

How they line up today

WEALDSTONE ☐ ☐ **FC HALIFAX TOWN**

Dante-Astor BAPTISTE 1		1 Sam JOHNSON	
Jack COOK @ 2		2 Max BARDELL	
Joe NEWTON 3		3 Raheem CONTEH	
Jack WELLS-MORRISON 4		4 Will HUGILL	
Dion CONROY 5		5 Shaun HOBSON	
Mason BARRETT 6		6 Mackenzie MALTBY	
Luke NORRIS 7		7 Owen BRAY	
Dylan KADJI 8		8 Will FLINT	
Olufela OLOMOLA 9		9 Conor CARTY	
Jayden HARRIS 10		10 Zak GILSENAN	
Dan CHESTERS 11		14 Amari MORGAN-SMITH	
Aidan FRANCIS-CLARKE 12		16 Deniche HILL	
Endurance JOHNSON 13		17 Ben TOLLITT	
Aaron HENRY 15		18 Arian ALLEN	
Josh MULLINS 16		19 AJ WARBURTON	
Admiral MUSKWE 17		20 Tayt TRUSTY	
Kyle SMITH 18		21 Theo WAINMAN	
Wilson WAWERU 19		22 David KAWA	
Jeffrey SEKYERE 21		23 Dylan CROWE	
Connor McAVOY @ 22		27 Cruz ALLEN	
Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23		30 Cody JOHNSON	
Tyrelle NEWTON 27		33 True GRANT	
Amaru KAUNDA 29			

Officials Referee: James Oldham Assistants: David Middleton and Thomas Green
Fourth Official: Stuart Kane Coach: Brett Huxtable

Match sponsor: To be announced **Ball donor:** Mark Snell

NEXT HOME GAMES: v GATESHEAD National League, Saturday Sep 26, 3pm
v YEOVIL TOWN National League, Saturday October 10, kick-off 3pm

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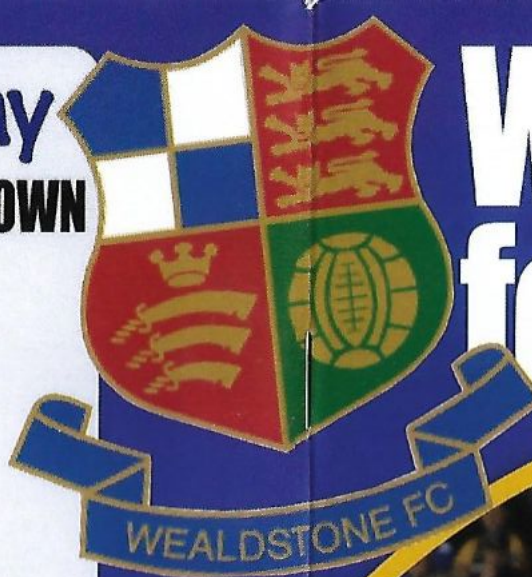
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wealdstone football club



Once a Stone... Micah Obiero celebrates the penalty that made it 2-0 at Sutton.. sadly, his last goal in a Stones shirt **Picture:** Jon Taffel

v FC Halifax Town
Enterprise National League
Tuesday 15 September 2026, 7.45pm
Season 2026-27: programme £3

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Tim Parks

GOOD evening and welcome to the Vale for this evening's Enterprise National League clash with FC Halifax Town.

Early print deadlines (last Thursday evening, thanks for commiserating) means that I cannot comment on our game at Boston United, but thankfully we have time to reflect on the loss of Micah Obiero to Carlisle United last week.

This club will never stand in the way of players seeking to further their careers but one day, hopefully in the next half dozen years, we will become a club that can hang onto its 'stars'... a club that can compete financially and structurally with the rest of the division on a level playing field.

In the meantime we have to say thanks to Micah for his efforts over four years in a blue shirt, and will forever savour the memory of his four goals in three epic days at the end of March. For those with short memories: the last-minute winner against Marine that sent us to Wembley, followed on the Tuesday night with a hat-trick in the 7-0 demolition of Hartlepool United.

Probably his impressive two goals at Sutton United pushed his move to Carlisle over the line, and

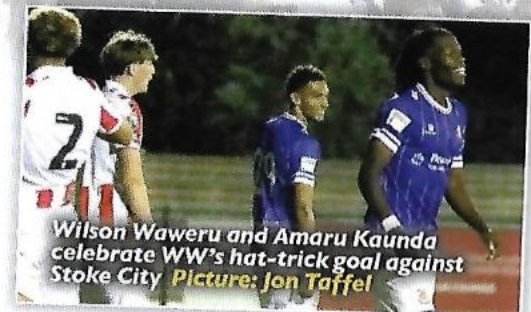
with his contract in its final year it made financial and common sense to wave farewell. A fond farewell.

But this is Wealdstone and "we go with what's in the building" to quote Gary Waddock in his *Gaffer's Column* over page.. and to be honest it wasn't a bad way for Wilson Waweru to remind everyone about his summer signing than to step into the breach against Stoke City's under-21s seven days ago and to bag a hat-trick!

Amaru Kaunda also scored twice that night, and although both men are untried at National League level they each displayed a lot of potential.

Wilson features in an interview in the next programme and he's a fascinating character, having scored goals for fun in the League of Ireland Premier Division with Sligo Rovers and Cobh Ramblers. Like Micah, he is of Kenyan descent but now living away from home for the first time having been brought up in Galway in the Republic of Ireland. Top of the morning to you Wilson!

● It's a delight to face FC Halifax Town at the Vale tonight and we have enjoyed a good record against the East Yorkshire club... who will ever forget the 3-1 win here in May 2025 that saved our bacon on the final day of the season? Or Jack Cook's outlandish



Wilson Waweru and Amaru Kaunda celebrate WW's hat-trick goal against Stoke City Picture: Jon Taffel

30-yarder that sealed a 2-1 win here a year ago? Like ourselves, the Shaymen have seen a lot of 'churn' regarding players and were sitting just one point above ourselves in the table before the weekend.

● A big thank you to long-time fan Mark Snell for donating tonight's match ball - Mark is one of the few who can recall the Stones' glory days of the 1950s and the club's first senior league title. Surely the subject of a future programme article?!

● On a sadder note I was concerned to hear that old rivals Harrow Borough have now sold their Earlsmead stadium for re-development and will be out, looking to groundshare, by the end of the season. It is reported that heavy debts have forced them to take this action and they are now "looking forward to years of relative prosperity".

But what about when the money runs out? Earlsmead is the club's only asset and the estimated £1m 'windfall' will soon dribble away. Too many of our former non-League rivals - Borough, Hendon, Wembley, and the defunct Hillingdon Borough - are in a parlous state and we can only thank our lucky stars for good governance and a committed fan base.

WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2026/2027

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1951 / 1952 Athenian League
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1981 / 1982 Southern League Southern Division
1981 / 1982 Southern League Championship
1984 / 1985 National League Premier (Gola League)
1996 / 1997 Isthmian League Division Three
2013 / 2014 Isthmian League Premier Division
2019 / 2020 National League South

NATIONAL CUPS

1965 / 1966 FA Amateur Cup
1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

1958 / 1959 Senior Cup
1962 / 1963 Senior Cup
1964 / 1965 Senior Cup
1967 / 1968 Senior Cup
1984 / 1985 Senior Cup
2003 / 2004 Charity Cup
2010 / 2011 Charity Cup

NON TITLE-WINNING PROMOTIONS

1997 / 1998 Isthmian League Division 2 (3rd)
1999 / 1999 Isthmian League Division 1 (3rd, annulled)
2003 / 2004 Isthmian League Premier Division

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
 - Being drunk, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs
 - Using violence of any nature
 - Carrying items which may be considered a danger to others, including cans, bottles, or glasses containing alcoholic beverages
 - Throwing any article onto the field of play
 - Climbing floodlight pylons, fences, stands or any structure or building
 - Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others
 - Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulla stand
- 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 FC Halifax Town, 15/09/2026



Tim Parks

SPEAKING before the trip to Boston United, Gary Waddock was exasperated by the mixed performances against Kidderminster and Stoke City in our last two home games. And then of course losing star striker Micah Obiero to Carlisle.

"I've never been involved in a game like the Kidderminster one before, where you're facing 10 men and end up conceding three goals. It just shouldn't happen" he said.

It's a football fact of life that when you're facing 10 men, sitting in a low block, you have to move the ball more quickly.

But if anything the Stones became more pedestrian in that disappointing 4-1 defeat at the Vale.

"It really wasn't our day - we missed chances at crucial moments and I think they only had four shots in the 90 minutes. The whole performance didn't look good... and I can tell you that it won't happen again".

So was it the ideal scenario to be playing a youthful Stoke City side just 3 days later?

"Yes, some of the players were talking about that - Stoke

gaffer's column gary waddock

had a Championship game the same night so may well have taken several of their under-21 squad into their first team squad.

"But there was a real quality to our performance and I was particularly pleased for Wilson Waweru. He showed what a good player and a useful asset he can be. He's not the biggest of strikers, but he's a good finisher, he's got pace and he's good in the air."

Is he a similar player to fellow Kenyan Micah, I asked him. "No he's very much his own man! They are both strong characters but Wilson has his own style.. and he can also look after himself.

"Micah is undoubtedly a big loss but we have to move on and work with what's in the building. He was a very low maintenance kind of guy, very reliable and just trained well and played well. I think he's earned this opportunity and I wish him well".

The Stoke game was an opportunity for the gaffer to have another look at Aaron Fer-

nandez and Amaru Kaunda. "Aaron picked up an injury with us in pre-season while Amaru has come through the academy. He's another central striker and he ended up with two goals, very coolly taken.

"There are still quite long-term injuries for Admiral Muskwe and Dion Conroy - while Mason Barrett picked up an ankle injury against Kidderminster - so it was good to get Jack Cook back in the team against Stoke. He played 70-odd minutes and we're still nursing him back, but he's an important influence in many ways and could well be involved in these games.

"Boston last Saturday, and Halifax tonight will both be big tests for us but after the Carlisle and Sutton games we know the standard that we have to hit.

"We'll be well prepared and again the crowd have an important part to play - we were concerned to hear about two supporters in difficulties during the Kidderminster game and only pleased that the emergency services, and club personnel were able to help them in their recovery. You have to look at the bigger picture sometimes."

Up the Stones!

'That whole performance against Kidderminster didn't look good... and I can tell you that it won't happen again'

WHAT is the snobbery that routinely persuades EFL and Premier League clubs not to take a punt on home-grown, non-League talent?

This column is obviously steered by the record £1.5m transfer of Boreham Wood winger Abdul Abdulmalik last month to top Swedish side Djurgardens.. and the collective intake of breath from football correspondents across this country.

"Jamie Vardy's non-League record transfer smashed!" they blare out. "Is Boreham Wood winger Abdul Abdulmalik worth £1.5m? Djurgardens take gamble on untested ex-Millwall youngster".

It's almost as if they failed to notice that, at the same time, Prem clubs broke the record for a summer transfer window by shelling out a total of **£3.2 BILLION**.

It smashed the £3.1 billion spent in last summer's window thanks to the £125m that took Enzo Fernandez to Manchester City from Chelsea. And that was City's second £100m-plus deal this summer!

