



TEAMS

	HT	
	FT	

Wealdstone

(WHITE/BLUE)

Cambridge City

(ALL BLUE)

CHANGES	TEAM	SCORER	SCORER	TEAM	CHANGES
	WAYNE ROACH	1	KEVIN MURRAY		
	JIM WATSON	2	SIMON HAIGH		
	STEVE SMART	3	LAURENCE CULLUM		
	STEVE TAPLEY	4	STEVE FALLON		
	MARK HARRISON	5	DAVID McCOY		
	HAKAN HAYRETTIN	6	ANDY BEATTIE		
	PAUL GOYETTE	7	STEVE SPRIGGS		
	PETER BARTLETT	8	KEITH LOCKHART		
	TONY KELLY	9	JOHN McLEAN		
	BARRY BLACKMAN	10	GARY GROGAN		
	DAVID GIPP	11	PAUL WILKIN		
	PAUL GOODISON	12	DOMENICO GENOVESE		
	ANDY MARTIN	14	PETER LINDSAY		

OFFICIALS

Referee: **Mr P.M. SCOBLE** (Portsmouth, Hants)

Linesmen: **Mr D.R. Hardisty** (Newbury, Berks)

Mr G. Winton (Ealing, Middx)

RED TRIM
YELLOW TRIM

BALL DONOR

It is very appropriate that our Chairman ALAN CLIFTON has donated our final match ball. Without Alan's magnificent efforts in securing our future, this could have been our very last match ball!

WHERE NEXT

WENDYFAIR CAPITAL LEAGUE

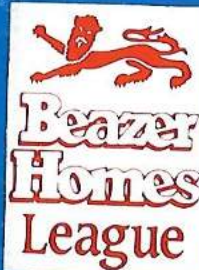
Tuesday 7th May 1991

v. SUTTON UNITED

Kick Off 7.30pm

SEASON 1990/91 OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1899



CLUB SPONSORS

THE STONES

PHONE THE STONES SOCCERLINE
ON
0898 88 44 73



THE FINAL LEAGUE MATCH AT LOWER MEAD
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE

v. **CAMBRIDGE CITY**

SATURDAY 27th APRIL 1991

KICK OFF 3.00 pm **£1.00**



Wendy Fair
CAPITAL LEAGUE

WEALDSTONE

FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED

LOWER MEAD STADIUM, STATION ROAD, HARROW, MIDDX. HA1 2TU
TEL: 081-427 4064 (Answerphone after office hours) FAX: 081-863 7215

FOUNDED 1899

NEWSLINE: 0898 88 44 73

Directors:

A.J. CLIFTON, M.B.I.M., F.Inst.D. (*Chairman & Managing Director*)
P.B. BRAXTON (*Vice Chairman & Football Secretary*) P.V. JACKSON, A.C.I.B. (*Company Secretary*)
J.E. FLETCHER F.B. BRADBURY D.M. GRANSBY, BA.Hons.M.Phil E.E. CLIFTON

Team Manager: BRIAN HALL *Coach:* CHRIS BRADY
Club Doctor: LEN GOODCHILD M.D. *Physiotherapist:* TERRY WARREN
Club Statistician: ROY COUCH *Acting Reserve Team Manager:* DAVID BOUGHTON
General Services Managers: JOE McKEEVER, GRAHAM SMITH
Press Relations Officer & Programme Editor: STEVE MARSHALL

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EDITORS NOTES

A very good afternoon to you all. It is indeed a pleasure to have Cambridge City as our visitors today on our very last league match at Lower Mead.

Our programme today is filled with memories of Lower Mead, and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to not only this edition, but to the issues throughout the season. Special thanks to the typesetters, S.M. Typesetting & Design, and to Martin Ellis & Co, the printers, for producing the programme to such a high standard.

Do not forget that we have a WendyFair Capital League fixture here on Tuesday 7th May v. Sutton United, so why not come along and join what must be a bumper Capital League attendance.

Thank you for supporting this Club at Lower Mead, and Wealdstone look forward to seeing you all in our new home at Vicarage Road.

Enjoy the summer . . .

Steve

SUPPORTERS' CLUB PLAYER OF THE SEASON "THE JOCK LAW TROPHY"

Tom Verrall, President of the Wealdstone FC Supporters Club will present this year's 'Player of the Season' trophy before the kick off.

TODAY'S MASCOTS

We welcome on this momentous day, JOANNA & JAMES GOODMAN as the team's mascots for today's game. James aged 6 and Joanna aged 9 are the son and daughter of Miriam Goodman, who is a long time supporter and member of the 'Stones'. It is fitting perhaps that in this changing world that a girl should be one of the final mascots to grace the hallowed Lower Mead pitch and that her mum is one of our growing number of women followers.

We hope both Joanna and James enjoy their day with us.

BHL PREMIER DIVISION RESULTS 1990 - 1991

HOME \ AWAY	ATHERSTONE UTD	BASHLEY	BROMSGROVE	BURTON ALBION	CAMBRIDGE CITY	CHELMSFORD CITY	CRAWLEY TOWN	DARTFORD	DORCHESTER TOWN	DOVER ATHLETIC	FARNBOROUGH	GLOUCESTER CITY	GRAVESEND & N	HALESOWEN	MOOR GREEN	POOLE TOWN	RUSHDEN TOWN	VS RUGBY	WATERLOOVILLE	WEALDSTONE	WEYMOUTH	WORCESTER CITY
ATHERSTONE UTD		1-0		1-1	1-1	0-1	1-0	3-0	0-3	3-2		2-2	3-4	2-0	0-2	1-1	4-0	0-1	1-1	1-2	1-0	1-3
BASHLEY	0-0		1-1		2-2	2-1	0-1	0-1	2-2	0-3	1-1	0-1	3-1	1-2	4-1	1-0	3-1	0-2	5-1	0-1		0-2
BROMSGROVE	2-0	2-4		3-3	2-2	1-0	3-2	4-0	4-0	1-2	3-2		3-0	2-1	1-1	1-1	2-0	4-1	3-0	1-0	2-1	1-0
BURTON ALBION	1-0	0-0	1-0		2-0	1-1	2-0	3-0	1-0	1-2	2-0	1-2	2-1	1-2	5-0	1-1		0-0	1-1	3-2	3-2	0-0
CAMBRIDGE CITY	4-3	2-2	0-0	2-1		4-0	4-1	2-1	3-1	0-0	0-0	1-2	1-0		2-1	1-0	1-4	2-0	3-0		5-0	1-0
CHELMSFORD CITY	3-4	2-2	1-2	2-2	0-0		1-4	1-1	0-0	1-1	1-2	0-2	1-0	2-2	3-4	1-1	0-3	1-0	1-1	0-0	2-0	0-0
CRAWLEY TOWN		1-0	3-2	1-1	1-1	2-3		2-2		0-1	0-1	3-3	2-1	2-2	1-0	2-4	2-2	0-0	1-0	1-0	2-2	1-1
DARTFORD	1-1	1-0	2-1	2-0	2-0	1-1	6-1		3-0	1-0	1-2	2-1	3-0	3-3	2-1	0-0	1-2	2-0	5-1	1-2	5-3	1-3
DORCHESTER TOWN	1-2	2-1	1-0	1-0	0-2		2-0	1-1		1-0	2-1	1-0	4-1	2-1	3-0	2-1	0-0	0-3	0-3	1-1	1-3	3-2
DOVER ATHLETIC	1-0	0-1	4-2	0-0	0-1	3-2	1-1	0-2	3-0		1-0	3-0	3-1	2-1			1-0	0-0	1-0		2-2	1-1
FARNBOROUGH	3-1	1-3	0-2		0-0	3-1	2-0	2-2	2-1	1-3		1-1	5-0	2-1	2-1	3-2	4-0	1-3	7-0	2-3	3-2	2-0
GLOUCESTER CITY	2-2	3-0	3-1	2-1	1-1	3-2	5-0	2-0	1-1	4-1	1-1		6-3	2-1	3-2	4-0	3-2			2-1	1-1	3-1
GRAVESEND & N	4-1	2-1	1-1	1-1	2-2	0-2	0-1	3-1	1-1	0-1	1-2	0-4		3-1	2-1	2-4	0-0	0-1	0-3	1-1	3-1	2-1
HALESOWEN	0-1	2-4	1-1	1-3	3-0	1-4	1-2	2-1		2-2	1-2	0-0	3-0		0-2	3-3	3-0	2-1	2-2	1-0	5-0	2-0
MOOR GREEN	1-2		1-2	3-6	0-1	1-0	2-1	3-1	1-3	1-0	0-2	3-2	3-1	1-2		5-4	4-0	2-2	0-1	2-0	4-2	1-1
POOLE TOWN	1-4	2-2	0-0	2-3	1-3	1-2		1-0	2-0	1-1	0-4	1-2	2-0	0-2	1-0		4-2	1-1	0-3	3-2	3-0	1-2
RUSHDEN TOWN	2-1	1-1	4-1	1-1	4-1		3-1	4-2	1-0	0-1	1-1	1-1	4-0	4-3	1-2	0-1		1-1	3-1	0-1	1-1	0-1
VS RUGBY	2-0		2-2	2-3	0-1	0-1	0-1		2-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	4-2	3-1	2-2	3-0	2-1		1-2	2-1	3-0	3-0
WATERLOOVILLE	1-1	0-1	0-1	2-0	0-1		0-0	1-0	1-1	0-4	0-2	2-2	3-0	2-3	2-3	0-0	1-1			2-2	2-1	2-3
WEALDSTONE	1-3	1-1	0-1	0-0		0-3	2-0	2-1	2-1	2-3	0-2	2-1	3-0	1-2	2-1	4-1	2-1	1-1	1-3		4-2	0-1
WEYMOUTH	0-2	0-1	1-1	0-0	1-1	2-5	1-1	0-0	1-1	0-1	0-2	1-1		2-3	4-1	2-3	5-1	3-0	1-1	0-2		0-1
WORCESTER CITY	0-0	1-0	2-1	4-1	0-1	2-0	2-0	3-0	1-1	2-0	1-2	1-1	1-1	1-2		0-0	1-1	1-2		3-2	3-0	

