How they line up today

WEALDSTONE | WORTHING

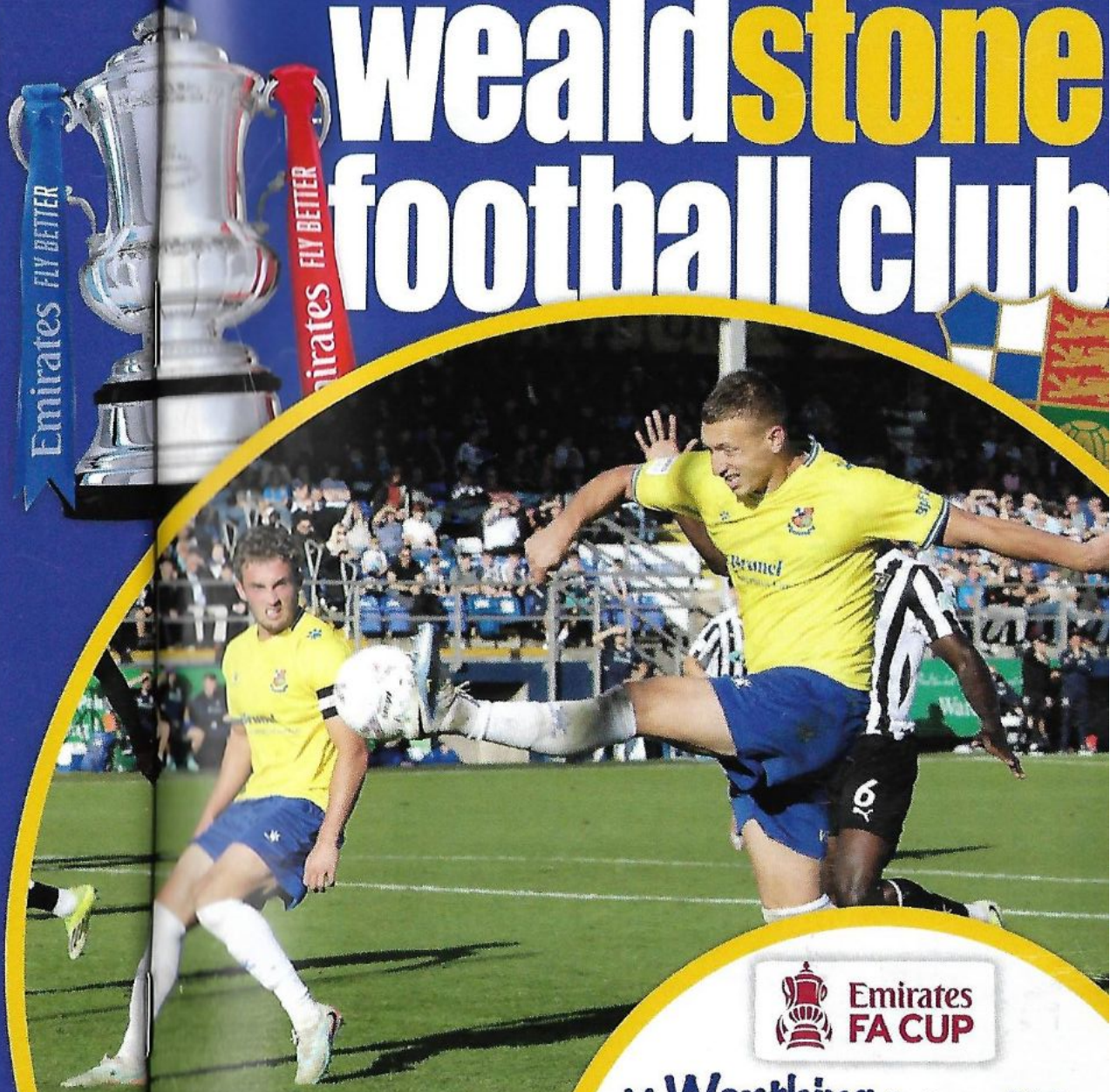
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Jack COOK © 2		2 Joel COLBRAN ©
Joe NEWTON 3		3 Cory ADJETEY-BREW
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Mason BARRETT 6		6 Jayden MOORE
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Dylan KADJI 8		8 Noor HUSIN
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Aidan FRANCIS-CLARKE 12		12 Harry RANSOM
Endurance JOHNSON 13		13 Taylor SEYMOUR
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Amaru KAUNDA 29		28 Charlie WALLER
Ronan MAHER 31		32 Guillermo DE LA CRUZ
Abraham KANU 32		

Officials Referee: Sam Mulhall Assistants: Christopher Darling and Rob Smith
Fourth Official: Jamie Stevenson Performance Developer: David Phillips
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NEXT HOME GAMES: v NOTTM FOREST NL Cup Group A, Tues 20 Oct, 7pm
(or FA Cup replay) v SOLIHULL MOORS National Lge, Tues 27 Oct, 7.45pm

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wealdstone football club



Luke Norris comes devilishly close to putting Stones 2-1 ahead at Barrow, as skipper Connor McAvoy looks on
Picture: Jon Taffel

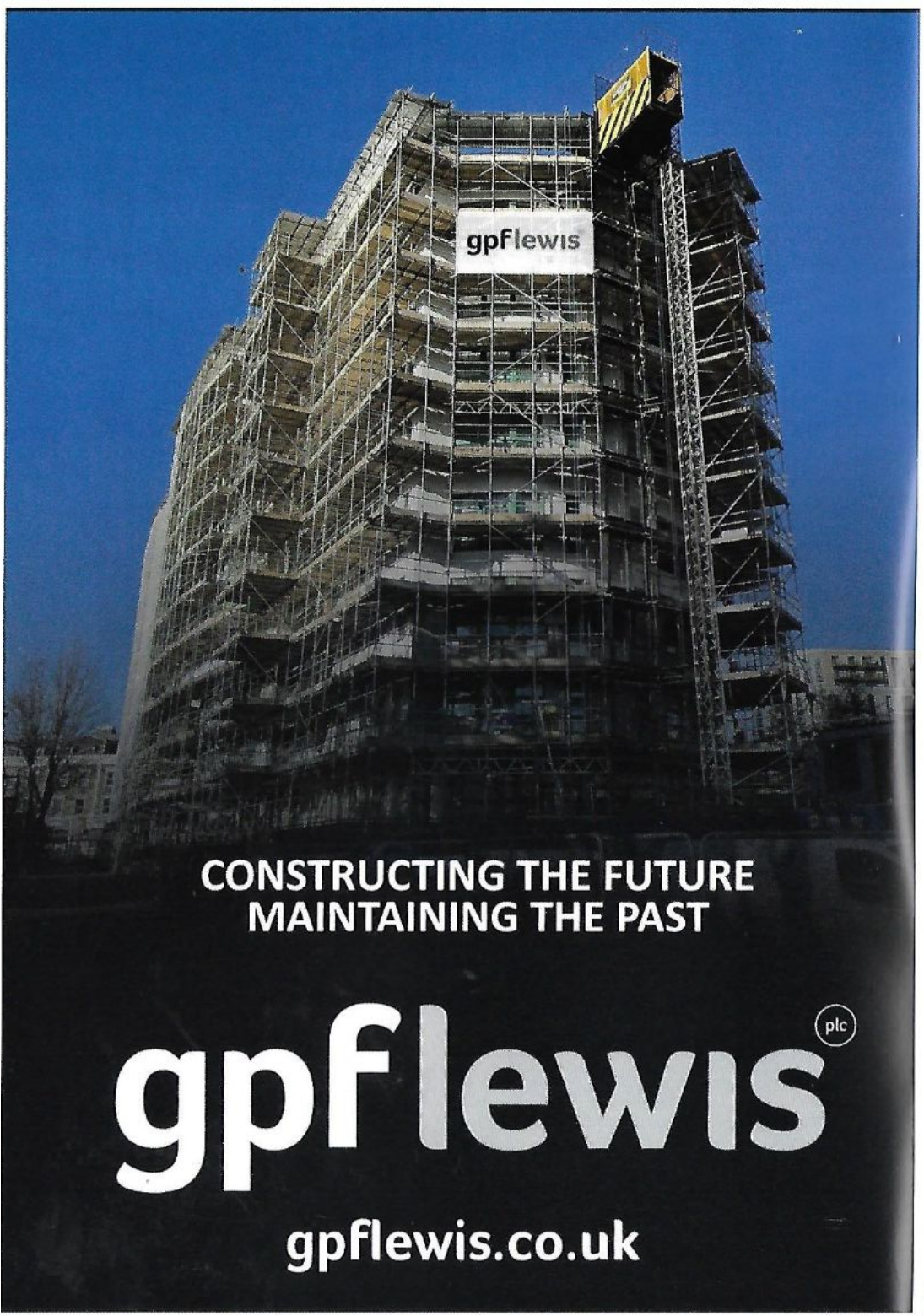
Emirates FA CUP

v Worthing Emirates FA Cup

4th Qual Rd, Sat 17 October 2026, 3pm

Season 2026-27: Programme £3

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written in stone



Mark Hyde

There is something beautiful, something glouriously old fashioned about the FA Cup.



Recent years may have seen a decline in the greatest cup competitions popularity but for many supporters their teams introduction to the competition each year provides a lottery ticket. A dream that despite ridiculous odds this could well be their time.

For clubs like ours and many others a million miles from the Premier League it has the potential to provide national recognition and a huge financial benefit.

Naturally the small clubs eventually lose but as the seasons pass those glorious or embarrassing defeats become part of the clubs history and its very DNA.

Wealdstone's history in the FA Cup started in 1913 with a home draw and subsequent 3-0 defeat to Page Green Old Boys.

There have been many high scoring games over the years including our record number of goals in a tie when we scored 12 and conceded 4 against Thame United in 1931 where CE Bowyer recorded a Double Hat-trick and a 7-7 draw away at Dulwich Hamlet in 1929.

In 1949/50 we reached the 1st Round proper for the very first time losing away at Port Vale.

Wealdstone's best ever run came in 1977/78 when we reached the 3rd round for the only time in our history where we lost 4-0 at Loftus Road against QPR in front of a 16,158 crowd.

Since 1978 our progression to the 'Proper' rounds has been reletivly limited but last season saw us progress to the Second round away at Grimsby Town following a 1-0 home win against Southend.

Welcome then to the start of our 2026/27 FA Cup journey as we dream of glory and welcome for the first ever time in the FA Cup Worthing as this afternoons opponents.

Last Saturday's 6–0 defeat at home to Yeovil Town was a difficult afternoon for everyone connected with Wealdstone. The result was a painful one to take, particularly in front of our own supporters, and there is no disguising the disappointment that followed the final whistle.

Football, however, rarely allows much time to dwell on setbacks. The response is what matters, and today's FA Cup tie provides the Stones with an immediate opportunity to put things right.

This afternoon's meeting has added interest given that the two clubs have already faced one another in National League action this season. Worthing claimed a narrow victory in that August encounter, with Ramell Carter scoring the decisive goal.

That result will provide an added incentive for the Stones as they look to turn the tables on home soil.

Worthing arrive having enjoyed a landmark period in their recent history. The Sussex club secured the National League South title last season to earn promotion to the National League for the first time, marking a significant achievement for the club.

For Wealdstone, the challenge is to make home advantage count. Cup ties are built on atmosphere, commitment and the collective belief that something special might happen. We as supporters need to get behind the team from the whistle and help create an environment worthy of this famous competition.

Finally, both the club and the Supporters Club are still in urgent need for volunteers around the ground or with help running the Supporters Club.

Any free time given is truly appreciated and it is a great way to meet like minded supporters and contribute to the club's success.

You are unable to spare time but want to still help I hear you say.... fantastic. As always we still at this stage of the season have plenty of ways you can contribute. Within these pages you will see Match Sponsorship, Ball Donations and Players Kit Sponsorships all waiting for you or a group of friends to commit. Please take a look as it directly impacts our on field performance.

Come on, Stones! **Mark**

WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2026/2027

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1981 / 1982 Southern League Championship
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LEAGUE CUPS
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1964 / 1965 Senior Cup
1967 / 1968 Senior Cup
1984 / 1985 Senior Cup
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2010 / 2011 Charity Cup

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

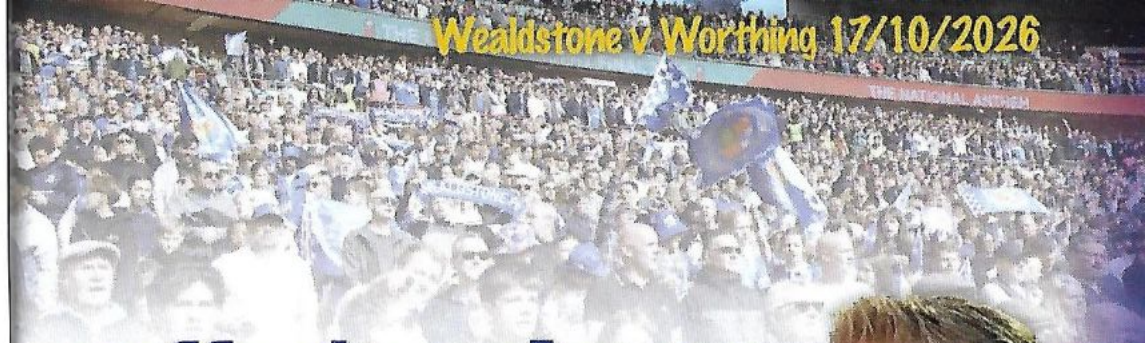
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Lakefront Football Partners hold 50.61% at 31 May - no other shareholder holds over 10%

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



gaffer's column
gary waddock





Tim Parks

IF IT was a case of Groundhog Day last week in these notes, Gary Waddock might be thinking it's now more along the lines of a Zombie Apocalypse as another two red cards sealed our fate against high-flyers Yeovil.