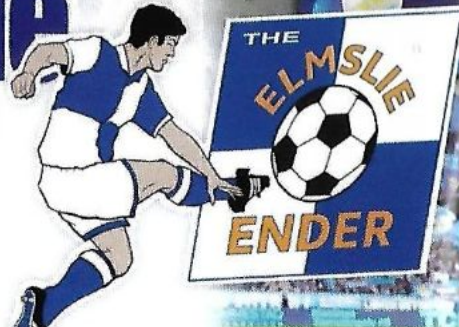
So £1.5m for Abdulmalik? Pah! And even with add-ons he Swedes will only have to fork out a maximum £1.7m.

To my mind, the 23 year-old winger (above), who was

elmslieender



Tim Parks



©Elmslie Ender was among the first wave of football club magazines when it replaced 'Long Ball Down the Middle' as the Wealdstone fanzine in the mid-1980s. LBDTM's forerunner 'Wealdstone Whispers' was famously the THE very first football fanzine in Britain when it was published in 1971

Ab-Fab Abdul could be the the big clubs finally look up



on loan here at the Vale from Millwall three years ago, is a no-brainer signing for any lower EFL club. He will pull up trees in Stockholm and, in two years, will be sexy enough to secure a move into the Championship or Premier League. The real mystery is why Millwall offloaded him to Wood two years ago.

Who better to ask than his former Lions team mate

Kyle Smith (interviewed later in this programme) who came all the way through the youth system at the New Den...

"That's a difficult question" said Kyle. "Neither of us got on the pitch

in a first team game and I think it is just that they didn't want to take a chance on academy players.

"I can understand it because of the enormous pressure for results on the management team, but it makes progression really difficult".

The fact that Wood chairman Danny Hunter was able to hold out for £1.5m for his star man - and was prepared to keep him at Broughing Road rather than trouser the money - shows that non-League clubs know the value of their prize assets.

But Wood are an exception. For many clubs, a large transfer fee can be transformational. Leicester City's £1m purchase of Jamie Vardy from Conference Prem side Fleetwood Town in 2012 set a new non-League record - and the £700,000 in add-ons - (earned

Abdul is shown off to the fans at Djurgardens' stadium

man who makes and take notice

in style as Vardy helped the Foxes to the Premier League title in 2016) helped secure Fleetwood's place in the EFL 2.

Abdulmalik now holds the record, but there has been a slew of grateful National League clubs pocketing hundreds of thousands in recent years

Centre-back Laurent Mendy moved to Scottish Premiership heavyweights Hearts from Forest Green Rovers this summer for an initial fee of £585,000 (possibly rising to £1m) but it's Peterborough United who seem the club most switched on when it comes to targeting the National League



for affordable prospects. Posh's most expensive outlay was on Woking goalkeeper Shwan Jalal for an estimated £510,000 back in 2007. They also paid half a million for Barnet's Jack Taylor in 2020 - and made a handsome profit on the central midfielder when they sold him to Ipswich Town for an undisclosed fee in 2023. Taylor was a regular during their 24/25 season in the Premier League.

Posh also paid £400,000 for Rochdale's young centre back George Nevett in the summer of 2024 while, in a boot-on-the-other-foot scenario, moneybags

York City splashed £360,000 on Wigan's Josh Stones two years ago while still a National League club. York's drive to return to the Football League was always evident, given that they also paid a substantial figure for striker Dipo Akinyemi... though his debut came in a 2-1 defeat at

Grosvenor Vale in August 2023! Probably the most jaw-dropping transfer in recent years, however - and add-ons - came following Max Kilman's £40 million transfer from Wolves to West Ham United two years ago. It was one of the big-

gest Premier League moves in the summer window - but it wasn't just Hammers fans celebrating the transfer.... Killman started off with NL South outfit Maidenhead United and when they sold him to Wolves six years earlier (for a tidy £40,000) they had a 25% share of any future transfers written into the deal. £4m...ker-ching!

A far smaller fee helped our own club in its hour of need back in 2006: the £80,000 that Leeds paid for Jermaine Beckford (left) kept the Stones afloat during the dark, Northwood groundsharing days, even if the negotiated add-ons never came to fruition.

We would have been due 25% of any ongoing transfer, but as Jermaine reached the mid-point of the 2009-10 season at Elland Road, scoring goals for fun, it became apparent that he and Leeds were happy to let his contract run down, allowing him to leave on a lucrative free transfer.

Newcastle were rumoured to have bid £2m in the January 2010 window - meaning Leeds would get £1.5m - but why should they help Wealdstone when they could have five months of Beckford's goals and deny Newcastle the talents of one of the Premier League's most potent strikers? It made sense for Leeds and Beckford, if not for us.

That £80,000 was the Stones' record transfer fee - until League One Bromley beat that figure when snapping up our centre-back Deon Woodman (left) a few months ago... and then Micah Obiero to Carlisle United.

Let's hope the add-ons prove absolutely eye-watering!

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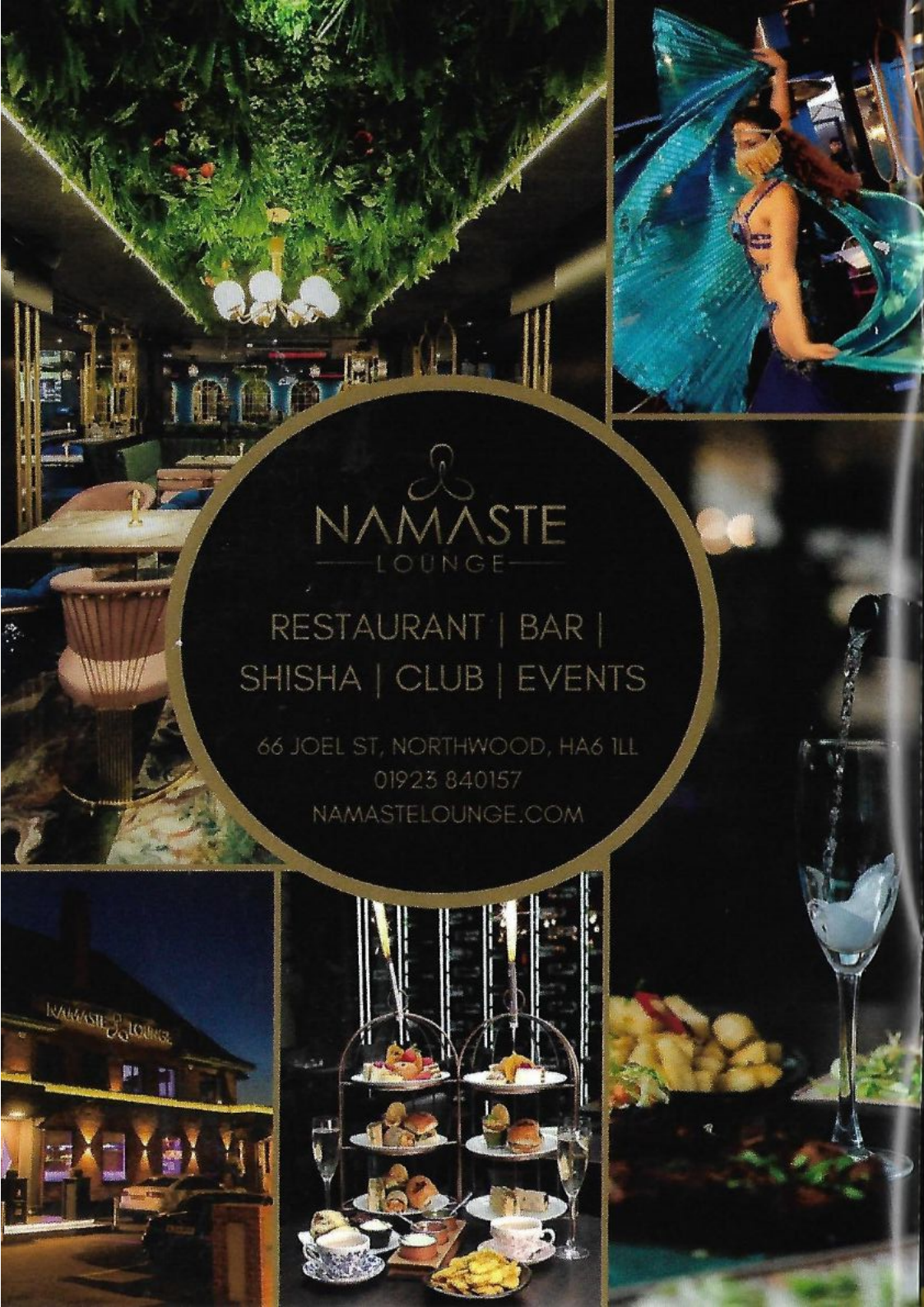


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Tim Parks



time to meet the 'new' stones... it's kyle smith

Once upon a time there were two footballers with great potential flying under the radar at the Millwall academy... Abdul Abdulmalik has finally been recognised for his talent while the other, Kyle Smith, could be the man to watch this season.

"I've known Abdul since we were boys... he was in the year above me at Millwall and I've never seen anyone with quicker feet... he's a joke! said Kyle, 22. "Fortunately I've never played against him in a competitive game but we had endless training sessions and you could see how good he was going to be."

So I asked him: Why did neither of you make the breakthrough at Millwall? Abdul had to spend two years at Boreham Wood until a 'big' club took a chance on him – resulting in the record non-league transfer to Swedish club Djurgårdens last month – while Kyle sat on the first team bench a few times but got most of his experience in loans here at Grosvenor Vale, at Braintree, and last season at Tonbridge in the National League South.

"I think it's just that they didn't want to take a chance, take a risk by throwing academy players into the first team" said Kyle.

"It's basically a lack of trust and I get it, but I think that mentality is changing these days and they're realising how much ability there is in the academy teams".

Kyle grew close to Abdul during their time at the Championship club, living not too far apart with Kyle at his mum and grandparents in Abbey Wood while Abdul – who is now married – is a Brixton Boy now living away from home for the first time.

So have you stayed in touch with Abdul while these transfer negotiations were going on? I asked him

"Yeah, I've not bombarded him but we have spoken quite a few times and I'm really pleased that it's gone through. They'll be flying him backwards and forwards from Stockholm so he won't lose touch with his folks. But I'm not sure if he realises the Swedish season ends in November!"

So what's your Wealdstone story, Kyle? I asked him. I seem to remember that he got injured



Powerful:
Kyle Smith
is back at
the Vale

in both his loan spells at the Vale three years ago. "Yes, the first time was a back fracture, which is linked to a growth spurt. And the second one a few months later

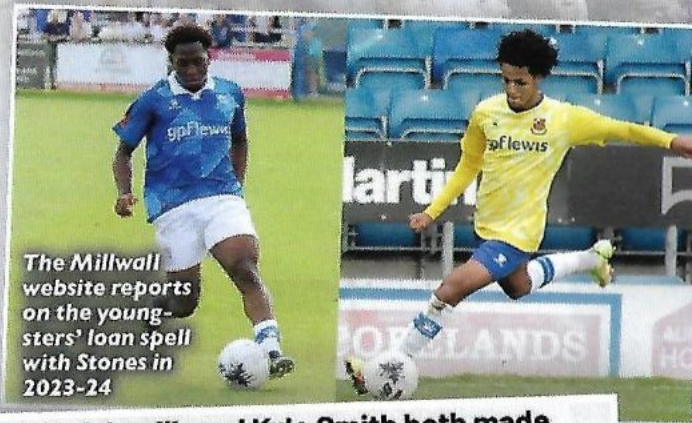
was a hamstring, but both seem to be connected."

