How they line up today

WEALDSTONE			YEOVIL TOWN
Dante-Astor BAPTISTE 1			1 Jos BARKER
Jack COOK © 2			2 Joy MUKENA
Joe NEWTON 3			3 Jordan NORVILLE-WILLIAMS
Jack WELLS-MORRISON 4			4 Hayden MULLER
Dion CONROY 5			5 Jack KINGDON
Mason BARRETT 6			6 Loick AYINA
Luke NORRIS 7			7 Mason OBENG
Dylan KADJI 8			8 Luke McCORMICK
Olufela OLOMOLA 9			9 Stephen WALKER
Jayden HARRIS 10			10 Ryan JONES
Dan CHESTERS 11			11 James DALY
Aidan FRANCIS-CLARKE 12			12 Archie DAVIES
Endurance JOHNSON 13			14 Brett McGAVIN
Aaron HENRY 15			15 Joe GUBBINS
Carmichael UCHENNA 16			16 Ben RADCLIFFE
Admiral MUSKWE 17			17 Joe HAIGH
Kyle SMITH 18			19 Slavi SPASOV
Wilson WAWERU 19			20 Johl POWELL
Milton ONI 20			22 Matt GOULD
Jeffrey SEKYERE 21			25 Zain WESTBROOKE
Connor McAVOY © 22			27 Charlie LENNON
Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23			35 Dan ELLISON
Fejiri OKENABIRHIE 26			37 Liam NARDIELLO
Tyrelle NEWTON 27			
Amaru KAUNDA 29			
Ronan MAHER 31			
Abraham KANU 32			

Referee: Callum Jones Assistant referees: Harley Hetherington and Ciaran Fidler
Fourth Official: Brandon Scaife Coach: Stephen Child

Match sponsor: To Be Announced ***Ball donor:*** Tony Paulley

NEXT HOME GAMES: v WORTHING FA Cup 4th Qual Rd, Sat October 17, 3pm
v NOTTM FOREST NL Cup Group A, Tuesday Oct 20, 7pm (or FA Cup replay)

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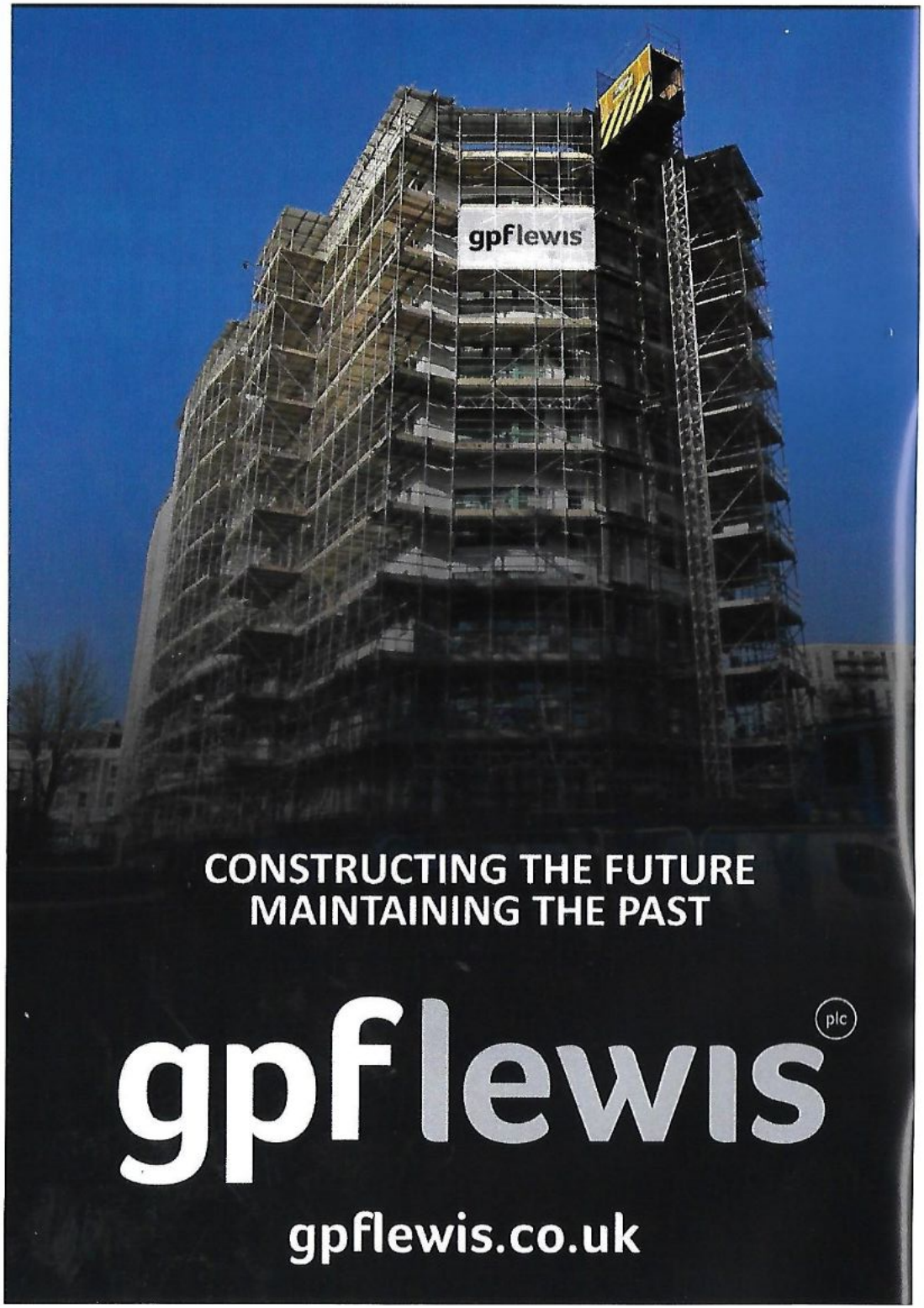
A terrific snap of our outstanding central defender Aidan Francis-Clarke against Gateshead Picture: Jon Taffel

v Yeovil Town

Enterprise National League
Saturday 10 October 2026, 3pm

Season 2026-27: Programme £3

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NATIONAL LEAGUE



written in stone



Mark Hyde

A very warm welcome to everyone at Grosvenor Vale this afternoon for our latest National League fixture, as we welcome Yeovil Town to The Vale.

There has been plenty to talk about since our last home game, with the Stones producing an outstanding performance against Gateshead. A convincing 4–0 victory at the Vale saw goals from Olufela Olomola, Luke Norris, Jack Wells-Morrison and Jack Cook, giving everyone around the ground plenty to celebrate. It was a result that showcased the quality and attacking threat within the squad, while also providing a clean sheet and a thoroughly deserved three points. The atmosphere around the ground was a reminder of just how important the support from the stands can be. There is a special feeling at The Vale when the team and supporters are pulling in the same direction.

Three days later, Wealdstone travelled to Forest Green Rovers and continued that positive momentum with a 1–1 draw. It meant two unbeaten matches in succession and offered another encouraging sign of the team's resilience.

Last weekend saw the side make the long trip north to face Barrow at Holker Street. The Stones were involved in a closely fought contest and looked to have earned a valuable point after Ronan Maher cancelled out Rekeem Harper's opener. Unfortunately, a late Keaton Ward goal in stoppage time gave Barrow a 2–1 victory.

That defeat will only increase the determination to respond positively today, and there is no better opportunity than in front of our own supporters. Yeovil Town arrive at Grosvenor Vale for what promises to be another competitive National League encounter having enjoyed a 6-0 victory over Boston United last Saturday and currently sit in an impressive fourth place in the table.

There is also plenty of excitement on the horizon following Monday afternoon's Emirates FA Cup Fourth Qualifying Round draw. We have been handed a home tie against Worthing, giving us the chance to avenge our tight 1-0 defeat to them earlier this season and more importantly, another chance to reach the First Round Proper.

But before then, our focus is firmly on Yeovil Town and the important task in front of us this afternoon.

Games such as this are what make following Wealdstone so special. The results may not always go the way we want, but there is always another game, another challenge and another opportunity to create a memorable afternoon together.

So, to our supporters, thank you once again for your magnificent backing. Whether you have travelled the length of the country with us or are here at The Vale every other Saturday, your support matters enormously to everyone connected with the club.

Special thanks also to todays Ball Donor Tony Paulley. Tony's support of Wealdstone FC goes back many years and he has always been generous with his sponsorships.

Let's get behind the team this afternoon, make plenty of noise and hopefully enjoy another successful afternoon.

Come on, Stones!

Mark



Ball Donor **TONY PAULLEY**

WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2026/2027

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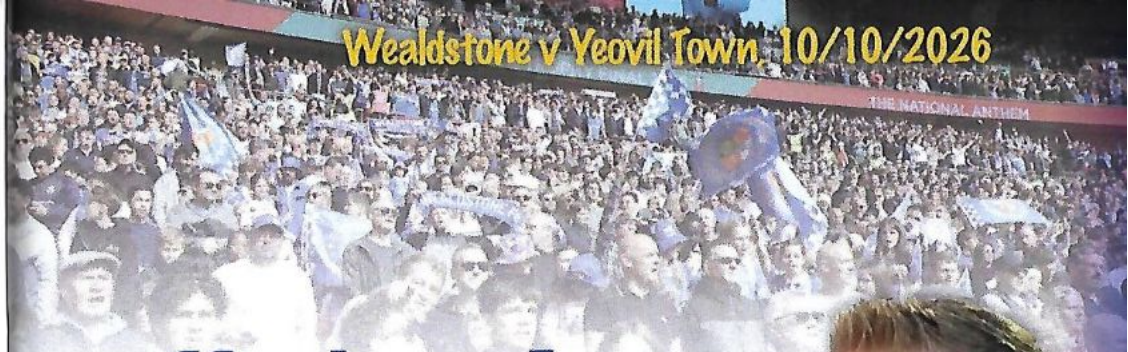
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People are only allowed entry to The Vale on match days subject to the following rules and regulations:
1) The club reserves the right to eject from the ground any person who is considered to have committed any of the following acts:
• Entering the 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



gaffer's column
gary waddock





Tim Parks

YOU could forgive Gary Waddock for naming Groundhog Day as his least favourite film after the parallel events of the defeats at Tamworth and Barrow.

Right in the game until a desperate sending off, and then surrendering all three points in a gut-wrenching finish.

"Well, we certainly make life difficult for ourselves" he admitted wryly. "I think some of our football, particularly in the draw at Forest Green Rovers draw was excellent - and you cannot question the effort and resilience - and so it's bitterly disappointing to have come through both games with just one point."



Certainly, with half an hour at Barrow still to play after Dylan Kadji's red card, it was always likely to prove fatal. Barrow had scored seven goals in their previous two games and they turned the screw against the 10 men.. although it took till the 93rd minu.te for the breakthrough.