It's hard not to feel sorry for the manager as he attempts to put a competitive side together amongst the whole litany of injuries and suspensions. The game turned on Dante Baptiste's sending off - after an ill-judged attempted interception - while the injury time dismissal of centre back Aidan Francis-Clarke just added salt into a gaping wound.

When I spoke to Gary on Sunday morning, he'd already spent hours chasing additions to the depleted squad.... while head of recruitment Steve Boone had been on the phone since Saturday evening chasing a loan goalkeeper to replace the suspended Dante.

"I said to the players after the game: It's happened, it's over and there's no point dwelling on it. We have to move on and put this behind us as we prepare for today's FA Cup game against Worthing.

"I seem to be just repeating myself here but our poor decision-making is costing us dear...it's killing us. Once again we started the game going toe-to-toe with a very good side and actually had two very good chances with Fejiri bringing a save from their goalkeeper. And then Connor McAvoy headed down into the ground from a corner right in front of goal.

'I said to the players after the game: It's happened, it's over ... there's no point in dwelling on it'



"When it was 11 versus 11, I thought we were playing very well, but all the preparation and tactics go out of the window when you're reduced to 10 men.

"All the sendings off were at critical times in games: at Tamworth it swung the game in their favour, at Worthing and Barrow it gave us mountains to climb and then of course last Saturday it was again completely avoidable.

"Dante's starting position was too high and he shouldn't have got involved as there were two defenders who could've intercepted - and from that point we were chasing shadows against a good side.

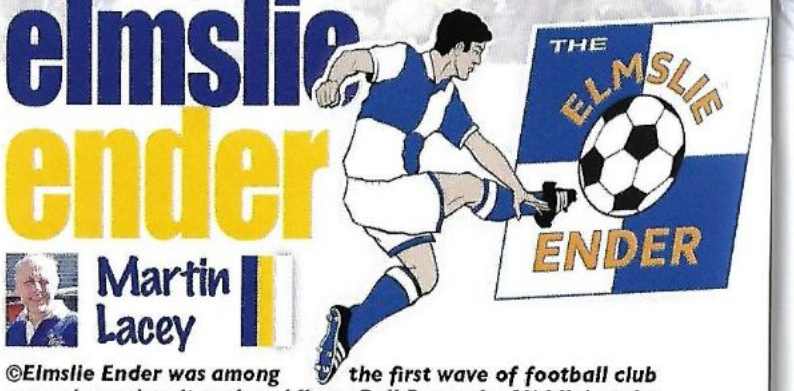
"I felt sorry for Endurance, he's trained well but obviously hasn't played many games... he's a lovely guy and this experience will make him a stronger man.

"Now we need new bodies in the squad so this past week has been spent locating those players – especially a goalkeeper. It's been a really difficult few months and yes, we have lost the momentum that took us into the last weeks of last season and included Wembley of course... but we are doing our level best to overcome all these setbacks. The injury list has been cruel.

"It was good to see Dion Conroy coming on for the final stages against Yeovil and we're hopeful that he Aaron Henry and Kyle Smith will soon be involved again.

"Thanks for your support in adversity last Saturday. Please get behind us again today... UTS."

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

Why the Cup win at Grimsby meant so much, and why we crave that glory this season

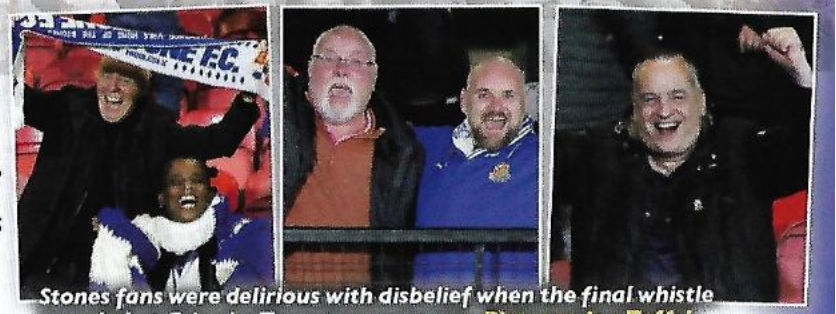
SOME non-league teams are synonymous with FA Cup giant killing. Think Altrincham, Yeovil and Hereford, whose 1972 win over Newcastle United is probably more famous than any FA Cup final.

Here at Wealdstone, regrettably, we're more synonymous with falling at the final hurdle, heroic failures and, if we're honest, ignominious disasters. I'm not going to list them here as I only have two pages to fill. My first full season of following the Stones home and away was 1974-75; I remember well the pain of going out to Tooting & Mitcham away in the 3rd Qualifying Round and that feeling has been a regularly recurring visitor ever since. That said, over the last couple of years we've taken steps to correct this historical anomaly, and let's hope that upturn continues today.

The preponderance of 'big name' teams in non-league combined with the deprioritising of the Cup among not just the Premier League giants but many Football League sides too, has diminished the shock value of giant killings. We probably all remember Macclesfield beating Crystal Palace last year, but can you tell me the previous time a non-league team beat a Premier League club?



Together as one: Fans and players celebrate the surprise 1-0 win at Blundell Park in November 2024



Stones fans were delirious with disbelief when the final whistle sounded at Grimsby Town two years ago. Pictures: Jon Taffel

Well, it was Norwich 0 Luton 1 in 2013. Norwich v Luton? That was an EFL Championship fixture last year.

Nevertheless the FA Cup matters to real non-league fans. We can't win the Cup; realistically, in our case we're not going to win the National League any time soon and avoiding relegation six years in a row (note, that's longer than we survived in either of our first two National League spells) qualifies as an era of unprecedented success.

But an FA Cup run is like winning a trophy in itself. We can dream of getting to the third round, we can dream of getting drawn away to a Premier League giant, and it's not too far-fetched. It just needs the balls to come out in the right order and a couple of 110% performances, or a bit of luck.

It happened once before, in 1978 when we went to QPR in the third round. Top flight football was a very different beast then, and going to Loftus Road wasn't that much different to going to Lower Mead, just with more people present. We drank too much; we stood behind the goal; and there was a punch up on the station platform afterwards. I'm not saying that was good, obviously.

But Premier League grounds these days are docile, sanitised places, designed and equipped to suck money from the pockets of their patrons. On the rare occasions I find myself venturing to such places the main reward is that I come out reminded of why I support a non-league team.

But, of course, wouldn't we love to get to the third round and go to Old Trafford or Anfield! The financial rewards and publicity that cling to such events are the footballing equivalent of a lottery win. We might even get a new PA system!

As for the actual matchday experience, I'm less enthusiastic. The great thing about supporting Wealdstone, particularly Wealdstone away, is that I go to matches and I'm surrounded by people just like me, not gatecrashers. People with high hopes and low expectations, people who will do anything for the club and whose loyalty and enthusiasm will be undiminished by failure.



...and chairman and manager were emotional too

The kind of people that have been to Cambridge City for a midweek Southern League Cup tie in the fog, the sort of people that have been to an FA Vase replay on a Saturday lunchtime (because the opponents didn't have floodlights) in a park somewhere in Hertfordshire that I will no longer be able to place on a map - and hope I never have to again. That's what Wealdstone supporters do.

Two seasons ago we were drawn away to Grimsby in the FA Cup 1st Round. There was a collective groan. Neither Grimsby the team, or Grimsby the place (yeah, I know they play in Cleethorpes) exude glamour. We'd been there the previous season in the National League, and lost.

It was probably the lowest turnout of Wealdstone fans for an away FA Cup first round tie ever (268 to be precise - Ed). I'll bet there were many more at Port Vale in 1949. But at 5pm we were celebrating one of the greatest days in recent Stones history.

I doubt the Grimsby fans could fathom quite why it meant so much to us. But it did.

We were through to the 2nd Round for the first time since 1983. We'd beaten a Football League opponent for the first time since 1977. It was one of those 'We're back' moments, and I doubt the couple of hundred of us there, especially the old guys who've seen it all, will ever forget it.

Some more of that this season would be good. Old Trafford? Not bothered, it can wait.

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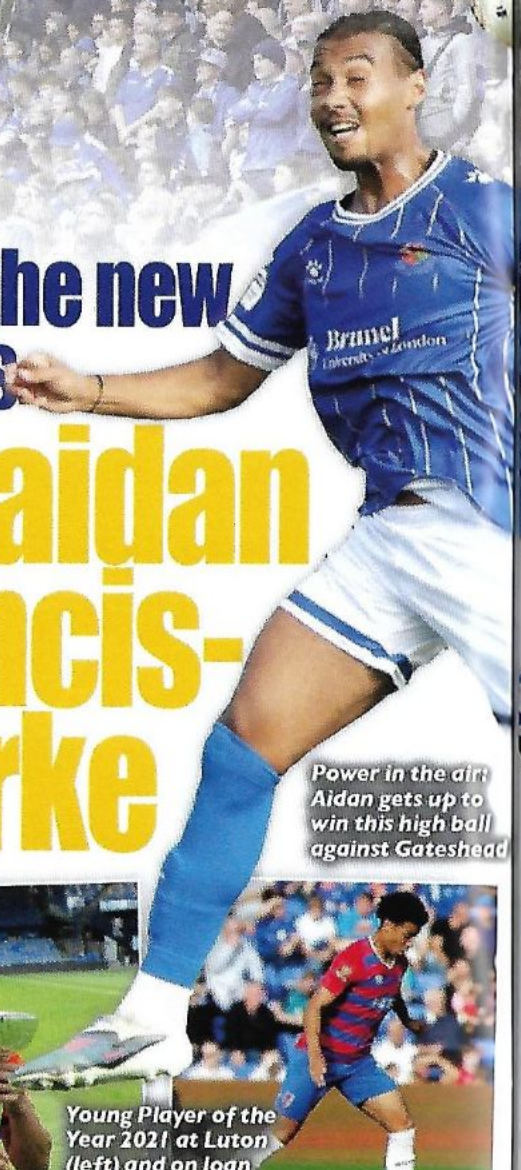
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Wealdstone v Worthing 17/10/2026



Tim Parks

meet the new stones it's aidan francis-clarke



Power in the air: Aidan gets up to win this high ball against Gateshead

Young Player of the Year 2021 at Luton (left) and on loan at Dagenham & Redbridge (right)

AIDAN FRANCIS-CLARKE certainly flew into Grosvenor Vale under the radar...and it was his proud mum Clara who announced his arrival in pre-season!

We were leading a strong Milton Keynes Dons side 1-0 in the home friendly when a sharp ball across the six-yard box was turned in by one of the several triallists on show for the Stones that evening.

None of my gaggle of mates standing behind the goal knew who it was who'd scored… but just then two women walked past and asked who had put the ball in the net.

"The centre back, number 16... do you know who he is?" I asked, sensing they were maybe related.

"That's my son!" exclaimed one of the women excitedly. "Aidan Francis Clarke - my boyfriend!" the other woman said proudly.

Their enthusiasm was infectious and when I related the incident to Aidan he was equally amused.

"Yes, my mum Clara (or Clare) and my girlfriend Hafsa were both at that game and I knew it was important to get noticed - I was playing for a place in the Stones squad." Steve Boone, our head of recruitment had spoken to Aidan's agent and Stones fans were aware of the young centre back's ability after we had faced Braintree – where Aidan was then playing – twice last season.

"It ended on a low note when we were relegated with three games still to play… and it didn't help when we lost 4-1 at home to Wealdstone after a gruelling week of travel" said Aidan, 22, when I caught up with him before the disastrous recent Yeovil game.

"It sounds like an excuse but we had to travel down to Truro in Cornwall the previous Saturday, and then on the Tuesday night travelled up to Newcastle to play Gateshead. We were tired and lacklustre, and although we went 1-0 up Wealdstone were too good and too clever for us.

"I didn't know anybody in the Stones team apart from Kyle Smith who had been on loan at Braintree for a month but the group were really welcoming… It's a tight-knit group of players, very solid and I think we've got enough about us to end the season strongly."

