

1973: Smith looks a great prospect .. er he's gone!

Bletchley 0, Wealdstone 2

Wealdstone shook off the Dorchester Blues when they hammered Bletchley by two goals to give them their first victory away from home since March 20 when they beat Met. Police 2-1.

Playing with a re-arranged team they showed lots of the talent that home supporters know they possess. Missing the services of Duck, Burgess and Watson, they brought in John Beyer and Roger Livingstone and both justified their inclusion.

Duck was suffering from the effects of Saturday's sprained ankle while it is now confirmed that Burgess has a broken toe. John Watson had to cry off at the last minute due to illness.

Under the leadership of Terry Dyson, who captained the side in the absence of regular skipper Eric Burgess, they produced some delightful moves and some good flowing football which gave the second biggest attendance of the season some-

thing to enthuse about.

How good it was to see John Smith again in sparkling form and scoring his second goal for the club after only three appearances, endorsing what has been said by so many supporters. "What a pity he did not come to Wealdstone sooner, all we can hope is that he stays."

Roger Livingstone also gave a good performance on one of his rare excursions on first team duty.

Bletchley also were in a foot balling mood and despite two defeats over the Easter programme played an intelligent game, but lacked the finishing

touch.

"Stones were first on attack and good work by Livingstone and Smith saw Fairclough's shot saved by home 'keeper Wells.

Smith and Brown had chances minutes later but again Wells was on the spot. At the other end, Lines, Tuffs and Weeks combined to give Harper a chance but he shot over.

"Stones kept up the pressure and again Wells held from Smith, but their perseverance was rewarded in the 32nd minute with a well-taken goal by Smith. From an Alick Brown throw Eddie Presland pushed back to Brown who centred. Smith, who was surrounded by Bletchley defenders, somehow came out of the ruck to put Stones in the lead.

Later Harris was booked for up-ending Alick Brown when he was clean through.

Just before the break Eddie Presland had a screaming shot tipped over by Wells from Kinear's pass.

The second half started off at a lively pace and 'Stones' keeper Roy Mackenzie was tested for the first time since he joined the club, but all in all he acquitted himself with honours.

In the opening minutes good moves by Henderson, Worsfold and Henderson again and Lines

who in turn found Dyson on the left. Terry, in his own admirable style, hung a long cross to the middle and Chris Kirnear, playing up front, was there to notch his first goal of the season to make it 2-0.

Bletchley gallantly fought back with Worsfold, Week and Henderson having a go. Later Weeks was unlucky with a fierce shot which Mackenzie tipped over for a corner.

They substituted Whitney for Harper in the 78th minute but although he showed some nice touches he could not make any impression on a solid 'Stones' defence.

Bletchley: Wells, Janaway, Worsfold, Butler, Matsey, Harris, Henderson, Harper, Weeks, Tuffs, Lines, Sub: Whitney.

Wealdstone: Mackenzie, Dennis, Presland, Beyer, Doherty, Fairclough, Brown, Kinear, Smith, Dyson, Livingstone, Sub: Bagg.

Saturday April 23 1973, Southern League Div 1 South: Bletchley 0 Wealdstone 2

THIS game was notable for a debut goal from new signing John Smith - who quickly disappeared on a £10,000 contract to kick goals for the gridiron team New England Patriots. He stayed on in the US.

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