Dante Baptiste's penalty save from Alex Reid ultimately proved irrelevant.

"It's easy to look back with hindsight but we did think about replacing Dylan after that first yellow card. We spoke to him about how he had to be disciplined and not make any silly challenges".

In the light of our mounting injury list there wasn't an obvious replacement on the bench.

"Well we signed Milton Oni from Colchester the day before the game, and it's a good job that we did as he was able to step in and help out really well in the last 20 minutes.

"Apart from Kyle Smith, who could become available in the next week, and Dion Conroy who could well be in action in the same timeframe, there have been long-term injuries to Jayden Harris (hamstring) and Jaydn Mundle-Smith, and also of course Mason Barrett whose ACL injury could keep him out for a very long time.

"And after training on Friday Aaron Henry felt a twinge in his groin so we decided not to take him on the long journey," said Gary. "I told him he'd be spending six hours travelling there on the coach and six hours back and that's not gonna do you any favours - so we told him to rest up in preparation for this week's Yeovil game.

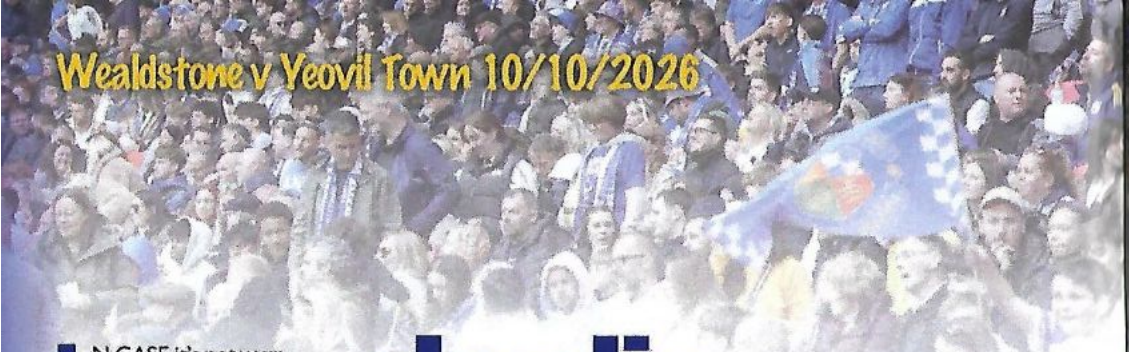
"Since we last spoke we've managed to bring Ronan Maher (left) into the group on loan from Walsall, Abraham Kanu on loan from Reading and also Carmichael Ukena who has been doing great things at Leverstock Green... plus Feji Okenabirhie who has lots of experience at EFL level.

"He came straight into the team at Forest Green with impact, and scored that important first goal that set us up to gain a good and well-deserved point.

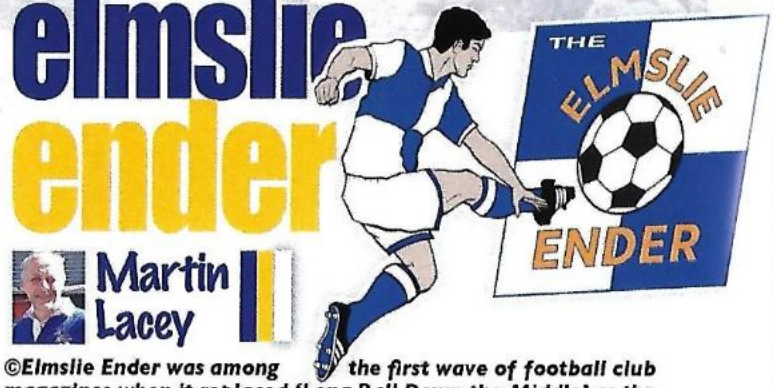
"Yeovil Town will be a big test this weekend – they're a good side and were my dark horses to do well this season. They're very well balanced and they're on a winning roll at the moment.

"But we'll be ready.. thanks for your support and UTS!"

'Red cards and late goals.. we're making life difficult for ourselves'



elmslie ender



Martin Lacey

©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

They went to all the way to the (blue) moon... but might City end up with a reverse journey to Grosvenor Vale?

IN CASE it's not your paper of choice, I'd like to point out that the *Guardian Online* ran a nice little feature (see opposite page) about our match against Gateshead on the slightly mocking pretext of preparing Manchester City fans for what they can expect if, as some speculate, they're banished to the National League next season.

What the writer failed to register is that Manchester City fans are already right at home at our modest but welcoming estate since every time they play at their second home, Wembley, they use the facilities at The Vale. To paraphrase a once popular terrace ditty… 'City boys (and girls), we are here, park our cars and drink your beer…'

Of course we all know this won't happen. The Premier League won't want to lose one of its cash-machine clubs, never mind get in a legal fees arms race with an entity which has bottomless pockets. Judging by the response to past misdemeanours City will get a slap on the wrist; maybe, in view of the scale of the alleged rule breaches, a slap on both wrists.

Unlike me as it is to side with the Goliath, I'm absolutely comfortable with that. If it turned out Sergio Aguerro was not actually a human being but a highly realistic robot created in an Abu Dhabi warehouse and powered by Chinese AI, that would be cheating. Paying out vast sums of money to get the best players, regardless of whether the finance was entirely transparent, well, that's not cheating, that's the way of football.



It's been like that since Sunderland were referred to as the 'Bank of England Club' in the 1940s, and doubtless if we go back to the 19th century there would be some local pie

Gateshead's fruitless trip south offers hint of Manchester City's doomsday future

entrepreneur stuffing 50% of the Saturday morning takings under the counter to pay the players off the record on Saturday afternoon.

'Financial fair play' is a farce while the level playing field is a fiction. The disparity in resources between the top and bottom of the Premier League is enormous anyway. That's why it's so boring. The same handful of teams hoovering up the top places year after year. When Leicester won it in 2016 (look where they are now) it was a miracle. Bournemouth and Sunderland qualifying for Europe is refreshing, but these are consolation prizes.

The same applies in non-league, except without the safety net of vast TV and sponsorship revenue. Our back-of-envelope calculations suggest there are teams in the National League spending eight times what Wealdstone do on player wages - and aren't much better off in the league table. Not only that, the clubs with the biggest crowds and resources are often the ones losing the most money when the accounts come out. Having money and spending it wisely are two very different things.

Still we don't learn. Still we long for that 'investor' regardless of the fact that non-league football is not an investment; it's a money pit! Whether it's some 'celebrity' you've never heard of with an ego the size of Jupiter, some dodgy money-laundering businessman, or a local person made good who genuinely wants to help their club and community, it almost invariably ends in tears. They get bored, they fall out with someone, they run out of money, or even find themselves inconveniently detained at His Majesty's Pleasure. (Yes, reminds me of a particular non-league club we met regularly in the 80s… Won't name them as I'm sure they're out by now!)

Already this season Ebbsfleet have gone to the brink. Gateshead and others are in turmoil. Be careful what you wish for.

And see you at the City of Manchester Stadium next season!

Among many doomsday scenarios facing Manchester City is plunging down the football pyramid. Would that be so bad? Instead of yawning at the prospect of yet another meeting with Real Madrid or repeated Avanti train-hampered journeys to Wembley, how about the exoticism of away travel to Wealdstone? In the National League, City's ownership may wish to know, there are no formal financial fair play or strict salary cap regulations.

Wrexham, Notts County and Chesterfield have taken advantage of such lax constraints to regenerate. For City fans, Ruislip's buzzy high street, full of nail bars, estate agents and a couple of homely pubs, would represent a welcome world away from Milan's Via Monte Napoleone, as would the suburbia of Grosvenor Vale, Wealdstone's home in the middle of a housing estate, which may jog memories of late-90s visits to Macclesfield and Lincoln. Simpler, happier times, perhaps.

On the fringes of west London, with rich, non-league history, last season's FA Trophy finalists, managed by the 1980s QPR hero Gary Waddock, Wealdstone is the club from where Stuart Pearce, Vinnie Jones and Jermaine Beckford began their journey.

In the digital age, the club became famous for the meme pioneer Gordon Parmar Hill, AKA the Wealdstone Raider, whose "you've got no fans" war cry went viral on a pandemic scale in 2014, the same year his assault on the UK Christmas No 1 with, naturally, "Got No Fans", reached No 5. The Raider even made himself available for hire on stag weekends, though despite a recent social media comeback that revenue stream has been shuttered, a quieter life now observed.

Before kick-off, the Vale club bar outside the stadium was doing brisk [illegible] fifth-tier club, drinking in view of the pitch is *verboten*. A



Above: The Guardian's take on the Man City crisis last week while (left) Erling Haaland 'Wealdstone Raider' memes broke out online. You want some?



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meet the new stones: it's fejiri okenabirhie



Tim Parks



Fejiri turns on the style in his goal-laden spells with Dagenham & Redbridge, Shrewsbury Town and Doncaster Rovers

FEJIRI OKENABIRHIE and Wealdstone are a match made in heaven! It's always good to hear of Harrow boys returning to play for the biggest club in NW London, and like local lad Fela Olomola, he is a perfect fit.

He doesn't like to talk about it now, for obvious reasons, but the only time 30-year-old Fejiri has played against Wealdstone in the past was to score the winning goal for rivals Harrow Borough in a Middlesex Cup tie 11 years ago... the decisive goal in a 3-2 win at Earlsmead during the season that put the then-19-year-old in the shop window.

Born and raised in Stanmore, he is in that happy new parent bubble at the moment after the birth, six weeks ago, of daughter Deja. After a decade of playing EFL football - and latterly, two years in the Egyptian Premier League with Modern Sport FC - Fejiri and wife Mica decided that they wanted to live in England when a baby came along.

"I'd always wanted to play abroad and funnily enough it was Abobaker Eisa (who was a big hit in a Wealdstone shirt ten years ago) my old Shrewsbury team mate who encouraged me" said Fejiri when I caught up with him in the team hotel on the eve of the Barrow away game.

"Abs has been playing in Thailand and we've stayed in touch ever since those Shrewsbury days - he's a good friend" says Fejiri. "The chance came up to sign for Modern Sport in the Egyptian Prem and I had a very happy couple of seasons enjoying playing and the sightseeing ...we are back living in Stanmore now in my family home, and having Wealdstone just around the corner couldn't be better for all of us"

And plenty of babysitting on tap, no doubt!

"Well, actually not as both my parents are still working" he laughed. "But I can't complain: my dad Anthony and my mum Ezinne ferried me around for years when I was a youth player at Arsenal and then Stevenage."

When his scholarship ended, Fejiri signed for his local club Harrow mainly due to his friendship with Borough player Spencer McCall who had been in the same youth team at Stevenage.

"It's a sad story as Spencer has now passed away, but he was a good friend and helped me in my career. I had a good spell at Borough, 10 goals in 30 games as a wide player, and that earned me a move to Dagenham in the National League." Fejiri made his debut against Southport in the first game of the 2016-17 season and he scored a cracking goal in Daggers' 3-0 win.