Aidan has been a revelation since the early weeks of the season. Injuries to Jack Cook, Dion Conroy and Jaydn Mundle-Smith have given him the opportunity to step into the back four alongside Connor McAvoy and Mason Barrett, and his dogged defending and power in the air- plus also being able to step through into midfield with the ball - have made him a first-choice.

"So who is better in the air then Aidan… you or Connor?" I asked him mischievously. Both men show impeccable timing to outjump strikers several inches taller.

"I really couldn't say, and I wouldn't say" he laughed. "But I was coached that if you get off the ground before your opponent it is very hard for them to win the ball. It's all about timing".

Aidan lives and was brought up in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. He played in Sunday Youth League football until Arsenal spotted his potential of the age of eight. His dad Jeremy drove him around the country to games but he was released by the Gunners at the age of 12 - later signed by Luton Town at the age of 14 when he was converted into a defender having previously played at full back, in midfield, and even up front in his fledgling youth career.

"I never quite made the grade at Luton but I was on the substitute bench for three games in the Championship in my late teens… and I thought I might actually get on the pitch in a game against Swansea when we were 3-0 up. But Swansea grabbed a 3-3 draw and I knew my chance had gone."

But one of his great memories is being on the bench for one of Luton's first -ever games in the Prem, against Brighton three years ago. He says that just turning up at the ground and pulling on a Prem shirt with 'Francis-Clarke' on the back was spine-tingling.

"That will stay with me forever. We lost that game 4-1 and the whole season was a fight for survival… but we gave a lot of teams a real run for their money at Kenilworth Road and we were still in the fight with two games to go.

"So what are your favourite memories of playing?" I asked him. "Well, one of them has to be playing for Braintree against Truro at home last season when I scored two goals in the final ten minutes to win the game 3-2 ....they were both headers, one back header from a cross from our right back, and then shortly afterwards I jumped and nodded a corner into the net to seal three points in our fight against relegation... that felt really good!

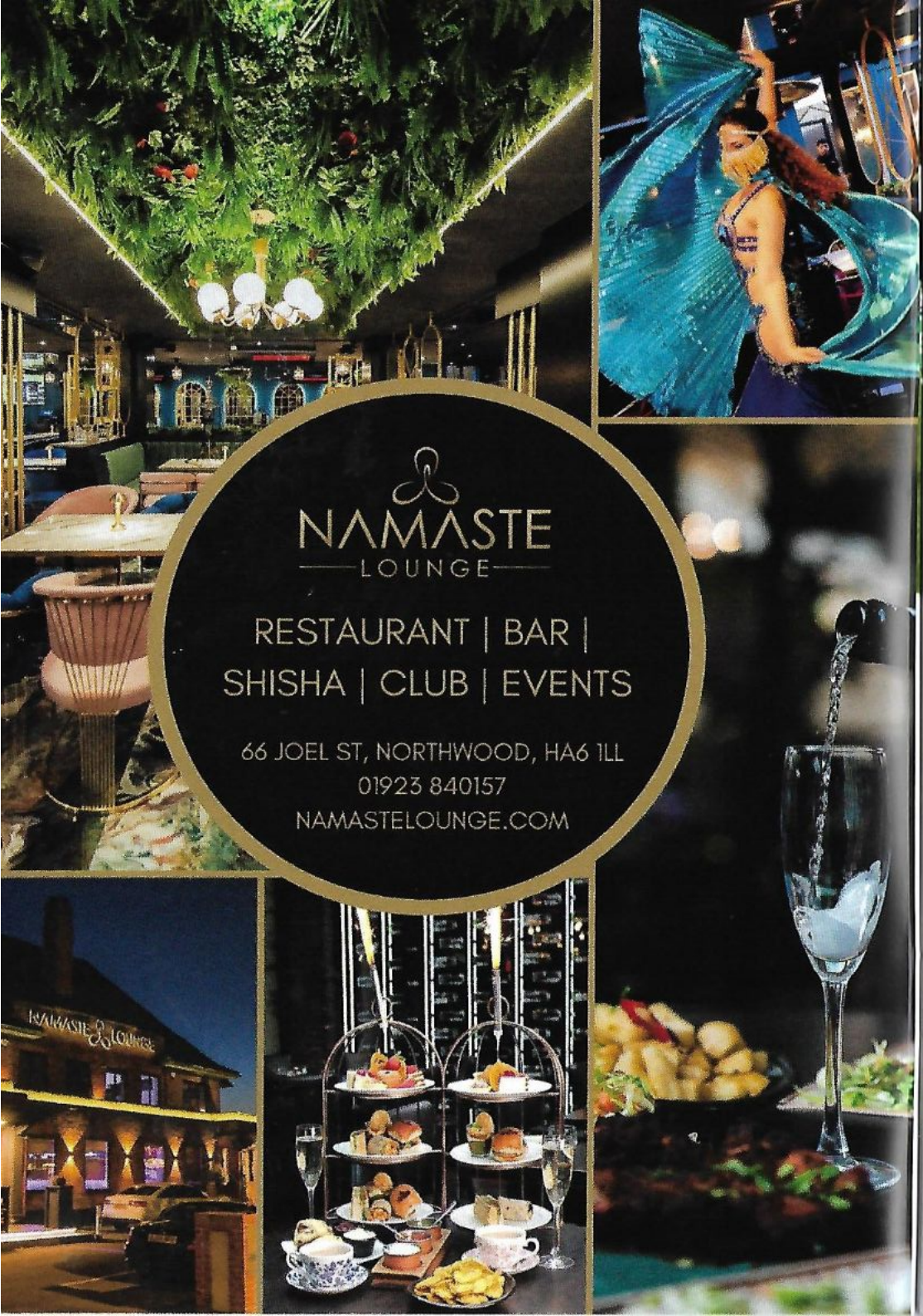
"The second great memory was playing in an Essex Youth Cup Final about ten years ago… a game played at Dagenham and Redbridge when I scored the third goal in a 3-1 win with a shot from the edge of the box. Even in midfield, I didn't score many goals so that one was special."

"Do you follow a football team?" I asked him. "Yes, Arsenal… I used to go with my dad to the Emirates and then I saw them play Chelsea in September in a 2-1 win - I can sometimes get tickets through a group of mates in a season ticket group but of course most Saturdays I'm playing now."

AF-C for AFC. It was written in the stars, but thankfully he fell into our lap.



Aidan (left) arrives at Kenilworth with fellow youngster Joe Johnson and Luton fan Derek Borino before the big Premier League home kick off



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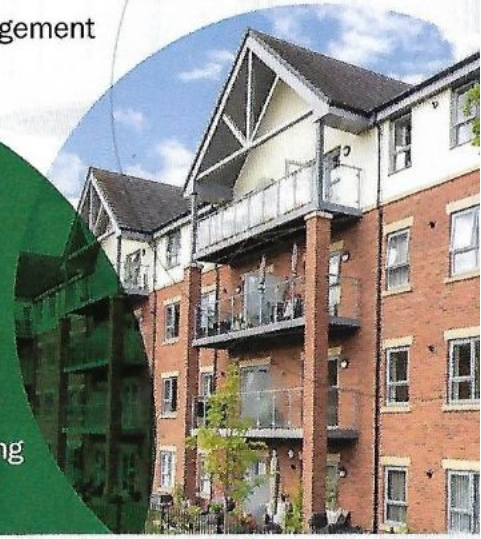
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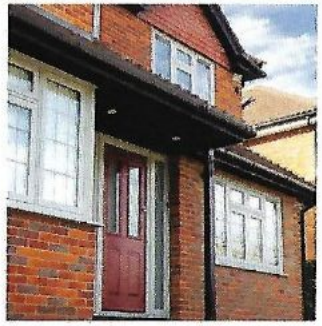
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Worthing Association FC was founded in February 1886 and played home matches mostly in the People's (now Homefield) Park until the Club moved to Beach House Park in 1889.

The early years were spent playing friendlies and competing in the Sussex Senior Cup, in which our first tie on November 27th 1886 resulted in a 1-0 home win over Brighton Hornets.

Worthing reached their 1st Senior Cup final in 1891-92 (losing 5-3 to Brighton Hornets) before winning the 1892-93 final 2-1 against Eastbourne at the County Ground, Hove. This was the first of a record 21 Senior Cup wins, the most recent being in 1999.

Worthing were founder members of the West Sussex Senior League in 1896, along with their local rivals Worthing Athletic (founded 1891). The first of 7 championships was won in 1898-99, qualifying Worthing to play the East Sussex League champions Brighton Athletic in the Sussex Charity Cup donated by the Royal Irish Rifles. This match was lost 2-1, but we went on to win the RUR Cup (as it became known) 13 times (including twice jointly with Horsham).

In 1899-00 the name "Association" was dropped and we entered the FA Cup and FA Amateur Cup for the first time.

In May 1900 Worthing and Worthing Athletic merged and in 1901 the Club moved to its current home, then known as the Sports Ground, now as Woodside Road.

The team of 1903-04 contained 3 players who would become full internationals; S.S. Harris and E.G.D. Wright for England and Charlie Webb for Ireland. Harris played for England while still a player for Worthing.

Worthing withdrew from the West Sussex League for the 1904-05 season, so as not to be in competition with the newly promoted Worthing Rovers (founded 1901). We rejoined the League in 1905 after merging with Rovers during the summer.

In 1907-08 Worthing reached the quarter-finals of the FA Amateur Cup, where we drew 1-1 away to the eventual winners Depot Battalion Royal Engineers, before losing the replay 1-0 before a then record crowd of over 3,100.

After World War I, in 1919-20, Worthing competed in 2 leagues, being founder members of the Senior Division of the Brighton, Hove & District League and rejoining the West Sussex League. The following year we helped found the Sussex County League and resigned from the West Sussex League in protest at a rule change. The County League championship was won for the first 2 seasons: another 6 titles were won during our stay in this league.

At the end of the 1921-22 season we applied to join the Athenian League, but withdrew the application before the AGM.

The FA Cup 1st Round Proper was reached in 1936-37, Worthing losing 4-3 at Yeovil & Petters United. In the 4th Qualifying Round we had beaten Wimbledon in front of our highest reported crowd of 3,600. This year also saw the first of 3 AFA Senior Cup finals reached, Worthing losing 7-1 to Harwich & Parkeston.

Wealdstone v Worthing 17/10/2026

worthing fc

Worthing left the Athenian League in 1977 to become members of the newly formed Isthmian League Division 2.

At the end of 1984-85 the Club's main stand burnt down. In 1985-86 we reached the last 16 of the FA Trophy; then the following year Worthing were relegated from the Premier Division. Four years later we had a disastrous season, finishing bottom of Division 1 with only 10 points and having conceded 157 goals.

Former Northern Ireland international Gerry Armstrong was appointed manager in 1991-92 and the following season Worthing became the first club to win Division 2 for a second time.

In 2001 Worthing celebrated 100 years of playing at Woodside Road, an event marked by the publication of the first book devoted to the Club.

Former player George Dowell took control of the club at the end of the 2014/15 season. Dowell didn't waste any time, investing heavily in not only wiping out all the clubs debts but also laying down a brand new 3G pitch, giving The Rebel's Tavern a complete makeover, converting it into The 7HQ Sports Bar and Cafe and continuing general improvements to Woodside Road.

All this coming after his own career was ended by a serious car crash in 2010, which left him confined to a wheelchair and paralysed from the chest down.

George used his compensation money wisely, setting up Worthing Football Centre to help create a real community hub at Wooside Road, with the new artificial surface available for hire to all teams and age groups seven days a week. All this coming after he had formed his own football team in the West Sussex League, Worthing Borough. However, early on in pre-season George and his fellow new directors were already looking for a new Manager, with Hinshelwood's impressive fire-fighting skills attracting the attention of his old club, Brighton & Hove Albion and a move back into the full-time game followed, with his appointment as Assistant Manager to their Under-18's.

Jon Meeney was promoted to the role of Joint-Manager alongside new signing, Gary Elphick, who would continue his playing career. Both incumbents making their senior management bows.

Former player Matt Piper returned to the club as player-coach, complementing the experience of the evergreen Mick Fogden, while Stuart Owens became the new Goalkeeping Coach and Natalie Stenning followed Elphick from Lewes, to become our new physio.

Nobody could have predicted how the next nine months would unfold. The first team sealed promotion back to the Ryman League top flight for the first time since 2007 by winning the Division One South Play-Offs.

The 2019-20 campaign was unprecedented, as Coronavirus spread around the world and ended all football in mid-March.

Many thousands lost their lives and our national sport concluded with a mixture of null and void and points-per-game.

Our own Isthmian League went for the first of those options early and so we'll never truly know whether we'd have held on to become Champions or competed in the Play-Offs for a place in National South.

Worthing went on to become Premier Division champions in 2021–22, earning promotion to the National League South.