Kyle went back to Millwall to bide his time but in the summer of 2005 it seemed he would be transferred to Bromley. "I went and spoke to them but that move fell through."

Instead he went on loan to Braintree for an unhappy spell. "I didn't enjoy it there but went on another loan to Tonbridge Angels and spent most of last season playing there... the connection was that the manager and coach - Alan Dunne and Larry McAvoy - were at Millwall and I played 30 odd games in the NLS. I still didn't score! But I did have a handful of assists.

"And then last summer Tonbridge wanted me to sign a contract but I was looking to play at a higher level... and thankfully Steve Boone (Wealdstone head of recruitment) got in touch with my agent and asked me to come down for training. Obviously I'd been at the Stones before but they wanted to lay eyes on me after a few years away.

"I think I've filled out and got more powerful since my previous spell - and actually the injuries I've suffered in the last few years have actually helped out. I spent more time in the gym and built some muscle. I'm feeling really good at the moment, but I haven't hit my



The Millwall website reports on the youngsters' loan spell with Stones in 2023-24

Abdul Abdulmalik and Kyle Smith both made appearances for Wealdstone last weekend.

The former played the opening 73 minutes of the goalless draw at home to Altrincham, whilst Smith produced a Man-of-the-Match performance in his 88 minutes on the field.

Abdulmalik had the chance to open his Wealdstone account, but fired just wide of the post with an attempt.

peak yet and I think there's a lot more to come".

Have you always played at fullback or wing back? I asked him.

"Well, when I was seven or eight years old I was a winger but moved to right back for the under-12s at Millwall... for the under-18s I had switched to wing back and I've been there ever since."

So are you going to score a few goals this season Kyle? I asked.

"It's just not something that I do" he laughed. "My aim is to deliver the ball into the box but I do have a few shots in training and occasionally they go in... so maybe I can add that to my game".

I thought he was the stand-out player in a team of stand-out players

ers at Sutton on Bank Holiday Monday, but Kyle was just pleased to be part of such a brilliant team performance. And he was actually going to start the game on the bench!

"Yes, the Gaffer said they were going to give me a rest after all the running and effort of the Carlisle game a couple of days before... then came the call after Dan Chesters jarred his knee.

"I was ready to play anyway and had already warmed up... I really enjoyed it and feel that I've got a lot more to give. They were top of the table but we didn't give Sutton a sniff and showed what a good team we can be".

Continued overpage >>>

'I'm feeling really good at the moment but I

haven't hit my peak...there's more to come'



the stones interview by tim parks
ten minutes with

KYLE SMITH

CHELSEA, Millwall and Wealdstone: there's definitely blue blood running through the veins of our Lions loanee Kyle Smith!

The 19-year-old has been at Championship side Millwall since the age of eight, but grew up supporting Chelsea along with his uncle, grandad Ray and his mum Laura.

"I'm an only child, just me and my mum so she's been the most important person in my life, ferrying me to training and games since the age of four! Not one of my relatives have played the game... I'm a bit of an anomaly" he said.

Laura put the live-wire Kyle into the David Beckham Academy at the O2 centre at that tender age "to burn off a bit of energy". She then got him involved with the Teviot Rangers youth team in Plumstead, close to Abbey Wood in South London where he was brought up and still lives.

"Then I was scouted by Millwall 11 years ago and I've been there ever since!" he says. The winger/midfielder has had a solid progression through the Lions youth set-up, first at the club's Well Hall base in Eltham and then moving up to the u-18s and u-21s at the senior training ground in Downham, near Bromley.

Kyle (known as 'Smudge' since he was ten) has not been involved in the first team squad though

he has trained with the 1st XI... and found it "a different level".

"It's much more intense and they're playing to win. You get the ball and suddenly there's four players around trying to tackle you. That's why I'm so keen to be playing men's

football. At Wealdstone the games really mean something, the supporters are invested and the points are important - don't get me wrong, it's frustrating when you play for Millwall's under-21s and you lose but in the National League it's serious stuff".

So is it the physicality of the men's game that is the main difference?

"It's speed and size and intensity: you come out of the tunnel and you see the opposition who are massive and muscled with tattoos. Maybe I'd better invest in a sleeve just to fit in!" he laughed.

Kyle reckons he's in the top two or three for speed into the Millwall u-21s, whereas "in the National League everyone's quick". But he says that the Stones management team has encouraged him to take risks on the ball and take people on in the final third.

"They back me to make things happen and I think our performances have been good, even if



It's going to be hard to budge Smudge... our Millwall loanee enjoying grown up football

You kept this quiet, Smudge!
Kyle's wonder goal for Millwall under-18s against Swansea two years ago..



Kyle (No.2) takes on the full-back and cuts inside, swerving left then right past the second man... then a third... before dummieing past a fourth and slotting his shot past the keeper. Then celebration time!



Kyle celebrates his goal with the away fans at Chesterfield (above) and at home to Oxford with Tarryn Allorkhia (right) Pictures: JON TAFEL

the results have not always backed that up. It's just moments in a game that have not gone our way but if we keep playing to a good standard the results will come".

Kyle had a baptism of fire, starting the game against Altrincham at the Vale just two days after joining on loan.

"Having Abdul (Abdulmalik) already at the Stones on loan from Millwall made it a lot easier for me - I've been friends with Abs for years and he said how much I'd enjoy coming to Wealdstone. And he was absolutely right."

But Kyle took a bit of a chance in the week that Stuart Maynard contacted the South London club. "I had a call on the Wednesday from Kevin Nugent, the under-21s manager, saying that Wealdstone were interested in taking me on loan, but to be honest I'd had a dodgy hamstring and wasn't sure I was fully fit. But I so wanted the chance."

Kyle travelled over the Harefield for training with the Stones the very next day - and then found himself in the starting XI on the Saturday. "I was thrown in the deep end! The game was fast and competitive and it was good playing in front of a noisy crowd" he says.

And he couldn't have done too badly as he was

handed the Man of the Match award! Since then Kyle has started (and finished) every game and made himself an integral part of the Stones midfield with his trademark crossing and zippy running. "There's no substitute for pace in football and I work very hard on the power side of the game, building up my lower body strength.

"At Millwall we have 30m races every day and I'm

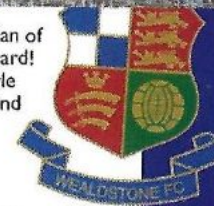
always in the top two or three".

One thing he wasn't expecting to improve was his goal account. But Kyle hit the opening goal at Chesterfield in our narrow 3-2 defeat and chipped in with another in the 3-1 home win over Oxford City, when his cross sailed into the net from out of the left hand touchline.

"That was 100% deliberate!" he laughed. "No, I think Max and Tahvon both unsighted the keeper and it ended in the far corner. I can't say I'm a prolific goalscorer as that's not really my game, my role is to provide chances and I only got the odd goal here or there in all my years at Millwall. I have assisted for five goals this season though".

After the interview was over, I had a quick trawl of the internet for pictures of Kyle playing for the Lions... and lo and behold, up popped a glorious video of his solo goal for the under-18s v Swansea two years ago. He'd told me his left foot was really just for standing on... but here (pictured below) he cuts inside and out, past four Swans defenders before sliding a left foot shot past the despairing keeper. It's spookily similar to Abdul Abdulmalik's wonder goal we highlighted in the last programme.

There's just no stopping these Millwall boys!



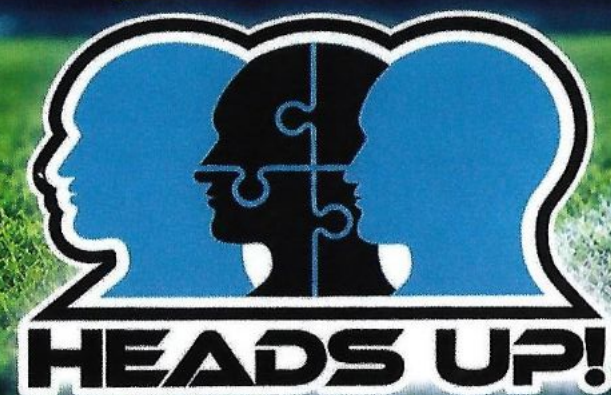
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opposition in focus:

Following the demise of Halifax Town AFC at the end of the 2007-2008 season, a new Club was born and re-formed just in time for the 2008-2009 season. The new Football Club was placed in Level Four of the Non-League pyramid, taking a place in the Northern Premier League Unibond North One and it was called FC Halifax Town.

Time was short and the new Club was faced with appointing a new Manager and bringing a team together from scratch in only five weeks.

Jim Vince, a coach in the Crewe Alexandra Football Academy working closely with Crewe Manager Dario

Grady and a former Manager of Witton Albion in the Unibond Premier Division, achieving two consecutive second places in the previous two seasons, was appointed.

Pre-season friendlies were hastily arranged and the first ever game by the Club was played at Tamworth, when 22 trialists made appearances for the Club, trying to catch the eye of the new Manager.

The first ever official game for FC Halifax Town was a home game against Bamber Bridge at the Shay Stadium. For the Halifax fans, it was an emotionally charged game; as they were so relieved to see their beloved 'Shaymen' play a real game of football again, after all the heartache of previous years.

Over 1,500 fans attended the game, watching a team that barely knew one another. Perhaps with a possible sign of things to come, the



Stadium: The Shay
Capacity: 10,401 No. of seats: 5,108
Opened: 1921 Record crowd: 36,885 (1953)

Club went in at half-time 0-0, but ended up losing the game 3-0. Not the best of starts!

Disappointingly, the team had a mediocre first season and for whatever reason, Jim Vince struggled to get things going with any real conviction on the pitch, culminating in a far from satisfactory 8th place, even missing out on a Play-Off place. A new Club and striving for stability and continuity, reluctantly the Board had to make a change, with Jim Vince leaving the position prior to the end of the season and player, Nigel Jemson taking the club though to the end of the season.

Players who have gone on to play at a higher level include from that season include, Junior Brown in League Two at Fleetwood Town, Colin Daniel a loanee who is now playing in League Two also with Mansfield Town and Gavin Rothery

at Guiseley.

An early appointment was made for the 2009-2010 season, with Neil Aspin joining from Conference North side, Harrogate Town.

Despite dropping two divisions, he was confident of a bright future for the Football Club and was ready for the challenge of moving the club further up the pyramid. A mixture of new recruits, players known to him and some already involved with the Club from the previous season, he set about trying to establish a successful team. As we all know, achieving promotion from any division is a huge challenge and the early pace setters were Lancaster City, scoring goals for fun with striker Jordan Connerton hitting a rich vein of form, gaining him a move to Crewe Alexandra and seemingly winning games, no matter what.

At one stage in the second half of

f.c.halifax town



the season, they held a twelve-point lead over the Shaymen, although Halifax had lost a lot of games through postponement due to the weather.