"That first season at Dagenham, and then in a move to Doncaster were my most productive spells as a striker. I got 19 in 68 games in East London, 16 more at Doncaster... I was getting experienced, knowing the runs to make, when to take people on, when to release the ball, and when to run in behind".

That all paid off in his first two games for the Stones. After coming on against Gateshead - and hitting the crossbar - he made his first start at Forest Green Rovers and put the Stones ahead with a clinical left-footed strike.

"The squad has had a lot of injuries but there is a lot of potential and a good blend of experienced and young players, and we all get on very well. Just things like this overnight stop to Barrow helps in the bonding und understanding.

"I spent the first part of both games getting to know Nozza's (Luke Norris') game, but the goal at Forest Green came pretty much from that long ball from Dante. He saw my run and then it was just a matter of getting the right side of the defenders. I knew then that I was in with a good chance of scoring... it made up for the similar chance that I played across the face of goal about 10 minutes earlier".

Fejiri is on a short-term deal until January, but he's very keen to become a fixture in the Stones side. "I've always been a forward player throughout my career and the last two years in Egypt were really interesting. People often ask about how the standard compares with the EFL or the National League, and I always think the best illustration is that when Egypt played Argentina in the World Cup, nine of the starting 11 were all players in the Egyptian Premier League... that shows the quality on display in that part of Africa.

"Because of the heat, there was less running in the games but in those duels you had to be on your game. You have to be a more rounded player with ability to use your intelligence and technical ability.

"But it's good to be back in the National League and in London and also good to be back working with Gary Waddock again. He was assistant manager when I was at Cambridge United a few years ago and I always enjoyed working with him. I think he'll get the best out of me."

I got the impression that Fejiri was particularly happy to be avoiding baby duties for one night in the team hotel near Preston... although he was rooming with Fela so it might have been a lively evening!

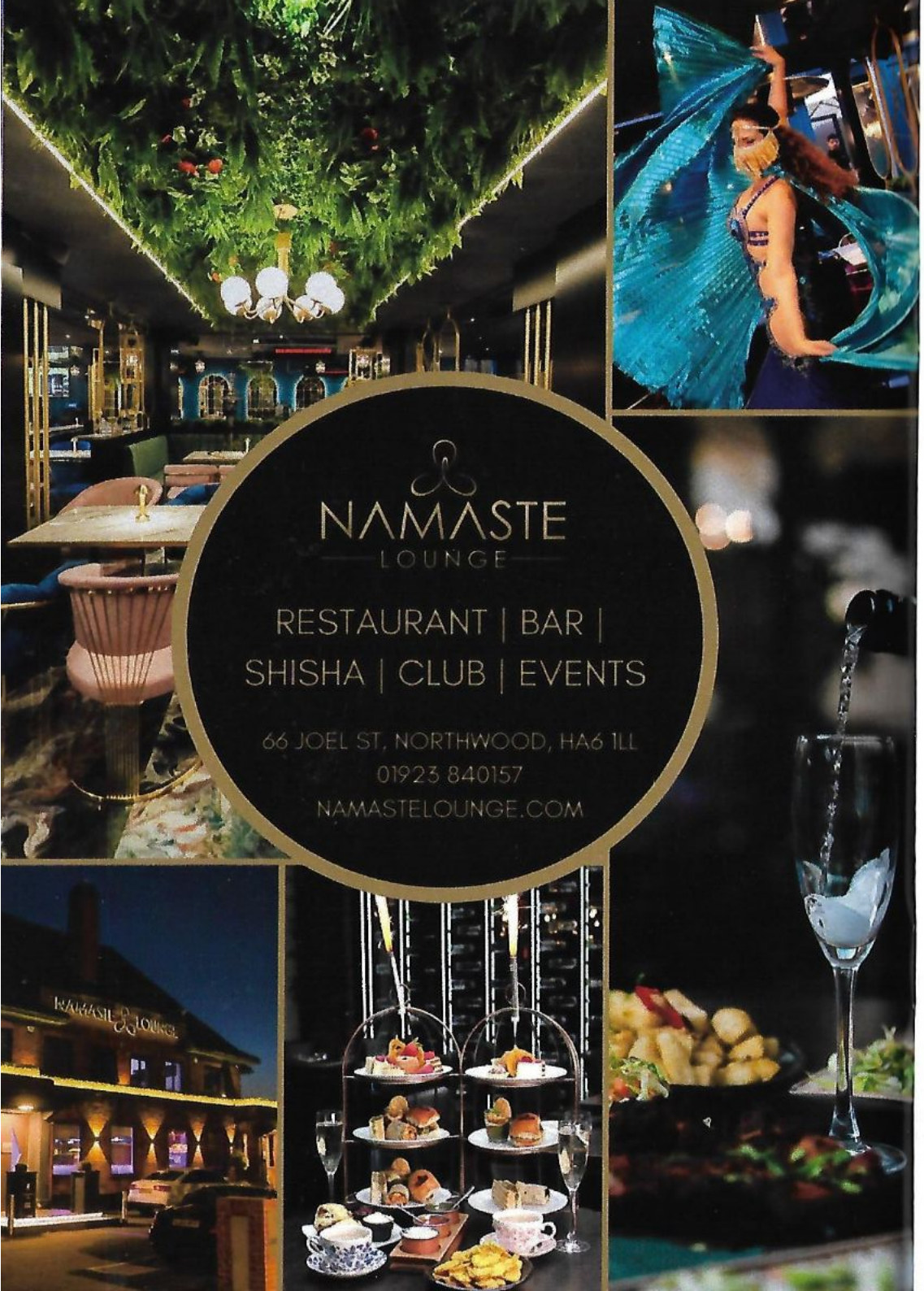


So close! Feji rattles the crossbar with this header against Gateshead on his home debut



It's a goal on his first start at Forest Green Rovers Pictures: Jon Taffel

'I always wanted to play abroad, but our plan was always to return when the baby came along'



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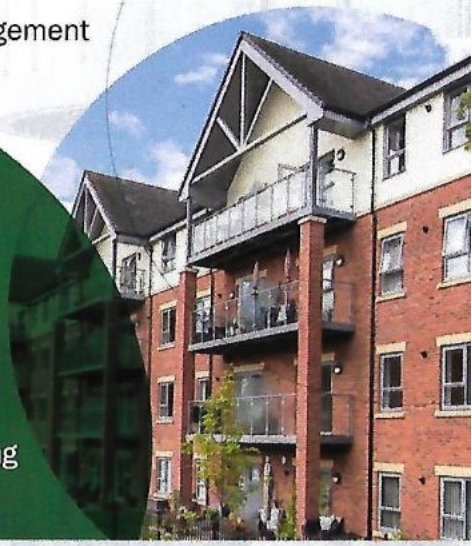
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Yeovil Town Football Club, founded in 1890, initially shared its ground with a local rugby club before reforming as Yeovil Casuals in 1895, playing at the Pen Mill Athletic Ground. The club adopted the name Yeovil Town in 1907, and after a merger with Petters United, became Yeovil and Petters United, before reverting to Yeovil Town before the 1946–47 season.

The club gained national recognition as 'giant-killers' during the 1948–49 FA Cup, defeating Sunderland 2–1 in the fourth round in front of a record 17,000 home fans, before being defeated 8–0 by Manchester United in the next round. Between 1955 and 1973, Yeovil Town won the Southern Football League three times and were runners-up twice. Despite numerous applications for election to the Football League, they came closest in 1976, missing out by a few votes.

In 1979, Yeovil became founder members of the Alliance Premier League, the new national non-league division. However, in 1985, they were relegated to the Isthmian League, only to win the championship in 1988 and return to the Conference. Success followed in the Bob Lord Challenge Trophy in 1990, and in 1997, Yeovil returned to the Conference after winning the Isthmian League with a record 101 points.

Colin Lippiatt managed the team for the 1998–99 season, bringing in Terry Skiverton as a player. Gary Johnson took over as manager in June 2001 and led Yeovil to their first major trophy, the FA Trophy, with a 2–0 victory over Stevenage Borough. The following season, Yeovil won the Football Conference by a record 17-point margin, earning promotion to the Football League with 95 points and 100 goals, remaining unbeaten at Huish Park. This era saw notable players like Gavin Williams, Lee Johnson, Chris Weale, Darren Way, and Adam Lockwood.

Yeovil's first game in the Football League was a 3–1 away win over Rochdale. They finished their inaugural season in eighth place and reached the third round of the FA Cup, losing 2–0 to Liverpool. The following season, Yeovil won League Two with 83 points, earning promotion to League One. During this period, the club ownership changed from Jon Goddard-Watts to David Webb.

Manager Gary Johnson left for Bristol City at the start of the 2005–06 season, with Steve Thompson taking over. By season's end, Russell Slade replaced Thompson as manager. Under Slade, Yeovil reached the fourth round of the FA Cup, narrowly losing 3–2 to Premier League side Charlton Athletic. In the 2006–07 season, Yeovil finished fifth in League One, qualifying for the play-offs, where they beat Nottingham Forest 5–4 on aggregate but lost 2–0 to Blackpool at Wembley in the final.

The 2007–08 season saw Yeovil finish 18th in League One. Russell Slade remained as manager until February 2009, when Terry Skiverton took over, assisted by Nathan Jones. They kept Yeovil in League One. Skiverton and Jones continued to help Yeovil avoid relegation over the next two seasons, but a poor start to the 2011–12 season led to Gary Johnson's reappointment as manager, with Skiverton as his assistant. Johnson guided Yeovil to safety once again.

The 2012–13 season was Yeovil's best start, finishing fourth and reaching the League One play-offs. They defeated Sheffield United and Brentford to reach the Championship for the first time in their history. Despite memorable victories in the Championship, Yeovil were relegated back to League One after one season. They continued to struggle, facing another relegation to League Two, despite a lucrative FA Cup tie against Manchester United.

Darren Way took over as manager in 2015, leading Yeovil to safety in League Two. His tenure included highs and lows, such as an 8–2 defeat to Luton Town and a 6–0 victory over Newport County. Another FA Cup tie against Manchester United in January 2018 ended in a 4–0 defeat. Yeovil's 16-year stay in the EFL ended in the 2018–19 season, leading to the appointment of Darren Sarll as manager in June 2019.

The 2019–20 National League season was cut short due to the coronavirus outbreak, with Yeovil in fourth place. In May 2022, South Somerset District Council purchased Huish Park, with the club becoming tenants.

In February 2023, SU Glovers Limited attempted to take over the club, but the deal fell through.

In April 2023, Yeovil were relegated to the National League South, and in May, the Hellier Group took over. Yeovil secured an immediate return to the National League by winning the National League South title at the end of the 2023–24 season.

Last season Yeovil finished the season in 16th place on 51 point - 1 place and 5 points below Wealdstone.