In their first season in the National League the club finished fourth in the division, qualifying for the play-offs. After beating Braintree Town 2–1 in the quarter-finals, they lost 2–0 to Oxford City in the semi-finals. The season also saw them win the Sussex Senior Cup again, beating Bognor Regis Town 8–7 on penalties after a 0–0 draw.

At the start of the 2023–24 season the club won the Sussex Community Shield, defeating Broadbridge Heath 5–4 on penalties after the match ended 3–3. They went on to reach the first round of the FA Cup for the fifth time, losing 2–0 at Alfreton Town, and finished third in the National League South, qualifying for the play-offs again.

After beating Maidstone United 2–1 in the semi-finals, the club lost 4–3 to Braintree Town in the final.

The 2025–26 season saw Worthing win the National League South title, earning promotion to the National League.

In 2026 the club was awarded the Freedom of the Borough by Worthing Borough Council for this achievement.

Stones v Worthing

P 13 W 8 D 2 L 3 Goals F 18 A 11

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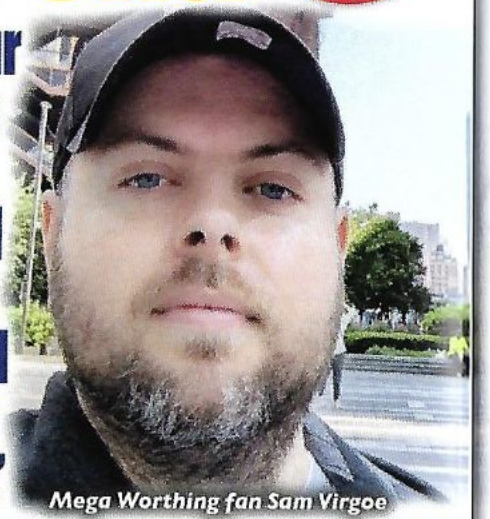
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Sam Virgoe view from the away end

'I don't think our plastic pitch is an advantage.. I think national league teams should be good enough to play on all surfaces'


Mega Worthing fan Sam Virgoe

Your name and age? Sam Virgoe, 36.

Do you live in Worthing? Yes, I live in Worthing. Have done all my life.

What was your first game, and what do you remember of it? It was Saturday 30th November 2002, in the grass pitch days, a 0-0 draw at home to Whyteleafe. Lack of goals didn't put me off!

Is Worthing FC a big part of your life? A huge part of my life: historically I have volunteered on the turnstile, tannoy, programme editing amongst other positions. The community aspect and seeing my mates every weekend is what I love.

Do you follow any other team? How seriously? My other club is Chelsea - I went to Stamford Bridge to see Chelsea v Sheffield Wednesday for my first game in 1997. Had a season ticket for many years and was lucky enough to be in Munich in 2012 to see a Champions League trophy lift. My current stats are 479 Chelsea games, 411 Worthing games.... watching home and away is the best and I go to many more Worthing games these days since buying a lifetime season ticket in the *Futures Brighton Floodlight* fundraiser.

Have you seen Worthing face the Stones before? Yes twice, earlier this year for the league game at Woodside and back in December 2004, a 1-0 home defeat (Thanks Futbology!)

Who are your all-time favourite Worthing FC players? In no particular order Ollie Pearce, Darren Budd, Jessie Starkey, Jasper Pattenden, Harrison Male, Will Hendon, Brannon O'Neil, Lloyd Dawes, and Omar Bugiel.

Has Worthing's recent fairytale climb up the pyramid surprised you.. what has been the main factor behind this? It hasn't surprised me, sleeping giant is a term banded about a lot in sport. But once the momentum behind the town and George's story took off there's been no looking back. It's a one town mentality that's got us here.

What are your feelings about artificial pitches? Has it given your team an advantage do you feel? I don't mind 4g pitches, it's more sustainable for clubs to get games on. I wouldn't say it's been a huge advantage as our results have been indifferent at home and National League teams should be good enough to play on all surfaces.

Who are the danger men to look out for today? Razzaq Coleman De-Graft & Ricky Aguiar.

What is Worthing's best-ever season in the FA Cup? Our best-ever season in the FA Cup was the 1982–83 season, when we reached the Second Round Proper for the only time, a 4-0 away defeat to Oxford City.

Were the fans disappointed by an away draw at a fellow National League side? We could have got a better draw, it's a new ground for me being my first visit to Grosvenor Vale so I'm not too unhappy... however home would have been preferable or away to a lower league side.

How many away fans do you anticipate travelling? 150-200 away fans I'd anticipate travelling to today's FA Cup game.

Do you follow games via live stream at all, and what do you make of that experience? On occasions via live stream, work depending. For example I had to miss Yeovil away due to finishing late, of course it's not the same experience to being at a game but I appreciate the accessibility and watching in local pubs is convenient.

Do you buy a programme at games? I don't buy programmes much at all now, mainly due to space and storage but it's good to keep print alive. Having done the programme editing for Worthing in the past I fully appreciate and admire the work that goes into it and providing a good read.

Where do you hope to see Worthing FC in five years time? Do they aspire to get into the EFL? As long as we're a sustainable club that's all that matters: being a solidified National League side but of course the dream is the EFL. One step at a time.

And finally, what is your prediction for today's game? I don't usually like to predict games. I'll go for a 1-1 draw.

Wealdstone v Worthing 17/10/2026

Worthing, we've met you before

20/08/2005 : WEALDSTONE 2 WORTHING 1



THE LAST time we faced Worthing at home was in the Ryman (Isthmian League) Premier Division 21 years ago... with the Stones in a state of flux.

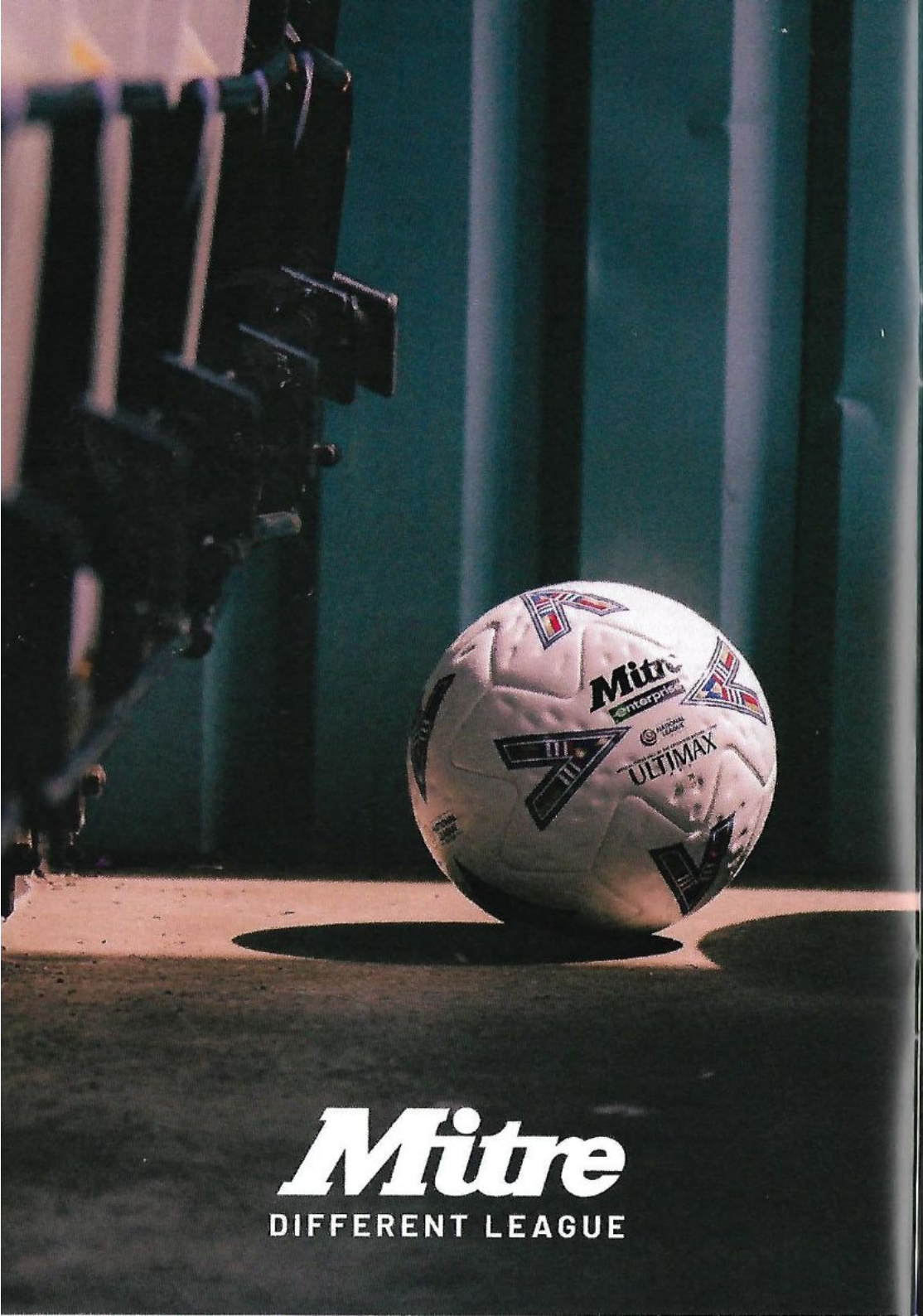
The gaffer, Gordon Bartlett - depressed at the negativity on and off the pitch - decided to bring in Cheshunt's Andy Leese as joint manager (and two of his coaching team, John Meekes and Steve Hurd) and Leese brought along several of his outstanding Cheshunt players. As GB said in his programme notes: "We will have a much stronger squad, adding these players alongside others like Jermaine Beckford, Richard Jolly, Gary McKeown, Jason Shaw, Lee Chappell and Josh Cooper".

Goalkeeper Russell Ling, midfielders Ross White and Ryan Harris plus defenders Andy Keepence and Liam Baptiste had all shone against us in previous seasons for Cheshunt and they were in sparkling form as Worthing - one of the Isthmian Prem promotion favourites - were seen off at Chestnut Avenue, Northwood in the opening game. It was also a new home for the Stones and Bartlett said he was looking forward to "a decent pitch, warm showers and a clean changing room every week, which we hadn't been getting at the White Lion Ground".

The groundshare at Edgware should have ended with the club moving into the half-completed stadium at Prince Edward Playing Fields (now of course The Hive), but with Scarborough Developments, the club's build partner, pulling its funding the whole construction was in limbo. With Stones unable to proceed, latest news was that the ground had been handed back to the London Borough of Harrow to try to find suitable partners... who turned out to be Barnet FC, surprise surprise.

As for the game, the devastating strike partnership of Beckford and Jolly (who were both sold before the end of the season) were our salvation with Jermaine converting an early penalty (pictured celebrating, left). Jolls nipped in to hit a second after the break and Worthing's reply from Browne came too late. They also had their skipper, Cable, sent off for a skirmish with Beckford. Worthing finished 8th in the table with Stones surviving (just) in 18th.

Our record v Worthing: Played 13, Won 8, Drew 2, Lost 3. We've only met in league games before.



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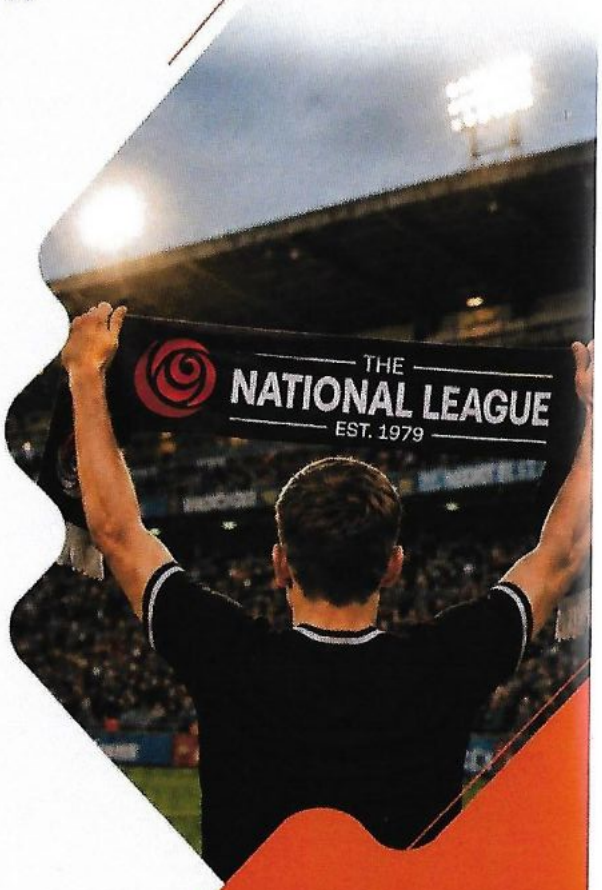
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wfcsc update

Adam Edwards

There was no rest for the committee or directors this week (written before Yeovil at home), as we sat down for one of our regular get togethers to see how things are advancing in and around the football club.

