

ON THIS DAY..

Royal
Blue
Review

November 30th 1977: Probably the greatest night in WFC history

(But not for four of us fans, stuck in a layby near Oxford) as Stones knocked giantkillers Hereford out of the Cup



BY TIM PARKS



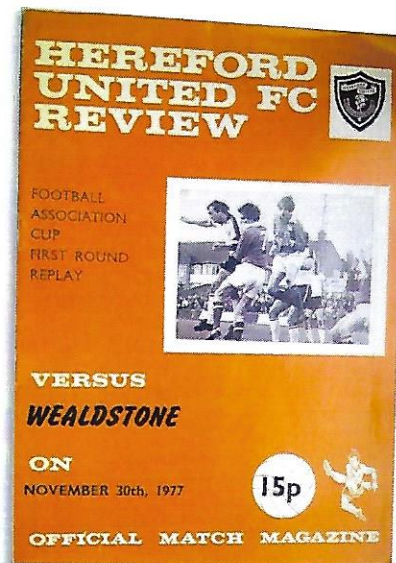
Wednesday November 30th 1977, FA Cup First Round
Proper replay: Hereford Utd 2 Wealdstone 3

WOW WEALDSTONE, as the headline in the next morning's Daily Express trumpeted!

On this day 30 years ago the mighty Stones recorded their first-ever win over Football League opposition in the club's then-77-year history. And it was the club's only away conquest of League opposition in all our 115-years. When Pete Worby and I were chatting about Wealdstone's frankly lamentable Cup giant-killing record - just two victories in all those years - last week it was particularly heartfelt as we both missed the game at Hereford!

Fellow fan Dave Heath volunteered to drive me, Wobs and his dad to the Welsh borders although we all had cars. 'Queenie' Heath's mini was reckoned to be the most reliable but it was misplaced trust...

Dave met us at Uxbridge tube station at 4.30 that dark Wednesday afternoon, just three hours to cover the 150-odd miles. And half an hour later the engine conked out.



Completely stopped. None of us being mechanically minded, we didn't notice that one of the leads to the distributor head had popped out when we peered under the bonnet.

The AA were called, a precious half an hour passed, and then Queenie tried restarting the car. Bizarrely, it worked! From the emergency roadside phone (no mobiles in those

days) he called to cancel the AA and off we sped... Only to break down, just

a mile further on. Grrrr!

Another call to the AA and the realisation sunk in that we weren't going to make it to the game. Although, thinking back I clearly remember not being too disappointed. Why not? Well, we had drawn 0-0 with mid-table Third Division outfit Hereford (the league equivalent to Colchester today) in what was the club's first-ever home game against full-time opposition. Previous big-time games against Port Vale (1949), Millwall (1965), Aldershot (1975) and Reading (1976) had all been away.

As this year, the team weren't firing on all cylinders despite having been unbeaten for 13 games. Sounds familiar? And we appeared a bit overawed as the big game at Lower Mead kicked off in front of a 2,200 crowd. Hereford had the ball in our net after just 10 minutes, former Barnet striker Holmes beating our keeper Chris Lightfoot but the goal was disallowed for offside. And then followed 80 minutes of almost constant Bulls possession - heroic defending and goalkeeping kept them at bay however, and I remember thinking that it was an achievement to even create a crossing opportunity against far superior opposition.

Hence the fact that every one of the Stones fans who travelled to the replay - especially those who arrived - did so with a huge sense

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

of trepidation. Yet, again with the benefit of hindsight (and according to our winger Keith Furphy, who I interviewed the following week) that Stones team were weighted down with expectation after the club had finally landed the chance of glory on home turf.

'We played with the defensive shackles on, and it was only when we conceded a goal very early in the replay that we could go for broke.

We had nothing to lose' he said.

That certainly seemed to be the case at Edgar Street. As the attached reports show, Hereford's teenage winger Kevin Sheedy (who went on to have a stellar career with Everton and the Republic of Ireland) blasted the Bulls ahead from the first attack of the game and the home crowd relaxed, thinking victory was now a formality.

