

LINE UPS

STONES v HOOPS

sky blue & white

all navy blue

Jonathan North		Conor Hudnott
Josh McLeod-Urquhart		Marcin Brzozowski
Eddie Oshodi		Chris Paul
Wes Parker (c)		Jeremy Arthur
Tom Hamblin		Nico Hamalainen
Elliott Godfrey		Dan Darbyshire
Jack Smith		Ryan Manning
Tom Cadmore		Brandon Adams
Daniel Green		Irep Kelly
Jonny Wright		Ebere Eze
Ricky Wellard		Ruddi Clarke
David Hunt		Gianni Crichlow
Elliott Benyon		AJ Folkes
Josh Hutchinson		Jake Eales
Glen Andrew		Romeo Akinola
Traci Banbi		Michael Klass
George Butler		Josh Bowler
Alfie Cain		Kingsley Eshun
Raven Constable		
Frankie Jones		
Jay Knight		
Kieran McCaffrey		
Romone McCrea		
Dean McDonnell		
Nathaniel Mensah		
Robbie Parsons		
Romaine Rose		
Callum Wilson		

OTHER CHANGES

Referee: Elliott Kaye

Assistants: Jamie Pope and Rob Claussen

MATCH SPONSOR:
CATALYST SPORTS MANAGEMENT
NEXT HOME GAME: v LEYTON ORIENT
TUESDAY JULY 12TH, KICK-OFF 7.45PM



HIGHLIGHT OF LAST SEASON.. The Stones walk out to face League One Colchester in the FA Cup 1st Round at The Vale **PICTURE: STEVE FOSTER**

League sponsors



BT Sport

award-winning programme sponsored by



£2.50

STONES

Welcome to Wealdstone FC **vanarama national league south 2016-17**
facebook:wealdstonefootballclub twitter:@wealdstonefc you tube:Wealdstone FC

v QUEENS PARK RANGERS U-21s
Saturday July 2, 2016 Pre-season friendly at Grosvenor Vale KO 3pm

Main club sponsor:
gpflewis

A new season and a new beginning for our re-energised club

WELCOME back to Grosvenor Vale - after surely the shortest summer break on record - for this afternoon's pre-season friendly with our near neighbours QPR.

A big thank you to the Rs for sending their under-21s across to face our new look side for this interesting pipe-opener. Going back 20 or 30 years, when the league started in mid or late August, we only started the warm-up games a couple of weeks before the big kick-off - now they begin even before England are knocked out of the Euros*

Not that we're complaining. I'm sure I'm not the only one who's keen to get a first gander at our summer signings, and the number of triallists who will be getting a run-out today. A big Wealdstone welcome to the former Margate pair of Danny Green and David Hunt, plus Eddie Oshodi from St Albans, Ricky Wellard (ex AFC Wimbledon and Welling) and former Hayes & Yeading hit man Elliott Benyon.

I know that manager Gordon Bartlett is delighted with not just the footballing ability of these guys, but their character and personality - factors notably missing during much of last season.

GB has re-signed pretty much every player he wanted to keep from 2015-16, and so the five likely lads above will be joining Elliott Godfrey, Jonathan North, Jonny Wright, Wes Parker, Tom Hamblin, Tom Cadmore, Jack

**Oops, looks like I jumped the gun as I wrote this just before kick off on Monday night...*

smith, Josh Urquhart-McLeod and the fit-again Josh Hutchinson in a talented and tight-knit squad.

It's no secret that Gordon would like to add another couple of players in wide and forward positions, and the budget may stretch to this if the 100-400 scheme manages to hit its £40,000 target. So if you haven't yet pledged to join this noble scheme please sign up today! Details are on the website www.wealdstone-fc.com

NEW BOARD SET-UP

But what about the new board members and investors, I hear you ask? Won't they be helping out?

Indeed they will, but as our new chairman - who can't officially be named until the next meeting of the National League in late July ratifies his appointment - often states: 'I want this club to be inclusive, involving all our supporters, rather than just a few board members'.