Fighting their way through the backlog, the ultimate period in the second season and the moment at which Halifax moved into pole position in the league was an eventful three match period spread over six days in the final third of the season. The first game was Garforth away on a Thursday night, two minutes to go the Shaymen were losing 3-1. A goal for the Shaymen pulled it back to 3-2. The referee announces four extra minutes and in the 91st minute another goal made it 3-3. Everyone was delighted, equalising so late and hopefully securing an unlikely point out from the game. What drama was to follow. With the last kick of the game, Richard Marshall thirty yards away from goal, produced an exquisite lob to beat the keeper for a 4-3 win. Despite Lancaster winning on the same night, they were told the Shaymen had lost, so what a shock when they got back on their coach, only to find Halifax had won so late in the game. A real night of drama!

Our next home game on the Saturday? You guessed, Lancaster City at home at the Shay Stadium. In front of over three thousand fans, the afternoon was electric, and Halifax won the game comfortably, 4 nil and taking over the leadership of the division. The following Monday evening was a tough away game at Curzon Ashton who were also in the play-off places and Halifax recorded a stunning 5 nil away win. From then on, momentum carried the team to its first promotion as Champions, with 100 points and over 100 goals.

A step up to the newly sponsored EvoStik Premier division. With some more astute signings and the average age of the team being reduced, Halifax tried to emulate the previous season.

Again, the Club achieved promotion and the Championship, with five games to spare, missing the 100 points by just two and again scoring over 100 goals. As in the previous season, the Club just missed out on the 1st Round proper of the FA Cup, losing to Wrexham in 2009-10 to a 97th pile-driver and 2010-

11 to a 1 nil defeat against Mansfield Town.

A nice recognition for the Club was goalkeeper Jonathan Hedge being called in to the England 'C' squad as he had also been chosen in the previous season. The only blot on a wonderful season was the emotional loss of Neil's assistant Trevor Storton, who sadly died after a long battle with cancer. He was with the team nearly all the way, passing away just before our promotion was secured. Promotion was a fitting tribute to a wonderful man.

So, 2011-2012 saw the arrival in the Football Conference and the Blue Square Bet North division. Another tough challenge made all the harder with the departure of star striker Jamie Vardy, after only four games of the new season. Jamie moved to then Conference Premier, Fleetwood Town and soon to be Champions, making their way into the Football

League for the first time in their history. Jamie shortly made a second move to Championship Club, Leicester City, becoming the first £1m non-league player. Despite that set-back on the pitch, the Shaymen battled their way to a play-off position, to meet Gainsborough Trinity. In the away first leg, a disastrous start being two nil down in the first twenty minutes and seeing very little of the ball.

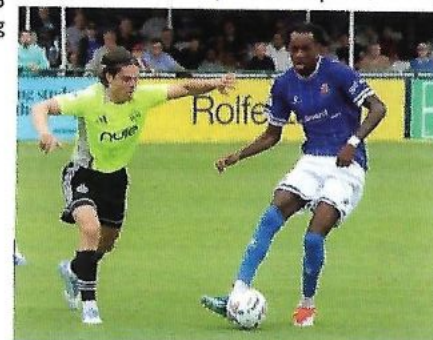
Two Lee Gregory goals, one just before half time and one midway through the second half brought the Shaymen

back into the tie for the second leg. In front of over three thousand fans in the second leg, Town could not turn their superiority in to goals and lost to a set piece, one nil.

The season was also highlighted by finally achieving the FA Cup First Round Proper and what a draw. League One leaders Charlton Athletic who were to go up as Champions and the game also being chosen for national live TV broadcast. Managing to stay in the game one nil until the 80th minute was very creditable, but once Danny Lowe was harshly sent-off, the team eventually lost 4 nil. Nevertheless, what a great day and profile for the Club.

Last season Halifax finished the season in 8th position on 70 points.

Pic. Jon Taffel



Stones v Halifax head to head:
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view from the away end

Your name and age?

Rob Brown, 57

Do you live in Halifax?

Yes, I was born in the south, but have now lived in Halifax for about 55 years.

When was your first Shaymen game, and why did you go?

It was 1979, free tickets from school. I then watched the Shaymen beat Man City 1-0 in the 3rd round of the FA Cup soon after. I bought a season ticket

a few years later and started to travel to away games. It must have been the bad language, funny one liners, and dodgy food that got me hooked.

What do you recall of it? Not much about my first game - the Man City game left its mark though!

Do you follow any other team? I watched Leeds United for 11 years once I was old enough to

'It doesn't matter how famous you are when you join our club, it's how famous you are when you leave us that really matters'

drive. I walked away when Sky TV started to control football, then completed the 92 grounds. I've only been back to Elland Road once since, when my season-ticket-holding brother couldn't go. It wasn't the same as I remember.

How involved are you with FC Halifax Town? Having watched Halifax intermittently at the turn of the century, I re-engaged fully when they reformed in 2008.

I've not missed many games home or away since. I also write a fair, honest, and accurate account of each away adventure, published on our club's website *Traveller's Tales*.

How big a part of your life is football? I tend to be an 'all or nothing' sort of person. If Halifax aren't playing,

I'll find another team to watch for the day, at a ground I've not been to. I've had a few recent European football ground adventures... football fans are very different in Europe, proper fanatical.

How do you fit family/work-life around Halifax Town? Work is flexible, but I dread to think what most of my family think. My wife was a Man City season ticket holder in the past - she understands football, that's the main thing.

What are your top three most memorable games/occasions involving Halifax Town? And why? 1). The Man City victory was memorable for obvious reasons, especially as the highlights are online. I can still remember some of the football chants at the game ('Malcolm) Allison, shut yer mouth, Allison, Allison, shut yer mouth!')

2). We beat Garforth Town 4-3 away from home towards the end



Rob wrote our Away Fan column for the Halifax visit in 2021... and we liked his 'album cover' photo so much we're using it again today!

of the 2009/2010 season. We were 3-1 down going into injury time. We needed to win to go back to the top of the league. An incredible finish to a game.

3). We beat Wrexham 3-1 at home over the Easter break in 2023, the season Wrexham won the National League... the away fans outnumbered the Town fans as their title ambitions were coming to fruition. I was helping out on the day with a collection for the Teenage Cancer Trust in memory of a young Halifax fan who had passed away.

I stood in my Town shirt amongst the away fans and the Wrexham fans contributed around £1,500 just from their pockets. They were top class for their contribution. **Do Shaymen fans believe a return to the EFL is on the cards this season... or in the**

near future? Unfortunately not, there's too much money available to other clubs. Football is very different these days.

How do you feel about the start to the new season?

We've only lost one game (at the time of writing) to a team we expected to get something from. The other defeats were against fancied teams. We battered Tamworth and beat a strong-looking Hartlepool at home. The football has been entertaining and we've scored a few more than usual.

Will FCHT travel in numbers today, or is the midweek kick-off a killer?

The *Shaymen Down South* collective will ensure there's around 75 travelling fans. And there will be 30 or so Town fans travelling from Halifax to watch.

Will you be at the game today? What do you recall of previous visits?

Yes, I'll be there, along with the usual car full. We've not won at Grosvenor Vale for about five years - Jack Cook always seems to have his best game of the season against us. Hopefully he'll be rested for tonight's game. **What was your average crowd last season and can you envisage the**

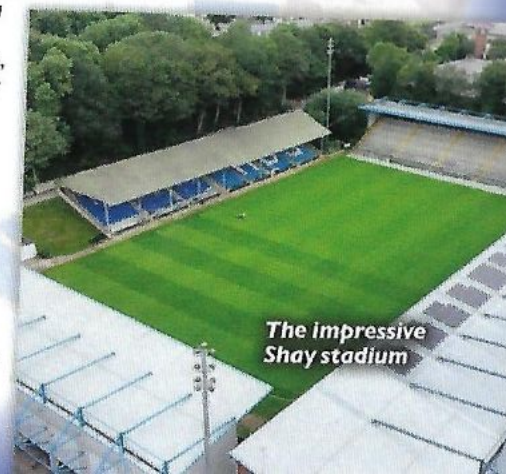
number rising or falling?

Average was around 1,250 last year. Non League football doesn't have big TV money so the income from supporters is essential. It's not cheap at our level, so without real success, I can't see attendances rising.

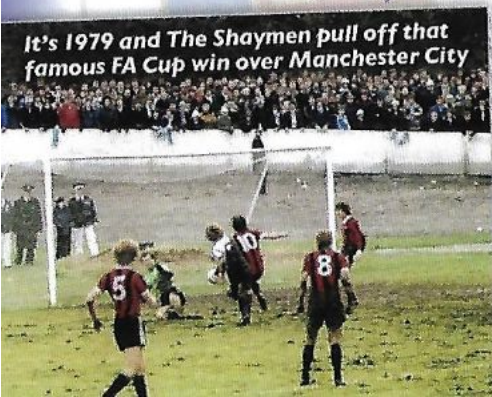
Who are the key summer additions to your playing squad? and the stand-outs who remain? We've recruited well over summer with several exciting players. I'm still playing the game of trying to identify the new ones. It always takes me a good few games. We always say, it doesn't matter how famous you are when you join the club, it's how famous you are when you leave that really counts.

And finally, what is your prediction for today, and both teams' final league position?

Given our recent history, I'd be happy with a draw tonight. Ideally, we'd love three points with a Jack Cook own goal. I can see both clubs battling it out trying to obtain a top ten position by the end of the season.



The impressive Shay stadium



It's 1979 and The Shaymen pull off that famous FA Cup win over Manchester City

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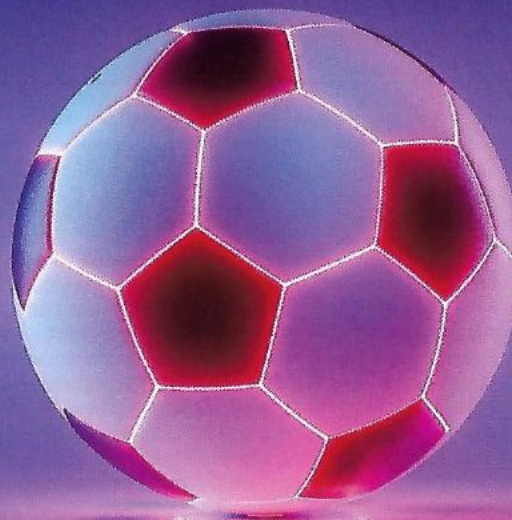
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Mick Fishman

the top defender legends

IN THE fourth installment of this award-winning series, long-time fan Sir Michael Fishman investigates which defenders deserve the honour of being a Wealdstone FC Legend.

DESPITE football pundits pumping the idea that football is a complicated science supported by endless sleep-inducing statistics, it has fundamentally remained true to its purpose.

Goalkeepers keep the ball out of the net. Defenders stop forwards scoring. Those in midfield try and stop the opposition creating scoring chances while creating chances for their team; and forwards score goals.

Yes, it has become more sophisticated and nuanced with training ground set-pieces and adjustments to formations, but the essential purpose for each position in the field remains the same.

With **centre backs**, until the mid-1960s you had your centre half who operated in direct opposition to the centre forward – end of. That had started to unravel some years earlier when the great Hungarian team arrived at Wembley in 1953 with Nandor Hidegkuti playing as a deep lying centre forward. Poor old Harry Johnston was so totally bemused marking empty space that he allowed Hidegkuti to orchestrate attacks and arrive unchallenged into the penalty area.