WELCOME TO CAMBRIDGE CITY . . .

A warm welcome to our good friends from Cambridge City. We have of course met briefly this season, in Brian Hall's first match on his return, but snow prevented a final result being attained!

Cambridge City were formed in 1908 and won the Suffolk Senior Cup two years later. Under the name Cambridge Town they first played in the Southern Amateur League and in 1935 progressed to the Spartan League where they won the championship in 1945-46. In 1950 they moved into the Athenian League and with the grant of city status to Cambridge, they adopted their present name.

During their amateur days they made two appearances in the first round of the F.A. Cup and won the Cambridgeshire Senior Cup four times. They became a professional club in 1958 and were elected in the South-Eastern Section of the Southern League finishing in ninth position, thus finding a place among the founder members of the old Premier Division. City went on to win Premier Division in 1962-63. They have since made a third appearance in the First Round Proper of the F.A. Cup. They have won the Cambridgeshire Professional Cup seven times and the East Anglian Cup on three occasions. Season 1984/85 City was forced to play all their games away from home due to redevelopment on their ground. On returning home the following season they gained promotion to the Premier Division by becoming champions of the Southern Section of the Southern League.

We visit Cambridge City on Wednesday at 7.45pm, which is the second match in the City, as we visit United in the WFCL at 5pm.

KEVIN MURRAY (Goalkeeper): Rejoined City mid-way through 1986-87 from Saffron Walden. Keith was voted Player of the Year and Player's Player of the Year in 1988-89.

SIMON HAIGH (Defender): Aged 23. Simon is single and a painter and decorator by trade. Joined City in 1988-89. Former clubs Wisbech Town, Holbeach United and Peterborough United.

LAURENCE CULLUM (Defender): Aged 27. Laurence is single and works for a bank. He joined City from neighbours Histon four seasons ago. Laurence is a local who captained Histon for four seasons.

STEVE FALLON (Player/Manager): Steve is married with two children. Joined City in season 1988-89. A centre-half formerly 13 years with Cambridge United. Ron Atkinson's first Football League signing.

DAVID MCCOY (Utility Player): Recently signed from Bury Town.

ANDY BEATTIE (Defender): Signed from Barnet in the closed season for a City record fee. Formerly with Cambridge United and Maidstone.

STEVE SPRIGGS (Midfield): Joined City last season from Bury Town. Former Club Cambridge United where he was Club Captain. Steve spent 12 years with United and holds their record for the most appearances.

KEITH LOCKHART (Midfield): In his fifth season with the Club. Joined from Wolverhampton Wanderers. Previously with Cambridge United. Keith is married but no children.

JOHN McCLEAN : Born in Middlesbrough. John joined us last season from Histon. John is a Maintenance and Security Engineer, married with two children. Former clubs Northalerton and Whitby Town.

GARY GROGAN (Striker): Aged 33. Has been with City 10 years. He lives and works in Ely and has played for Ely City and Soham Town and Bamstable. Gary holds the record for the most number of goals scored for Cambridge City.

PAUL WILKIN (Forward): Joined City from local football in '88. Single, works for a removal company.

DOMENICO GENOVESE (Striker): Re-signed for City this season from Kettering after a spell with Peterborough United.

PETER LINDSAY (Utility Player): Aged 26. Peter made his debut with City when he was only 16. A former F.A. Youth Trialist he is our longest serving player.

OUR RECORD AGAINST CAMBRIDGE CITY

	Home				Goals		Away			Goals	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A
League Matches	24	7	2	3	28	12	4	0	8	19	26
Cup Matches	8	2	1	1	4	2	1	2	1	5	5
TOTAL	32	9	3	4	32	14	5	2	9	24	31



FROM THE CHAIRMAN . . .

Today heralds the last Southern League, (currently the Beazer Homes League), fixture at Lower Mead and sadly closes the door on 90 years of history in Harrow.

To say that I am disappointed that the "Stones" are leaving our comfortable environment would certainly be an understatement, for in these 90 years the Club has achieved much in a chequered career that has spanned more than a lifetime.

This Club has enjoyed many "firsts" during the period that it has occupied what was once, in poetic terms a "Mead". In fact the very name conjures up the romanticism of by-gone days, and certainly we owe a very big vote of thanks to the foresight of our predecessors for the legacy, that we, their benefactors have enjoyed throughout the years, that legacy now being our stepping stone to greater heights and progression.

The Club was originally founded in 1899, although there is evidence of a Wealdstone Eleven playing in and around Harrow for some ten years prior to this date. In those days the team played in various "fields" in the then called Willesden and District League before graduating to Lower Mead as we all know it today. Since this period the Club has certainly made its mark in the echelons of non league football and one of those "firsts" of course is undoubtedly the pinnacle of our success when our much publicised double of Gola League Champions (now of course the Conference) and F.A. Trophy Winners hit the headlines in 1985, a feat that has yet to be equalled, although several teams have since tried to emulate us, without success.

Other "firsts" of course include being the first amateur team to have ever played at Wembley Stadium when during the war years we defeated an International representative side from the R.A.F. in the Middlesex Red Cross Cup. We were the first ever team to be televised in the United Kingdom by the B.B.C. in an encounter with Barnet in the Athenian League, and of course the two F.A. Cup games in 1949 which were also televised, versus Edgware Town and Colchester United, both games being won by the Stones.

Our Club has produced several League and Non League Internationals, our most famous "son" of course being one Stuart Pearce, currently an England International and captain of Nottingham Forest.

The nostalgia will live on and certainly some of our elder Club statesmen have painted pictures that will always have a place in our hearts for many years to come, although I know that many a tale can also be related by some of our younger more trendy members, all of which add up to, and contribute to the ninety one years since our official birthdate.

To be objective we must of course look forward although I suspect that quite a few "tears" will be shed today as we remember the past, but as we lower the curtain and bring to an end the passing of a period that has seen the birth of the motor car, the flying machine and man walking on the moon, may we all be thankful for our heritage and together make a concerted effort to create history in our future.

LOWER MEAD IS DEAD - LONG LIVE THE STONES.

Alan Clifton

FROM THE SECRETARY . . .

Today marks the end of an era and I am sure that a few tears will be shed at around 4.45pm. However, it is not the end of Lower Mead just yet, as we still have a month of contracted business to get through after today's 1st team match. The "Stones" last ever game at Lower Mead will be the Capital League fixture on Tuesday 7th May when Sutton United will be our opponents.

Over the past 69 years Lower Mead has been the home of the "Stones" and as we move on to pastures new, it is time to remember those people who gave their services to Wealdstone Football Club, over eight decades. Not the players, nor the managers as they received their accolades during their careers, but the administrators and other dedicated people whose efforts kept the Club going.

In the pre-war era, people such as Charles Edward Brady O.B.E. and W.H. Pearce, whose efforts secured the property here at Lower Mead back in 1922; C.E. and C.V. Elmslie both former Secretaries; Ernest Bellchambers and Harry (Chippy) Luck and Frank Harbud, names that span the pre and post war periods.

In the post war era, the names of Ken Wiltshire, the long-time Secretary of the Club, Bill Emerson, Brian Henderson, Colin Pope and Les Boyle all spring to mind. It would be amiss of me not to mention John Ryan who has served the Club over the years in many capacities including a long stint as Press Secretary. John is still involved, running the Country Music Club held here every Thursday evening.