Our new main man brings a whole fund of goodwill and potential investors to the club after decades of success in his property business. The only reason he can't be officially unveiled is because he still holds a 10% share in his 'other' club in League Two, which is perfectly legal under FA rules, but just needs rubber-stamping.

We also have a new vice-chairman we CAN name: it's Nick Archer, the outgoing St. Albans



WE'VE MET BEFORE

Our new capture from Margate, Danny Green (left) tussles with Joshua Urquhart-McLeod and Wes Parker during the league game at the Vale last season

City chairman who also brings experience, finance and contacts to the table. I'm told that Nick is as hands-on as his predecessor, Pete Worby - those are big hands to fill!

Wobs is staying on board, happily, and is joined by new commercial manager Kevin Tye who has also impressed with his energy and expertise since taking over from Mark Winkworth last month.

Apart from the actual players, there has been movement behind the scenes on the playing side with Steve Newing (the former Enfield Town manager) joining as coach and the popular Scott McGleish stepping up to the assistant manager's role alongside Gordon Bartlett, in GB's 21st year with the club. He probably wouldn't see it as a 'coming of age' although he has got a key to the door of our new revamped changing rooms, courtesy of main club sponsors GPF Lewis. They are a vast improvement!

It might also feel like the end of an era as Gordon's wingman

of close to 30 years, Leo Morris, is moving across, away from his coaching duties to concentrate his talents on running the social club. Another great appointment.

ALL in all there have been big, big changes at our club, dragging us out of the small-time mentality of the Ryman League and into the professional environment of the national league.

I had to smile when I was leafing through the first friendly programme last season - when we faced Stevenage on July 11 - and reading my own notes which said: 'We have learned a lot from our mistakes

last season which led to a painful birth in the National League South'.

Well, you'll all be aware that we pretty much replicated the awful start last season to the letter! An unfortunate sequence of events in pre-season (injuries, unavailability and even losing one player to therapy for a gambling addiction) plus having key players suspended for the opening games led to another abysmal August.

That makes three poor starts in a row - even when we won the Ryman league we kicked off with three draws! Our August record for the last two years in the National League reads **Played 13 Won 1 Drew 4 Lost 8...** and that solitary victory was on the very last day

of August last year as we beat Bishops Cleeve 3-1.

Already, preparation this summer seems so much more professional and there is a real sense of forward movement on ALL fronts. The fixtures aren't out for another eight days - on July 10th, strangely a good three weeks after the Football League announced theirs - so we'll have to wait to find out how tough our August opponents will be this time around.

WE DO know who's up next friendly-wise, however: It's a first-ever trip to Belstone FC (in Radlett) next Saturday to take on Evo-Stick Southern League side **Potters Bar Town** in a squad friendly, kick-off 3pm. Bel-

NEW MAN
Midfielder Ricky Wellard is pictured in action for Conference National side Welling United last season

stone's Medburn Ground is on Watling Street, WD6 3AB

Then comes the visit of League Two outfit **Leyton Orient**, who are sending their full first-team over to The Vale on Tuesday week, July 12th, kick-off 7.45pm. The

Os looked a decent bet for the play-offs last season with a terrific start before tailing off after Christmas and finishing eighth - and under new manager Andy Hessenthaler they'll no doubt be pushing for promotion again.

Former West Ham and Newcastle star Kevin Nolan was player-manager at Brisbane Road for part of last season and his continuing presence seems to be shrouded in mystery, but the Os do have ex-Arsenal striker Jay Simpson as a man to watch. It should be a fascinating game especially as we've not played the East London side since a 'Battle of Britain Cup' game in the early 1960s. More about that game in the programme next Tuesday!

Speaking of which, congratulations to prog editor Mark Hyde (and the rest of this team) for finishing runners-up to Ebbsfleet United in the National League South programme awards last season, and fifth nationally... quite an achievement when many of our rivals have full-time professionals producing their match magazines. The 'Football Swap Shop' Programme Awards actually put us top of the tree in the National League (clearly, folk of discerning taste) and 4th Nationally among several hundred entries!