Unbeknown to them, and our little band of four stuck in a mini on the Bicester bypass, so did the Stones relax - and finally began to play the sort of expansive football that had

Wow, Wealdstone!

WEALDSTONE shattered Hereford in their F.A. Cup first round replay last night.

Hereford, famous Cup fighters themselves after beating Newcastle several years ago when a non-League team, were stunned.

Wealdstone became the first non-League club to beat Hereford at home in the Cup in 31 years.

Kevin Sheedy, aged 17, got Hereford off to a flying start when he found the net in 36 seconds.

Hereford Utd. 2 Wealdstone 3

Ken Stephens collected a throw-in and slipped the ball forward for Sheedy to slot a perfectly timed drive from 20 yards past Wealdstone goalkeeper Chris Lightfoot.

Steve Davey and Billy Holmes missed chances and in the 37th minute paid the penalty when Wealdstone equalised.

Pat Ferry neatly turned home a low cross from Furphy.

Wealdstone shocked Hereford on the restart with two

goals in 13 minutes. I had a part in both.

In the 50th minute crossed for Bobby Moss head past Mellor and minutes later another centre was turned home.

Ferry
The goals shocked Hereford into action and Holmes hit the bar, reduced arrears in the minute.

Leeds beat Bolton 3-1 goals from Arthur Carr, Joe Jordan and Frank Gary Jones scored a late consolation goal for Bolton.

rattled many of our Southern League Premier Division rivals. Mid-70s heroes Bill Byrne and John Henderson had departed, but we still had the incomparable George Duck up front in tandem with newly-signed Romford striker Pat Ferry (another with that uncanny knack of knowing where the goal was) and clever wide men Furphy and Steve Brinkman. 'Brinks' was an ex-Arsenal junior while Furphy, son of Watford and Sheffield Utd boss Ken, had played reserve team football for the Blades as well as Ipswich and QPR. Crucially, he had a fantastic left foot and the ability to make

half a yard of space. Those qualities destroyed Hereford and their veteran manager John Sillett admitted that he'd never had as bad a night in his long career.

Hereford had forged their own reputation on being giant-killers, gaining admittance to the 'closed shop' Fourth Division on the back of a famous run to the Fourth Round in 1972.

While still Southern Leaguers, they had knocked top flight Newcastle United out of the Cup 2-1 in a replay (remember that Ronnie Radford 35-yard wonder strike?) and then drawn at West

CONTINUED OVERPAGE



Stones' keeper Chris Lightfoot comes to punch this cross from the head of team mate Pat Ferry while Hereford's Julian Marshall lurks during the first drawn game at Lower Mead. Wealdstone's Bobby Moss and Paul Thomas block the goalline (right) with Fred Barwick

ON THIS DAY..

Royal
Blue
Review

Ham, only losing narrowly in another replay.

The Bulls then took the League by storm, winning promotion firstly to Division Three and then to Division One (today's Championship).

They were then relegated back to Div Three, and thus it was that they found themselves having to start in the First Round... and being 'giant-killed' themselves!

Back to Edgar Street and that replay. George Duck, although not scoring himself, played a key role as he dragged Hereford's giant defenders Julian Marshall and John Layton out of the danger zone, allowing Pat Ferry (twice) and Bobby Moss to convert Furphy's devastating crosses.

Furphy was the real hero, but also in that team were the underrated Bobby Moss (ex Fulham and Orient pro) who had a vital 'rattling' role in midfield alongside the terrier-like but foot-perfect Fred Barwick, the ex-Spurs youngster. The evil genius of John 'Willie' Watson - who had been schooled at West Ham but allied a vicious streak to his undoubted ability - was now deployed in a sweeping role but in him we had a player who could win the ball almost at will, and also pass and shoot with unnerving accuracy. When we sold him to Alliance Premier League top dogs Scarborough in 1980 it cost them a record fee between non-League clubs: 10,000. He was worth every penny.

Alongside Watson, we looked pretty average but Dave Parratt (converted from being a limited centre forward the previous season) Paul Thomas and Alan Fursdon were much, much greater than the sum of their parts. To deny Hereford and then Reading (in the next round) to just three goals over three games speaks volumes.