During recent years, David Free and Steve Marshall have kept up the tradition. There has of course been countless others over the years and their contribution is greatly appreciated. Somewhere within the ranks of our Junior Stones are the successors to a long line of dedicated and gifted people.

From the past we now look forward to a long and prosperous period at our new abode. We take with us fond memories and the knowledge that our heritage is intact and the future is secure.

To all who have passed this way, Wealdstone Football Club salutes you.

P.B. BRAXTON
Vice-Chairman & Club Secretary

P.S. My personal thanks go to Roy and Alan Couch, Joe McKeever, Graham and Pauline Smith, Val Shearer, Henry Keeler and Colin and Russell Payne.

Playing Members of Wealdstone F.C. who played the game for their Country and their Club in two World Wars



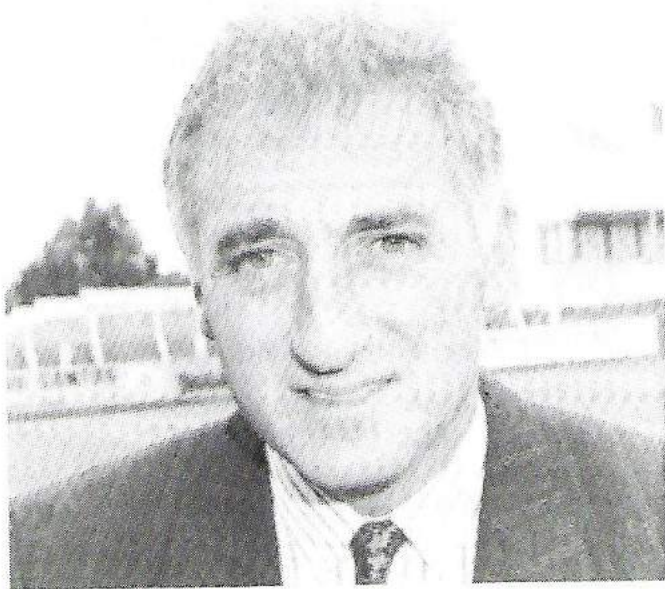
1914-18

Andrews, P.	Cozens, W.
Bellchambers, C. F.	Goodage, R.
Bird, C.	Howman, W.
Bowells, H.	Martin, F.
Bradberry, R. W.	Robertson, G.

1939-1945

Baldwin, K.	Parr, W. W.
Bidewell, R.	Walker, E.
Bunce, C. E.	Winterbotham, W.
Burton, W. A.	

*They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.*



BRIAN HALL WRITES . . .

Well folks, it's here at last. The final first team fixture at our beloved Lower Mead Stadium, and this, the final programme. Therefore today is just that bit special and my notes will tend to lean towards the theme of 'reality or fantasy', which is term I seemed to have picked up recently.

I will not bore you with four paragraphs of our recent games, as I'm sure most of you either saw the games or have heard about them. The reality or outcome from these games is there for all to see. We don't score goals! We seem to have come to terms with the ability to defend, and understand our priorities, but now we must learn to capitalise on chances. On that particular subject, however, it was refreshing to see the number of chances we created at Chelmsford. We drew 0-0, so enough said!

I am pleased to report that David Hudson is now on the road to recovery after that dreadful collision against Burton. We are hoping that he will be out of hospital by now, and he hopes to be here today. If you see him, say 'hello', as he is a very nice lad and I would like him to feel welcome at Wealdstone (Got the message?). Our other injuries are still numerous but at least short-term, and I'm hoping that all of them will be appearing before the end of the season, as we still have 2 very difficult games after today. Both Cambridge and Dover will possibly still be in the championship race, and will be flat out for points.

This being the final appearance at Lower Mead means that to finish with a win is most important, in what has been a wonderful home to Wealdstone Football Club. It's had more than its fair share of football history, and I'm proud to say that I saw some of that history in the making. Those days were in fact, days of fantasy and reality, and our future, which is now a reality, must not become a fantasy. I know that may sound confusing, but the message is that the move to Watford is an opportunity for our club to progress. The move alone will not provide that progress. That is only a part (though a large part) of the future. Hard work, careful planning, unending enthusiasm, passion and support will provide the rest of the ingredients.

And so, a fond farewell to Lower Mead. Thanks for the lovely memories – memories to be savoured and never forgotten but it's time for us to start a new chapter in our future.

Enjoy the game – especially today.

FAREWELL TO LOWER MEAD

I never thought that I would ever be writing an article for Wealdstone Football Club with a heading such as the one above. And yet, with all the sadness that such a heading supplies, we must look on the other side of the coin which fills all of the Wealdstone supporters with a feeling of great pride and joy and proves that over the years Wealdstone Football Club has been a credit to Harrow. We, the supporters, and members of W.F.C. have all been a part of it and have supplied a name and reputation that has been a credit to the game of football, not only in this country, but in many places abroad.

Back in 1979 an issue of 'Long Ball Down The Middle' contained an article from a reader in Wigan in which he stated that his hobby was collecting metal lapel badges and distributing them to collectors and clubs abroad and therefore your Supporters Club committee was pleased to send him a small supply of our club badges and he wrote and said that he rated the very highly and that he had received many enquiries from abroad for a Wealdstone badge and he sent some out, even as far as Czechoslovakia. So you can see that we became well known and respected abroad.

Back in December 1971, the Supporters Club produced its first monthly magazine which was named 'Wealdstone Whispers' and it was then proclaimed by many representatives of the F.A. all over the country as being one of the finest magazines ever produced by a Supporters Club. This positive thinking and actions is what has made us the great club that we are today. Although we have been going through a very lean patch recently, we shall soon re-emerge, and that is why I am asking all of our members and supporters to come with us to our new ground at Watford. I bring to mind an old saying which goes as follows,

We may not meet with great success
Or carve for ourselves a name
But let it be that true glory lies
In striving just the same.

As dear old Barbara Robson said back in 1975, "If ever W.F.C. folded up I could never feel the same about any other club" and she hoped that everyone concerned with the running of the club would keep the wheels turning for many more years to come. They were great words, and she is still with us, so I do implore all of you old supporters and also the youngsters who have joined us recently, move with us to our new home and let us grow into a great Football and Supporters Club again.

"Farewell to Lower Mead and here's to our new home".

TOM VERRALL
President

Wealdstone F.C. Supporters Club

SUPPORTERS CLUB A.G.M.

The Supporters Club A.G.M. will be held at 7.30pm in the V.P.'s bar, (under the main stand) on Monday 29th April 1991.

Only fully paid up members will be admitted to the meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting's business, Wealdstone F.C. Chairman, Mr Alan Clifton, will address the meeting and figure in a question and answer session regarding the Club's relocation.

Please note proxy votes must be submitted to the club secretary not less than 48 hours before the date of the meeting.

TRAVEL NOTES

With this season's campaign drawing to a close we now have just the Dover coach to run. It is important to remind you of the regulations governing coach travel. Only Supporters Club Members can travel on the coaches and NO alcohol can be consumed on the vehicle.

4 May v. DOVER ATHLETIC - Depart 11.30am - Fare: Adult £8/£Child £6/Junior Stone £5

Please note that special arrangements will apply for Dover. NO Supporters Club Membership will be available on the day and the coach will stop for refreshments before reaching Dover. Departure from the ground will be immediately after the game. Membership cards must be carried.

Please book today in the club shop. Late bookings can be made by phoning 427 4064 during office hours.



WEALDSTONE FC SUPPORTERS CLUB



Secretary:- Layne Patterson. All enquiries and correspondence to Club Office.
Clubshop Manager:- Toby Jackson. All enquiries and correspondence to Club Office.

Founded in 1958, Wealdstone F.C. Supporters' Club is an organisation whose aim is to stimulate interest and raise funds for the main club. Everybody who joins is doing their bit to help this GREAT club.

Call into the Club Shop today and join the Wealdstone F.C. Supporters' Club **BE PART OF YOUR CLUB!**

Organised away match travel and discount on various club souvenirs for members - Annual Subscription £1.00 for Adults and Youths (over the age of 14), and 50 pence for Senior Citizens. In addition a limited number of Life Members will be admitted at £15.00.

Members wishing to make use of the coach service can book at the Club Shop on matchdays, or by telephone at the Club Office on 081-427-4064 (during office hours), or direct to the Secretary on 081-423-3105 (evenings only).

Visit our Club Shop and see our extensive range of souvenirs:- (Woollen scarves, pennants, ski-hats, sweatshirts, mugs, car-stickers, key fobs, programme binders, etc., etc.). We also have THOUSANDS of programmes on sale:- (Football League, Scottish, Foreign, Cup Finals, Internationals, Non-League, etc., etc.). Plus many non-league periodicals.

We have a unique selection of non-league lapel badges from over 100 different clubs, lists available in the Club Shop.