We'll be churning out eight-page £1 issues for these friendly games before launching into full fat programmes once the league season kicks off. I hope you like the redesign and the content will continue to be top-notch.

Tim Parks

A big thanks to ball donors Catalyst Sports Management

WE'D like to thank Catalyst Sports Management for donating the match ball for both the QPR and Leyton Orient games. Catalyst provide sports management

services based on three fundamental principles: Professionalism, Integrity and Transparency. The company has worked with Gordon Bartlett & Wealdstone in the

past to provide introductions for players to benefit both the player and the club - and it wishes Gordon and the whole club every success in the coming season.

A tale of two 'basket case clubs' and one man who has followed both the Stones and the Rs... Terry Stern

SOMEONE once told me I had an unhealthy appetite for football. If you've eaten sausages in Dover and burgers outside Fratton Park then they were probably correct.

My love of football comes from my maternal grandfather, an Arsenal season ticket holder who guided me to be a Manchester United fan for the past 52 years (no, I don't understand it either).

I've watched football all over the world, Europe, India, US and at all levels. My sons and stepsons also have an appetite for football of varying degrees. I spent ten years following Wealdstone around the country in the Southern League and the Alliance/Conference - some good times, some bad and some wonderful.

When I am asked who my favourite players of all time are I always mention George Best and the other George, George Duck.

Lower Mead still holds a precious place in my heart, I even named my house in Stanmore after the old ground and my sons

remember match days playing in the old abandoned turnstiles at the cinema end. My elder son David first went to Lower Mead as a six-week-old to watch our last game of the season against AP Leamington which we needed to win to stay up in the Conference - we lost, went down but came back up the following year as treble winners.

The double year was probably the zenith and we had a great family and friends day out at Wembley in 1985, wearing our blue and yellow favours and celebrating a wonderful victory to go with a great win at Kettering to seal the Alliance title.

I still have my Paul Bowgett

number 5 shirt but it's a tad snug now so remains as a memento of that season.

OTHER memories; a long drive to Canal Street in Runcorn to see us lose one nil; watching fellow fan Don Cross play for the 'Stones at Altrincham; three coach trips to Dover Athletic in ten days before the days of the M25, so grinding through East London to get to Kent.

Watching Stuart Pearce play in goal against Weymouth; and the Battle of Plough Lane when eight players were sent off and it made the national sports pages.

And of course the cup runs. Reading at home, Hereford away



WE ARE FAMILY...
Terry and his partner Jo (centre) are pictured at Wembley when Bobby Zamora's goal took Rangers back into the Premier League. Far left is Jo's son Pat, and far right is her other son Jim and girlfriend Meagan

quented were so poor we invented "Sausage of the Season", an annual award presented to the café that was able to do to culinary skills what Attila the Hun did for democracy. Our friend Rob Bayly even devised a board game based on SoTS.

Then as the kids grew up and we decamped to Southend on Sea the number of Wealdstone games attended declined. If they visited Essex I would try and get to the games but other priorities took over, the club went through the dark days of Vicarage Road and a nomadic life at various grounds.

WEALDSTONE are still in my heart and

where I used to look for their result first thing on Sunday, Twitter now gives me up to the minute details on how they are doing on the day. My mates Mick, Spaul and Nick and still inextricably tied to the club and have given so much of their time, effort - and in some cases hard cash - to the club especially during those nomadic years and when the club finally found its roots in Ruislip.

It's great to see the club blossoming and getting established as a solid non-league club again and hopefully it will take its place amongst the elite again and who knows maybe, just maybe a Football League side. The work done by the manager, the board and the excellent team of

volunteers is testimony to all that is great about the non-league scene. Long may it continue.

THE RANGERS YEARS..

My stepsons are QPR fans and I started taking all the boys to Rangers games back in the Nineties when the Rs were top dog in London. It was a great time with a great team who should have gone on to establish itself at the top.