Goalkeeper Chris Lightfoot, a teacher at the same Essex secondary school as Pat Ferry, was the essence of solidity. He achieved a bit of



Above: The Daily Mail's report on our glory night and (left) Keith Furphy hares off with the ball during the goalless game at home

Daily Mail, Thursday, December 1, 1977

CUP HISTORY FOR THE LITTLE MEN



Wealdstone's night of glory

Hereford2
LITTLE Wealdstone made club history last night when they qualified for the FA Cup second round for the first time.

And the Southern League side achieved it against a Third Division side who know all about FA Cup giant-killing acts.

As a non-League club in 1972 Hereford beat Newcastle and drew with West Ham before losing the replay.

Two goals from Pat Ferry and a third from Bobby Moss put Wealdstone on course in this replay win after drawing 0-0 on Saturday.

Wealdstone's victory was even more creditable because they had conceded an 86-sec. goal to 17-year-old Kevin Sheedy.

Wealdstone3

And after taking a 3-1 lead, they had to withstand a tremendous Hereford onslaught after Steve Davey had pulled a goal back in the 66th minute.

But no one played a bigger part in their success than Keith Furphy, son of the former Sheffield United manager Ken Furphy, who had a hand in all three goals.

Wealdstone manager Pat Fogarty said: 'Keith played their hearts out and well deserved their win. I'm buying them an extra drink on our way back home on the coach.'

Hereford's chief John Sillett said: 'It was a nightmare. I have never been so deflated in my life. It is the sort of experience that you dread.'

local fame when the pair made a weak excuse to their headmaster to bunk off for the Hereford replay... only being found out when The Beak spotted their names in the sports pages the following day. He wasn't too happy!

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Well, as so often happens a team loses its focus in the middle of a Cup run - as happened after the Colchester game this year - but this was taken to extremes 38 years ago.

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

BRILLIANT WEALDSTONE MAKE HISTORY AT HEREFORD



BRILLIANT Wealdstone wiped out the shock of conceding a goal after just 86 seconds to pull off a magnificent giant-killing act when they defeated Third Division Hereford United on their own ground in the F.A. Cup First Round replay on Wednesday evening.

The Southern League club looked set for a hiding when Kevin Sheedy netted for Hereford with their first serious attack. But they came back in tremendous style to book a second round home tie with Fourth Division Reading.

It was the first time that Hereford had lost an F.A. Cup tie to a non-league club at Edgar Street since 1947, and it is the first time that Wealdstone have made the second round in their history.

A jubilant Wealdstone manager Alan Fogarty said afterwards "I am absolutely over the moon. The boys played their hearts out and thoroughly deserved to win.

"We won on merit. The goals were superb and I will be buying everyone a well-earned drink on the way home."

John Sillett, the Hereford manager said "It was a nightmare. I have never been so deflated in my life."

Hereford only have themselves to blame after missing a host of chances and plucky

Wealdstone stuck to their guns with a brilliant team performance to stretch their undefeated run to 15 games.

Hereford had a dream start when they went ahead

after 86 seconds. Kenny Stephens collected a throw-in and squared the ball to Sheedy who planted a 20-yard drive into the back of the net.

The 17-year-old Eire Youth international came close with a couple of similar efforts in Saturday's goalless draw at Lower Mead and the Wealdstone side should have known better than to have given him shooting space.

Pat Ferry and George Duck were left to plough a

Hereford Utd. 2, Wealdstone 3

long furrow in the United half in the first 30 minutes. But Wealdstone gradually grew in confidence and got men forward to support them.

The 17-year-old Eire Youth international came close with a couple of similar efforts in Saturday's goalless draw at Lower Mead and the Wealdstone side should have known better than to have given him shooting space.

Pat Ferry and George Duck were left to plough a long furrow in the United half in the first 30 minutes. But Wealdstone gradually grew in confidence and got men forward to support them.