We covered topics such as developments on the new ground / funding, changes that are taking place around the club and the facilities, things that we as representatives of the fans believe need to be improved, as well as discussing how we as a supporters club can assist the main club moving forward. Our meeting was with Nick S and Richard Walker. Discussions were positive and lots of detail was covered. As always if members / fans want us to forward any issues or concerns of theirs to the main club; or likewise want to hear about developments feel free to ask any committee member. We will answer as many questions as we can.

Megastore News – As always, we continue to try and offer our fans a broad range of products that showcase your support for our club. In recent weeks we have added a number of different colours and styles of caps, to our already extensive collection. Whether it is the trendier and more youthful 'snapback' or the old school and more traditional 'baseball' style we have something for those either trying to prevent the sunburn, or probably at this time of year, help keep the old grey matter warm. Every cap is the same price and a bargain at £15. We have also recently added a new Wealdstone Polo shirt in sage / green (£25). Or maybe you want something to relax around the house… then why don't you check out our navy or green jogging bottoms with "Wealdstone" written down the leg. They could be yours for a very reasonable £20 each.

… and while you are in the mood for some spending why not check out our heavily discounted Wembley merchandise (T-shirts, flags, polo shirts, mugs etc for £10 or less) or our very popular hoodies & sweatshirts (£25-28 each). These are particularly stylish and the perfect way to help stave off turning the heating on at home. Again, a range of styles and colours are available online and in store.

Lastly, we have been restocked with those dependable grey Wealdstone beanie hats and blue & white Wealdstone scarves. Guaranteed to look stylish and keep you warm for just £12 each.

The 'Old Programme Hut' – Over the summer we refined our selection and changed things around in the programme shop. We now have even more England programmes, Cup finals, Chelsea, Arsenal, Fulham, Millwall, West Ham, Palace, Spurs & Watford programmes. A large majority of these programmes date back to the 1950's & 60's and are all available in the grey programme hut opposite the Megastore shop (outside the stadium). As always deals for bulk purchases are available. There are even some old football directories floating around and both hardback and paperback autobiographies for (£1 or less) and a selection of Elmslie Ender magazines and Long Ball Down the Middle if a bit of Stones culture is required. There is something for everyone, no matter your budget.

50/50 – Don't forget to pick up your 50/50 ticket with a chance to win a helpful bundle of cash. Look out for WFCSC committee men / ladies who will be selling around the social club and inside the ground. It is only a pound so well worth a little flutter. Recent winners have pocketed on average £400+ this season. Winning ticket numbers will be announced over the PA system, displayed outside the ground by the Kelme shop, shown on the Supporters Club Facebook page and posted on Twitter / X. Winning ticket & prize money can be collected from the Captain's Lounge after the game or in the days following the game.

Comedy Evening – If you are in the mood for some chuckles why not book a ticket to our Comedy Night on 17th October in the social club. Tickets are £16 in advance, and we have four great comics on show, including comedy legend Bob Mills. Doors open at 7:45pm.

Watch out – Please keep an eye out on WFCSC / football club social media and websites for a relaunch of the Junior Stones in the coming weeks. Remember all great Stones fans start as little Pebbles.

!

Adam

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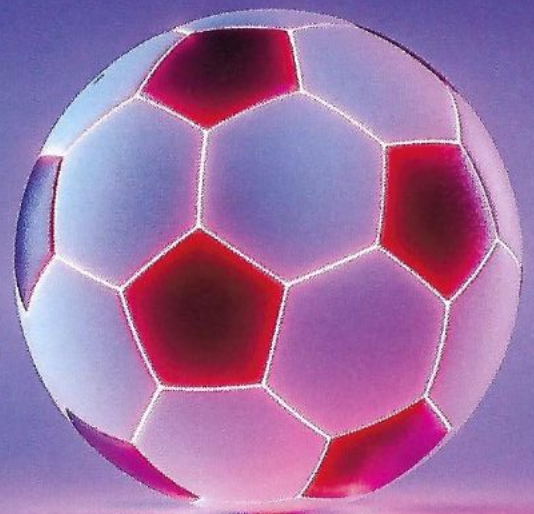
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Wealdstone v Worthing, October 17th 2026

1st XI stats 26/27

		Comp	Score	Crowd* (Away)	Lge	Goal scorers
AUGUST	8 AFC Fylde	ENL	2-2	1,103	14	Norris, Olomola
	15 HARROGATE TOWN	ENL	1-3	1,517	19	Obiero
	18 WOLVES	NLC	1-3	227	19	Callum
	22 Worthing	ENL	0-1	2,235	21	
	28 CARLISLE UNITED	ENL	1-1	1,995	22	Henry
	31 Sutton United	ENL	2-0	2,197	17	Obiero (2)
SEPTEMBER	5 KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS	ENL	1-4	1,676	20	McAvoy
	8 STOKE CITY	NLC	6-0	146	20	Waweru (3), Kaunda (2), Olomola
	12 Boston United	ENL	3-1	1,612	17	Kadji, Olomola, Mundle-Smith
	15 FC HALIFAX TOWN	ENL	0-1	1,347	18	
	19 Tamworth	ENL	1-2	854	20	Olomola
	26 GATESHEAD	ENL	4-0	2,112	17	Olomola, Norris (p), Wells-Morrison, Cook
	29 Forest Green Rovers	ENL	1-1	1,157	19	Okenabirhie
OCTOBER	3 Barrow AFC	ENL	1-2	2,536	19	Maher
	10 YEOVIL TOWN	ENL	0-6	2,082	19	
	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	16	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	Oskar ZEZULA	Fejiri OKENABIRHIE	Amaru KAUNDA	Tyrele 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

Endurance test! Our substitute keeper was thrown into the thick of things last weekend when Dante Baptiste's sending off necessitated a change in personnel.

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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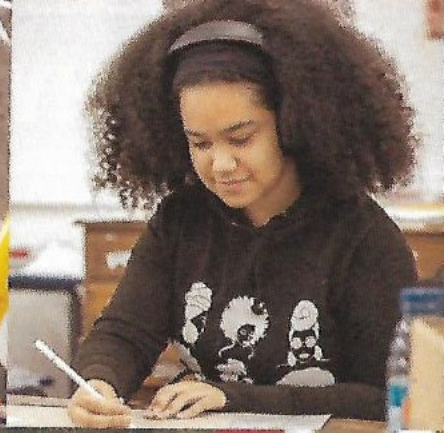


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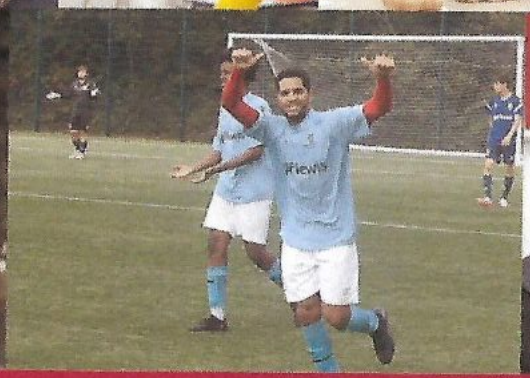
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the only way is up for our newly-promoted wealdstone women

"A SQUAD to go and compete" is the understated assessment of Head Coach Saj Vigneswaran as his Wealdstone Women group adjust to life in new climes after capping their inaugural year since reforming with promotion last season.

Two cup semi-finals, a cup quarter-final and second place in the league has to constitute a positive first term by any measure.

Speaking before last weekend's Greater London Women's Football League Trophy tie at Regents Park Rangers, Saj was reflecting on the start of the new campaign and the difference between Greater London Women's Football League Division 2 North and the current Division 1 North.

It was good of him to spare the time: he's an extremely in-demand coach with roles at Northwood men's first-team, Wealdstone Youth FC Under-11s and a 'day job' with Watford FC's Community Trust to squeeze in.



Above: Wealdstone Women huddle after the recent game against Hackney Ladies on the grass at Brunel with head coach Saj Vigneswaren (left) speaking out



"The way the team came together last season to grow stronger and stronger, that was what pleased me most," he reflected after a campaign which saw an early 6-0 defeat by eventual champions Fusion later avenged with a 1-0 win. That showed the progress made in eventually taking the other available promotion spot.

"We dealt with the usual niggly bits around setting up a new side early on, but it was clear the foundations were there in terms of understanding and we quickly solidified a core base of key players.

"This summer we knew it was always going to be a big step up. Division 2 last year is where all new teams start, so the levels can be really up and down.

"We've recruited some players to add quality and help the team gel that much more, but in terms of the new standard we're still laying those foundations and building game by game."

Saj expected a tough start and Division 1 North hasn't disappointed. Although in between two 4-0 losses and a bigger defeat at the hands of QPR Development, a first league win - by six goals to one - arrived late last month against Enfield Town Development.

He added: "The QPR game was a real eye-opener, even though we had already got a feeling for the jump in class. That's why we're not being shy about continuing to add new players, especially as we've got a couple of bad injuries at the moment."

And the aim now is to quickly implement early-season learnings to make a further mark in their eight-team division and a number of cup competitions.

"Offering a stronger challenge to the better teams is our aim. We're about consolidating ourselves in this division and, from what I've seen so far, it's going to be about us being a bit more secure defensively as a team.

"Of course it's about results, but also it's very much about helping players develop and improve their game.

"Some of the girls are coming into this pretty new to football, although with some obvious technical capability, so it's our job to harness that and allow them to flourish within a very positive and together environment."

● Wealdstone Women are next in action tomorrow, Sunday October 18, at the iconic Hackney Marshes for a 2pm kick-off against Clapton Community Reserves in the Capital Women's Junior Cup. Please get along and support if you can.

● Are you a young player with designs on representing WFCW in the future? Saj's advice is to contact Wealdstone Youth Football Club in the first instance. Go to *wealdstoneyouthfc.co.uk*, which contains team information and contact details. Good luck!

Wealdstone v Worthing 17/10/2026



It's like they'd won! Joyous scenes as Ryan Forster nets a consolation goal against Sparta Pic: Riv Dobson-Wallace

An eight-goal thriller, fights and a dog on the pitch: it's all a bit SFCW

AFTER a damning 4-0 defeat to West Herts in their debut league game, SFC Wealdstone (our Supporters Club team) looked to make amends against familiar foes in Inter FC a fortnight ago *writes River Dobson-Wallace*.

We raced out of the blocks but 25 minutes later were trailing 2-0. The game was then halted as a Black Labrador entered the field of play, before Inter netted a third on the half-hour mark...but we had a stroke of luck when Inter's keeper misjudged Ryan Forster's overhit cross and the ball rolled over the line. Stones began the second half on the front foot, and Adam Hills found Archie Farrell in space to score - and the comeback was seemingly complete seven minutes later when Rowley Sethi rifled his effort into the roof of the net.

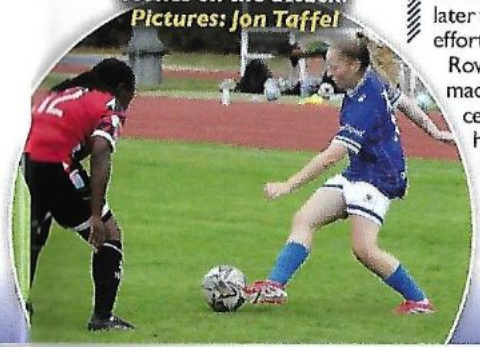
Rowley's half volley might have made it 4-3 before a lapse in concentration at the back saw Inter head back in front with 20 minutes to go. Tempers boiled over as a scuffle broke out on the halfway line, resulting in a handful of bookings being dished out to both sides ... and an 88th minute counter-attack was ultimately SFC's undoing as Inter finally put the game to bed. It finished 5-3.

The *'Bring Your Own Item'* challenge went down a storm across social media once more, with that week's item being beer. Alex Kilroy's choice of Poperings Hommel Bier caught the attention of the Belgian company, who subsequently sent the club 30 bottles free of charge! They're all being saved for when the first win comes, whenever that may be...

Last Sunday saw SFC 4-0 down at half time against Sparta Phoenix from the division above in the Watford Sunday League Denis Jackson Cup with a controversial 5-3-2 formation; but the second half was drawn 1-1 after Ryan Forster turned home Adam Hills' corner with the last kick of the game to spark mass celebrations from the SFC side!

● Tomorrow we face league rivals Dome Bar away at Callowland and may face a former Wealdstone striker in Lewis Putman! Find all the action on Instagram, TikTok and Twitter at @SFCWealdstone.

Stones on the attack! Pictures: Jon Taffel





The brilliant Danny Wiltshire saves from a dark-shirted Colchester forward during the big game 77 years ago... watched by 9,300 and many more via the BBC TV cameras (above right)

From Colchester United in 1949 to Whitstable last year... all the joy & anguish of Stones in the FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round





Tim Parks

NAVIGATING our way into the FA Cup's final qualifying round has certainly got easier since we were promoted to the National League! We now get automatic exemption to the 4th Qual, having spent almost a century (last year was the club's 100th season in the FA Cup) having to start in the early preliminary and qualifying rounds. The last time we played in the 2nd and 3rd Qual was back in 2019, when we were in the National League South, putting out Farnborough 5-0 and then Bristol Manor Farm after a replay. Before that came aeons of games when we struggled to reach that FA Cup light at the end of the tunnel... the 4th Qualifying Round represented the final hurdle before possible glory and the Stones have played 30 games at this stage throughout our long history. So here we go!