Unfortunately, fate and various chairmen decided this was not to be the case and we then watched seasons of mediocrity punctuated by the odd match that made you remember why you loved the game.

It's actually been a privilege to be a season ticket holder at Loftus Road. Perched in the Upper Loft, just along from the crazies in Q Block, we have watched the ups and downs of the Rs play out over the past fifteen years.

The downs; relegation to the third tier, watching Rangers being beaten by Cambridge United and many others, beaten 4-1 at home in the League Cup by Colchester United. Living from week to week as the money ran out, bucket collections... it seemed to get worse and worse. Losing to Cardiff City on their home soil in the playoffs was pretty bad but gave us a glimmer of hope.

Then the good times. Making the playoffs at home to Oldham Athletic. I'm sure Loftus Road actually lifted off its foundations that night when Paul Furlong mugged Fitz Hall and scored the winner. Promotion at Hillsborough and a sea of Blue and White hoops celebrating along with Ian Holloway and the team. 2011, promotion to the Premiership as champions under Neal Warnock in a never to be repeated season where the standard of football and a certain Adel Tarratt made

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it one of the most enjoyable football times I can remember along with the Wealdstone Double season.

Yo-yoing for a couple of years and then May 2014 an incredible day at Wembley where the ten men of Rangers, outplayed for 89 minutes beat Derby to go up via the playoffs. The 40,000 Rs fans who were there will never forget the moment that Bobby Zamora's shot hit the back of the net and pandemonium broke out in the blue and white half of the stadium.

Now the club rebuilds again but this time by investing in young players rather than the mercenaries mentioned before. Supporters will need to be patient but that's not easy when the football played last season fluctuated between good and mediocre.

JFH and the new players must be given time to get things right. Despite all this I still anticipate the beginning of a new season much the same as I did as young boy. I just hope after twenty minutes against Leeds in the first game I am not wondering why I put myself through this season after season.

The link between Wealdstone and Queens Park Rangers is tenuous but focuses on two teams who have excellent history, have been through some dark times, almost became extinct and are now blossoming under management that understand how football clubs should be run. It's taken Tony Fernandes and his team a little longer to realise that throwing copious amounts of cash at mercenary aging players is not the way to establish yourself at the top table. Leicester City are now the yard stick against which all clubs with pretensions of establishing themselves in the Premiership should be measuring themselves. Money is not the issue it's how you invest it is the main challenge.

But whatever this season holds I'm still glad I support and follow the best sport in the world.

Wealdstone v QPR: Yes, we have met before..



Triallist Luke Ifill gives the Rangers defence the runaround during last summer's friendly at the Vale

PICTURE: STEVE FOSTER

August 1st 2015, Friendly: Wealdstone 3 QPR 1

INJURIES to Jonathan North and new signing Dale Binns overshadowed an excellent win over QPR's U21s last season, just seven days before the Conference South season kicked-off.

Goals from Shaun Lucien, Connor Calcutt and man of the match Jonny Wright sealed a 3-1 win over the Championship side's Development Squad.

However, last year's player of the season North and summer arrival Binns both hobbled out of the action, the former suffering from a problem at the back of the knee, while the latter went to hospital with a suspected broken toe – just the sort of news boss Gordon Bartlett could have done with the curtain-raiser against Bath City just a week away.

Still deprived of a host of

players because of holidays and injuries, Bartlett started with former Bournemouth professional Ryan Case at right-back, while Connor Calcutt joined Josh Hutchinson in a two-man attack. Binns meanwhile started at left-back in place of Ryan Watts who was side-lined with an eye infection.

Reece Greco-Cox stabbed the ball against the inside of the post and along the line to almost put Rangers ahead in the first minute, but the Stones began to compete and Josh Hutchinson's spectacular bicycle kick flew just wide.

Rangers' youngsters responded with Cox's close range drive parried behind by North for a corner which came to nothing.

It was Stones who broke the deadlock on 31 minutes when Dan Brown slipped in Lucien

on the left of the box and the winger turned his marker inside out before firing through Martin Brownski's legs into the far corner.