Call in and see us now, be part of Wealdstone Football Club

Junior Members, under the age of 14, why not join:-

THE JUNIOR STONES' CLUB

Membership is free, and entitles you to free admission to all Beazer Homes League matches, as well as incentive bonuses to members attending seven or more league matches. Call in the Club Shop today! or send the application form below (together with any other correspondence regarding THE JUNIOR STONES' CLUB) to:- Dave Albert, 37 Chatsworth Gardens, West Harrow, Middx. HA2 0RS.

Junior Stones Application Form

Name

Address

..... Telephone No

Date of Birth School

Wealdstone F.C. Supporters' Club are affiliated to "The Friends of the County of Middlesex" - your county!



SUPPORTERS SCENE

Writing the final set of programme notes for the season, is *usually* a bit of a relief. A couple of months rest from writers cramp, and printing deadlines is normally most welcome. However, today's are indeed the saddest I have ever had to write, sad because after today – Wealdstone FC at Lower Mead is history.

What a history, looking back on a host of cherished memories of the beloved "Hallowed Turf" fills me with happiness and not sadness though. Why? Because no doubt like all of you this "old dump" has been an integral part of my life for over 20 years.

My earliest memory was the first time that great old stalward, Eric Metcalfe (the man in blue) and a founder member of the Supporters' Club, brought me along to the Ground. In 1970 being only 6 years old I can't remember who we were playing, but vividly recall the noise and size of the crowd.

That day many moons ago was the beginning of some fantastic times for me, such as the unforgettable day we beat Reading in the FA Cup, in front of a packed Lower Mead. Who can ever forget our many encounters against old rivals, Harrow Borough and Enfield, with the Semi-Final 2nd Leg Match in the FA Trophy against the latter being an absolutely unbelievable day. That match, of course, led us to Wembley and ultimate victory in the FA Trophy. Lower Mead was the centre of all the celebrations with a huge marquee erected on the pitch to help cope with a very much needed requirement for a celebratory tippie.

Since those Halcyon days, probably our biggest occasion (apart from today) was that memorable FA Cup match against Swansea City. Over the years we have all had various favourite players who have delighted us with their skills. Who remembers the pitch invasion following the scoring of George Duck's 200th goal for the Club? The countless moments of pure genius from Alan (Messiah) Cordice and the pure never say die attitude of Dennis Byatt and Paul Bowgett, the free kicks of Stuart Pearce, the all too rare brilliance of Tony Lynch, the buzz when, Keith Furphy, Steve Brinkman and Bobby Moss all hit form at the same time. Who can ever forget Mr Elastic Man, Ray Goddard?

Visiting goalkeepers have always been welcomed by the Elmslie Enders, they are either loved or hated, Dave Ryan from Northwich Victoria and John Jacobs from Enfield, were always good for a laugh.

One of my other memories of Lower Mead was when my brother scored on his debut for the Reserves side, and the special SFC celebration match a couple of years ago when I realised an ambition by playing on the "Hallowed Turf" myself.

Looking around the old place, I will miss many things, but hopefully some of the club's great characters will come with us, would there be a Wealdstone FC without the likes of Val Shearer, that old guy (whose name I don't know) who stands on his own next to the Cinema End Stand come rain, snow or sunshine. The 'Cider Corner' will never be the same again, but things I definitely will not miss are the Tea Bar, the Elmslie Tavern, and having to carry a can opener with me every time I use the car park.

Anyway, enough of the past, and let's look to the future, from next season we will be playing at a stadium with facilities beyond our wildest dreams, we will be able to enjoy a drink in nice surroundings, and hopefully put all of the upset of the past years firmly behind us. However, it will be little use in all the above, unless our Team is up to scratch. Over to you Brian!

Finally a quick thank you to a few people who have made Lower Mead such an enjoyable place to be over the years I have been here. Tom Verrall, Julia Verrall, Barbara Robson, Nick DuGard, Ray Kemp, Sudhir Rawal, Dominic Whyley – in fact *ALL* of you who have made this club great!!!

Enjoy the day, have a drink or two and say hello to a new chapter in the Club's history.

So long Lower Mead

LAYNE PATTERSON
Supporters Club Secretary



Lower Mead in the very early days. Note the stand has since been extended, and where did all the trees go?

THE END OF AN ERA by Roy Couch

And so we come to the end of an era. At approximately 4.45pm this afternoon the Wealdstone players will leave the field having just completed our final major league match on this ground. Almost 70 years will have passed since our first league match at Lower Mead when Aylesbury United were our visitors, but more about that match later.

It was in 1921 that a plot of land at the rear of Greenhill Farm, Station Road, Harrow was purchased for the princely sum of £1,650. This site was to become Lower Mead Stadium. The new ground was ready for the opening of the 1922/23 season and it was hoped to secure the promise of the Duke of York (later to become King George VI) to officially open the ground but this was unsuccessful.

The first two matches to be played here were in fact trial matches. On Wednesday 16th August 1922 approximately 2000 spectators witnessed a 2-2 draw between The Blues and The Stripes. The honour of scoring the first goal ever seen at Lower Mead went to W. Booth playing at inside-right for The Strips. The second trial was the following Monday, The Blues beating The Stripes 4-1 and with admission free the crowd was again in the region of 2000. "Man of the Match" was centre forward E.H. Peed who scored all four goals for his side. Two attractive friendlies followed, on the 26th August a Clapton Orient (now Leyton Orient) eleven visited us, the professional club asking for a guarantee of £10. A week later Arsenal were our visitors, the guarantee on that occasion being £15. Clapton Orient attracted a crowd of close on 3000 spectators who saw Wealdstone made to look like inexperienced schoolboys against the skill of their professional opponents, the Orient winning by six goals to nil. Arsenal sent their "A" team and another large crowd of around 2000 was in attendance, the Gunners winning 2-1.

The first game other than friendlies to be played at Lower Mead took place on Saturday 9th September 1922. It was an F.A. Cup Preliminary Round tie between Wealdstone and Berkhamsted. Well over 2000 spectators saw us gain our first win on the new ground, F. Spencer and E. Peed scoring to give us a 2-0 victory.

The first recorded league match on this ground was the following Saturday between Wealdstone Reserves and the Great Western Railway, the 'Stones winning a Spartan League Division Two match by four goals to two. The Wealdstone First XI's first seven matches at Lower Mead were all cup ties in the Amateur Cup, Middlesex Senior Cup and London Senior Cup. It wasn't until Saturday 9th December that their home league programme commenced. In only their fifth league fixture of the season Wealdstone met Aylesbury United in the very first major league match to be played at Lower Mead. Aylesbury, second in the Spartan League Division One table, were beaten 3-0, Mason 2 (1 pen) and Saunders scoring our goals. It will be a remarkable coincidence if Cambridge City are also in second place when they visit us this afternoon for our last Beazer Homes League match on this ground. Prior to our move to Lower Mead we had been champions of the Middlesex Senior League for the previous two seasons. Our first season at the new headquarters was very successful, the First XI finishing in second place behind Chesham United in the Spartan League Division One, with the Reserves coming seventh in Division Two. The charge for admission to Lower Mead in those days was 6d (2½p) with an additional charge of 6d for admission to the stand.

At the end of the 1927/28 season a well known and much esteemed Athenian League club known as Summerstown F.C. had to wind up as the lease of its ground had expired and they could not get another one. We bought their grandstand at a reduced fee of £200 and had it removed and set up here at Lower Mead. This stand, which is still in use today as our main stand, was extended in 1949. Not only did we take Summerstown's stand, we also were elected to the Athenian League in their place for the 1928/29 season. Since then we have progressed through to the Isthmian League, the Southern League and what is now the GM Vauxhall Conference. In 1984/85 we became the only club to date to complete the 'Non League Double' of GM Vauxhall Conference (then Gola League) and F.A. Trophy. At the end of the 1987/88 season we were relegated back to the Southern League (now Beazer Homes League) but we all hope it won't be too long before we are back in the Conference once again.

The record attendance for a match played at Lower Mead was 13,504 on 5th March 1949 when we lost 4-0 to Leytonstone in a F.A. Amateur Cup 4th Round replay. Our biggest ever wins were achieved on this ground, 22-0 v. The 12th London Regiment (The Rangers) in the Amateur Cup in 1923 and 16-2 v. Hertford Town in the Spartan League in 1926. Three of our players have scored seven times in a match on this ground, Claud Mason against the 12th London Regiment, Bob Tansley against Hereford Town, and George Kenny against Metropolitan Police in a Friendly in 1955. When it comes to prolific goalscorers we had two of the best. Viv Evans who played for us at various times between 1954 and 1972 hit 216 goals during his time at Lower Mead but his record was broken by George Duck with 251 goals between 1972 and 1979. This total included an amazing 62 goals scored in just one season (1973/74). Four other players have scored over 100 goals for Wealdstone, namely Matt Farrell, Mark Graves and the Cordice brothers Alan and Neil. The most appearances for Wealdstone in cup and league matches were all made by former Lower Mead favourites, Charlie Townsend 514 (1957-1971), Viv Evans 451 (1954-192), Robin Wainwright 427 (1979-1988) and Paul Bowgett (1980-1988).