The only times of worry for Hereford in the opening half-hour came when Duck headed into the side netting from close range and then goalkeeper Peter Mellor moved smartly to take an inswinging corner from Furphy that threatened to sneak in at the near post.

But Wealdstone rocked their Football League opponents with an equaliser completely out of the blue in the 37th minute.

Furphy drove a low free kick into the Hereford penalty area and Pat Ferry beat the defenders to the ball and turned it into the net.

Five minutes after the break the home fans were stunned into silence when

Wealdstone snatched their second goal.

Furphy was again involved. He centred deep the Hereford goalmouth and Bobby Moss outjumped everyone to head powerfully home.

The Hereford players looked on in disbelief when Ferry scored again for Wealdstone in the 58th minute. Furphy, who had an outstanding game, and had a

hand in all three goals, floated a free-kick to the near post and Ferry glanced in a great header that had Mellor beaten all the way.

Hereford threw everything into attack in the last half hour and reduced arrears when Steve Davey turned the ball home from close range in the 66th minute.

But Wealdstone held out well under strong pressure and survived eight corners in the last 15 minutes.

Goalkeeper Chris Lightfoot produced some fine saves to foil Davey, Holmes, and Carter, and the crossbar came to the rescue when Holmes eventually beat him.

The Hereford fans, who expected an avalanche after their side's early goal, went home in silence.

In the end it was the few loyal Wealdstone supporters, who had made the long trip North, that went home cheering.

Royal Blue Review 10p
SEASON 1977-78
The Official Programme of Wealdstone Football Club
Lower Mead Stadium
Station Road, Harrow Midsx. 01-427 2840
Winners: FA Amateur Cup 1965-6, Alliance Cup 1951-2, Southern League Cup 1973-4

Saturday, 26th November, 1977
Kick-off 3 p.m.
F.A. Cup
First Round Replay
WEALDSTONE
v.
HEREFORD UNITED

WEALDSTONE	HEREFORD UNITED
Chris Lightfoot	Peter Mellor
Alan Furphy	Steve Emery
Paul Thomas	John Leyton
John Wason	Julian Marshall
Dave Barrett	David Buckley
Fred Blenkins	Ken Stephens
Pat Ferry	Kevin Sheedy
Steve Brinkman	George Duck
Keith Purphy	Bobby Moss
George Duck	Steve Hickman
Bobby Moss	
Steve Hickman	

Released by Mr. G. W. Davey (Birmingham)
Mr. W. G. Oliver (Luton) Mr. G. A. Chapman (Luton) Mr. J. P. King (Luton)

Above: The Royal Blue Review (Stones programme) for the home game with Hereford, which finished in a goalless draw. And (right) the Harrow Observer report from the replay which mentions 'the few loyal Wealdstone supporters who went home cheering'. Well, some of us may not have made it but I'm told we had one full coachload of fans plus as many again who travelled independently

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

ON THIS DAY..

Royal
Blue
Review

Between October 17 and February 18th the Stones' only victories (in 19 games) were the three FA Cup wins over Maidstone (4th Qual Rd), Hereford in that replay, and then Reading in the Second Round at Lower Mead. That was an awesome afternoon. A crowd of around 7,000 (though officially 4,400) jammed our old ground and a goal direct from a corner by that man Furphy, and a George Duck penalty (taken a heart-stopping three times) saw off the Fourth Division side 2-1. That is to date our only win over a Football League side at home.

Then, of course, in the trough of an awful run of league defeats we were off to Loftus Road to meet top-flight QPR in the Third Round... and what might have happened had not Lightfoot allowed a soft Don Givens header to sneak under his body in the opening minutes?

We fought valiantly and Furphy brought a terrific save from Rangers' England keeper Phil Parkes, but a late flurry saw us bow out 4-0.

And so, 38 years later, we still only have those wins over Hereford and Reading to savour. But our day in the sun will come again...

