enterprise National League

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WOKING December 4, Enterprise National League

MATCH SPONSOR: See match sponsorship options above
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....or play a major part by donating the ball!

A package for businesses (from £225 + vat) or fans (£180) for four people that gives you the satisfaction of knowing you've paid for the ball that Wealdstone are banging into the net (or out of the ground!).

You get: * 4 x Match tickets * 4 x Captains' Lounge hospitality + refreshments and snacks * Publicity over the PA system and via the official club website and social media * 4 x match-day programmes * 1 x Signed Ball.

Call Peter Worby on 07967 698370 or John Young on 07874 846785 for more details.

BARROW AFC December 20, Enterprise National League

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ALTRINCHAM January 27, Enterprise National League

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AFC FYLDE January 30, Enterprise National League

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FOREST GREEN ROVERS February 16, Enterprise National League

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TAMWORTH February 20, Enterprise National League

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BALL DONOR: Put you or your organisations name here

WORTHING February 27, Enterprise National League

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SUTTON UNITED March 9, Enterprise National League

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BOSTON UNITED March 20, Enterprise National League

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BOREHAM WOOD March 29, Enterprise National League

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HARTLEPOOL UNITED March 10, Enterprise National League

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BALL DONOR: Put you or your organisations name here

SCUNTHORPE UNITED March 24, Enterprise National League

MATCH SPONSOR: See match sponsorship options above
BALL DONOR: Ron Moore, Dave, Adam & Guy Edwards



Upcoming games

Home fixtures

Wolves



Tuesday
18th August
7:00pm

National League Cup

Carlisle United



Friday
28th August
7:45pm

Enterprise National League

Kidderminster Harriers



Saturday
5th September
3:00pm

Enterprise National League

Away fixtures

Worthing



Saturday
22nd August
3:00pm

Enterprise National League

Sutton United



Monday
31st August
3:00pm

Enterprise National League

Boston United



Saturday
12th September
3:00pm

Enterprise National League

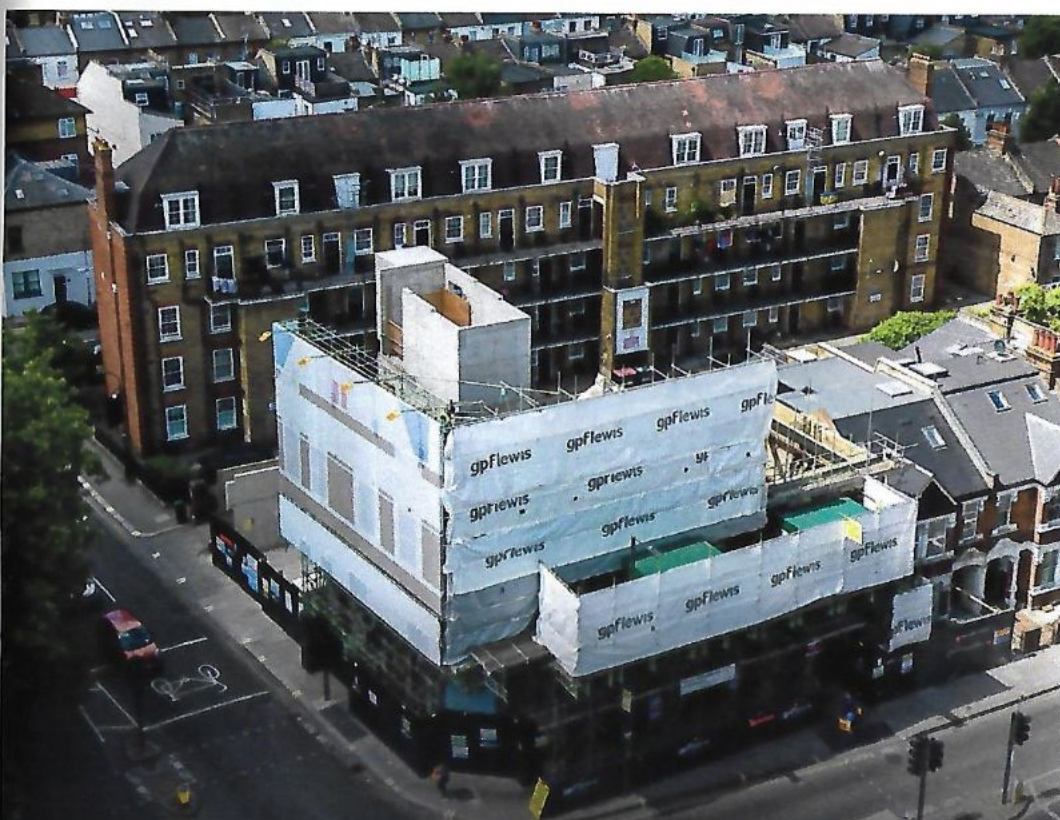
Wealdstone FC's first team travel is sponsored by Osmo, specialists in the supply of wood finishes