So now it's farewell to Lower Mead, hello Vicarage Road. Let us hope we can make as much progress at our new ground as we have at Lower Mead over the last seventy years.



Viv Evans fires for goal against Rayners Lane.

**"GOODBYE, LOWER MEAD.
— I'LL SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS"**
by Sudhir Rawal

So, here we are. Just a matter of ninety minutes away from the end of League football at Lower Mead. For many people the reason they still come to Wealdstone, especially over the last few years when the football hasn't been too hot, is because of this lovely old stadium. Yes, it has become rather tatty in places and is on its last legs but it also conjures up so many glorious memories – and some not so wonderful!

The one word that really epitomises Lower Mead is atmosphere. So many non-league grounds lack that so vital ingredient that turns a good ground into a wonderful stadium. Lower Mead is considered a hostile ground to visit by other teams not because of any notion of crowd trouble, but because of the passionate nature of the crowd. That passion comes from having a stadium which allows noise to be created from the ends. There is no safe haven from the side either, with High Mead terrace so tight up on the touchline. We all remember how Swansea City froze in the first half defending the Elmslie End in an FA Cup tie. It all helps create the aura. An Ashford Town player said after a visit to Lower Mead that they hated coming to Lower Mead because the crowd won so many free-kicks etc for Wealdstone. Another comment was from a referee who was in charge of a Beazer Homes League match versus Leicester United. Leicester had taken a surprise lead against the league leaders and with fifteen minutes to go everything seemed lost. But in the words of the referee "the crowd seemed to constantly draw the team towards the goal". In the end Stones grabbed a 2-1 victory.

However, I suppose we must now look forward. It has to be said that however much we all love this stadium, it has been a millstone around our necks in progressing in the last few years. For as long as we stayed here, our financial situation was never going to allow real progress back into the Conference and then forward into the Football League. Now we should have the financial muscle, and with the right marketing and success, the sky is the limit.

Looking around the terraces today, there will be some unfamiliar faces. Today's crowd should number anywhere between 1,000 and 1,500 – if it doesn't then we know exactly why Wealdstone have to leave Harrow. Probably a third of those present will be those termed as 'groundhoppers'. And another third will be Wealdstone supporters who don't watch the team anymore. They were quite happy to watch the team when the side were winning competitions, but now only turn up for 'big matches', like Borough last year. They were amongst the eleven thousand that went to Wembley professing their undying love to the club but how many have ever seen Wealdstone play again. It is these people that are in many ways to blame for Wealdstone's trophy cabinet. Then there was the double, the most special bit of all was beating Enfield in the Trophy semi-final. We lost here, but won anyway on aggregate. Only when John Jacobs was sent off in the final minutes, did I realise that we were actually going to Wembley. Then on Trophy night itself. Who will ever forget Robin Wainwright dancing on the table taking the lead in the communal singing. There are many more.

Today will undoubtedly be, for many, the saddest day in their footballing lives. When the final whistle blows, many will have tears in their eyes. The end of an era but this wonderful stadium will never ever be forgotten. As a song thought up on the way home from Worcester in a rather drunken state goes, hopefully it will be aired many times today:

"Goodbye, Lower Mead. I'll see you in my dreams".

(continued on next page)



A wonderful photograph of the cinema end, many years before the stand was constructed. Look at the size of the young man's rattle at the front!

LEAGUE TABLES

DEAZER HOMES LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION (Up to & including Wednesday 24th April 1991)

	Home			Goals			Away			Goals			PTS	WEALDSTONE RESULTS	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	HOME		AWAY	
Farnborough Town	40	12	3	5	46	26	12	4	4	30	16	79	LO-2	W3-2	
Gloucester City	39	14	5	0	51	21	7	8	5	29	25	76	W2-1	L1-2	
Cambridge City	39	13	4	2	38	16	7	9	4	21	22	73			
Dover Athletic	39	10	5	3	26	14	11	4	6	29	21	72	L2-3		
Bromsgrove Rovers	41	14	4	3	46	22	5	7	8	22	28	68	LO-1	LO-1	
Worcester City	40	9	6	4	29	15	8	5	8	23	25	62	LO-1	L2-3	
Burton Albion	38	11	6	2	30	12	4	9	6	27	30	60	DO-0	L2-3	
Halesowen Town	40	8	5	7	35	28	8	3	9	35	38	56	L1-2	LO-1	
VS Rugby	38	9	2	8	31	21	6	7	6	19	21	54	D1-1	L1-2	
Dartford	41	13	4	4	45	22	2	5	13	16	39	54	W2-1	W2-1	
Atherstone United	39	7	5	7	26	24	7	5	8	28	30	52	L1-3	W2-1	
WEALDSTONE	39	9	3	8	30	28	6	4	9	23	26	52			
Dorchester Town	39	12	3	5	28	22	2	7	10	17	31	52	W2-1	D1-1	
Moor Green	39	10	2	8	38	33	5	2	12	25	40	49	W2-1	LO-2	
Bashley	38	6	5	8	25	24	6	6	7	24	24	47	D1-1	W1-0	
Rushden Town	40	9	6	5	36	22	3	5	12	21	43	47	W2-1	W1-0	
Chelmsford City	39	3	11	7	23	31	8	2	8	29	27	46	LO-3	DO-0	
Poole Town	40	7	4	9	27	33	4	8	8	27	36	45	W4-1	L2-3	
Crawley Town	39	6	9	4	27	26	5	3	12	17	38	45	W2-0	LO-1	
Waterlooville	38	4	7	8	21	26	6	5	8	24	36	42	L1-3	D2-2	
Gravesend & N'fleet	41	7	6	8	28	31	1	1	18	16	59	31	W3-0	D1-1	
Weymouth	40	3	8	9	24	28	1	4	15	23	55	24	W4-2	W2-0	

WENDY FAIR CAPITAL LEAGUE (Up to & including Wednesday 24th April 1991)

	Home			Goals			Away			Goals			PTS	WEALDSTONE RESULTS	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	HOME		AWAY	
Southend United	19	9	1	0	29	6	6	1	2	17	6	47	L1-2	LO-2	
Brentford	19	7	2	1	30	9	5	0	4	24	17	38	L4-6	L1-3	
Cambridge United	19	7	0	1	25	13	5	1	5	20	19	37	L1-3		
Colchester United	21	5	3	2	17	13	5	3	3	24	19	36	L1-2	D1-1	
Leyton Orient	18	6	1	3	25	11	4	1	3	19	15	32		L1-4	
Barnet	21	4	5	1	22	12	4	3	4	25	27	32	D3-3	LO-5	
Wokingham Town	22	4	3	4	17	24	2	1	8	17	26	22	W3-2	D1-1	
Aldershot	19	2	3	4	11	17	3	3	4	15	23	21	D1-1	L2-4	
Slough Town	21	4	0	7	19	33	1	3	6	6	25	18	W6-0	LO-1	
Wycombe Wanderers	21	3	3	5	19	22	0	5	5	9	16	17	W2-0	W1-0	
WEALDSTONE	19	3	2	4	22	19	1	3	6	8	22	17			
Sutton United	19	3	2	5	14	21	1	1	7	16	35	15		D1-1	

SUBURBAN LEAGUE - NORTH DIVISION (Up to & including Wednesday 24th April 1991)

	Home			Goals			Away			Goals			PTS	WEALDSTONE RESULTS	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	HOME		AWAY	
Yeading	31	12	2	2	35	14	9	4	2	37	17	69	LO-1	W2-1	
WEALDSTONE	30	11	1	3	38	16	10	3	2	46	23	67			
Wembley	30	7	3	4	27	18	11	3	2	39	18	60	D2-2	W3-2	
Edware Town	30	8	4	2	32	12	10	2	4	26	19	60	W3-0	D2-2	
Hayes	30	9	6	1	34	14	5	3	6	24	19	51	W1-0	D1-1	
Hendon	29	5	3	6	20	18	8	3	4	34	25	45	LO-4		
Hampton	30	6	6	3	25	17	5	4	6	18	21	43	W4-1	L1-2	
Hounslow	32	7	2	7	37	34	4	5	7	22	33	40	W2-0	W7-4	
Harefield United	30	7	1	7	17	27	5	5	5	16	22	39*		L1-3	
Staines Town	29	6	3	5	27	20	4	5	6	24	20	38	LO-3	W2-0	
Harrow Borough	32	5	1	10	30	32	5	2	9	22	36	33	W2-1	W3-2	
St. Albans City	29	9	1	6	30	26	1	1	11	19	39	32	W2-1	W2-0	
Uxbridge	31	6	2	8	27	37	4	0	11	16	36	32	W4-0	W8-1	
Ruislip Manor	29	4	3	6	16	28	4	4	8	22	29	31	W4-2	W4-1	
Kingsbury Town	30	5	5	5	28	29	3	1	11	12	43	30	W4-0	D2-2	
Northwood	31	5	4	7	24	27	1	4	10	9	22	26	W2-1	W2-0	
Feltham	31	6	3	7	28	30	0	1	14	13	53	22	W8-0	W6-2	

* = Three points deducted for playing an ineligible player.