Saturday November 12, 1949: Wealdstone 1 Colchester U 0

HISTORY was made 77 years ago when the Stones - who had already been in existence for half a century - finally made it to the FA Cup First Round Proper on a glorious afternoon at Lower Mead.

But not only was club history being made. These were the early days of television and this match was shown live on BBC1 - only the second-ever such game, the first being our 1-0 win at Edgware Town in the previous round!

Ironically, supporter Lew Sheppard (who died recently in his 90s), was on National Service at the time of this epic encounter, based at Colchester Barracks of all places. But he remembered being able to watch the game live "on a screen the size of a postcard" in the army canteen, along with a hundred or so other squaddies.

Through the haze of embryonic TV they would have seen a tale of endless Colchester possession. The professional Southern League side were expected to win easily but once Bill Saunders had put the Stones ahead they became ever more desperate. The hero of the day was our keeper Danny Wiltshire, who was yet to concede a goal in four rounds of the cup - and he kept another clean sheet here with save after save and catch after catch to keep the 9,300 crowd spellbound. They spilled onto the pitch at the end to acclaim the men in blue and white quarters. Colchester had beaten top-flight Huddersfield Town and Bradford the previous season but the boot was on the other foot at Lower Mead, and the next 48 hours, apparently, were spent in contemplation of the draw for the First Round.

Most were hoping for Watford or Notts County and their England centre-forward Tommy Lawton. But there was disappointment when our name was paired with the strong Third Division side Port Vale, the game to be played at Vale Park

Nevertheless, four coachloads of fans plus a special train laid on from Harrow & Wealdstone (fare 18s 9d - that's about 94p today) meant 500 Stones were cheering on the blues among the 15,300 crowd when the big day arrived.

It was another backs-to-the-wall display but in the end Vale centre-forward Pinchbeck scrambled in the winner - the only goal Danny Wiltshire conceded in the FA Cup that season.

As the 23-year-old left the field the Vale fans crowded around and pleaded with his team mates "Leave us your goalkeeper Mister!"

Disappointing 1950s days for the amateur Stones

Saturday November 10 1951: Tonbridge 2 Wealdstone 0

THIS was a great Wealdstone team, another historic Stones team as they finished this season winning the club's first-ever major title: The Athenian League Championship.

It was a powerful and interesting league with clubs like Bromley, Hendon, Enfield, Sutton, Barnet, Tooting and Cambridge City all in the mix, but our devastating forward line with two Polish amateur internationals Henryk Mikrut and Henryk Wegrzyk, and speedy winger Phil White finally won the day. The FA Cup ended in disappointment though at the hands of Southern Leaguers Tonbridge in front of a 4,200 crowd at the Angel Ground.

Saturday November 7 1953: Wealdstone 0 Headington U 3

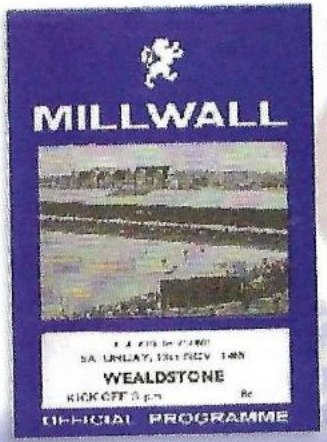
THE STONES were in decline two years later - in fact we were to finish third-bottom of the Athenian League table - but earlier in the season had put together another decent FA Cup run only to be drawn against Southern League semi-pros Headington United (the fore-runners of Oxford United) in the final qualifying round. The tie came just five days after a tough London Challenge Cup semi-final at Highbury against Arsenal - the first time a Wealdstone side had played under floodlights.

There was no disgrace to lose that one 4-1 to a strong Gunners side featuring half a dozen of their First Division stars and Headington United were also formidable opponents. They were on their way to winning the Southern League title but suffered several early scares in a gung-ho Wealdstone display in front of a 6,529 Lower Mead crowd. But unfortunately reserve striker Bristow, standing in for the injured Mikrut, missed two glorious chances and a grateful Headington scored through K.Smith, Middleton and the speedy winger Steel. Just nine years later, after changing their name to Oxford United, the visitors were elected to the Football League in place of Accrington Stanley.

... and a narrow exit at Millwall

Saturday October 16, 1965: Wealdstone 2 Oxford City 0

TWELVE years had elapsed since the club's first-ever appearance in the First Round proper... and the Stones' prospects of making it again in the 1960s seemed remote after a series of frankly awful seasons.



The famous and extraordinary 6-5 win over Stevenage in the Third Qualifying Round at Lower Mead (after being 5-3 behind with 10 minutes to play) saw the Stones go into this final qualifier with a lot of confidence... and goals from Jim Cooley and Brian Allen saw us into the First Round draw. Oxford City were fellow Isthmian Leaguers and a crowd of 2,900 roared the blues into the First Round draw.

But we went out 3-1 to 3rd Division Millwall who had the best home record in the whole league with 10 wins from 12 matches. Stones gave them a terrific fight at their old Cold Blow Lane ground in front of 11,794.

Continued over page >>>

Stones in the FA Cup 4th Qual... contd

from previous page

First Round Proper, Saturday November 26th 1966: Wealdstone 0 Nuneaton Boro 2

A BIT of a strange one, this... the Stones were allowed to bypass ALL the qualifying rounds in 1966 as reward for winning the FA Amateur Cup the previous season - much as in 1985 when we stepped straight into the First Round after winning the Conference/FA Trophy double.

It was a huge compliment for the club, but unfortunately the draw was an unkind one as we were paired with possibly the best team outside the Football League. Nuneaton had finished the previous season as Southern League runners-up to Romford, and their side was studded with ex-League pros... and a bad injury to our centre-back Mike Stanley upset the whole balance of the side. The Stones eventually succumbed to two late goals.

Saturday November 2nd 1968: Slough Town 1 Wealdstone 1
(Replay: Wealdstone 2 Slough 0)

THIS was the year Stones fans were convinced they'd be reaching the Second Round Proper for the first time. After drawing with Athenian League champions Slough Town at the Dolphin Stadium in the 4th Qualifying Round, we went into the replay at Lower Mead four days later knowing the winners would be facing fellow Isthmians St Albans at home in the First Round.

Close to 3,000 were at both Slough games - Keith Searle scoring in the 1-1 draw, and then getting the vital first goal in the 2-0 replay win - and then all eyes turned to the visit of St Albans on November 16, the club's first-ever home game in the competition proper. But alas! In front of a 3,505 crowd, a Hughie Lindsay penalty wasn't enough to beat St Albans, who levelled late on to take the tie back to Clarence Park. By this time we knew the winners would face Third Division Walsall at home in Round Two... a huge incentive that drew over 5,000 to the replay, settled by a ferocious Dave Neville freekick as St Albans went through 1-0.



Saturday November 1, 1975: Wealdstone 3 Southwick 1

THE AUTUMN of 1975 was perhaps my favourite time to be a Stones fan. My rose-tinted specs had us winning every week at home by the time we faced Sussex County League side Southwick at Lower Mead in the final qualifying round. If you could have chosen a team to play it would have had to be the Brighton-based side, especially at home where we were playing with joyful abandon. It was my seventh season watching the Stones and my dearest wish was to see us finally having a decent Cup run, as we'd been depressingly giant-killed each and every season. And finally it happened!

Southwick's star player, midfielder Brian Powney, had made 400 appearances IN GOAL for Brighton & Hove Albion, that's how good they were, but we appeared pretty nervous until John Henderson beat their keeper gangly Chris Porter (both pictured above) towards the end of the first half. George Duck and Bill Byrne wrapped it up, and even a Southwick consolation couldn't spoil the party as we finally made it to the First Round again.

The result was another monumentally tough away tie - at **Aldershot**, motoring along in Division Three (League One in today's money) - but our Stones threw caution to the wind to give Shots a real fright before bowing out 4-3.

Saturday November 1 1969: Wealdstone 0 Enfield 1

THIS single-goal defeat in front of a 2,850 Lower Mead crowd signalled the end of an era, according to coach Dave Underwood who claimed he 'lost the dressing room' after Ken Gray's second-half strike put the Isthmian League champions into the First Round. within a few weeks, replaced by skipper Howard Moxon who fought (and failed) to halt the sudden exodus of our 'boot money' star players to the other leading lights of the late 1960s - notably Enfield and Wycombe Wanderers. The result was that the club's committee decided in the next year to quit the 'shamateurism' of the Isthmian League when they were invited to turn semi-pro and join the Southern League.

Saturday November 6 1976: Wealdstone 3 Bishops St 2

DRAMA in the mud at Lower Mead, George Duck and winger John Arnold scoring the goals that put us into the First Round for a second successive season.

Wealdstone v Worthing 17/10/2026

But Arnold and full-back Alan Fursdon were sent off as we went out 1-0 at Reading in front of a 5,000 crowd, full back Lennie Prince 'freezing' on the goalline for the vital goal.

Saturday November 5, 1977: Wealdstone 2 Maidstone Utd 1

ANOTHER terrific afternoon at Lower Mead as we saw off Southern League Prem rivals Maidstone on a stormy afternoon thanks to the predatory Duck. This, of course, was the season when we went all the way to the third round - gloriously beating Third Division **Hereford United** 3-2 in a replay at Edgar Street after a goalless draw at Lower Mead in the First Round (our first-ever home game against League opposition), and then seeing off Fourth Division **Reading** in front of a 7,000 crowd, again at Lower Mead. Then came QPR away in Round Three and an honourable 4-0 defeat in front of our biggest FA Cup crowd, 18,000.

Saturday November 4 1978: Wealdstone 1 Kempston Rov 0

STONES were a poor side just a year later, but we had a lucky draw against little Kempton and squeezed through. But mighty Enfield at home was a poor reward in Round One and we were embarrassed 5-0.

Saturday November 3 1979: Wealdstone 1 Woking 0

A GREAT win over Isthmian top dogs Woking thanks to Nigel Johnson's goal.. and nearly glory as we took on **Southend Utd** at Lower Mead only to lose unluckily 1-0.

Saturday November 1 1980: Harlow 1 Wealdstone 1
(replay: Wealdstone 0 Harlow 1)

TRAGEDY as we went out to famous giantkillers Harlow in a replay, knowing that the winners would have a home tie with Div Three Charlton Athletic. Aaargh!

Saturday October 30 1982: Wealdstone 3 Sutton Utd 1

THIS brilliant Stones side brushed aside Sutton, but had a tough First Round draw at **Swindon** and went out 2-0 at the County Ground.

Saturday October 29 1983: Wealdstone 1 Bishop's Stf'd 0

ALAN Cordice's header saw us through in yet another 4th Qual battle with the Bishops.. and then we got past **Enfield** in Round One after two replays. But then crashed 4-0 at Third Division **Colchester**.

Saturday October 25 1986: Dagenham 0 Wealdstone 3

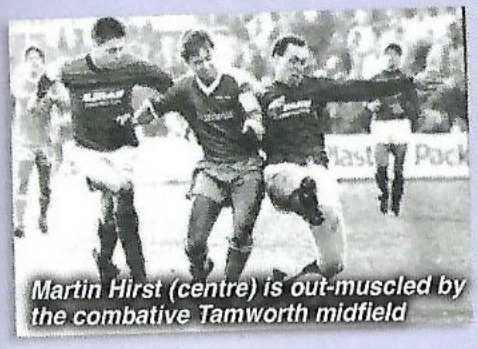
FANTASTIC win set up home tie v. Swansea and an unlucky 1-1 draw in front of over 3,000 but Stones beaten 4-1 in a replay in South Wales that was twice rained off, the first game abandoned!

1987: Stones humbled by Midland League Tamworth

Saturday October 24 1987: Tamworth 2 Wealdstone 0

THIS crushing defeat 39 years ago was perhaps the most predictable giant-killing in FA Cup history. The Stones were in disarray under new boss Terry Burton and on our way to relegation from the Conference National having won just one game.

Tamworth were just beginning their climb up the pyramid and had won 12 of their previous 13 games in the Midland League... and there was the added distraction of a nasty, baying, firework-throwing crowd of over 2,000 in the Lamb ground to further unsettle the Stones.



Martin Hirst (centre) is out-muscled by the combative Tamworth midfield

Once Tamworth's Andy Maddocks had beaten Alex Welsh with a tremendous volley after 20 minutes there was only one winner... and it certainly wasn't the toothless Stones. A grim, dark and frightening day.