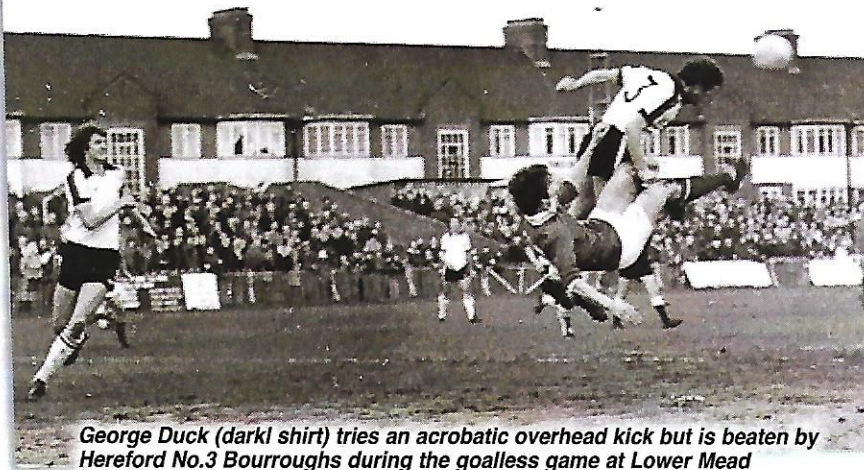
Wealdstone line-up at Hereford: Lightfoot, Thomas, Fursdon, Watson, Parratt, Barwick, Brinkman, Moss, Furphy, Duck, Ferry. Sub: Mickey Griffiths (for Furphy, 89 mins)

Wealdstone striker is fit to drop!

PAT FERRY (blazer) and Chris Lightfoot take a break from teaching the boys of Chase Cross Comprehensive at Romford, below.



Above: An article in the Evening Standard before the second round tie with Reading featured our two Romford teachers Chris Lightfoot and Pat Ferry (pictured with their pupils. Both players tipped us to beat the Fourth Division side... and we did!



George Duck (dark shirt) tries an acrobatic overhead kick but is beaten by Hereford No.3 Bourroughs during the goalless game at Lower Mead

FERRY FERRY GOOD

Teacher nets Cup double for Wealdstone glory

By STEVE ALLAN
Hereford 2, Wealdstone 3

TEACHER Pat Ferry got ten out of ten for accuracy from Wealdstone last night.

Sir scored two goals in a dramatic 2-1 Cup first-round replay which was a history lesson for both clubs.

It was the first time the Southern League part-timers had reached the second round.

It was the first time in 31 years that Hereford had been beaten by a non-League club in the Cup. Wealdstone looked like being mastered when 17-year-old Kevin Sheedy shot Hereford in front after 86 seconds.

Pressure

The Third Division side piled on the pressure but Wealdstone passed this examination of their defence to strike back and equalise through Ferry in the 37th minute.

He pushed in a free-kick by Keith Purphy, who also had a hand in the second and third goals in the 50th and 58th minutes.

Purphy crossed for Billy Moss to head home and then lofted a free-kick which Ferry nodded in.

Hereford, whose Cup past includes beating Newcastle and taking West Ham to a replay, pulled one back through Steve Davey in the 66th minute.

▲ **THE SUN WOT WON IT** .. No in fact it was Pat Ferry, but our striker revelled in the headlines from the tabloid papers after his heroics at Hereford. Right, long-time Stones fan Cardew (The Cad) Robinson takes time out from shooting an Ealing comedy to eulogise over the win

'Stones, I'm proud of you says Cardew

TWO things a man never forgets. His first sweetheart and his first football team. Even if I had moved too far from Lower Mead to ever actually see The Stones again, I would at the drop of a whistle be able to recall those first seasons.

I am none too keen to actually pinpoint the first year I started watching Wealdstone, but doubtless some other supporters of long standing will get some idea when I remind them that the colours then were black and white hoops, and that the captain was a half-back named Joe Archer.

The Stones played in the Spartan League in those days and can't have enjoyed uninterrupted success because I have a vivid memory of a critical voice calling out plaintively on more than one occasion. "What about some changes Joe?" ("He can't be as old as that!" "Oh yes, he can!")