Pics Jon Taffel

Wealdstone v Yeovil Town 10/10/2026

yeovil town



Stones v Yeovil
P 32 W 11 D 10 L 11 Goals F 44 A 47



Last season
Tue 4th Nov 2025 (A) W 2-0
Wed 25th Mar 2026 (H) L 0-2

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Wealdstone v Yeovil Town 10/10/2026

view from the away end

'For the first time in a long while we are playing some good, entertaining football. I'd settle for a top ten finish but a play-off place would be great'



David (left) pictured in a state of disbelief at Wembley in May 2013... "Getting to the second tier of the English game is not something I ever expected to see"

Your name and age? David Coates, aged 46 and one month.

Do you live in Yeovil? No, I moved away from Yeovil in 2001 and have lived in Lancashire ever since. Presently I live in Lytham St Annes.

Is YTFC a big part of your life? It is a huge part of my life. I am part of the team behind a website and podcast, *Gloverscast*, which is dedicated to bringing news and views about the club.

What was your first game? What do you recollect of it? I am reliably informed by my uncle that my first game was a reserve team match against our local rivals Weymouth at our old Huish ground in 1986, but I have no memory of this at all. I would say it was a game against Farnborough in the Bob Lord Trophy in 1991 and my recollection of it was that Robbie Carroll, who scored twice that night, was the best player in the world. I have changed my opinion since!



David (right) is pictured with notorious referee Trevor Kettle

Do you follow any other team? Having grown up surrounded by Manchester United supporters at school, I supported Blackburn Rovers for a period - mostly to wind up my class-mates. Now I live about 30 minutes drive from there, I have no interest.

Are you a home and away Yeovil fan? Being exiled in Lancashire, the poor transport links between there and Somerset mean home games are more of a challenge. I get to around 20 matches a season as a rule, but most are away days.

Have you seen the Stones play Glovers before? Yes, twice. I actually have an unbeaten record having witnessed a Yeovil win and a draw at Grosvenor Vale in recent years.

Did you hear of the famous FA Trophy clash in 1984? That is a bit before my time, but the *Gloverscast.co.uk* website does host results from matches stretching back down the years – it sounds like a seven-goal thriller! *(Stones were 3-0 up but were knocked out 4-3 in an unbelievable comeback - Ed)*

Do the older Yeovil fans think fondly of the old Huish, or is Huish Park better in facilities and location? There is definitely a nostalgia for the old Huish and supporters of a certain age will tell you about the atmosphere that was generated there. However, it's unlikely that a town centre ground would ever have lasted long in a town like Yeovil, so we'll settle for the better facilities.

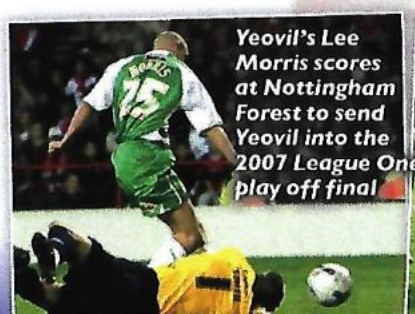
Do you have expectations for at least the play-offs this season?.. it's been a good start It has been a good start this season and for the first time in a long while we are playing some good, entertaining football. I'd settle for a top ten finish this season, but play-offs would be lovely.

How are the crowds holding up? It is still early days this season but we're averaging around the 3,000 mark. Good football brings people in, so hopefully there is more to come.

Is the club well backed financially? If you look at our business in the transfer market (15 new arrivals) you would say 'yes'. It is all relative, we're not in the Forest Green Rovers money leagues, but we hold our own.

How would you sum up Yeovil Town in the 2020s so far? More relegations than promotions. Owners, stewards, interested parties and charlatans. Existential crises and the occasional outbreak of actual football.

What are your three favourite Glovers games? My absolute favourite is a 5-2 win at Nottingham Forest to clinch a place in the League One play-off final in 2007, but I'd have to pick the 2-1 win over Brentford in the same final six years later which took us to the Championship for a season. Then, if you'll allow me a nostalgic one, I'd pick a 2-1 win at Bromley in May 1997 when we won promotion back to the Conference after a couple of seasons away – that is a core early Glovers memory for me.



Yeovil's Lee Morris scores at Nottingham Forest to send Yeovil into the 2007 League One play off final

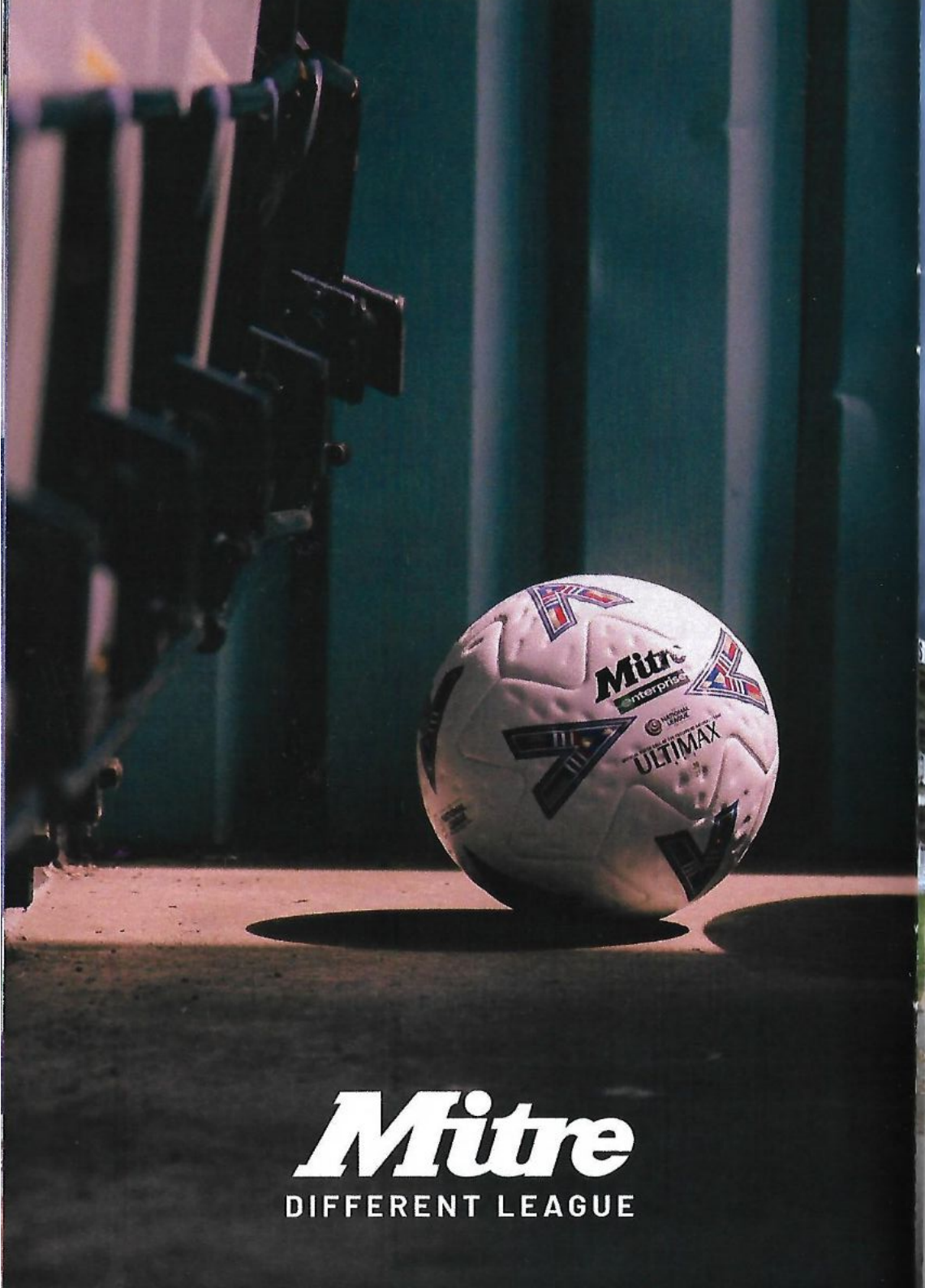


Who are the creative players to watch in a green shirt this afternoon? We are blessed with a few this season, but if you are watching one it would be Ryan Jones, an absolute wing wizard when he gets going as well. Zain Westbrooke in midfield is another, he just makes everything tick.

Do you follow games on DAZN when you are unable to get to matches? What do you think of the coverage... does it help the clubs? I do watch DAZN and whilst the lottery of kick-off times is annoying, I do think back to my early days watching non-League football and think what we would have given for this type of coverage back then.

Do you think the standard of NL football is improving since many of the 'big' clubs found their way back into the EFL? I think the National League is as even as it has been for a long time this season and the division benefits from having that kind of competition.

And finally, what's your prediction for this afternoon? Last time I was at Grosvenor Vale, it finished 3-0 to Yeovil, so I'll go 2-1 to Glovers this time.



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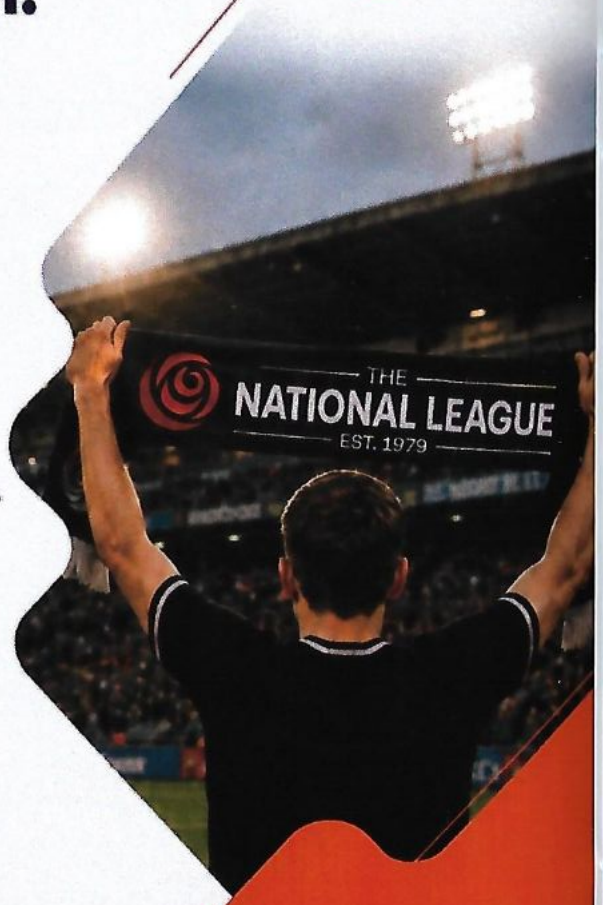


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Wealdstone v Yeovil Town, 10/10/2026

