

FA CUP 2ND QUAL RD MEMORIES..

Royal
Blue
Review

Saturday September 26,
2009, FA Cup 2nd Qual
Round: Boreham Wood 2
Wealdstone 4

ON this day six years ago Wealdstone blasted Boreham Wood out of the FA Cup with three first half goals to delight our 200 travelling fans.

Lee Chappell's blinding freekick, on the stroke of half time just about summed up this marvellous afternoon. Our left-back and skipper had been entrusted with all freekicks around the edge of the box from the start of the season but had only wafted every single one hopelessly high and harmlessly wide... until his moment of destiny after the rampant Keiron Forbes was scythed down just outside the box. Who remembers what a fearsome combination Forbes and Marvin McCoy were down that right flank?

Chapps strode up and bent a fabulous effort past keeper Tony Tucker and into the net, the ball bouncing out off the stanchion to momentary confusion. But our skipper knew he'd scored and belted over to celebrate with the cavorting fans (pictured above).

It was a terrific performance from the Stones who had started the season slowly with two draws and a defeat (sounds familiar)... but a glorious autumn saw Gordon Bartlett's side slowly gather momentum and this 2nd Qualifying Round game at Meadow Park was an indication of how devastating we were on the break.

Greg Ngoyi was often played up front on his own, supported by the energetic Mark E'Bayer, Chris Ellerbeck and Ryan Ashe and the power of Chris O'Leary. Stones ripped into Wood from the first



That's for you guys! Lee Chappell was loved by the fans for his enthusiasm, and our ex-skipper celebrated his freekick goal against the Wood in typical style

Day two-goal Chapps absolutely destroyed Wood in the FA Cup

BY TIM PARKS



whistle and a great surging run from "Uncle" Keiron Forbes after six minutes created the first goal. Forbes cut skilfully into the middle and Ryan Ashe got on the end of his pass to roll the ball past the startled Tucker for a remarkable opener.

Woods brought a great save from Sean Thomas - pushing the ball onto the crossbar - and from the rebound Stones broke swiftly with Alan Massey making serious

ground up the left. He passed to an onrushing Lee Chappell who majestically stroked the ball past Tucker into the far corner of the net! 2-0!

Then came Chappell's devastating freekick - and as we dominated after the break it might already have been 4-0 or 5-0 before Dean Green nipped in for Wood to put the ball past a stranded Sean Thomas for 3-1.

But we weathered the storm and went further ahead on 72 minutes, a Ryan Ashe corner finding Massey with time and space at the far post

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to smash the ball past an exposed Tucker for 4-1.

There was late worry for Stones as Wood managed to score a second goal - defender Ryan Kirby grabbing his side's second consolation following a desperate goal line scramble

Wealdstone: Sean Thomas, Marvin McCoy, Lee Chappell, Rob Fitzgerald, Alan Massey, Ryan Ashe, Kieron Forbes, Chris O'Leary, Chris Ellerbeck, Greg Ngoyi, Mark E'Beyer. Subs used: Kenny During, Ross Lafayette, James Gray. Unused: Luke Woods (GK)

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Well, the Stones remained unbeaten for 17 games as we knocked Arlesey (2-1), Lewes (3-0) and Aylesbury (4-2) out of the FA Cup before the drama of being drawn against League One side Rotherham United at The Vale. Despite Ryan Ashe's heroics, grabbing both our goals in style, we went out unluckily 3-2 before a 1,600 crowd.

Our league form dipped but we

recovered in the New Year only to be hit by bad weather and the inevitable fixture backlog.... Stones were forced to play three times a week for the last two months of the campaign (including a run to the League Cup Final, in which we lost to Leatherhead on penalties) and came up just short of the coveted play-off spots.

Ironically, Boreham Wood squeaked into the play-offs and then proceeded to win promotion! They beat Kingstonian in the play-off final, in a game marred by crowd trouble including a serious assault by a fan on a Ks player. Strangely, the Ryman League took no action and Wood were allowed to take their place in the Conference South.



Ryan Ashe turns away in joy after putting us ahead at Meadow Park