Francisco Rivero (left), one of our few successes on the day, attempts to win this ball

Continued overpage>>>

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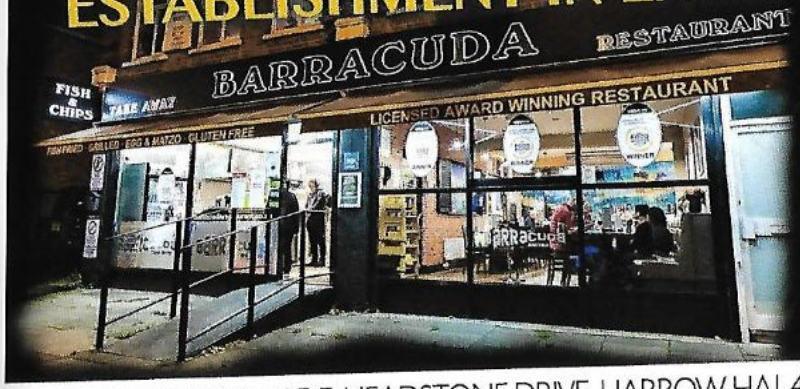
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Stones in the FA Cup 4th Qual... contd

from previous page

Saturday October 30 2004: Wealdstone 0 Histon 2

'DAYLIGHT ROBBERY' and 'smash and grab' were two of the more polite descriptions flying around after we had been beaten at the White Lion ground by Southern Prem high-flyers Histon in this final qualifier.

It was particularly galling as we had buried Banbury United (3-1) and Conference South sides Boreham Wood (5-1) and Grays (3-1) in previous rounds with Marvin Morgan netting in each game - and then missing a gilt-edged hat-trick against Histon. And it turned out to be his last game for the Stones, signing for Yeading the very next week!

It should have been four or 5-0 as the teams turned around ... but, of course, when the Cambridgeshire side created two second half chances they scored from both. Kennedy and Ian Cambridge got the goals that put them into a home first-round moneyspinner with Shrewsbury, whom they duly beat. Grrrr....

Saturday Oct 27, 2007:Hampton & Richmond 1 Wealdstone 0

STONES were playing in the final qualifying round for the first time in three years and Gordon Bartlett's Ryman Premier Division strugglers came within 60 seconds minutes of forcing a replay against the Conf South leaders. A revamped midfield neutralised Hampton's dangerous Elliott Godfrey (yes, our Ells!), Glenn Hodges and former Stone Lawrence Yaku.... but after Ryan Ashe had hit the bar in the first half, Hampton turned the screw and our keeper Sean Thomas excelled... but he was finally beaten by substitute Glenn Harris's 89th-minute header. Bravehearts all.

A glorious day out set up that Rotherham Utd date

Sat October 24 2009: Aylesbury 2 Wealdstone 4

TWO GOALS behind after just 11 minutes, this looked like being a classic Wealdstone let-down in front of 450 travelling fans in Aylesbury's picturesque ground. Gareth Price, from 20 yards, and then a Craig Henney penalty gave the Moles a decisive early lead. But slowly and surely, we gained a midfield foothold and Greg Ngoyi (below) put us back in the game with a blistering shot.

Roared on by the fans, Ryan Ashe scuffed in an equaliser and Aylesbury were wilting under mounting pressure... and finally cracked when Keiron Forbes set off on a trademark 40-yard run, slaloming through tackles and slotting the ball past home keeper Steve Smith. There was a mini-disaster when Ngoyi was sent off but the ten men wrapped it up when Ashe hit his second as the home defence capitulated. The win brought a home draw against League One highflyers Rotherham and the loss of Ngoyi might have proved crucial as our only goal threat came from midfield. A brilliant Ashe double so nearly forced a replay as we went out 3-2.





Sat Nov 24, 2015: Wealdstone 2 Bognor Regis 1

WASN'T this just the perfect day? The Stones were on a run of 12 games unbeaten which culminated in this nerve-shredding win over Ryman League top dogs Bognor at The Vale. We certainly had the rub of the green that afternoon as The Rocks' top scorer Jason Prior failed from penalty spot twice (pictured above), denied by the agility of our keeper Jonathan North... who was rightly carried from the pitch (above). After his first-half save, Stones roared to the other end and Bradley Hudson-Odoi finished sweetly from an angle for 1-0. And Northy's second penalty stop preceded Tom Hamblin's header from a corner that made it 2-0. Bognor's late consolation was not enough to stop us setting up the memorable home tie with Colchester United in the First Round, which we lost 6-2 after leading 2-1.

Wealdstone v Worthing 17/10/2026



Sat Oct 15, 2016: Dagenham & Redbridge 3 Wealdstone 1

THIS was the game that demonstrated to the watching Peter Marsden that the club were worth investing in. The soon-to-be chairman was among a noisy contingent of around 350 (pictured left) in the away end whose support reached a crescendo as Matty Whichelow fired in a first half equaliser after the National League Daggers had taken the lead with their first attack. Stones keeper Northy was concussed just before their goal - further weakening a team missing Wes Parker and Tom Hamblin - and Stones then missed good chances through Jonny Wright and Danny Green. Oliver Hawkins capitalised by heading Daggers ahead before the cocky Jordan Maguire-Drew wrapped it up with the third goal.

The agony of Bubb's penalty miss in horror show

Saturday October 20 2018: Wealdstone 1 Sutton United 2

JUST about the most agonising big-match FA Cup defeat in Stones history unfolded at The Vale... Stones' Bradley Bubb fluffing an injury time penalty with the game poised at 1-1, and Sutton racing to the other end from keeper Jamie Butler's throw out for Drinan to score a 94th-minute winner and send the away fans into raptures.

It was a game of three penalties: National League Sutton had more of the play but went behind when a rash challenge on the rampaging Rhys Tyler allowed Bubb to blast the ball confidently home. That was on 50 minutes and 13 mins later - after Dave Pratt had somehow been denied on the goalline - Sutton levelled with Nicky Bailey's spot kick.



Bubb is flat out as Sutton celebrate

Fumnaya Shomoton was the ace in the Stones' pack but Pratt's header from his cross was denied by a flying save from Butler... and with Elliott Charles adding muscle off the bench and the crowd baying for late drama, Bobby Wilkinson's side lumped another long ball into the box and the referee blew for another penalty as the big man was bundled over.

Bubb tried to place his shot inside the post, Butler guessed right and moments later we were in disbelief as Drinan put Sutton into the First Round draw.

Simply horrible and simply unbelievable!

Saturday October 19, 2019: Maidenhead Utd 1 Wealdstone 1 *replay 2-0 to Maidenhead*

FIVE YEARS ago the Stones hordes trooped down to the banks of the River Thames to see if our then National League South pacesetters were good enough to beat a team from the higher division. Yet after bossing most of this first encounter, Dean Brennan's side - who had been beaten just once in 16 games and with 13 wins - were finally ousted by the tactical nous of Alan Devonshire's men.

A sharp swivel and shot from Ross Lafayette just after half time put the away side ahead. Yet Maidenhead went Route One into the final 15 minute with the imposing ex-Stone Alan Massey and Joe Ellul using their height, and with just four minutes remaining a cleverly flighted free kick saw keeper Aston Oxborough only half save, the ball crashing off midfielder Ryan Upward and into the net. Stones were still confident of success in the replay, but as boss Brennan lamented after the 2-0 defeat: "They did a job on us tonight. Their full-time status allowed them to adjust tactically; they blotted out our passing and dominated us".

A goal in each half from Josh Kelly took the Magpies through, but the key moment came just before half time when Jacob Mendy Mendy was red-carded for what seemed a fair challenge on Remey Clerima on the edge of the box. It was hard enough dealing with energised Maidenhead with 11 men; ten men made it impossible.

Continued over page >>>

Stones in the FA Cup 4th Qual contd...

from previous page



Six years ago: Nobody was watching this awful defeat to Hayes & Yeading ...and that was too many

Saturday October 24 2020: Wealdstone 0 Hayes & Yead 2

THIS WAS one of the most pathetic performances in Wealdstone Cup history. In terms of being red-hot favourites who fell to earth, it's right up there with the Amateur Cup semi-final shambles v Chesham United at Fulham in 1968.

It was, of course, an all-time low attendance as this game came four weeks into the club's first National League season and Covid-19 was in town. And it was an all-time low in many other ways.

The Stones had stacked up successive wins against Wrexham and Chesterfield at the Vale and were about to stack up three more (at Kings Lynn and Halifax, and at home to Altrincham) to actually sit on top of the table at the start of November.

And so Hayes & Yeading Utd, three levels below, were almost disregarded. Just turn up and win, we thought and possibly another all-time low watched on the live stream in disbelief as H & Y called the shots from almost minute one. We had Grant Smith (later of Yeovil and Bromley fame) deputising for Harry Isted in goal but he had no chance as the prolific Francis Amartey fired Hayes ahead. They were first to the ball all over the field with Scott Donnelly to the fore - and Jordan Norville Williams hit the post. Then Smith's misdirected pass was picked up for sub Omar Rowe to swerve his shot past the keeper (see picture above left). A red card for our winger Charlie Wakefield (for a 64th minute off-the-ball clash with Jack Williams) didn't help matters - and Hayes came closest to adding to the score when Bay Downing also hit the upright

Sat Oct 16 2021: Wealdstone 1 Dagenham & R 2

STUART MAYNARD'S Stones somehow managed to pass up a man advantage for 88 minutes, a lovely goal from loan striker Jay Bird after six minutes and even a penalty save from George Wickens.... only to throw it all away in the last three minutes!

The 718 crowd were in dreamland after that start (visiting hot-shot Paul McCallum shown red for a foul on Alex Dyer after two minutes) and the Bird volley - before Daggers' ace striker Angelo Balanta was denied by Wickens from the spot. He atoned for his miss in the 86th minute... and then remarkably won the game as the ref prepared to blow his full-time whistle. Arrgghh!

Sat Oct 15 2022: Boreham Wood 5 Wealdstone 3

STONES were handed possibly the toughest draw, away to a Wood side who had made it through to the Fifth Round the previous season and a money-spinning game at Everton.

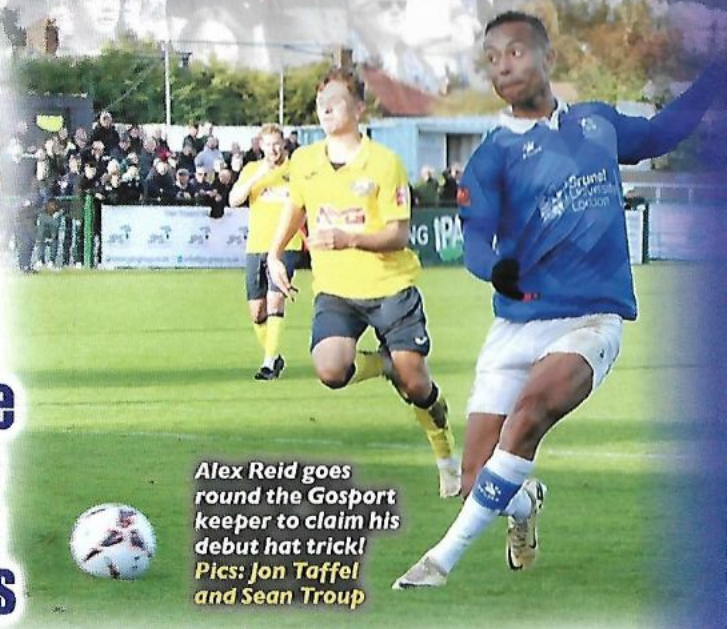
And fans were already walking out in disgust after Cameron Coxe headed Wood 3-0 up from Dennon Lewis' cross in the 67th minute to add to a George Broadbent strike and a Zac Brunt penalty. They even went 4-1 ahead after an Olufela Olomola header thanks to a Denton potshot - but Stones roared their defiance, too late, with Simeon Akinola and and Fela again bringing the scores back to 4-3. And then Giovanni McGregor was inches away from an improbable equaliser as Wood were rocking in added-on time! Yet there was still a fifth for Wood, with Stones committed upfield, through Danny Elliot who celebrated wildly in front of the remaining away fans. Classy.

Sat October 14 2023: Bromley 3 Wealdstone 2

ANOTHER Godawful away draw saw Stones beaten at high-fliers Bromley in scenes eerily similar to the defeat at Boreham Wood - 3-0 down at half time with Kirk, Cheek and Krauhaus all netting. Again some fans were heading back to the pub ... and again the Blues fought valiantly with Max Kretzschmar and Nathan Ferguson beating Grant Smith to bring it back to 3-2. But it was all too little, too late.

Wealdstone v Worthing 17/10/2026





Alex Reid goes round the Gosport keeper to claim his debut hat trick! Pics: Jon Taffel and Sean Troup

Wealdstone have now reached the Second Round in successive years

FINALLY fortune smiled upon us after years of tough FA Cup draws. Yes, I know that anyone who had battled through the qualifying rounds was going to be decent, but why did it ALWAYS have to be the highest-ranked club left in the velvet bag?