Plastic? Not so fantastic

Stones full record on artificial turf

2013-14	
Maidstone (Ryman)	D 1-1
Maidstone (FAT)	L 0-1
2015-16	
Sutton Utd (NLS)	L 2-5
Maidstone (NLS)	L 0-1
2016-17	
Eastbourne (NLS)	L 1-5
2017-18	
Eastbourne (NLS)	D 1-1
Oxford C (NLS)	L 2-3
2018-19	
Oxford C (NLS)	L 0-3
Slough (NLS)	W 1-0
Eastbourne (NLS)	W 3-0
2019-20	
Dorking (NLS)	D 2-2
Slough (NLS)	L 1-2
2020-21	
Sutton U (NL)	L 1-4
Bromley (NL)	D 2-2
2021-22	
Bromley (NL)	L 2-3
2022-23	
Maidstone (NL)	D 1-1
Dorking (NL)	L 1-3
Bromley (NL)	D 3-3
2023-24	
Bromley (NL)	D 1-1
Dorking (NL)	L 1-3
Bromley (FAC)	L 2-3
Billericay (FAT) *	W 4-1
Hendon (FAT) *	W 4-0
Oxford C (NL)	L 0-1
2024-25	
Tamworth (NL)	L 1-4
2025-26	
Tamworth (NL)	D 1-1
2026-27	
Worthing (NL)	L 0-1
Tamworth (NL)	L 1-2

** The only time we have won on plastic in 18 games came in 'home' FA Trophy ties against Billericay and Hendon in 2023-24, both played away from home as the Vale was unfit*



Misery for Stones as the winner goes in at Tamworth Pic: JonTaffel

Tim Parks reveals Stones' shambolic record on plastic and says: 'the stats don't lie - two wins in 26 games against clubs at our level cannot be ignored'

THE RUMBLE over plastic pitches in the World of Wealdstone intensified after our controversial defeat at Tamworth.

The only ones who like them are the (thankfully few at our level) clubs that have installed them... the players hate them, the fans hate them and I'd like to see some national statistics confirming my own biased view that artificial surfaces give home clubs a huge advantage.

Just look at the list on the left. If you remove the two Isuzu FA Trophy wins against sides from lower divisions in 2023-24, you have to go back **SEVENTEEN GAMES**, to February 2019, for our last win on plastic against a club at the same level.

And before that there were eight occasions when we travelled, played on an artificial surface and failed to win... so that's a total of 26 games, excluding the one-sided Billericay and Hendon ties, with just two wins!

We can now only give thanks that we have played both away games against clubs with the abhorrent surface. In close to 30-degree heat, the pitch at Worthing was deeply unpleasant, according to the players. And the sticky surface at Tamworth had a large part to play in our defeat: the 'moment of madness' that led to the equalising goal and subsequent sending off was, in my opinion, largely down to the ball not running through to the goalkeeper as expected.

Connor McAvoy was forced to take a second touch which evaded goalkeeper Dante and our goose was cooked. There were several other occasions when defenders lost out in challenges on the byline when they had confidently expected the ball to run out of play.

I would imagine that Worthing and Tamworth lease their grounds out for community use, but at the very least they have the bonus of being able to train on their home pitch. The reason why so many clubs at levels 2-5 have coughed up the £500,000+ to 'go plastic' is to recoup (and more) the costs within a few years... the only downside for clubs at National League level is that promotion to the EFL would mean that it would have to be dug up and replaced with grass.

Maidstone United - venue for our competive plastic debut back in August 2013 - were hoping that it would be them one day but to date only Sutton, Harrogate and Bromley have been forced to adhere to Football League rules.

The 'fear' of promotion will hopefully prevent more plastic!

Cup final leads to pitch battle

By Peter Reeve

TWO local football teams have fallen foul of their own league after refusing to play a cup final on an astroturf pitch at Willesden Sports Stadium.

The Timber Carriage, South Harrow, and Wembley-based St Joseph's Social — opponents in the Harrow Sunday Challenge League Trophy Final — are to be fined for staging an alternative cup final on a grass pitch.

The sides, who even provided their own trophies, have described the league's action as "pig-headed" and "high-handed".

And The Timber Carriage Club is warning that it could fold if the fine is a heavy one.

Robert Bevis, secretary of the South Harrow club, said: "Why should we play on an astroturf surface when we have been slogging it out on grass all season.

The two teams booked Hayes Foot ball Club's ground for their unofficial final on Friday, which The Timber Carriage won 2-0.

Mr Bevis said his club contributed £150 towards the cost of staging their own final.

"We are now absolutely broke," he said. "If the fine is too much we will fold because we could not afford it."

Dave Stone, secretary of St Joseph's Social Club, said: "The league was forcing us to do something which we should not have been required to do.

"If the league plays games on astroturf, they are unknowingly sanctioning the use of it, and giving councils just cause to start digging up grass pitches and laying astroturf."

League secretary, Les Kelly, explained, however, that the clubs were given a deadline to book an alternative venue for the cup final, but they failed to meet it.

DIGGING around in some old Harrow Observer cuttings, I spotted this news story dated 1986 - yes, plastic pitches were causing a problem 40 years ago! Both the finalists in the Harrow Sunday Challenge League Cup refused to play their showpiece game at the Willesden Stadium, complete with 1G plastic pitch.

The League was intransigent and so the teams hired Hayes FC's grass pitch and paid the costs themselves. They even provided their own medals as the league refused to attend!

I played at the Willesden Stadium in the 1980s and it was one of the worst surfaces of its kind. Ironically, it looked like the Stones might end up playing there after the sale of Lower Mead but fortunately the local residents kicked up enough of a stink to prevent that from happening... instead they ended up with the National Hockey Centre and 10,000 crowds!

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Wealdstone v Yeovil Town, October 10th 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	242	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	3-1	1,612	86	17	Kadji, Olomola, Mundle-Smith
	15	FC HALIFAX TOWN	ENL	0-1	1,347	44	18	
	19	Tamworth	ENL	1-2	854	120	20	Olomola
	26	GATESHEAD	ENL	4-0	2,112	100	17	Olomola, Norris (p), Wells-Morrison, Cook
	29	Forest Green Rovers	ENL	1-1	1,157	46	19	Okenabirhie
OCTOBER	3	Barrow AFC	ENL	1-2	2,536	85	19	Maher
	10	YEOVIL TOWN	ENL					
	17	WORTHING	FA Cup 4Q					
	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	16	17	18	19	20	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	25	26	26	27	27	30	31	31	32
Dante BAPTISTE	Jack COOK	Joe NEWTON	Jack WELLS-MORRISON	Dion CONROY	Mason BARRETT	Luke NORRIS	Dylan KADJI	Olufela OLOMOLA	Jayden HARRIS	Dan CHESTERS	Aiden FRANCIS-CLARKE	Endurance JOHNSON	Micah OBIERO	Aaron HENRY	Josh MULLINS	Carmichael UCHENNA	Admiral MUSKWE	Kyle SMITH	Wilson WAWERU	Lee CALLUM	Milton ONI	Jeffrey SEKYERE	Connor MCAVOY	Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH	Decanio MCKAIN	Seamus ATEM	Enoch FOLORUNSHO	Aaron FERNANDEZ	Osker ZEZULA	Fejiri OKENABIRHIE	Amaru KAUNDA	Tyrelle NEWTON	Josh CLAY	James HOLDEN	Ronan MAHER	Abraham KANU

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

All hands on deck for our concerted rearguard action at Barrow last Saturday as the Wealdstone 10 defended valiantly for more than thirty minutes. Alas, an injury time goal meant defeat.

Picture courtesy of Jon Taffel (@RonnieRaffle)

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

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

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Mick Fishman

wfc legends: the wingers and wing-backs

IN THE sixth instalment of this award-winning series, Sir Michael Fishman gets us thinking over which wingers (and wing-backs) deserve the honour of being nominated as a Wealdstone FC Legend....

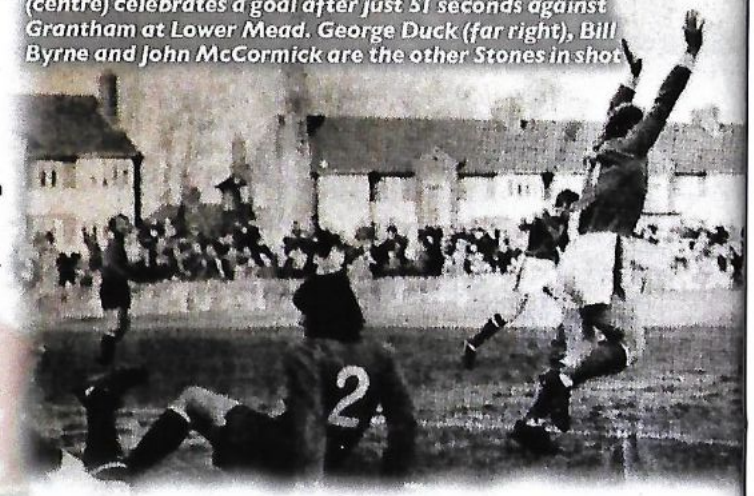
Who should be most revered? The out-and-out winger who provokes a sharp intake of breath among the fans the moment he gains possession and faces up to his full-back... or the more pragmatic and energetic wing-back, who is also expected to drop back and defend?

Over the years, WFC has been blessed with players of huge ability in both roles. But it is undeniably the 'mercurial' wingers of whom more is expected... yet also tolerated after spending a whole afternoon or evening failing to beat their man or provide that killer cross.

Let's do this chronologically, starting with pure wingers. Pre-War, I can only find one player who demands to be considered a legend and he is **T Maskell.** Between 1927 and 1934 he made 233 appearances, scoring 61 goals. His time with the Stones was an interesting one as it covered the club moving up from the Spartan League to the Athenian League in 1928.

Next up, in 1940, is 18-year-old left winger **Len Dolding** who made 89 appearances and scored 36 goals over three seasons. Following completion of his military service Len signed as a professional for Chelsea, Norwich City, Dover and Margate- but, tragically, Len was killed in November 1954 when the car in which he was a passenger collided with a bus in Wembley. He was just 31.

It's February 1975 and mercurial winger Adriaan Eglite (centre) celebrates a goal after just 51 seconds against Grantham at Lower Mead. George Duck (far right), Bill Byrne and John McCormick are the other Stones in shot



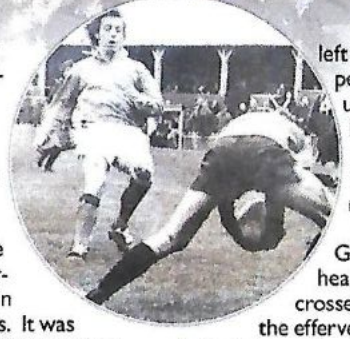


The legenday Viv Evans (left) whips in a cross at Lower Mead

Phil White was a talented right winger who came through the reserves at Lower Mead to become part of the team that won the Athenian League title in 1952 - and 82 appearances later (and 24 goals) he signed as a professional for Leyton Orient for whom he enjoyed a long and successful career. He is certainly a famous son of the club, but is he a legend?