Harly Wise threatened at the other end with a glancing header wide, before Binns, injured minutes earlier limped off to be replaced by another new face Dillon Casey.

The Rangers youngsters exploited his absence a couple of times forcing first Wes Parker and then Tom Hamblin to head behind for corners, but Stones kept their slender lead at the break.

Rangers opened the second half brightly but it was Stones who doubled the lead on 53 minutes. Hutchinson did really well to steal the ball on the left and when he played it inside Calcutt was upended by Dickandi, leaving the official no alternative but to give a penalty. **Calcutt** picked himself up to send Brownski the wrong way from the spot.

Stones were now playing confidently and it was 3-0 just before the hour when Wright latched onto a cross from the left. He played a short ball to Hutchinson, who played it back to the impressive **Wright**, who fired inside the near post.

The biggest worry for Stones came when North limped out of the action with a quarter of an hour left, meaning an appearance in goal for 41-year-old player-coach Scott McGleish.

And the veteran was soon in action, clutching a shot from Giamm Cricklow.

He could not manage a clean sheet as late on substitute **Aaron Mitchell** beat him with a shot which flew in off the underside of the bar.

Wealdstone: North (McGleish), Case (Ifil), Binns (Casey), Parker (Martin), Hamblin (M'Bougou), Brown (Hope), Wright, Ball (Davies), Calcutt (Bonnett-Johnson), Hutchinson, Lucien

...and then, of course, famously in the FA Cup...

IT'S A RECORD!
THE VITAL FACTS ON RECENT GAME

GROUND	v. WEALDSTONE Home	
DATE	Saturday 7th January 1978 (K.O. 3 p.m.)	
ATTENDANCE	16158	
PLAYING CONDITIONS	Pitch rather heavy and sanded. Cool afternoon	
FIXTURE DETAILS	F.A. Challenge Cup (3rd Round)	
TEAMS	QPR (20th in Div 1)	Wealdstone (Southern League)
	Parke Shanks Gillard Hollins Howe Cunningham Wallace Leach James Bowles Givens	Lightfoot Thomas Fursdon Watson Parratt Barwick Ferry Brinkman Furphy Duck Moss
GOALS	Givens James Bowles (pen.) Howe	
RESULT	(1) 4 (0) 0	
RANGERS REPORT	Wealdstone fought hard to hold their own during the first half but First Division experience eventually won the day.	
AND THE PRESS SAID ...	A goalkeeping error by 32-year-old PE teacher Chris Lightfoot after only seven minutes signalled the end of Wealdstone's Cup hopes. It was Don Givens who caught Lightfoot out, nodding a Hollins' free-kick past the slow reacting 'keeper. Lightfoot made amends by pulling off a sensational save from Leighton James but could not stop Rangers cruising to a fourth round place. Rangers certainly breathed a sigh of relief when Givens opened their account. Wealdstone had a couple of shots from Rangers' reject Keith Furphy that caused flutters and Brinkman looked dangerous. But Rangers took complete control in the second-half. After Givens hit the bar with a header, Bowles set up a chance after 50 minutes, crossing for James to net the second goal. Bowles made it 3-0 from the penalty spot after 63 minutes after David Parratt brought down Mick Leach. If the penalty decision looked harsh, Wealdstone were equally angry over the fourth goal which brought loud protests from Lightfoot and Watson: Both players felt that the goalkeeper was fouled before Ernie Howe scored his first goal for Rangers 20 minutes before the end. (Dennis Signy "News of the World".)	

The best-known Rangers v Stones game was of course in January 1978 when our teams met at Loftus Road in the FA Cup 3rd Round - the furthest we've ever gone in the competition - and happily their programme carried a report and details of that momentous afternoon in their following home issue.

There was also a small cutting from the 'Michael Wale Report' in that same programme, complaining about the price of top flight players. Coach Frank Sibley is quoted on their wages being "as much as £500 a week". Okay, that was nearly 40 years ago but a lot of NON-LEAGUE players earn similar amounts these days....