The Hungarian grabbed a hat-trick in a 6-3 win. England stuck stubbornly to its W formation for a few years, but it's clear that the 1966 England World Cup winning side had moved into the modern 4-4-2 era. So, when searching for club leg-



It's all about context... a clear Stones centre-back legend is John McCormick (pictured above left) who is seen here facing up to Manchester United's George Best while at Crystal Palace!

Defenders of the Wealdstone realm... the men who stood firm in WFC history

end centre backs we can go back as far as **Harold Smith** snapped up from junior football at Watford St Mary's in 1925. Originally an inside forward, he was converted to centre half and by 1931 had racked up 119 appearances and been spotted and signed as a professional by Notts County. He went on to enjoy a career in the professional game

with Cardiff City and Peterborough United.

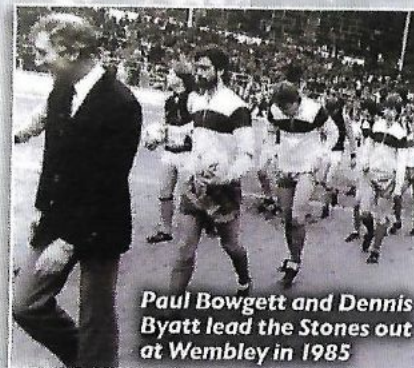
Post war, the centre half position was owned by **Charlie Edmonds** (280 apps for the club until leaving in 1953) who was a key part of the 1952 Athenian League title-winning team. Then in 1962 the club plundered **Dave Richards** and **John Ashworth** from Kingsto-

nian. John was an imperious centre half, dominant in the air, crisp in the tackle and capable of accurate distribution. He was captain of the Amateur Cup winning side and a regular for both England and Great Britain at amateur level. He made 171 appearances between 1962 and 1966. Richards was by trade a right half, but he transcended that overlap into a 4 player defensive unit, and he could operate equally effectively in central defence or as a ball winner in midfield. Dave made 149 appearances between 1963 and 1965.

Eddie Dillsworth had joined the club from Fulham as centre forward but was converted into a defender to partner the experienced Ashworth. His pace and ability to carry the ball out of defence made him a brilliant foil for the skipper for two seasons.

Ashworth's eventual replacement was the experienced **Tony McGuinness** who was a rock-solid pivot and made 113 appearances between 1967 and 1969. Often playing alongside him was **Dennis Montague** who was a terrific player, mainstay of the teams of the late 1960s making 131 appearances between 1967 and 1970.

Captain of the 1974 Southern League South winning side was **John McCormick**, an absolute rock of a man who had been a Crystal Palace stalwart - his final three seasons of action with the Stones saw him make 110 appearances until his retirement in 1976. Several others occupied the centre



Paul Bowgett and Dennis Byatt lead the Stones out at Wembley in 1985

back position in the late 1970s with perhaps **Dave Parratt** making the biggest impression. Originally signed from Bedford Town as a centre forward, Dave (below) converted successfully to central defence and, over three seasons between 1976 and 1979, made 119 appearances for the club. It was a similar story for **Bill Byrne** who was a roaring success in the mid-70s having started off as a No.9

But it was in the 1980s that we saw the club's finest-ever central defensive partnership:

Paul Bowgett and Dennis Byatt.

Skillful, brutal, cynical, intelligent all cover the qualities displayed by these two masterful defenders who carried the team to the Southern League "treble"

in 1982 and the non-League "double" of FA Trophy winners and Gola League title winners in 1985. Between 1980 and 1988, Paul made 402 apps and scored 55 goals, while Dennis made 319 apps between 1981 and 1990.

Moving on to the long Gordon Bartlett period, the pairing of **Roy Marshall** and **Ian Waugh**,

sometimes operating as a trio with **Fergie Moore**, formed a solid rear line of Gordon's early teams of the late 1990s. Fergus would dominate in the air, Ian would use his pace to prevent forwards gaining any initiative while Roy quietly swept up anything that arrived on the deck.

The final four selections cover the largely successful latter stages of Gordon's managerial period at the club. A young **Alan Massey** arrived on loan from Wycombe Wanderers in 2007, all left foot, ariel power and belligerence. Released by the Chair-boys, "The Mass" joined permanently and went on to play 222 games for the club before departing to Braintree Town in 2013. The Ryman Premier Division champions of 2013-14 had three players vying for the two centre back places, **Sean Cronin**, **Wes Parker** and **Tom Hamblin**. All three were excellent readers of the game, good on the ball and dominant in the air. Wes had that added ingredient of absolute cynicism. The phrase, "he took a card for the team" might have been invented for Wes. Sean was a great character and was skilled enough to perform well in midfield or up front - and was even called upon to play in goal!

More recently the club has fielded several fine centre backs such as Connor Stevens and Charlie Barker, but only captain **Jack Cook**, the great Jack, can possibly qualify having already made over 200 appearances since joining in 2021 and, of course, leading out the team at Wembley just a few short months ago.

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Wealdstone v Carlisle United, August 28th 2026

1st XI stats 26/27

Comp | Score | Crowd (Away) | Lge | Goal scorers

AUGUST	8	AFC Fylde	ENL	2-2	1,103	179	14	Norris, Olomola
	15	HARROGATE TOWN	ENL	1-3	1,517	123	19	Obiero
	18	WOLVES	NLC	1-3	227	TBC	19	Callum
	22	Worthing	ENL	0-1	2,235	344	21	
	28	CARLISLE UNITED	ENL	1-1	1,995	438	22	Henry
	31	Sutton United	ENL	2-0	2,197	212	17	Obiero (2)
SEPTEMBER	5	KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS	ENL	1-4	1,676	246	20	McAvoy
	8	STOKE CITY	NLC	6-0	146	---	20	Waweru (3), Kaunda (2), Olomola
	12	Boston United	ENL					
	15	FC HALIFAX TOWN	ENL					
	19	Tamworth	ENL					
	26	GATESHEAD	ENL					
	29	Forest Green Rovers	ENL					
OCTOBER	3	Barrow AFC	ENL					
	10	YEovil TOWN	ENL					
	17	(To Be Determined)	FA Cup 40					
	20	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	NLC					
	24	Aldershot Town	ENL					
	27	SOLIHULL MOORS	ENL					
NOVEMBER	31	SOUTHEND UNITED	ENL					
	3	DERBY COUNTY	NLC					
	7	(Match dependent)	FA Cup 1P					
	14	Hartlepool United	ENL					
	21	HORNCHURCH	ENL					
	24	Altrincham	ENL					
	27	Scunthorpe United	ENL					
DECEMBER	4	WOKING	ENL					
	9	Yeovil Town	ENL					
	12	(To Be Determined)	FAT 3P					
	20	BARROW AFC	ENL					
	26	Boreham Wood	ENL					
	29	EASTLEIGH	ENL					
JANUARY	2	ALDERSHOT TOWN	ENL					
	9	Solihull Moors	ENL					
	23	Harrogate Town	ENL					
	27	ALTRINCHAM	ENL					
FEBRUARY	30	AFC FYLDE	ENL					
	6	Hornchurch	ENL					
	13	Gateshead	ENL					
	16	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	ENL					
	20	TAMWORTH	ENL					
	23	FC Halifax Town	ENL					
	27	WORTHING	ENL					
MARCH	6	Carlisle United	ENL					
	9	SUTTON UNITED	ENL					
	13	Kidderminster Harriers	ENL					
	20	BOSTON UNITED	ENL					
	26	Eastleigh	ENL					
	29	BOREHAM WOOD	ENL					
APRIL	3	Southend United	ENL					
	10	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	ENL					
	17	Woking	ENL					
	24	SCUNTHORPE UNITED	ENL					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Dante BAPTISTE	Jack COOK	Joe NEWTON	Jack WELLS-MORRISON	Dion CONROY	Mason BARRETT	Luke NORRIS	Dylan KAD-JI	Olufela OLOMOLA	Jayden HARRIS	Joan CHESTERS	Aiden FRANCIS-CLARKE	Endurance JOHNSON	Micah OBIERO	Aaron HENRY	Josh MULLINS	Admiral MUSKWE	Kyle SMITH	Wilson WAWERU	Lee CALLUM	Jeffrey SEKERE	Connor MCAVOY	Jayvin MUNDLE-SMITH	Decario MCKAIN	Seamus ATEM	Enoch FOLORUNSHO	Aaron FERNANDEZ	Oskar ZEZULA	Amaru KAUNDA	Tyrelle NEWTON	Josh CLAY	James HOLDEN
1	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

KEY

- Starter
- 1st player off
- 2nd player off
- 3rd player off
- 4th player off
- 5th player off
- Substitute
- 1st player on
- 2nd player on
- 3rd player on
- 4th player on
- 5th player on



The Big Picture

Spot the ball? Kyle Smith whips in a cross on an ultimately very disappointing afternoon for the Stones here at Grosvenor Vale against Kidderminster Harriers the Saturday before last.

Picture courtesy of Jon Taffel (@RonnieRaffie)

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

14th July	QPR Under 21s	H	1	2-4	Olomola, Trialist	(Att: 354)
18th July	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN	H	1	0-3	Trialist	-
21st July	Chertsey Town	A	1	0-3	-	-
25th July	MK DONS	A	2	0-0	Obiero, Trialist	-
28th July	AFC WIMBLEDON	H	1	0-0	Chesters	(Att: 444)
1st August	Slough Town	A	2	0-0	Trialist, Olomola	(Att: 569)

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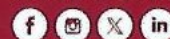
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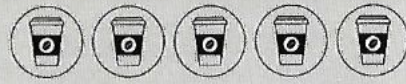
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the day WFC staged a pop concert

lots of mistakes but it was a memorable afternoon in the sun for 3,500 music fans at our old lower mead



Tim Parks



RECENT talk of staging a music festival at Grosvenor Vale brought back memories of a notable event at our old Lower Mead ground in central Harrow back in the summer of 1972.

Apparently prompted by Elton John performing a fundraising concert at Watford's Vicarage Road earlier that summer, the Stones hierarchy believed our Southern League club could make a tidy profit if 10,000 people attended the event... but unfortunately only

about 3,500 tickets were sold and the club lost over £1,000. In today's comparison that would be around £12,000.

But those who were there, sitting on the grassy pitch or watching from the terraces recalled a long, hot afternoon in the broiling July heat.

Wealdstone fan Mick Fishman, who was 19 at the time, recalls a wasted opportunity and painful sunburn!

"I only went because it was at Lower Mead and a novelty. I used to go to a lot of gigs and concerts but this one was quite low key without a real headline act.