Wealdstone v Yeovil Town 10/10/2026

There can be no such uncertainty about the great **Viv Evans**. The diminutive left winger's two spells at the club consisted of 443 appearances and 201 goals... a wonderful record and even better when taken into account that some of the teams he played in were mediocre to say the least, particularly in the 1950s. It was sad that Viv moved on at the start of the season in which we went on to win the Amateur Cup (1965-66) but there can be no doubt that his replacement, **Bernie Bremer,** became a genuine Wealdstone legend. A discovery of Hugh Lindsay, the teenage Bernie arrived at Lower Mead in 1964 and by the time he moved on in 1970, had amassed 285 appearances and scored 96 goals. Nominally a left winger Bernie was able to play across the entire midfield area, being equally effective in them all. When Bernie played on the right, invariably **John Hutchinson** played on the other wing - and he was pretty special too! In 87 apps 'Hutch' scored 23 goals over two seasons and went on to lift countless trophies for Isthmian giants Wycombe Wanderers.





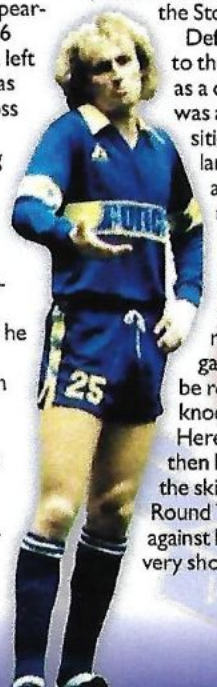
Terry Dyson had been a part of the great Tottenham Hotspur team that had won the League and FA Cup double in 1961, so by the time he joined the Stones in 1972 he was a nationally-recognised footballing legend. Despite being by then in his late 30s, Terry retained a sharp footballing brain and a sublime left foot, and over 4 years made 112 appearances scoring 5 goals. He stepped up to become assistant manager to Eddie Presland for the last part of his time at the club and can lay a claim to being a Wealdstone as well as a national legend.

Through the 1970s our ace striker George Duck netted 250 times and he heaps praise on his main suppliers of crosses at the time: Dyson on the left and the effervescent and talented **Johnny Henderson** on the right. 'Dickie' (left) could operate on either wing and between 1973 and 1976 made 157 appearances and scored 31 goals. A definite legend.

Also in the 1970s mix is *The Most Exciting Wealdstone Winger of All Time* (according to a feature in these pages) **Adriaan Eglite,** a Dutchman who had performed the famous 'Cruyff turn' within 30 seconds of his Lower Mead debut. It immediately endeared him to our fans. Adriaan had grown up in the ranks at Ajax (Amsterdam) in the same youth team as the brilliant Johann Cruyff and it will ever be a source of annoyance to me that we have failed to track him down for an interview. He made 50 appearances for the Stones and netted 17 goals.

Definitely a legend...as was that great servant to the club **Bobby Moss** who joined in 1974 as a centre forward, but more often than not was asked to play wide on the right. In that position he became a hugely effective and popular player, and over six seasons made 251 appearances, scoring 66 goals. A lovely man who died far too young in 2010, at 58.

In 1977, gangly teenage left-winger **Keith Furphy** signed from QPR (via Barnet) and became an icon in the Stones team that reached the FA Cup third round for the only time. He played just 27 games, scoring seven times but will always be remembered for his two assists that knocked out Division Three (League One) Hereford United away in the first round, and then his straight-from-a-corner goal that put the skids under Reading at Lower Mead in Round Two. Keith (left) then nearly scored against his old club QPR in the Third Round! A very short-lived legend, he signed for his dad (the



continued overpage >>

the legendary wingers contd

from previous page

ex-Watford boss Ken) at the end of that season to play in the North American Soccer League for Detroit Express... and over the next ten years scored an astonishing 332 goals in US soccer! Most were in the Major Indoor League, but even so....

In the 1980s we enjoyed the services almost exclusively of **Brian Greenaway** on the right and Gary Donnellan on the left. Greeners made 167 starts between 1983 and 187, scoring 26 goals and was supremely reliable with his crossing, assisting for both goals (and a penalty that was missed) in the 1985 Trophy Final.

You have to leap forward half a dozen years before the next contender for 'legend' staus: the hugely talented **Steve Browne.** Brownie had three separate spells with the club between 1989 and 1995 during which he made 120(8) appearances and scored 22 goals. When on his game he was virtually unplayable but, like many a pure winger, could go through matches almost anonymously. His son Rhys was pretty good too!

The deeply-depressing seasons that spanned leaving Lower Mead in 1991 and re-locating to Edgware in 1995 was one of continuous change, and very few players remained with the club long enough to stake a claim for legendary status. **Dermot Drummy** might, in that between 1991 and 1995 he made 108 appearances and scored 11 goals. Dermot was in the autumn of his career by then, having served both Hendon and Enfield previously with great distinction.

The 21st century has produced some decent candidates. **Keiron Forbes** (103 full appearances, seven goals) between 2008 and 2010 was a brilliant runner with the ball while **Jonny Wright** (100 appearances, 30 goals) was that rare thing: a wide, pacey forward who could head a ball!

And who will forget **Danny Spendlove** (96 apps, 16 goals) who invented the phrase 'weaving run'? His slaloming bursts with the ball had Rotherham quaking in that epic FA Cup first round tie at the Vale. And here's a left-field one: **Nick Salapatas,** who only made one start yet came off the bench 16 times in 2008 and performed 200 step-overs as he bamboozled defenders and also himself. His self-promoting online blog (if there was such a thing in those days) trumpeted how many 'throwings' he'd won during each game (we think he meant 'throw-ins') but he did score one spectacular goal - the one that beat Hendon in the last game ever played at Claremont Road.

An equally memorable goal could earn **Mustapha Carayol** an honourable mention: signed as we fought to avoid relegation in April 2025, he popped up with several assists and an absolute corker that helped beat Halifax on the final day and earn salvation.

But probably the pick of our recent wingers has been **Dom Hutchinson** who topped off his four years at the Vale with a storming 2025-26 season. Not a legend in blue...yet.

As for wing-backs, this fairly modern phenomenon is epitomised by our star wideman of the Noughties **Lee Chappell.** Cheekie chappy Chaps (left) was the heartbeat of the club and a brilliant club servant over two spells between 2005 and 2013, making 336 starts and scoring 31 goals. His pace, bubbling enthusiasm and sweet left foot makes him an undeniable Stones legend, despite his questionable taste in Superman underpants.

Any competition? Well **Danny Green** operated there for over five seasons from 2016, making 203 starts and scoring 40 goals and he was pure poetry in motion. We have been strong on that flank with **Anthony Georgiou** (for a few years) showing huge promise but not quite totally endearing himself to the fans. Being a whisker away from a goal in the FA Trophy Final nearly changed all that...

On the right, few have impressed although **Kyle Smith**, back at the club for a second spell could achieve immortality in the space of a season!

26/27 first team appearances

CORRECT AS AT 3RD OCTOBER 2026	ENTERPRISE NATIONAL LEAGUE			FA CUP			FA TROPHY			NATONAL LEAGUE CUP			MIDDLESEX CHARITY CUP			TOTALS			STONES CAREER		
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G
Atem, Seamus											1						1			1	
Baptiste, Dante	12															12			76	1	
Barrett, Mason	6	4														6	4		58	23	2
Chesters, Dan	6	3								2						8	3		8	3	
Conroy, Dion	5															5			5		
Cook, Jack	1	5	1							1						2	5	1	199	15	17
Fernandez, Aaron *										1						1			1		
Folorunsho, Enoch											1						1			1	
Francis-Clarke, Aiden	8	2								1	1					9	3		9	3	
Harris, Jayden	6	4								1	1					7	5		7	5	
Henry, Aaron	8	2	1							2						10	2	1	46	6	5
Holden, James *										1						1			1		
Johnson, Endurance										1						1			1	1	
Kadji, Dylan	11		1							2						13		1	52	9	4
Kanu, Abraham	3															3			3		
Kaunda, Amaru		1									2	2					3	2		3	2
Lee, Callum											2	1					2	1		2	1
Maher, Ronan	2	1	1													2	1	1	2	1	1
McAvoy, Connor	11		1													11		1	95	3	8
McKain, Decanio											1						1			1	
Mullins, Josh *		1								1						1	1		1	1	
Mundle-Smith, Jaydn	4	3	1							2						6	3	1	111	19	6
Newton, Joe	7	2	1							1						8	2	1	8	2	1
Newton, Tyrelle		4								1						1	4		1	4	
Norris, Luke	9	1	1													9	1	1	9	1	1
Obiero, Micah *	6		3													6		3	138	40	35
Okenabirhie, Fejiri	2	1	1													2	1	1	2	1	1
Olomola, Olafela	6	6	4							2		1				8	6	5	69	39	24
Oni, Milton		1															1			1	
Smith, Kyle	7	2								1						8	2		21	3	2
Uchenna, Carmichael		2															2			2	
Wawero, Wilson		5								2		3				2	5	3	2	5	3
Wells-Morrison, Jack	12		1													12		1	42	5	3
Zezula, Oskar											1						1			1	



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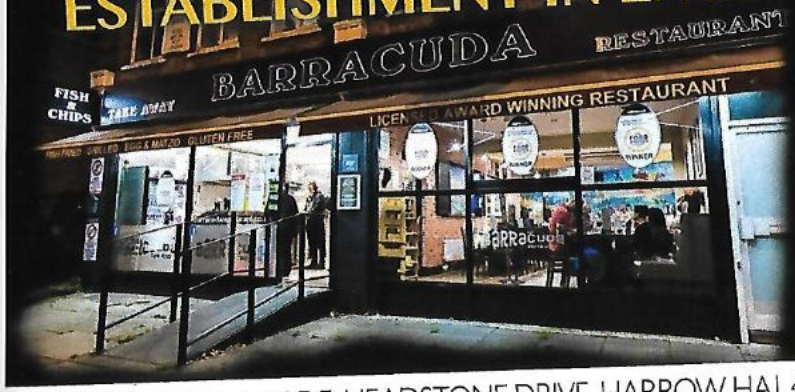
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academy standards are being set the wealdstone way

AS over 120 WFC students across three locations start their mixed journey of academic studies and football development for another year, Academy Technical Manager Elliot Minto explains more about the club's approach to coaching with a newly-aligned blueprint…

Wealdstone FC's academy is at an exciting point in its development says Elliot Minto, who combines 1st XI duties as an analyst and coach with leading the coaching programme across the youth structure.

"Educational choices like A Levels and BTEC options, depending at which of our locations you choose to study, means Wealdstone is helping to provide a platform to produce capable young people, because we know not everyone's going to go on to have a career in football," he says.