National League table

Enterprise National League 2025 / 2026 - FINAL TABLE

	HOME				AWAY				ALL GAMES				vs. Stones			
	P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
1 York City	23	17	4	2	23	16	5	2	46	33	9	4	114	41	73	108 0-3 0-4
2 Rochdale	23	18	2	3	23	15	5	3	46	33	7	6	88	41	47	106 1-3 1-2
3 Carlisle United	23	15	5	3	23	14	3	6	46	29	8	9	87	51	36	95 0-1 0-2
4 Boreham Wood	23	17	2	4	23	10	7	6	46	27	9	10	95	58	37	90 0-4 1-5
5 Scunthorpe United	23	11	7	5	23	11	7	5	46	23	13	10	77	62	15	82 1-1 0-3
6 Southend United	23	13	7	3	23	10	5	8	46	23	12	11	83	47	36	81 3-2 1-2
7 Forest Green Rovers	23	15	5	3	23	8	7	8	46	23	12	11	82	52	30	81 1-1 0-2
8 FC Halifax Town	23	10	7	6	23	10	3	10	46	20	10	16	69	66	3	70 2-1 2-2
9 Hartlepool United	23	10	7	6	23	8	7	8	46	18	14	14	54	59	-5	68 7-0 1-1
10 Woking	23	7	10	6	23	9	5	9	46	16	15	15	69	54	15	63 1-0 2-1
11 Tamworth	23	11	5	7	23	6	6	11	46	17	11	18	63	71	-8	62 3-2 1-1
12 Boston United	23	7	6	10	23	8	8	7	46	15	14	17	63	67	-4	59 1-1 1-2
13 Altrincham	23	13	1	9	23	4	5	14	46	17	6	23	55	65	-10	57 1-1 0-1
14 Solihull Moors	23	8	4	11	23	6	10	7	46	14	14	18	71	72	-1	56 5-1 1-1
15 Wealdstone	23	11	6	6	23	4	6	13	46	15	11	20	67	74	-7	56
16 Yeovil Town	23	9	5	9	23	6	1	16	46	15	6	25	48	68	-20	51 0-2 2-0
17 Eastleigh	23	7	6	10	23	6	5	12	46	13	11	22	57	80	-23	50 0-0 2-2
18 Gateshead	23	6	4	13	23	8	4	11	46	14	8	24	54	90	-36	50 2-2 0-1
19 Sutton United	23	6	7	10	23	5	7	11	46	11	14	21	59	79	-20	47 4-2 0-3
20 Aldershot Town	23	6	3	14	23	7	4	12	46	13	7	26	69	87	-18	46 3-0 1-4
21 Brackley Town	23	7	7	9	23	3	5	15	46	10	12	24	40	75	-35	42 2-1 2-0
22 Morecambe	23	4	6	13	23	5	5	13	46	9	11	26	66	103	-37	38 2-3 3-4
23 Braintree Town	23	5	7	11	23	3	5	15	46	8	12	26	38	76	-38	36 1-0 4-1
24 Truro City	23	5	6	12	23	3	4	16	46	8	10	28	42	72	-30	34 2-0 0-2



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