"If the club had splashed out on one of the major bands of the time

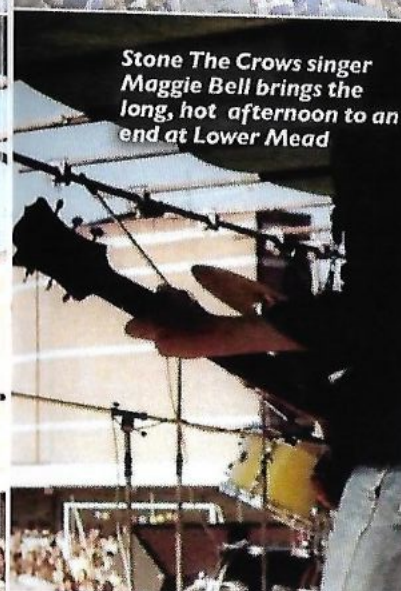
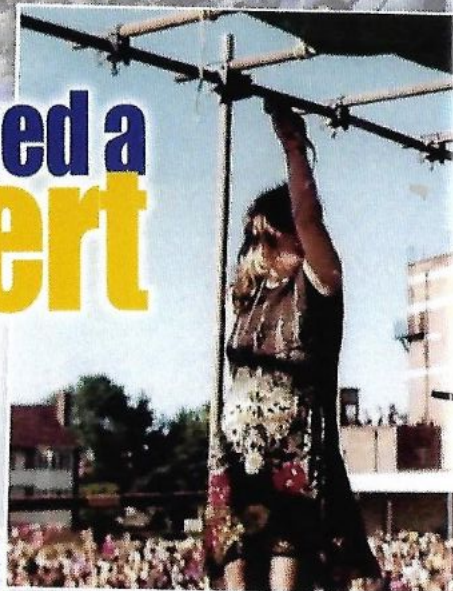
it could have been a real money-spinner"

Top of the bill were Stone The Crows (presumably not just invited because of their name), a moderately well known rock band with a few middling chart hits.

Another Stones fan, "Deadly" Doug Robinson, 20 at the time, was also at the gig. "I paid on the gate and the main topic of conversation was the fact that Stone The Crows' lead guitarist Les Harvey had been fatally electrocuted at an concert in Swansea only two months earlier. We wondered how the band would react".

The band's vocalist, Maggie Bell, was still really emotional and carried on singing even after the

Stone The Crows singer Maggie Bell brings the long, hot afternoon to an end at Lower Mead



set finished, according to the Harrow Observer.

"I can't remember much of it as I had discovered the wine and beer stalls – plus I think somebody slipped a tab into my drink at one time, just for fun, as I was out of it for most of the afternoon," said Doug.

His mate Pete Jeffries – who was 16 then – was also at the concert with his Stones' supporting pal Graham Bund and he particularly remembers our young striker Billy Byrne acting as one of the stewards, top off in the sunshine and with an arm band!

"Billy was an amateur, a real prospect and he was there with some of his mates just earning a bit of money on the side."

Probably the biggest name on stage

was compere John Peel, but Atomic Rooster, Roy Young and Walnut were also on the bill... and the bands' combined efforts over eight hours led to a barrage of complaints about the noise from local residents. See Harrow Observer report (right).

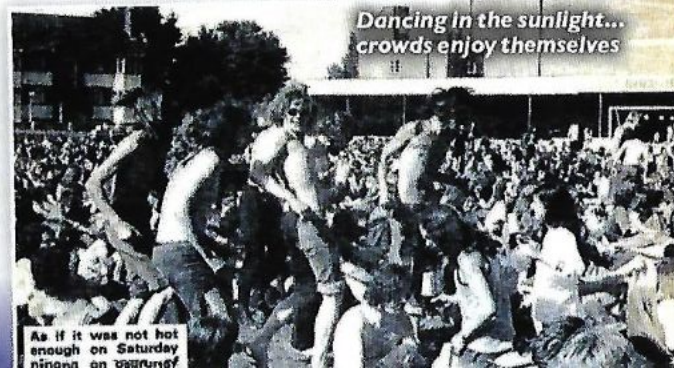
The acoustics were actually a major problem for both the musicians and the crowd, with the stage constructed in front and above the main stand at Lower Mead, facing the High Mead flats. The music press were very critical of the venue with an "unacceptable one-second bounceback (echo) from the surrounding flats, cinema, and football stands making it almost impossible to enjoy the music".

It was an era of trying out new ways to raise money for our cash-strapped club. A year or so later the Stones staged a limited overs floodlit cricket match on the pitch, featuring Middlesex CC from memory, but tickets sales were so low that another expensive loss was on the cards.

Fortunately it rained so heavily that evening that the game had to be called off - allowing the club to claim on the wise insurance policy taken out. I believe we even made a small profit!

In the 1980s, of course the club allowed Fulham Rugby League club to stage a couple of games on the Lower Mead pitch in front of decent 700 or 800 crowds.

Dancing in the sunlight... crowds enjoy themselves



As if it was not hot enough on Saturday night on the pitch...

Pop concert brings noise complaints

HARROW rocked on Saturday when a pop concert was held at Wealdstone Football Club, to the delight of 3,500 youngsters and to the disgust of many residents, who complained bitterly about the noise.

The concert, organised in aid of club funds, was expected to attract about 10,000 fans but at the most 3,500 attended. And instead of a huge profit, the club estimates that it made a £1,000 loss.

However, the club intends to hold another concert next year organised by the Robert Stigwood Organisation.

Soon after the music started on Saturday Harrow police started to receive calls from people objecting to the noise. Well over a hundred complaints were made to the station.

The police told the complainants that there was nothing they could do as the festival had been licensed by the Greater London Council. Harrow Council, apparently, has little say in the matter.

'Excessive'

Cllr. Cyril Harrison, leader of the Labour group on Harrow Council said: "I heard it when I was on the other side of the railway bridge near the Civic Centre. I would have thought that people nearby would have had cause for complaint as it was excessively loud. I am all for this sort of activity so long as it does not cause any annoyance."

At about 5.30 the sound amplification seemed to have been stepped up, in spite of a police request to turn it down, and at West Harrow every word of the "disc jockey" over the public address system could be clearly heard.



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wfesc update

John
Young



Good Afternoon to fans, players, management team and board members of Halifax.

At time of writing Halifax sit in 17th one point ahead of the Stones.

After two very decent performances versus Carlisle then Sutton we came crashing down against Kidderminster who totally out played us second half with 10 men.

I'm delighted to write that both gentlemen taken ill during the Kidderminster game are now ok, discharged from hospital and recovering from their ordeals. On a personal note I have known one of the two taken ill, Matt Chambetain (Potsy) for nearly 50 years so was great to hear he is now recovering.

In other news the Supporters Club have launched Junior Stones membership, membership forms have been handed out and can be returned to the Captains Lounge or Supporters Club Shop.

We want our next generation of supporters to feel more connection to the club and as membership grows we have things planned.

It is a one off payment of £17.50 and membership runs from 1 month old - 18.

On joining you will receive choice of a Wembley T-Shirt, Water Bottle, scarf or flag as a free gift.

If you are interested in joining, application forms are available from the Captains Lounge or club shop.

We still have a couple of players kits available to sponsor and a few games where match ball donor required. Any individual or group of friends interested please ask for John or Peter in the Captains Lounge for details or ring John 07874846785 Peter 07967698370 and thanks to all

those who have already sponsored.

So here's to a positive result on the pitch this afternoon for the Stones and a safe journey home to everyone from Halifax.

John

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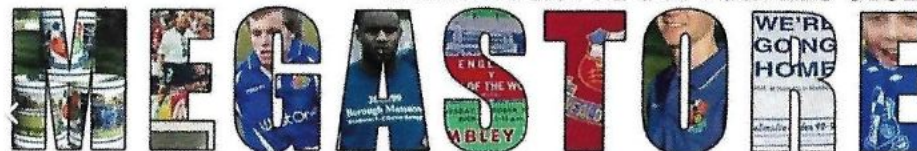
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26/27 first team appearances

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	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G
Baptiste, Dante	5															5			69	1	
Barrett, Mason	3	2														3	2		55	21	2
Chesters, Dan	2	1								1						3	1		3	1	
Conroy, Dion	5															5			5		
Folorunsho, Enoch										1						1			1		
Francis-Clarke, Aiden	1	2								1						2	2		2	2	
Harris, Jayden	2	3								1						3	3		3	3	
Henry, Aaron	4		1							1						5		1	41	4	5
Holden, James										1						1			1		
Kadji, Dylan	4									1						5			44	9	3
Kaunda, Amaru										1						1			1		
Lee, Callum										1	1					1	1		1	1	
McAvoy, Connor	5															5			89	3	7
McKain, Decanio										1						1			1		
Mullins, Josh		1								1						1	1		1	1	
Mundle-Smith, Jaydn	2	2								1						3	2		108	18	5
Newton, Joe	3	1														3	1		3	1	
Newton, Tyrelle		1														1			1		
Norris, Luke	5		1													5		1	5		1
Obiero, Micah	5		3													5		3	137	40	35
Olomola, Olafela	1	4	1							1						2	4	1	63	37	20
Smith, Kyle	3	2								1						4	2		17	3	2
Wawero, Wilson		2								1						1	2		1	2	
Wells-Morrison, Jack	5															5			35	5	2
Zezula, Oskar										1						1			1		



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Tim Parks



who moved the goalposts

A whimsical journey into the fantasy land of goals, stanchions, nets... and football's forgotten time

I've been fascinated by goalposts since I was about 12 years old.

For some people, sitting alongside their innate love for the game, it's floodlight pylons; for some it's the surroundings of the stadium; for some it's the buzz of visiting a new ground.

But for me it's the thrill of seeing the ball hit the net, and the myriad of different ways that happens.

And the posts are a huge part of that. This revisit to a topic - first aired four or five years ago - was sparked by the acquisition of new nets at Grosvenor Vale. Maybe I was the only one to notice but they seemed somehow different

(pictured right) when I turned up for the first friendly against QPR in July.

And our secretary 'Fingers' Fruin confirmed the fact. "Yes, they only last about two years and we replaced our all-blue nets in pre-season with a set of blue and white ones.. you probably didn't notice that they were full of holes (that's the point, surely!) and we had loads of cable ties knitting the net together where the gaps had appeared". So now we know!

Fingers also pointed out that the iron 'back bars', or stanchions, were replaced by lightweight aluminium ones at the same time. "Much easier to collapse after the game", said our esteemed

secretary, and former groundsman.

Over the past 20 or 30 years the once-wonderful quirkiness of goals and their construction has been eroded to the simple and ubiquitous 'box-shape' goal. Pretty much every natural-grassed stadium in professional football now has these goalposts, with their nets suspended by a set of free-standing sticks set back from the frame. Even Grosvenor Vale had these

'Bundesliga' goals when we took over the lease and revamped the stadium in 2008 -

although when the behind-goals terracing had to come forward for the building of the Bulla and Modu stands the goals had to change to the shallower version you can see today.

But why not keep the 'Bundesliga' goals and just make the pitch shorter? "It would be too short" laughed Fingers. "The Vale only just conforms to minimum pitch length as it is".