"What's exciting for our aspiring young players is that all of the academy coaching plans follow the first-team's lead, and have been agreed with Gary Waddock to ensure those key messages are being delivered consistently across everyone who represents the club in a blue shirt".





Above: Stones' Under-18s take the lead in the unlucky FA Youth Cup defeat at Hayes & Yeading 10 days ago with goalscorer Frankie Fitzgerald celebrating (left)

Stones' Academy teams draw footballing talent from across Brunel, Harrow and Harefield, coming together in competitive action within both Under-23 and Under-19 league structures.

Elliot (right) notes: "We compete at regional level across both our Under-23 and Under-19 age groups.

"And, for the second season now, we're also competing at a national level as part of the National League U19 Alliance."

In the 14-team NLFA South Division, Wealdstone are pitched in against some far more established academy set-ups, something he recognises.

"This is the top league a youth team can play in as part of a non-categorised (under the EPPP structure) academy. Playing in a nationally-branded league is a great challenge for our young talent, with the level of competition really helping to drive individual player development and team awareness."



Patience is the key for now, asserts Elliot, acknowledging it'll still take some while yet before the regular passage from academy scholar to senior squad member is realised.

"Yes there have been lads involved in the first-team squad early this season, but those experiences have come almost exclusively against similarly young players at other clubs.

"In starting to lay serious foundations for that pathway between academy and senior squads, we've all got to recognise it's going to take some time and dedication to ensure we're creating a version of that route which is right for this club.

"'The *Wealdstone Way*, we believe, is going to help us achieve that, and we're all excited about what the future holds in store."

Do you like the sound of what's been said?

Young people can join Wealdstone's Academy set-up at any age between 16 and 23; there's no fixed entry point, with educational and vocational qualifications even able to be shaped around those joining after the traditional academic year has begun.

"Enrolment continues throughout the academic year," confirms Elliot.

"It would mean a little catch-up work on studying, but we're only just underway this year.

"In fact, we're already putting together next season's trials, so if someone's reading this thinking about 2027, then they'll be able to register an interest in the near future."

Next time…

There'll be a closer look at one of Wealdstone's three academy sites, Harrow College, with an explanation around the specific educational qualifications available to run alongside the hours dedicated to skills development on the field of play.

Wealdstone v Yeovil Town 10/10/2026



Frankie Fitzgerald is mobbed by team mates and fans, and wins this header (right). Pictures: Jon Taffel

Even two-goal Frankie can't save Stones from Hayes Cup fightback

Wealdstone's Under-18s exited the FA Youth Cup last Tuesday week, coming out on the wrong side of a penalty shootout after two late goals from their hosts had pegged back what looked to be a decisive 2-0 lead at Hayes & Yeading United.

Stones started brightly in the 2nd Qualifying Round tie, going ahead after 15 minutes when Kain Roberts' far-post corner saw Frankie Fitzgerald ghost in unnoticed and glance home a header just inside the post. And Fitzgerald doubled Wealdstone's lead just before half-time, spinning out of an attempted challenge and rifling a shot from a near-impossible angle into the net off the underside of the crossbar.

But Stones conceded twice in the dying minutes through United's Joseph Orimoloye and Rio King – the second, deep into stoppage-time, forcing spot-kick drama at the SkyEx Stadium.

In front of a noisy home support gathered behind the goal, three Stones' players succumbed to penalty pressure and missed … heartbreak for goalkeeper Joel Baarfi whose impressive saves could not avoid a 3-2 defeat in the shootout.

"We started really well and dominated the first half," reflected coach Minto. "I guess our only regret was that we weren't further ahead. Unfortunately, whether it was the pressure of the occasion or the size of the pitch, the lads were in unfamiliar territory and we lost our way a little bit as the game wore on.

"But we will learn from the experience."



The ball just won't go in!

Wealdstone v Yeovil Town, 10/10/2026



Tim Parks

on this day in history

Oct 10, 2015
FA Cup 3rd Qual Round
Brockenhurst 1
Wealdstone... 5



It's the biggest day in Brockenhurst FC history as they take to the field 11 years ago

Eleven years and a lifetime away: bunting and cake stalls... and that

WHEN you're a Wealdstone fan of some vintage, the thoughts that wash around your head on FA Cup day have changed enormously through the years.

Next Saturday we face fellow National Leaguers Worthing at the Vale and it's a shame that, with our elevation to non-League's top flight and exemption until the final qualifying round, a lot of the charm, romance and magic of the FA Cup has gone by the wayside.

To put it bluntly, all the 'little' clubs have been knocked out by the time the 4th Qual comes around and since we left regional football behind our fans have been starved of David v Goliath awaydays.

Sometimes, of course we've come a cropper and who'd want to look back on the humblings at Burgess Hill Town, Needham Market or Biggleswade?

Last season could have beeen the perfect seaside away trip if only Wealdstone and Whitstable had come out in a different order. They were the lowest-ranked team (level five) left in the compeitition when we faced off in the final Qualifying round and I'm sure they would have fancied their chances had the game been played on the Kent coast rather than at the Vale. It ended 5-1 with all five coming in the first half, the Whitstable dream dying quickly.



So what has been the most memorable FA Cup away day... where we rocked up in a chocolate-box village as overwhelming favourites to find that the home side had laid on bunting, cake stalls, a well-stocked bar and hundreds of locals wearing scarves, rosettes and yes, even tin foil FA Cups?

Of course the occasion was Brockenhurst away in the New Forest, 11 years ago in the Third Qualifying Round. We were in the NL South, destined to finish halfway with a flaky side that could be brilliant on its day and somehow this sunny afternoon encapsulated the Stones' whole season.

Our 250-odd travelling fans, turning up early to enjoy the idyllic views of forests and free-roaming ponies, went on to literally drink that bar dry!

Emergency calls went out to the local Waitrose for bottles and cans and 1970s Wealdstone star Johnny Henderson (pictured left) - who was at the game as he lives barely a mile away - said he'd never seen anything like it!

Brockenhurst were on a good run in the Wessex League, four levels below the Stones, and determined to enjoy their day. The crowd of close to 500 was five times their average but Stones quickly took charge and our talisman striker Jefferson Louis looped a header over heroic home keeper Callum Maher just 11 minutes in. Somehow we failed to add to the score on the lumpy pitch and things got interesting just before the break when Brockhurst's Mark Barker tried his luck from 30 yards - and the ball deflected off Tom Hamblin and over the stranded Jonathan North for 1-1. But the Brocks' goal led a charmed life until Hamblin atoned from ten yards out; defender Jude Nwachkwu put through his own goal and then substitute Scott Davies collected a loose ball well inside his own half, looked up and pinged an astonishing shot over the despairing Maher to kill the game at 4-1. Johnny Wright added a fifth goal and the rich seam of form (after a topsy turvy season) carried on all the way through seven straight wins until we met League One side Colchester United at a saturated Vale in the FA Cup First Round.



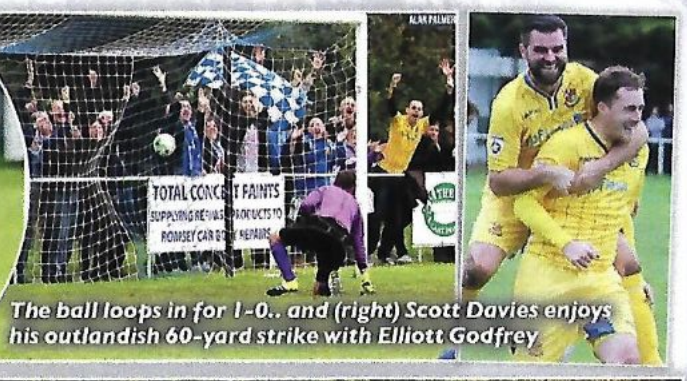
And we actually led 2-1 in front of the Football Focus cameras (Jefferson Louis penalty and one from Bradley Hudson-Odoi) before a Colchester second-half barrage saw us exit 6-2.

But we'll always have Brockenhurst Town to look back on with fondness.

Continued over page >>



Jefferson Louis celebrates the opener



The ball loops in for 1-0.. and (right) Scott Davies enjoys his outlandish 60-yard strike with Elliott Godfrey



Tom Hamblin (far right) fires in the decisive second goal Pictures by Steve Foster and Alan Palmer

the trip to the New Forest, fans, spectacular goal from 60 yds!

on this day in history contd

from previous page

SIX years before the tirring FA Cup run to face Colchester, Stones had put together another excellent Autumn run of 16 games unbeaten.

It was our second season at Grosvenor Vale and Gordon Bartlett was quietly assembling a talented team that would go on to just fall short of the Isthmian League Premier Division play-offs.

And this comprehensive victory over Lewes, from the National League South, was probably Stones' most impressive performance of the season thus far.

Lewes were no mugs but they were forced into retreat right from the start and skipper Chris O'Leary rose to power a Lee Chappell corner past keeper Rikki Banks. Soon after a Chappell long throw saw the Sussex side's defence panicking and Grego Ngoyi buried the loose ball.

Lewes then survived a disallowed Ngoyi 'goal' but, just as the Rooks appeared to be gaining decent possession Stones killed off the tie with a swift counter attack. Ryan Ashe won the ball in the middle and released Kieron Forbes who outpaced the sluggish Rooks rearguard and expertly slipped the ball past the advancing Banks (pictured below).

Oct 10, 2009
FA Cup 3rd Qual Round
Wealdstone... 3
Lewes.....0



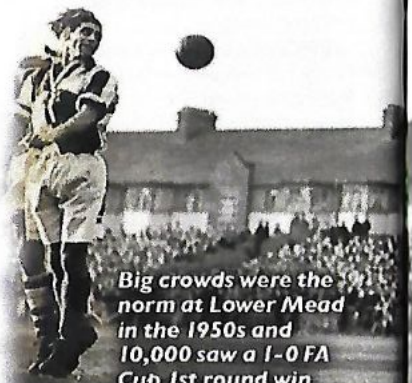


Skipper Chris O'Leary heads Stones into a 4th-minute lead and celebrates riotously with the Collins Corner fans (above)

The draw for the final qualifying round brought an intriguing trip to Aylesbury - not quite Brockenhurst but a similarly enoyable day out for the 400 travelling fans who witnessed a come-from-behind 4-2 win.

League One Rotherham United at home was the prize and a fantastic match ended in disappointing 3-2 defeat at the Vale. But what a season!





Big crowds were the norm at Lower Mead in the 1950s and 10,000 saw a 1-0 FA Cup 1st round win over Colchester Utd

Wealdstone v Yeovil Town, 10/10/2026

Oct 10, 1953
FA Cup 3rd Qual Round
Wealdstone.... 2
St Albans City 0

STONES recorded a shock FA Cup upset on this day 73 years ago against the unbeaten Isthmian Leaguers St Albans - even with just 10 men for over an hour!