Of course I was very young. Honestly, I caught the football bug very early indeed; long before I went to Harrow County School, where they played Rugby. But the oval ball had little chance with me. I played it, and even got into the first XV as a wing threequarter, but my heart remained round shaped.

In this I was not alone, and we even had an unofficial school Soccer team, which played several matches including one against our traditional rivals, John Lyon. I played left-back and the right-back was Don Oakley one of the well known Gaytonian cricketing brothers.

But the biggest thrill around this time was when the Harrow Scouts organised a Football Cup. We had a School Troop, the 4th Harrow, organised on a House basis and our house, captained from centre-forward by yours truly actually reached the final. Alas we went down 5-2 and although I got on the score sheet it was a sad end to my one and only Cup Final.

RARITY

During this period the Wealdstone names I remember from my Saturday visits were Champion, a clever little wing half, Hannam an amusing looking inside-left with long shorts and a good football brain, Hoskins, a tiny terror of a centre-forward, and a marvellous outside-right — and he really was an outside-right called Maskell. I not only remember with gratitude his electric dashes up the wing, but also his abbreviated shorts, a real rarity in those days. Later came Lovaday, and the wonderful Charlie Bunce.

During the war I played a few games for my unit No. 11 Group, before joining the RAF Gung. Show with Ralph Reader. In one game against the Service Police — if you'll pardon the expression — I scored what is I believe the only goal assisted

by a Land Mine. This had fallen on our camp on a parachute the night before and had been taken away by the bomb disposal boys and detonated in a field near the football ground.

It went off with a sickening crash just as I took a corner. The entire field, teams and spectators, were as if struck to stone by the awful sudden shock of it. This included the police goalkeeper as my inswinging corner sailed straight over his head into the net.

After the war it was the two Polish forwards I remember best, Mikrut and Wessyk, two really brilliant

semi-final how disappointing it was to be filming in Venice instead of cheering at Wembley.

But we did it didn't we, and how appropriate it was that we should at last win the Cup at the expense of the old enemy, Hendon. Sadly, I recall the subsequent unsuccessful semi-final against Chesham. We had all thought it was going to be a cinch.

What a contrast to the recent unbelievable events. I was one of a not very inspired, or inspiring crowd at the first Hereford match and quite honestly I thought not only that our chance had gone, but that we were more than a little fortunate to get another one; luck and great defence.

I wasn't able to get down to Hereford and when I heard the result on the car radio I whooped out loud and nearly drove into a wall. I have been feeling thrilled out of my mind ever since.

BIGGER CROWD

All those previous frustrating odd-goal dismissals from the Big One, always away, can now be forgotten. Port Vale 1-0, Aldershot 4-3 and — Reading 1-0. What an unbelievable opportunity for a quick revenge. Let's hope that if it is a single margin that this time the odd goal goes the way of Wealdstone.

Let's hope, too, that our crowd will be a lot bigger than the 2,500 of the first game v Hereford. And that we'll make a lot more noise. Because we're proud of the Stones aren't we?

If we do get through who would I like in Round 3? I hope it isn't Arsenal because they are "my other lot" and two uncomfortable. Not as I am. I wouldn't like to think of The Gunners falling at their first hurdle. Let's face it, after Hereford, anything's possible isn't it!



Cardew ("The Cad") Robinson, was brought up in Harrow, went to Harrow County School for Boys, and has had a life-long interest in Wealdstone F.C. When his activities as comedy actor/script writer/radio comic permit, he can still be seen at Lower Mead, and was there for the drawn cup-tie against Hereford.

players. I remember their faces, better than their spelling! Over the years the club had gone from the Spartan to the Athenian League and thence to the Isthmian. Among the giants of more recent times I still treasure the images of our two internationals Charlie Townsend and Hugh Lindsay. And the games against our rivals Hendon, especially the holiday fixtures were the real blood tinglers.

As far as the Cup — Amateur I think — there was an incredible 7-7 score against Dulwich Hamlet before losing the replay 3-1. Of course to Stones supporters the Amateur had taken on some of the elusiveness of the Holy Grail. Year after year we fall at various stages. At last after helping to cheer the lads to victory in the