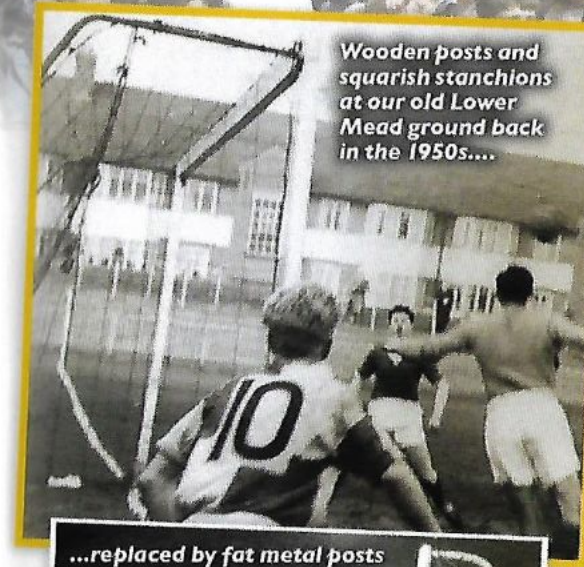
Should we ever reach the Premier League while still at the Vale (unlikely, it's true) we'd be in trouble with the authorities as box goals are essential. Goal Decision System software has to have an unimpeded view of the goalline from umpteen different angles. Woe betide a billowing net that might interrupt modern technology!

Actually, I'm a fan of box goals. Having played the



The new blue & white nets

The gorgeous square posts and endless netting at retro Hampden Park



Wooden posts and squarish stanchions at our old Lower Mead ground back in the 1950s....



...replaced by fat metal posts and skinny stanchions in the 1960s and 70s...



...and then back to square stanchions in the tight Cinema End goals of the 80s and 90s

game until relatively recently, the swish as the ball hits the back of a net goal and is 'pocketed' is very satisfying. They end the curse of the old, traditional stanchion goals of the 60s, 70s and 80s - with the ball quite often bouncing out again after striking the metal stanchion full-on. It confused referees and linesmen into disallowing perfectly valid goals and vice versa when the ball hit the sidenetting in an unusual manner.

Have a look on *You Tube* at Alan Hudson's 'goal' for Chelsea against Ipswich in the 1970s. I was actually in the North Stand behind that goal at Stamford Bridge, and it was bleedin' obvious that the ball had gone wide of the near post. Yet the ref boldly gave the goal (despite being just 15 yards away)

and his assistant (on the wrong side of the pitch and with his view obstructed) was of no assistance whatsoever.

And then in the early 80s, Palace's Clive

Allen hit a stonking shot from 15 yards on Match of the Day that beat the keeper all ends up in a Div One game, only for it to smack against the stanchion and rebound straight out.

This time the referee refused the goal, to everybody's astonishment! Pundit Jimmy Hill, back in the studio, suggested that the official should run 20

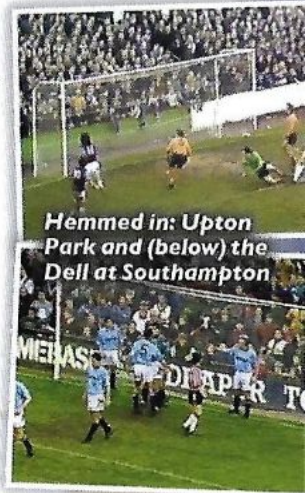
yards over to where the camera was situated to watch a replay. Jimmy was 40 years ahead of his time.

I think what I really loved about those old-fashioned goals was their sheer originality. Often it was the surroundings that dictated the style of the goalposts: Grounds like Stamford Bridge, Wembley and Hampden Park could accommodate dreamily-deep nets with stanchions that seemed to go on forever.

Wembley was, for me, the tops. The posts changed from square and wooden to tubular, white-painted steel sometime in the 1970s but the pleasingly deep-stanchion style remained unchanged right up until the Euros in 1996. Yes, box goals took over.

As a boy, having enjoyed the rarity of a live FA Cup

continued overpage



Hemmed in: Upton Park and (below) the Dell at Southampton

who moved the goalposts contd...

from previous page

Final at Wembley, the action switched to Hampden for high-lights of the Scottish Cup Final where invariably there were a glut of goals - and on each occasion the hapless keeper was required to delve deep into the endless netting to retrieve the ball. Glorious!

It was the polar opposite at Upton Park or The Dell, Southampton (pictured on the previous page). Remember the short, square stanchions that were barely deep enough to prevent a defender getting his studs tangled in the net as he attempted to clear the ball off the line?

The crowd, crammed in behind the goal were within touching distance of the players and a well-struck shot looked set to catch someone full in the face until the net stopped the ball barely inches short of its flinching target. The nets had to be kept strung tight to contain the ball and thus the ball was often ballooned back out of the goal to be caught by celebrating players.

And then the Wednesday nights watching Sportsnight with Coleman on the BBC. English clubs involved in European Cup action at far-off places, in vast, ancient stadiums with eccentric goalposts and stanchions. Did you ever see anything like the posts (above) with four curved stanchions in Slovakia?

Or posts painted in black and white hoops, as in Malta v England in 1971 (above). On a pitch made of shale! These were the sort of eccentric goals that fired my teenage imagination, and of course I have lots of affection for the posts at the Stones' old Lower Mead ground.

As you can see from the pictures on the previous page, the 1960s and 70s set-up at our Lower Mead Theatre of Dreams featured fat, fat posts and skinny stanchions that begged the ball to be banged in the



Below: Alan Clarke and Paul Reaney look confused by the belisha-beacon goalposts in Malta at the 1971 Euro Championship game



top corner. Sometimes in the 80s, unheralded, they changed to wider, square stanchions and heavy, hooligan-proof mesh nets.

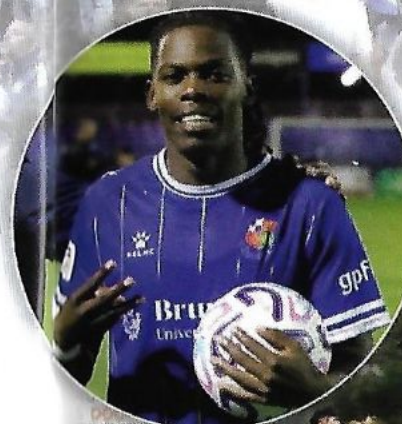
But have a close look at the wooden posts and crossbar on the top picture on the previous page. These are clearly handmade goals and they're not even of a uniform size, looking more like a piece of 4ins x 2ins that could be bought from a local timber yard!

Until tubular steel became the norm, every goal in English football looked like this, although the most famous wooden posts stood at Hampden Park in Glasgow. These square wooden posts attained a type of infamy in the 1976 European Cup Final between Bayern Munich and St Etienne...the French side struck the crossbar

twice in a manner that would surely have seen the ball bounce down and into the net if the by-then-popular round posts were in place. Bayern held on for a 1-0 win but the clarification for square posts to be banned finally saw UEFA capitulate in 1987.

Hampden was one of the last bastions of these old-fashioned posts and the famous uprights were later stored at the Glasgow Football Museum - until St Etienne decided to actually BUY the posts last year. So many of the French club's fans had made the pilgrimage to Glasgow to gaze upon the wooden goals that denied them glory 46 years ago that St Etienne splashed out 20,000 Euros to take the totemic posts 'home' across the English Channel.

Makes you wonder what happened to the goals at Lower Mead. I reckoned they're stored in somebody's garage, awaiting an offer that can't be refused from a non-League football aficionado. A fiver's my opening bid!



Hat-trickster Wilson Waweru claims the match ball after sinking Stoke, with his opening goal expertly captured by Jon Taffel. Right: Skipper Jack Cook made a welcome return

No sooner had we been talking about the new nets at the Vale than they were seriously billowing last Tuesday night in a rather one-sided National League Cup Group A game against Stoke City's under-21 youngsters.

It was a personal triumph for Wilson Waweru, our 25-year-old capture from League of Ireland side Cobh Ramblers who was handed Micah Obiero's striking responsibility - and ended the night with a hat-trick. There was

also an impressive brace from former Cambridge United striker Amaru Kaunda as the Stones ran riot against the Championship side's Premier League Two squad.

Gary Waddock rang the changes after the disappointing collapse to Kidderminster and the impressive Joe Newton set up Waweru to volley in, via the crossbar, for 1-0 after 28 minutes. It was 2-0 four minutes after the break as a cute through ball saw Waweru round the keeper and slot home... and

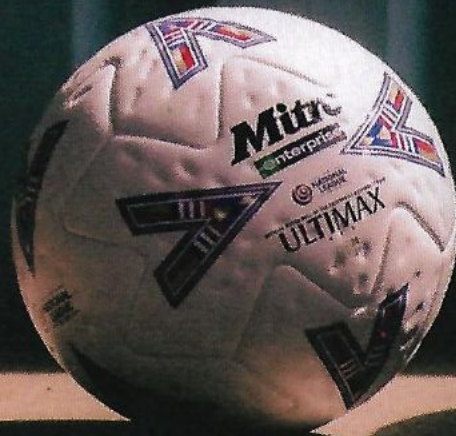
then, after a day of heavy and much-needed rain, came a second-half deluge. Waweru turned provider as he slipped Amaru Kaunda in for a simple finish - his first touch since coming on as substitute - and then it was the turn of the lively Fela Olomoloto bang the ball past the ailing Noah Cooper in the Stoke goal.

Dan Chesters set up Waweru's hat-trick strike for 5-0, and the scoring was completed by the razor-sharp Kaunda in the 78th minute as another Chesters cross unzipped the Stoke defence.

It was a quiet evening for Endurance Johnson in the Stones goal while centre-backs Jack Cook (his first game since Wembley) and Aaron Fernandez were both in commanding form. A good night for the Stones!

Amaru Kaunda also scored twice on the night!





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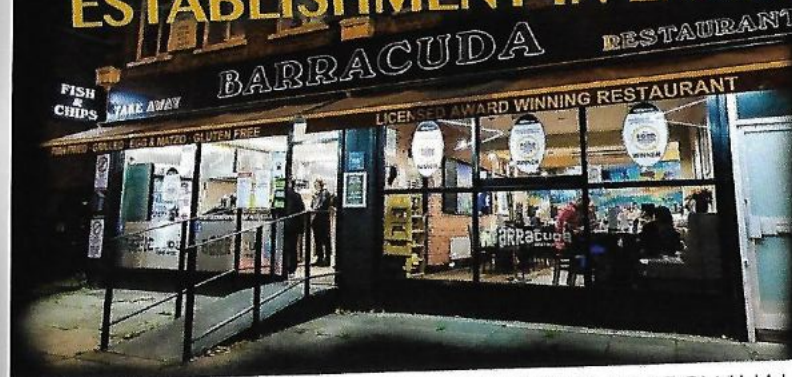
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Jim Sorrell