Striker Hussey headed the opening goal after just seven minutes but was later stretchered from the pitch with a broken ankle. In those harsh days before substitutes our brave Athenian League boys just had to get on with it .. and St Albans were toothless in the face of some brilliant counter-attacking. Henrik Mikrut, prolific when Stones had won the league title two years before, netted his first of the season with a snap shot just before half time. The 6,559 crowd crammed into Lower Mead celebrated loud and long, but although they beat Yiewsley 3-0 in the next round, Stones exited in the First Round at home to Headington United (now Oxford United) also by 3-0.



TEN WEALDSTONE MEN TRIUMPH

Wealdstone 2, St. Albans City 0

ALTHOUGH playing with only ten men for fully an hour Wealdstone were too strong for St. Albans City at Lower Mead on Saturday and won their F.A. cup-tie by two clear goals

It was the Isthmian League club's first defeat of the season but at no time did they impress as an unbeaten side. Not even after Wealdstone had lost Hussey did their opponents ever take control of the game and at the close they were the more tired and less aggressive side.

Hussey's departure after having scored a picture goal was more than a passing misfortune as he may be out of the game for some months. Falling heavily in a tackle he writhed in pain and was unable to rise. A subsequent X-ray at Harrow Hospital revealed a broken right ankle.

FULL STRENGTH

With McGhee, Mikrut, and Hussey back in the side Wealdstone were at full strength but St. Albans were more dangerous at first. Twice Wiltshire had to clear his lines brilliantly at the expense of corners, first going at full length to a low drive by Winsley, the centre-forward, and then tipping a hot shot by Westmore (inside-left) over the crossbar.

Both corner kicks were cleared comfortably enough and Wealdstone went ahead after seven minutes play when Hussey, with a beautiful deflected header from a centre by Payne, completely beat Wells.

St. Albans responded with vigorous but unscientific play which the Wealdstone defence easily contained. The St. Alban's defence, on the other hand, tended to panic at the slightest provocation. Wealdstone's faster forwards in consequence always looked the more likely to score even without Hussey.

MIKRUT'S GOAL

Some feeling, too, quickly crept into the game and Mikrut was several times penalized, many thought harshly. He had his compensation just before the interval when his sudden left-foot drive flew past Wells before the goalkeeper realized he was even going to shoot. It was Mikrut's first goal of the season.

A two-goal lead at the interval rather flattered Wealdstone's superiority but the energy and skill with which the ten men fought in the second half completely earned them their victory.

First-time clearances by the defence and long through passes by Rogers gave St. Albans no rest and they themselves seemed too committed to rough and ready tactics to exploit their numerical advantage. When chances did come their way they lacked the confidence to take them. Skipp, usually a prolific scorer at outside-left, twice shooting feebly from good positions, and Winsley also missing a good chance.

Long before the end it was clear that Wealdstone were to beat their opponents for the fourth time in five post-war F.A. Cup-ties.

PAYNE IN FORM

Apart from providing the centre which enabled Hussey to strike the first blow, Payne had one of his best games for Wealdstone. Littlejohn showed still further improvement in subduing Winsley and May also showed a partial return to form. Behind them McGhee, Haydon, and Wiltshire were as confident and skilled a trio as could be desired.

Rogers worked tremendously hard in the forward line, particularly when he had to "double" for Hussey and the other three forwards, Mikrut, Bodfish and Hopkins also roamed tirelessly and effectively in the open spaces in and around much taller and heavier defenders.

The attendance was 6,559 with £352 receipts.

Wealdstone: D. Wiltshire; T. McGhee, F. Haydon; A. Payne, A. Littlejohn, C. May; K. Bodfish, P. Rogers, H. Mikrut, L. Hussey, V. Hopkins.



Wealdstone's famous Polish strikers, Henrik Mikrut (left) and Henrik Wegrzyk

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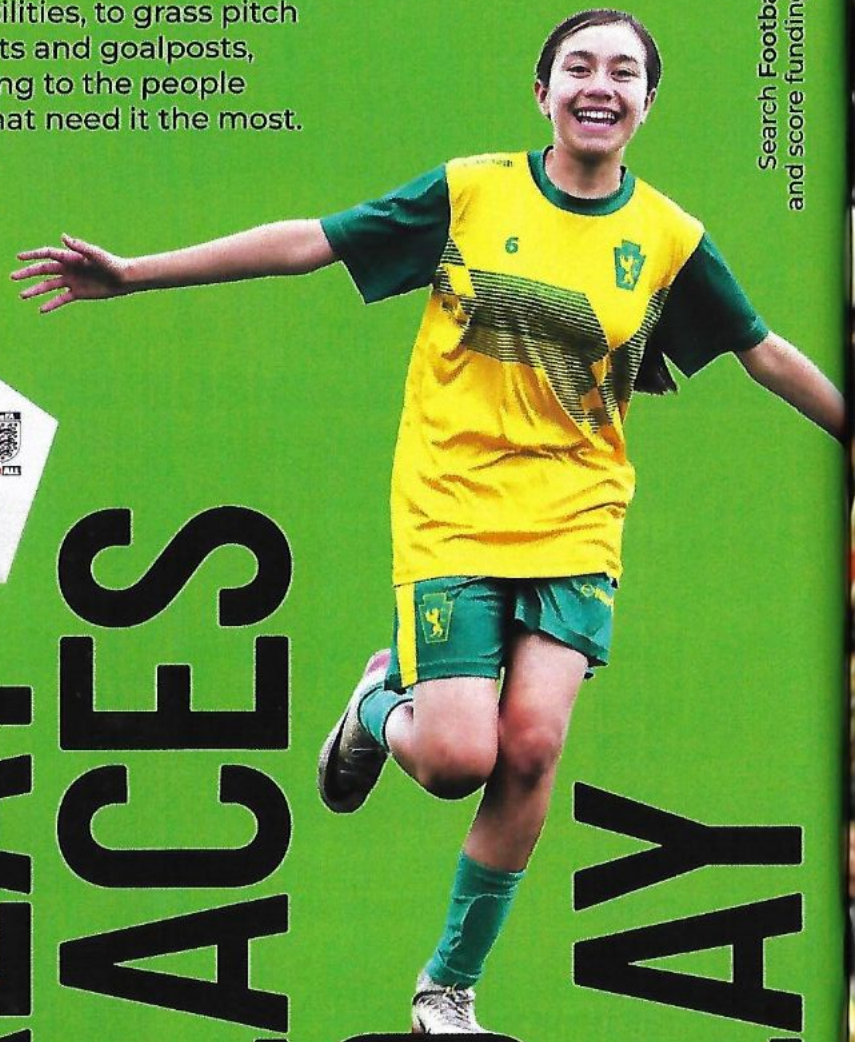
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AFC FYLDE January 30, Enterprise National League
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FOREST GREEN ROVERS February 16, Enterprise National League
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MATCH SPONSOR: Rolfe East
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SUTTON UNITED March 9, Enterprise National League
MATCH SPONSOR: See match sponsorship options above
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BOSTON UNITED March 20, Enterprise National League
MATCH SPONSOR: Paul Bainbridge
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BOREHAM WOOD March 29, Enterprise National League
MATCH SPONSOR: See match sponsorship options above
BALL DONOR: Put you or your organisations name here

HARTLEPOOL UNITED March 10, Enterprise National League
MATCH SPONSOR: See match sponsorship options above
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

Other National League games today

Altrincham vs Aldershot Town	Tamorth vs Barrow
Carisle Utd vs Kidderminster	Woking vs Harrogate Town
AFC Fylde vs Scunthorpe Utd	Worthing vs Solihull Moors
Boston Utd vs Southend Utd	
FA Halifax town vs Gateshead	Evening kick-off:
Hornchurch vs Eastleigh	Forest Green vs Hartlepool Utd

Home fixtures

Worthing

Saturday
17th October
3:00pm

FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round

Nottingham Forest

Tuesday
20th October
7:00pm

National League Cup

Solihull Moors

Tuesday
27th October
7:45pm

Enterprise National League

Away fixtures

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

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Aldershot Town

Saturday
24th October
3:00pm

Enterprise National League

Hartlepool United

Saturday
14th November
3:00pm

Enterprise National League

Altrincham

Tuesday
24th November
7:45pm

Enterprise National League

National League table @ 5th October 2026

		HOME				AWAY				ALL GAMES								vs. Stones	
		P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts	H	A
1	Boreham Wood	6	5	1	0	6	5	1	0	12	10	2	0	32	13	19	32		
2	Harrogate Town	7	5	1	1	5	3	0	2	12	8	1	3	28	17	11	25	1-3	
3	Southend United	6	4	0	2	6	3	3	0	12	7	3	2	29	18	11	24		
4	Yeovil Town	7	4	2	1	5	2	2	1	12	6	4	2	26	15	11	22		
5	Worthing	6	3	1	2	6	3	2	1	12	6	3	3	22	18	4	21		0-1
6	Altrincham	5	4	0	1	7	3	0	4	12	7	0	5	17	18	-1	21		
7	AFC Fylde	5	1	2	2	7	5	0	2	12	6	2	4	22	18	4	20		2-2
8	Kidderminster Harriers	7	3	3	1	5	2	1	2	12	5	4	3	15	12	3	19		
9	Barrow	6	4	0	2	6	1	3	2	12	5	3	4	20	15	5	18		
10	Aldershot Town	6	3	1	2	6	2	2	2	12	5	3	4	17	13	4	18		
11	Sutton United	6	3	1	2	6	2	2	2	12	5	3	4	14	16	-2	18		2-0
12	Hornchurch	5	4	0	1	7	2	0	5	12	6	0	6	13	19	-6	18		
13	FC Halifax Town	6	3	2	1	6	2	0	4	12	5	2	5	18	14	4	17	0-1	
14	Carlisle United	6	2	2	2	6	2	2	2	12	4	4	4	23	20	3	16	1-1	
15	Woking	6	2	2	2	6	2	1	3	12	4	3	5	20	19	1	15		
16	Forest Green Rovers	6	2	1	3	5	2	2	1	11	4	3	4	17	18	-1	15		1-1
17	Eastleigh	7	3	3	1	5	1	0	4	12	4	3	5	14	18	-4	15		
18	Tamworth	5	3	1	1	7	1	1	5	12	4	2	6	20	28	-8	14		1-2
19	Wealdstone	5	1	1	3	7	2	2	3	12	3	3	6	17	18	-1	12	----	----
20	Boston United	6	1	1	4	6	2	2	2	12	3	3	6	14	21	-7	12		3-1
21	Scunthorpe United	5	2	1	2	6	1	0	5	11	3	1	7	15	19	-4	10		
22	Hartlepool United	6	2	0	4	6	1	0	5	12	3	0	9	8	17	-9	9		
23	Solihull Moors	7	1	0	6	5	1	1	3	12	2	1	9	13	30	-17	7		
24	Gateshead	6	1	1	4	6	0	0	6	12	1	1	10	7	27	-20	4	4-0	