I remember listening to the draw live on *Talksport Radio* and thinking I had misheard. Surely they meant Southend away, or Boreham Wood again? But no, it was definitely Weldstun v Gosport, confirmed by the *Talksport* experts. Well, what a relief! Someone we could beat. And then the memory of Hayes & Yeading re-appeared in a gruesome flashback, plus the fact that we still didn't have a functioning striker.

Saturday October 12 2024: Wealdstone 4 Gosport Boro 1

WHAT a different a proper goal-scorer makes! Matt Taylor's side went into this game one place off the bottom of the National League, with just one win in 12 games... but the midweek loan signing of Oldham hotshot Alex Reid was (literally) a game-changer. We suddenly had a focus for the midfield and wingers and, extraordinarily, he went home with the match ball!

As we all know, fortune continued to smile in a smash-and-grab 1-0 win at EFL2 side Grimsby in the 1st Round (Reidy scoring again) and it was so nearly another giant-killing before Wycombe Wanderers left the Vale with a 2-0 win in Round Two... leaving great memories of a record 3,534 crowd in front of the ITV cameras.



Saturday October 11 2025: Wealdstone 5 Whitstable T 1

OUR luck held the next year as Level 5 club Whitstable Town (the lowest left in the competition) were drawn to face us at the Vale... though we were warned not to underestimate the Kent Coast Oystermen. They hadn't lost an FA competition game for a calendar year, having won the FA Vase at Wembley and come through half a dozen qualifying ties. But as it turned out, Stones blew them away in the first half as we attacked the Smith & Latimer End. Micah Obiero (2), Fela Olomola (2) and Omar Mussa made it 5-0 at the break.

Next came an impressive 1-0 win over Southend at the Vale in the First Round... and the disappointment this year came with news of ANOTHER away draw at Grimsby Town in Round Two. The Mariners weren't going to be turned over again and they handed out a 4-0 spanking.

But even so, Stones have now reached the Second Round in successive years... having not reached that stage since 1983. We're headed in the right direction!

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9 Olafela OLOMOLA Norwich Singing Man and Hampshire Rose	10 Jayden HARRIS James, John, Matt, Pete & Victor	11 Dan CHESTERS Stones Old Salvos	12 Aiden FRANCIS-CLARKE James, John, Matt, Pete and Victor
13 Endurance JOHNSON	15 Aaron HENRY StonesCast	17 Admiral MUSKWE Wealdstone Bag on Tour	18 Kyle SMITH Gary Smith
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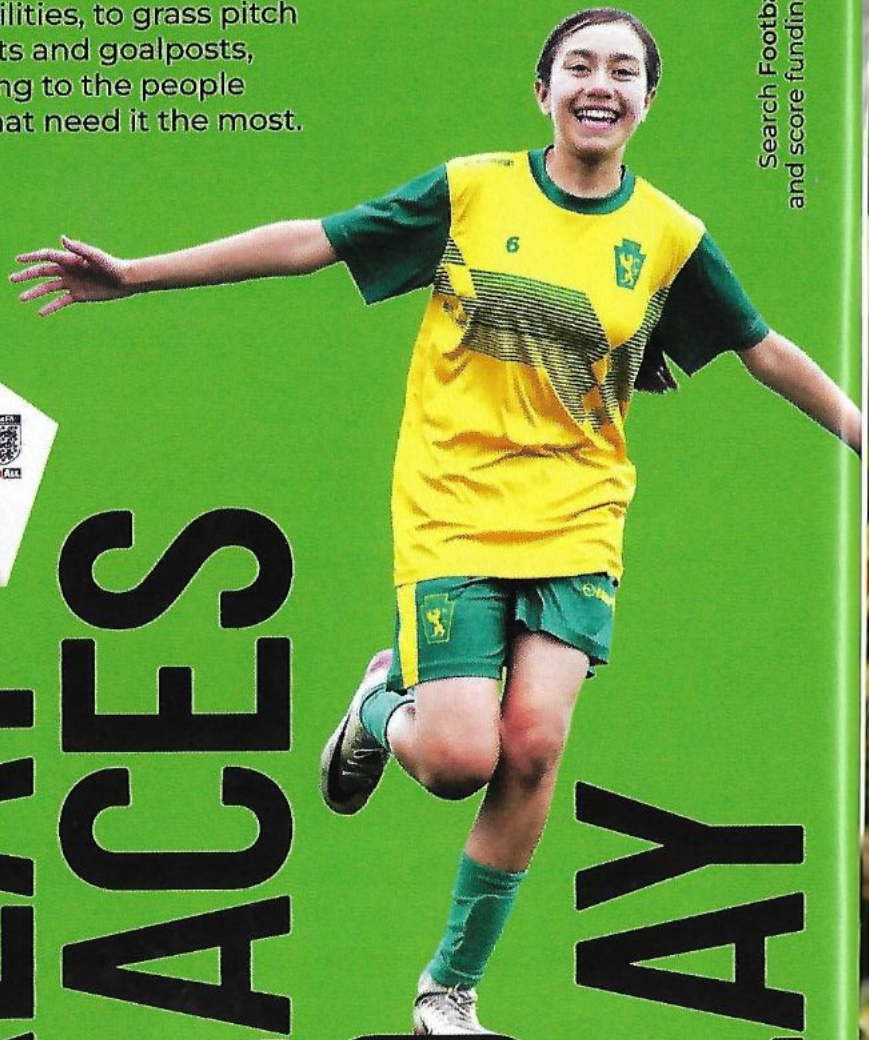
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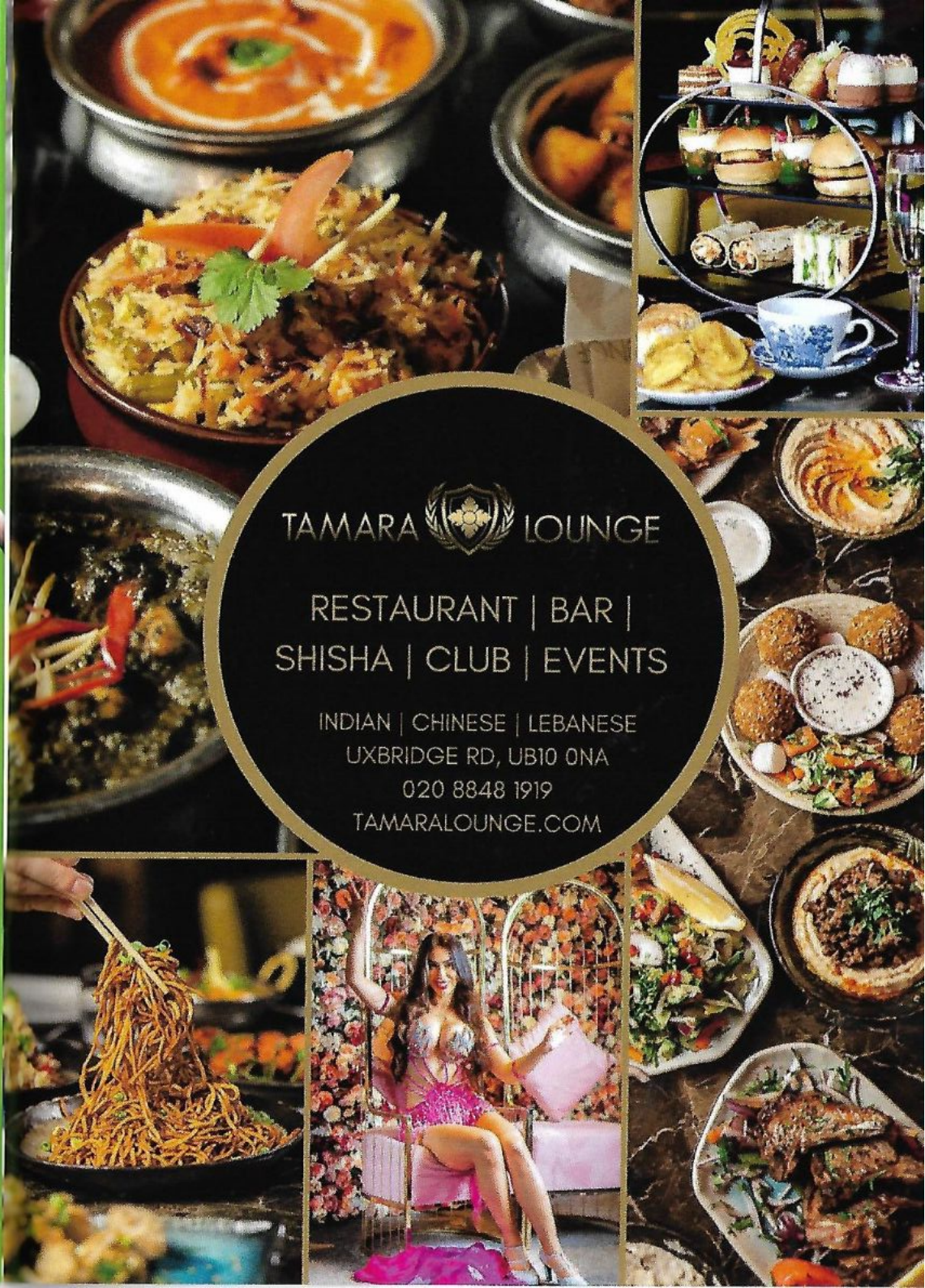
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Upcoming games

National League FA Cup action today

Bury vs Harrogate Town	Boston Utd vs Scunthorpe Utd
AFC Fylde vs Atherton Town	Carilsle Utd vs Tamworth
Aldershot vs Tadleyt Calleva	Chesham Utd vs Forest Green
Altrincham vs FC Utd Manchster	Eastleigh vs Brentwood
Barrow vs Gloucester City	FC Halifax Town vs South Shields
Boreham Wood vs Woking	Gateshead vs Stafford Rangerd

Home fixtures

Nottingham Forest

Tuesday
20th October
7:00pm

National League Cup

Solihull Moors

Tuesday
27th October
7:45pm

Enterprise National League

Southend United

Saturday
21st October
3:00pm

Enterprise National League

Away fixtures

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Aldershot Town

Saturday
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Hartlepool United

Saturday
14th November
3:00pm

Enterprise National League

Altrincham

Tuesday
24th November
7:45pm

Enterprise National League

National League table @ 12th 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	7	6	1	0	13	11	2	0	34	13	21	35		
2	Harrogate Town	7	5	1	1	6	4	0	2	13	9	1	3	29	17	12	28	1-3	
3	Southend United	6	4	0	2	7	4	3	0	13	8	3	2	31	19	12	27		
4	Yeovil Town	7	4	2	1	6	3	2	1	13	7	4	2	32	15	17	25	0-6	
5	Worthing	7	4	1	2	6	3	2	1	13	7	3	3	27	18	9	24		0-1
6	Altrincham	6	5	0	1	7	3	0	4	13	8	0	5	20	19	1	24		
7	AFC Fylde	6	2	2	2	7	5	0	2	13	7	2	4	24	18	6	23		2-2
8	Barrow	6	4	0	2	7	2	3	2	13	6	3	4	22	16	6	21		
9	Hornchurch	6	5	0	1	7	2	0	5	13	7	0	6	15	19	-4	21		
10	FC Halifax Town	7	4	2	1	6	2	0	4	13	6	2	5	22	15	7	20	0-1	
11	Kidderminster Harriers	7	3	3	1	6	2	2	2	13	5	5	3	15	12	3	20		
12	Aldershot Town	6	3	1	2	7	2	2	3	13	5	3	5	18	16	2	18		
13	Sutton United	7	3	1	3	6	2	2	2	13	5	3	5	14	18	-4	18		2-0
14	Carlisle United	7	2	3	2	6	2	2	2	13	4	5	4	23	20	3	17	1-1	
15	Woking	7	2	2	3	6	2	1	3	13	4	3	6	20	20	0	15		
16	Forest Green Rovers	7	2	1	4	5	2	2	1	12	4	3	5	19	22	-3	15		1-1
17	Eastleigh	7	3	3	1	6	1	0	5	13	4	3	6	14	20	-6	15		
18	Tamworth	6	3	1	2	7	1	1	5	13	4	2	7	21	30	-9	14		1-2
19	Wealdstone	6	1	1	4	7	2	2	3	13	3	3	7	17	24	-7	12	----	----
20	Hartlepool United	6	2	0	4	7	2	0	5	13	4	0	9	12	19	-7	12		
21	Boston United	7	1	1	5	6	2	2	2	13	3	3	7	15	23	-8	12		3-1
22	Scunthorpe United	5	2	1	2	7	1	0	6	12	3	1	8	15	21	-6	10		
23	Solihull Moors	7	1	0	6	6	1	1	4	13	2	1	10	13	35	-22	7		
24	Gateshead	6	1	1	4	7	0	0	7	13	1	1	11	8	31	-23	4	4-0	