WEALDSTONE GOALSCORERS 1990/91 SEASON (Including Wednesday 24th April 1991)

First XI (BIL/CH/Cups/Friendlies): Blackman 13, Gipp 12, Kelly 11, Coyette 9(5 pens), S. Browne 8, Harrison 8(2 pens), Gogidi 6, M. Brown 5, N. Cordice 5, Smart 5, Goodison 4, Lynch 3, Olaley 3, L. Donnellan 3, C. Browne 2, Tapley 2, Jenkins, Robinson, Ferguson, Erico, G. Donnellan, Watson, Martin, Hpson, Howard, Irving, Edwards (Crawley) o.g., Fullbrook (Weymouth) o.g., Sealding (Worcester) o.g. — Total 112.

Reserves (Suburban Lge/Lge. Cup): Campbell 10, Ross 10, Jenkins 9, Olaley 7(2 pens), Field 7, Goodison 7(1 pen), Gipp 4, Murphy 4, King 3, Waugh 3, Luto 3, Milton 3, J. Richards 2, M. Brown 2, Watson 2, Howard 2, Ferguson 2(2 pens), Irving 2, C. Browne, Powell, Erico, Robinson, McGuire, R. Richards, Hayward. — Total 89.

CLUB SHOP CHAT with Toby Jackson

SALE OF THE CENTURY!! - EVERYTHING MUST GO!!

Although we shall be building a new Club Shop at Vicarage Road as soon as planning permission is granted, we won't be wanting to take the thousands of programmes presently stocked in our present Club Shop with us so the sale of the century will continue until we vacate Lower Mead with ALL programmes other than today's match and last away games at HALF PRICE!! Yes, HALF PRICE and that means our own home and away programmes from earlier in the season, current Football League and Non-League, and all our Big Match, International, Scots, League v. Non-League and Foreign programmes. Past season League and Non-League programmes are reduced to just 5p each. A bigger give-away than the Weymouth defence!! First come, first served!! Get in quick before the buffs arrive!!! Believe me, word has spread and many bargains have been snapped up already.

No news yet from Gloucester City for letting us down with regards to our programme allocation for the recent game at Meadow Park. They hope to get a few more copies printed for our collectors. I'll keep you informed.

The new May Mail on Sunday "Non-League Football" magazine, the last of the season, has sold out but some of April issues remain in stock at £1.40. "When Saturday Comes" is our best-selling periodical casting an amusing eye over the game for just £1 now having reached its 50th issue. The excellent 90/91 "Review of Herts Non-League Football", superb value as always, costs £2.50 with a few of last year's edition still left at half price. Although we have sold out of this year's F.A. Non-League Directories, there is still a selection of past League Directories at just £2 each. "Where's The Bar?" is again on sale edited by our own Martin Lacey (but don't let that put you off!)

Lapel badges: Our Wealdstone stick-pin enamel club badge is on sale at £1 as well as our popular shield & crest badge at £1.30, now reflecting our blue & white strip and our circular enamel badge also at the same price. Hundreds of other badges on offer too including the official Beazer Homes League badge and almost every League, Scottish and Non-League club possible.

Souvenirs: We have a selection of Club sweatshirts and replica shirts (especially smaller sizes) at just HALF PRICE as are many other souvenirs today as part of our clearance sale.

Have a good summer. See you all at Watford. No excuses!!



'Stonewalled'

By
GITTINS

WEALDSTONE
WITH A SONG
IN THEIR
HEARTS!

1 SING HI—
SING—HO

2 OFF TO
WORK WE GO!

COLCHESTER
GIANT
KILLERS OF
1947-48



OUT-KILLED — BY LITTLE WEALDSTONE — 1-0

NO MIRRORS,
TRAP DOORS
OR BLACK
MAGIC!

WEALDSTONE
JUST GOT
AN EARLY
GOAL



THE
GAME
OF A
1000
THRILLS

KEEP 'EM
OUT
STONES!

SPECTATORS
GOING THROUGH
THE SEVEN AGES OF MAN
IN AN AFTERNOON.

& HUNG ON!



KEEP 'EM
OUT
STONES!

THAT LAST 15 MINUTES WITH
COLCHESTER THROWING
IN EVERYTHING BUT THE
STATION CLOCK!

WILTSHIRE
THE STONES
GOALIE AS THE
MAN ON THE
FLYING
TRAPEZE!



AS A RESULT "THE
STONES" KEPT 'EM
OUT ALL RIGHT.
PERHAPS COLCHESTER
SHOULD HAVE TRIED
ONE OF THESE
UNDERGROUND
MOVEMENTS WE
HEAR ABOUT!

HAROLD
GITTINS!

Fifty-Six

This cartoon is reproduced from *The Jubilee Handbook* and refers to the match shown opposite



*F.A. Cup 4th Qualifying Round v. Colchester United, November 1949. Cutting's 'goal' here was adjudged offside.
The Wealdstone players are Edgar Francis (arms outstretched), Fred Hayden and Keeper Danny Wiltshire.*

JUNIOR STONES COLUMN by David Albert

Hello and welcome everyone to Lower Mead Stadium on one of the most historic days in the history of Wealdstone Football Club. Today sees the last home league match to be played on the hallowed turf at Lower Mead as from next season we will be playing at Vicarage Road in Watford. I am sure that a few tears will be shed today particularly from me as Lower Mead has almost been my second home for nearly 17 years from the first moment I walked through the turnstiles at the tender age of 11 to see Wealdstone play Telford United in November 1974. From that time onwards, I have been hooked and we have really seen some highs and some lows.

Some of my particular highlights have been the Wealdstone v. Wimbledon clashes in the mid 70's; the scoring feats of George Duck who in my opinion was the greatest goalscorer this club has seen and will ever see; our FA Cup run in season 1977/78 which saw us defeat Hereford United, Reading and the loss to Queens Park Rangers in the third round. Going back to the Hereford game, I was too young to attend the away match but I will always remember hearing the result at about 10.00pm and dancing a jig of joy on my bed; our 1981/82 season in the Southern League when we won everything that could have been won - this was my first season seeing the 'Stones regularly away from home, when the coaches to away matches were nearly always full; and most memorable the 1984/85 season when we became the first non-league team to do the 'Double' by winning the Gola League and the F.A. Trophy at Wembley in the same season, a feat that is unlikely to ever be repeated.

Some of the lows which I ought to comment upon were our relegation from the Alliance Premier League in 1980/81 with the famous Jimmy Sweetzer penalty incident and our fall from grace after winning the 'Double' which we still have not recovered from up to now. Hopefully as a result of our move to Watford we will see a change in the fortunes of this great club which will see us get back into the Conference where we belong and then to eventually claim a place in the Football League which has got to be the aim of all non-league clubs.

I joined the Supporters Club Committee about three years ago and have looked after all you Junior Stones for over two seasons now. We all hope that we will see as many of you coming to Watford to see Wealdstone play next season. It is not very far to go and you will certainly appreciate the facilities which will be available to you.

At the beginning of this season I took over the running of the 'Little League' on Sunday mornings. This is a scheme that enables six, seven and eight year olds to play football on Sunday mornings for enjoyment purposes. Every week we get between 45 and 50 kids turning up to play football. We divide them up into eight teams and each team plays four matches. At the end of the four matches we have a presentation in the club house where we present a trophy to the team that scores the highest number of goals; a trophy to the player that scores the highest number of individual goals; man-of-the-match certificates to one player from each team and we also present a match ball to one of the players every week by drawing a number out of a hat and the ballwinner becomes a mascot for a day at a home league match. The Little League will operate at Wealdstone probably until the end of May and after that we hope to find a venue until the beginning of July when we will stop. We hope to start the Little League again when the new league season begins in the middle of August, and we are looking for a permanent venue. We will keep all of you informed . . .

Cambridge City have the honour of being our last ever opponents in a league match at Lower Mead and we extend the usual cordial welcome to any junior supporters of Cambridge who are here for today's game.

Well, that's all for this momentous season. Let's all enjoy the game and let's hope for a Wealdstone win on this historic day.

See you all again at Vicarage Road next season . . .

UP THE STONES!!!