Dion CONROY
James Conroy



Mason BARRETT
Izzy Randall



Luke NORRIS
Councillors Richard Mills, Peter Smallwood & Steve Tuckwell



Dylan KADJI
Sudhir, Akhil, Nikhil, Sarin & Kamran Rawal



Olafela OLOMOLA
Norwich Singing Man and Hampshire Rose



Jayden HARRIS



Dan CHESTERS
Stones Old Salvos



Aiden FRANCIS-CLARKE
James, John, Matt, Pete and Victor



Endurance JOHNSON



Micah OBIERO

James, John, Matt, Pete and Victor



Aaron HENRY

StonesCast



Josh MULLINS



Admiral MUSKWE
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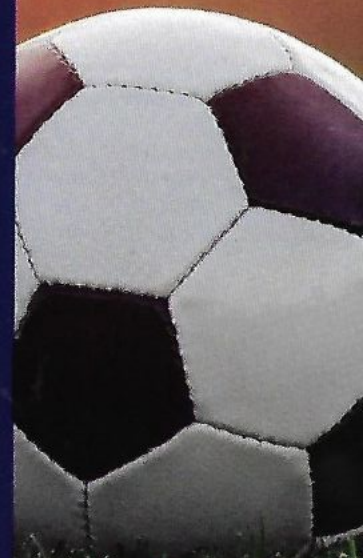
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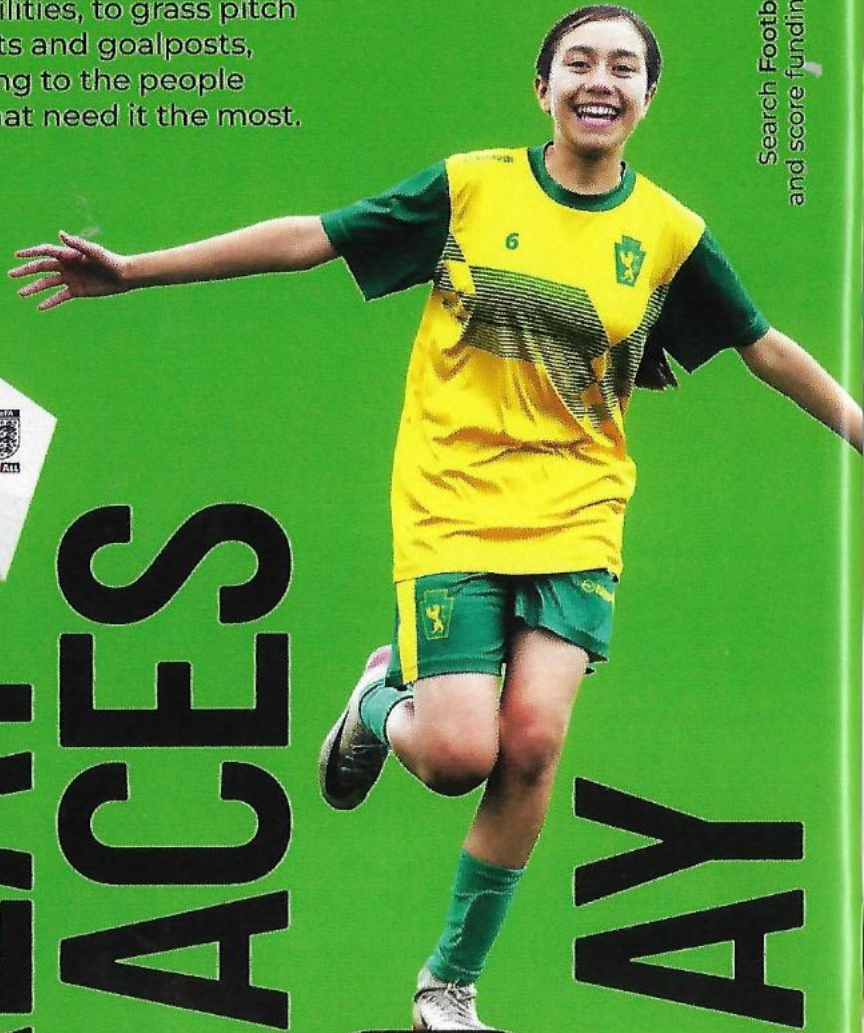


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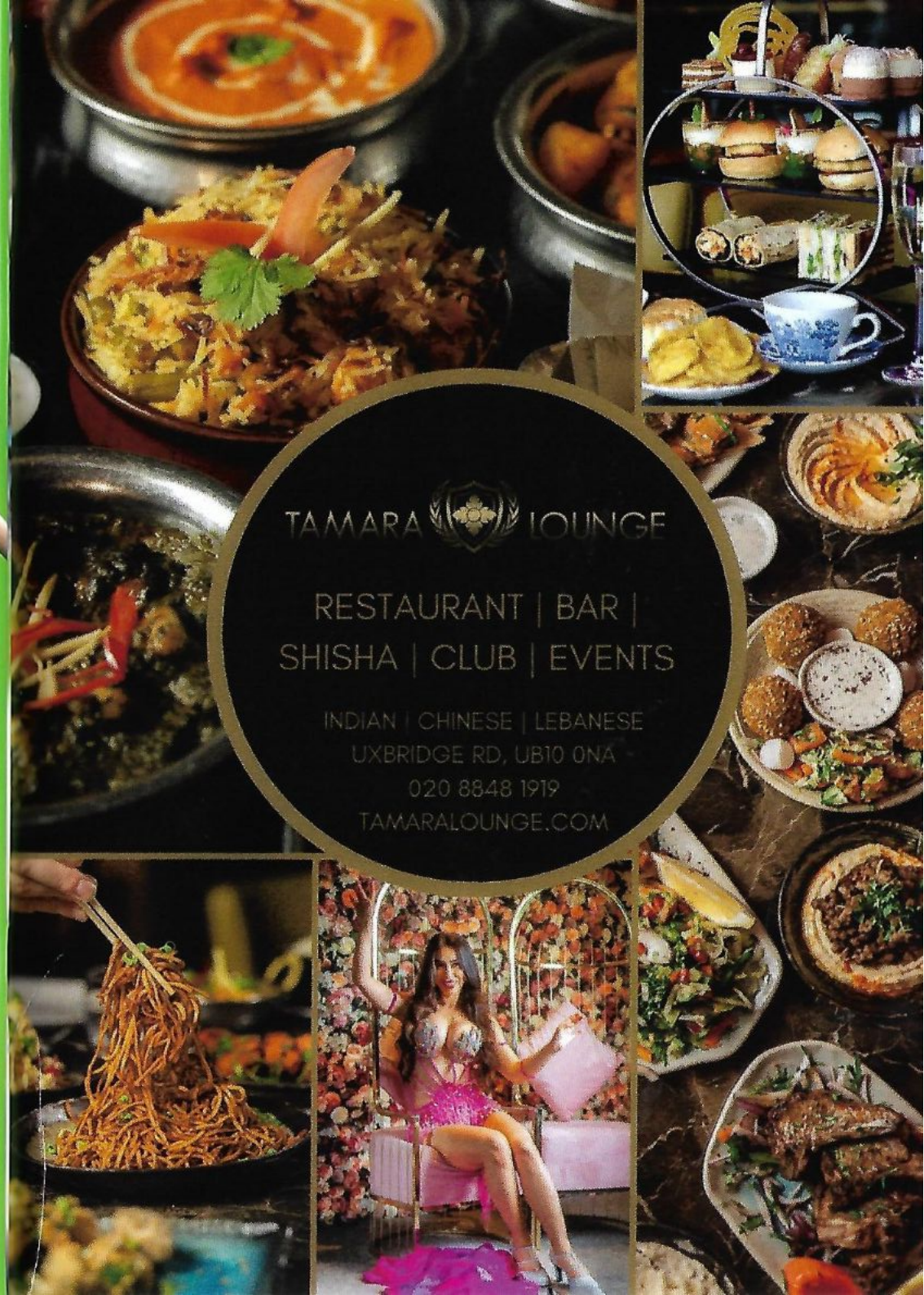
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As a Wealdstone FC match sponsor you will enjoy match tickets for 4 people (inc. prime main stand seats if required); a fantastic advertising package, including publicity over the PA system; website and social media together with a piece in the programme; 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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CARLISLE UNITED August 28, Enterprise National League

MATCH SPONSOR: NBM Technology
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BALL DONOR: Put you or your organisations name here

YEOVIL TOWN October 10, Enterprise National League

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SOLIHULL MOORS October 27, Enterprise National League

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SOUTHEND UNITED October 31, Enterprise National League

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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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FOREST GREEN ROVERS February 16, Enterprise National League

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TAMWORTH February 20, Enterprise National League

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SCUNTHORPE UNITED March 24, Enterprise National League

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Upcoming games

Other National League games tonight

Aldershot Town vs Yeovil Town
 Boston United vs Woking
 Carlisle United vs Forest Green
 Harrogate Town vs AFC Fylde

Solihull Moors vs Barrow
 Southend United vs Tamworth
 Sutton United vs Eastleigh
 Worthing vs Hornchurch

Home fixtures

Gateshead



Saturday
 26th September
 3:00pm

Enterprise National League

Yeovil Town



Saturday
 10th October
 3:00pm

Enterprise National League

Nottingham Forest



Tuesday
 20th October
 7:00pm

National League Cup

Away fixtures



Tamworth

Saturday
 19th September
 3:00pm

Enterprise National League

Forest Green Rovers



Tuesday
 29th September
 7:45pm

Enterprise National League

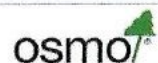


Barrow AFC

Saturday
 3rd October
 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 @ 9th September 2026

	HOME				AWAY				ALL GAMES					vs. Stones		
	P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
1 Boreham Wood	3	2	1	0	3	3	0	0	6	5	1	0	16	8	8	16
2 Harrogate Town	3	2	1	0	3	2	0	1	6	4	1	1	15	9	6	13
3 Southend United	3	2	0	1	3	2	1	0	6	4	1	1	12	8	4	13
4 Hornchurch	3	2	0	1	3	2	0	1	6	4	0	2	10	8	2	12
5 Sutton United	3	2	0	1	3	2	0	1	6	4	0	2	7	6	1	12
6 AFC Fylde	3	1	2	0	3	2	0	1	6	3	2	1	13	9	4	11
7 Yeovil Town	3	2	1	0	3	1	1	1	6	3	2	1	12	8	4	11
8 Kidderminster Harriers	3	1	2	0	3	2	0	1	6	3	2	1	10	7	3	11
9 Aldershot Town	3	2	0	1	3	1	2	0	6	3	2	1	7	4	3	11
10 Eastleigh	3	2	1	0	3	1	0	2	6	3	1	2	8	7	1	10
11 Hartlepool United	3	2	0	1	3	1	0	2	6	3	0	3	5	4	1	9
12 Altrincham	3	2	0	1	3	1	0	2	6	3	0	3	7	8	-1	9
13 Forest Green Rovers	3	1	0	2	3	2	0	1	6	3	0	3	7	10	-3	9
14 Carlisle United	3	2	0	1	3	0	2	1	6	2	2	2	13	10	3	8
15 Boston United	3	1	0	2	3	1	1	1	6	2	1	3	8	8	0	7
16 Worthing	3	1	0	2	3	1	1	1	6	2	1	3	11	12	-1	7
17 FC Halifax Town	3	2	0	1	3	0	0	3	6	2	0	4	9	10	-1	6
18 Barrow	3	1	0	2	3	0	2	1	6	1	2	3	8	9	-1	5
19 Tamworth	3	1	1	1	3	0	1	2	6	1	2	3	12	16	-4	5
20 Wealdstone	3	0	1	2	3	1	1	1	6	1	2	3	7	11	-4	5
21 Scunthorpe United	3	1	1	1	3	0	0	3	6	1	1	4	8	12	-4	4
22 Gateshead	3	1	1	1	3	0	0	3	6	1	1	4	5	9	-4	4
23 Woking	3	1	1	1	3	0	0	3	6	1	1	4	4	10	-6	4
24 Solihull Moors	3	0	0	3	3	0	1	2	6	0	1	5	6	17	-11	1



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