Uncle David



AN EPITAPH TO AN ATMOSPHERE

In 1985 the general public in Harrow made it clear that they had no desire to watch a successful team, and the lack of anything resembling uproar at the thought of Lower Mead being razed to the ground further proves the point. Long may they enjoy browsing through the Lenny Prince frozen food section or the Mike Pittaway vegetable stand.

So what have the stay-aways missed? My recollections go back to the early 1960's. Prior to that Wealdstone's only notable success had been an Athenain League Championship in 1952.

My contemporaries and I will no doubt disagree if asked to select a "best ever" team from the last twenty five years or so, however some players deserve a special mention, not necessarily for their skills, sometimes endeavour and graft can compensate for other shortcomings.

In goal Wealdstone have rarely had a problem, Fowler, Goymer, Morton, Goddard and Iles were all competent and good servants to the Club. My vote for the best would go to Andy Williams, even if he did cost us a place at Wembley (Craven Cottage, remember?)

Defensively, Doyle, Ashworth, Sedgeley and Townsend as a unit were probably on a par with Perkins, Byatt, Bowgett and Pearce although tactical changes make it difficult to do a clear comparison. Other defenders worth a mention include Fred Barwick (such shabby treatment was scant reward for 314 games and six years of service), Ray Fulton, Chris Kinnear, Eddie Presland, Alan Fursden and John McCormick.

John Watson played at full back and in midfield and was a winner through and through, unfortunately his temperament was suspect and thankfully Lower Mead won't see another opponent dragged to his knees by the throat. Alongside him in midfield the likes of Eddie Dillsworth, Danny Light, Robin Wainwright and Terry Dyson (unlike Tommy Baldwin, David Price and Johnny Haynes he was one of the succeeded having made the move to non-league football after a lengthy league career) would have graced any team.

Up front we have been fortunate enough to have some great goal scorers. Two of these, inexplicably, were not manager's favourites namely Tommy English and Andy Graham. Between them they scored 40 goals from only 67 games.

Alan Cordice, Mark Graves, Bill Byrne, Bobby Moss, Hugh Lindsay, Jim Cooley and Bobby Childs all knew where the net was. All great players, but, the best ever? No contest is there, one Mr. G. Duck.

George was the master (251 goals in 368 games), he could have a whole defence going the wrong way before he would roll the ball slowly past a stranded keeper. George did once score from outside the box, v. Oxford City in an F.A. Cup tie. Simply the best.

Quite some team could be selected from that lot and there's been no mention of the likes of Bernie Bremer, John Henderson, Viv Evans and Tony Smurthwaite.

As with players everyone has their own ideas of the good and the brilliant when it comes to goal scoring. I submit these as the best I can recall. Alan Cordice v. Runcom, Andy Graham v. Welling, Neil Cordice v. Yeovil, Danny Bailey v. Alvechurch, any goal by George and at the top of the list for sheer power from a distance of 35 yards, Hugh Lindsay v. Stevenage.

What about individual games, the afore-mentioned F.A. Cup tie in 1965 against Stevenage takes some beating, 3-5 down with 7 minutes to go we won 6-5 thanks to that Hugh Lindsay goal. Back in 1964 we beat a very strong West Ham United side in the now defunct, but very enjoyable, London Challenge Cup. I recall the time wasting antics of the Leatherhead goal-keeper in the 1966 Amateur Cup quarter final, he soon got a move on once we scored what proved to be the winner. In Isthmian League times Christmas Day and Boxing Day were always reserved for derby matches with Hendon, the game was played regardless of pitch condition whilst mums stayed at home stuffing the turkey. The four pointer v. Hastings had everything as did the subsequent Championship match v. Nuneaton Borough in 1982.

There have also been many occasions when things weren't so good - mostly over the last four years or so. In 1981 Jimmy Sweetzer missed a penalty against A.P. Leamington, never has a ground been so silent. The subsequent four years were undoubtedly the best in the Club's history.

Whether that success is repeated again in the future remains to be seen. The only certainty is that today marks the end for Lower Mead and if any emotion is shown I can't help feeling it won't be by many of those wearing a white shirt with a number of the back.

Jon Irvine

WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB ----- PLAYERS RECORDS
(Up to & including Saturday 20th April 1991)

	1990/91		Wealdstone Career			1990/91		Wealdstone Career	
	App.	Goals	App.	Goals		App.	Goals	App.	Goals
Peter Bartlett	42(5)	-	47	-	Steve Jenkins	6(4)	1	10	1
Barry Blackman	51(4)	13	55	13	Michael Johnson	2	-	2	-
Tara Brady	-(2)	-	2	-	Craig Johnstone	2	-	29	2
Michael Browne	10(2)	5	12	5	Tony Kelly	47(11)	11	105	33
Corey Browne	5(2)	2	66	15	Jason King	1	-	1	-
Steve Browne	16(1)	8	104	24(1 pen)	Stephen Lewis	2	-	2	-
John Campbell	2(1)	-	29	4	James Luto	-(1)	-	1	-
David Coles	12	-	12	-	Tony Lynch	2(9)	3	160	43
Alan Cordice	1	-	335	109	Jamie McMillan	3	-	3	-
Neil Cordice	24(1)	5	356	101	Richard Maguire	-(1)	-	1	-
Roy Davies	-(1)	-	146	10	Andy Martin	6(4)	1	10	1
Andrew Dixon	3	-	3	-	Derek Matthews	1	-	1	-
Gary Donnellan	4	1	167	37	Glen Maxim	1	-	1	-
Leo Donnellan	46	3	46	3	Miles Milton	1(1)	-	2	-
Peter Downes	1	-	1	-	Paul Morris	14(1)	-	136	6
Wally Downes	1	-	1	-	Jerry Murphy	3	-	3	-
Jason Duviau	1	-	1	-	Samson Olaleye	13(3)	3	118	30
Solomon Eriemo	19(1)	1	64	3	Michael Pantelli	2	-	2	-
Jamie Ferguson	3(2)	-	5	-	Ravel Polson	-(2)	-	2	-
Ian Fergusson	13(1)	1	22	1	Ossie Powell	1(1)	-	2	-
David Field	1(1)	-	2	-	Rodney Richards	3	-	3	-
Mark Fisher	-(1)	-	1	-	Wayne Roach	12	-	12	-
Paul Gbogidi	18	6	48	9	Colin Robinson	11(2)	1	13	1
David Gipp	34(15)	12	49	12	David Ross	2	-	2	-
Andre Glucina	1	-	1	-	Steve Smart	43(2)	5	93	6
Paul Goodison	10(7)	4	17	4	Steve Tapley	46	2	199	5
Paul Goyette	37(3)	9(5 pens)	133	27(15 pens)	Alex Tsitsis	1	-	3	-
Mark Harrison	57	8(2 pens)	197	26(15 pens)	Chris Vagg	25	-	27	-
Hakan Hayrettin	6	-	6	-	Jim Watson	32(2)	1	47	1
Paul Hayward	2	-	2	-	Steve Watts	2	-	2	-
Andy Hedge	4(1)	-	6	-	Ian Waugh	3(2)	-	5	-
Ian Hendry	13	-	13	-	Allan Wright	2(1)	-	6	-
Mark Hopson	12	1	12	1					
Ray Howard	6(2)	1	8	1					
David Hudson	13	-	13	-					
Lee Hunter	1	-	1	-					
Darren Irving	1	1	2	1					

APPEARANCES DO NOT INCLUDE FRIENDLIES OR SUBURBAN LEAGUE MATCHES.
GOALS DO NOT INCLUDE SUBURBAN LEAGUE MATCHES.
1990/91 SUBSTITUTES WHO ACTUALLY PLAYED ARE SHOWN IN BRACKETS.

SUBURBAN LEAGUE/LEAGUE CUP APPEARANCES & GOALSCORERS 1990/91 SEASON
(Up to & including Saturday 20th April 1991)

	App.	Goals		App.	Goals
Mark Alexander	2	-	Simon Johnson	-(1)	-
*Peter Bartlett	2	-	*Craig Johnstone	2	-
*Barry Blackman	1	-	*Jason King	4(1)	3
Stephen Boucher	1(1)	-	Darren Lewis	1	-
*Michael Brown	2	2	Emmanuel Lomotey	-(2)	-
*Corey Browne	4	1	*James Luto	7(4)	3
*Steve Browne	1	-	*Tony Lynch	2	-
Michael Byrne	6	-	Brendan McCaffrey	2(1)	-
*John Campbell	15	10	Gary McIntosh	-(1)	-
*Roy Davies	6(4)	-	*Jamie McMillan	1	-
*Andrew Dixon	1	-	*Richard Maguire	5	1
*Peter Downes	3	-	Jeffrey Malone	1	-
*Jason Duviau	1	-	*Glen Maxim	2	-
*Solomon Eriemo	4	1	*Miles Milton	12(1)	3
*Ian Fergusson	4(2)	2(2 pens)	*Jerry Murphy	24(3)	4
*David Field	13(3)	7	Andre Nolan	1	-
*Mark Fisher	2	-	*Samson Olaleye	8	7(2 pens)
*Paul Gbogidi	5	-	*Ossie Powell	1(5)	1
*David Gipp	2	4	Jason Richards	8(6)	2
*Paul Goodison	6(2)	7(1 pen)	*Rodney Richards	17(2)	1
*Paul Goyette	1	-	*Wayne Roach	26	-
Richard Hall	2	-	*Colin Robinson	5	1
*Paul Hayward	22	1	*David Ross	15(2)	10
*Andy Hedge	27	-	*Steve Smart	-(1)	-
*Ian Hendry	2	-	Jason Snelling	-(1)	-
*Ray Howard	11(3)	2	*Steve Tapley	5	-
*Lee Hunter	1	-	*Jim Watson	13	2
*Darren Irving	7	2	*Ian Waugh	10(3)	3
*Steve Jenkins	7(1)	9	Tony Whitmore	1(2)	-
			*Allan Wright	18	-

SUBSTITUTES WHO ACTUALLY PLAYED ARE SHOWN IN BRACKETS.

* These players have also played for First XI this season. (See other table).

The First XI's match at Worcester City (Saturday 20th April 1991) was their 69th in the Beazer Homes League, Capital League and various cup competitions this season. Altogether 69 different players have been used in those matches including 9 different goalkeepers. In addition Mark Harrison and Tony Kelly, two outfield players, have taken over in goal during the course of a match when the goalkeeper had to leave the field due to injury. In the 37 Beazer Homes League matches played, up to and including Worcester, 35 players have been used of which 5 were regular goalkeepers.

The Reserves home match v. Yeading (Saturday 20th April 1991) was their 32nd in League & Cup this season. They have used 59 different players including 5 goalkeepers.

(THESE STATISTICS COMPILED BY ROY COUCH)

SUBURBAN LEAGUE

13.4.91 ST. ALBANS CITY A W2-0
Roach, Wright, Hayward (1), Hedge, Richards, Murphy, Ross (1), Milton, Luto, Irving, Waugh, Field, Lomotey

16.4.91 HARROW BOROUGH A W3-2
Hall, Wright, Hayward, Hedge, Richards, Murphy, Ross (1), Milton (2), Field, Irving, Waugh, Whitmore, Luto

20.4.91 YEADING H L0-1
Hall, Wright, Hayward, Hedge, Richards, McMillan, Murphy, Ross, Waugh, Luton, Irving, Field, Richards, McIntosh

BLUE REMEMBERED SLOPES

LOWER MEAD. The very name evokes the sights, sounds, tastes and smells of Wealdstone Football Club through the ages.

The whiff of winter green embrocation as you passed the back of the main stand. The tang of Wrigley's Spearmint gum. The newly-pressed smell of the programme, the clanging of Eric Metcalfe's bell.

That was Wealdstone in the Sixties, my earliest remembrance. People still talk about Hughie Lindsay's swerving 30-yard belter that won the legendary 6-5 F.A. Cup match against Stevenage. They still talk about getting wet at the Cinema end of the ground.

And those whose memories stretch back to the late 40s and 50s still talk of being a sardine in the 13,504 crowd that packed Lower Mead for the Amateur Cup quarter final replay with Leytonstone in 1949. That was a disappointment, a 2-1 defeat. Imagine the joyous Spring afternoon three years later when the old ground witnessed a famous 6-2 victory over Hayes that clinched the Athenian League Championship.

Ironically, of all the major titles the 'Stones have won over the years, only that 1952 triumph – and one other – was actually won at Lower Mead. The 1966 Amateur Cup and the '85 Challenge Trophy were, of course, collected at Wembley. The 1974 Southern Division (Div. One South) championship was clinched at Gravesend; the second half of that fabulous 1985 double, the Gola League, was scintillatingly secured at Kettering's Rockingham Road ground.

So what was that other triumph? It was that balmy April night in 1982 when Hastings United, our only obstacle to rebirth in the Alliance Premier League, were beaten 2-0 at Lower Mead to give Wealdstone the Southern League Section championship. In recent times only the second leg of the '85 Trophy semi-final (when we overcame arch rivals Enfield on aggregate) could compare to the sheer exhilaration of winning a league title on your own ground. I don't know how the players felt. We felt absolutely bloody wonderful.

THE MAKING OF LOWER MEAD

I had the same warm glow a year or so ago when a copy of the club's Golden Jubilee Handbook (1900-1950) fell into my hands. What a wonderful chronicle of those early years. It is truly humbling to read – especially now, as Wealdstone's heritage is exchanged for, hopefully, a sparkling future at Vicarage Road – about the hard work, hopes and fears of those who went before.

The clipped, post war tones of the handbook bring that era to life. This was the purchase of Lower Mead: "The first season following the First World War saw the team perform in the Middlesex and London Leagues at a ground in Belmont Road. It was available again for the 1920-21 season, but another ground was then acquired at the rear of a veterinary hospital in Station Road, described as 'a most central position which should result in larger gates'. But fixtures continued to be played at Belmont Road until the new ground was ready. The purchase price of the new ground, to be known as Lower Mead, was £1,650 and, of course, such a large sum could be raised only on loan."

Further on in this wonderful book, the club's President in the 50s, Charles Brady OBE gives a greater insight: "The team previously played on an undulating field at the end of Belmont Road. Someone living near the ground let the players have the use of buckets of water after the matches." Tom Bradberry was the moving spirit of the club in those days until Jabez Barnes, a YMCA man and a strict Sabbatarian, took a keen interest in the club. "He gave the team acid drops and a cheery word at half-time. On his initiative, and with his help, we bought the field of which Lower Mead is a part. Most of the purchase money remained on a 20-year mortgage and £300 was advanced on War Loan for the balance. Ultimately I took this over, as Mr Barnes, would not permit any work of any kind on the ground on Sundays."

"We erected a temporary building at the east end of the ground (now the Cinema End) for dressing accommodation, and a local builder put up a wooden building on the North side which looked like an elongated cowshed. We paid him out of gate takings throughout the season."

The large field that the club had bought actually extended northwards towards the high trees flanking Nibthwaite Road and was bordered (on what is now the Hindes Road Side) by Greenhill Farm and its orchard. "A very pleasant rural prospect" as the handbook described it. But unfortunately the large northern slice of the club's ground, on which the Lower Mead flats now stand, was sold off in the early 1940s.

(continued)

(Blue Remembered Slopes - continued)

Even in those days the club had debts apart from its mortgage and the offer they received was enough to pay both the mortgage and those debts. It also covered the cost of levelling the ground (6ft in depth was transferred from one end to the other) and transformed Lower Mead into one of the best amateur grounds in London. But was it perhaps a little shortsighted to sell land described by Mr Brady as "absolutely useless to the club and anyone else as it stood." It's a moot point.

LOWER MEAD MEMORIES

The club finished its amateur days with a fine stadium, perhaps lacking only the dominant grandstand that would have put it on a par with clubs such as Dulwich Hamlet, Walthamstow Avenue and Tooting. The present stand was bought from Summerstown FC in 1928 (cost £200, including transportation) when the South London club failed to get the lease renewed on their own ground and folded. In fact, not only did we get Summertown's grandstand, we also took their coveted place in the Athenian League after many years of unsuccessful applications!

The Elmslie Stand with its wooden terracing was erected to the memory of Mr C V Elmslie, the Club Secretary, who died in June 1935. Whatever the 'Elmslie's tradition, its raised outlook over Lower Mead has always made it a more popular end than the opposite Cinema End terracing which was finally covered after the 1966 Amateur Cup adventure.

Standing (comparatively) high above the pitch at the back of the Elmslie among the mugs of tea and woodbines on a wet winter's night, unable to see the goal for the fans wedged tight against the railings . . . those are some of my sharpest memories.

Flashing drives from Lindsay, Searle and Bernie Bremer; lashing headers from Dave Swain. A swinging volley on 'Stones' professional debut in 1971 by the veteran Cliff Jones; a fabulous revival against cup giant killers Leatherhead in '75 when the incomparable George Duck and Bobby Moss brought us back from 0-2 down. I'd never heard such noise.

Then, of course, there was the history making 1977-78 FA Cup run when we played host to a League Club at Lower Mead for the first time. We held Third Division Hereford to a goalless draw and then shocked the tabloids with a 3-2 win in the replay. That brought 4th Division Reading to Lower Mead and the official 4,500 crowd (to my mind nearer 7,000) saw a Keith Furphy goal straight from a corner, and a 2nd half Duck penalty (taken a heart-stopping three times) gave 'Stones a sensational 2-1 verdict.

And of course, there have been some great goals. Alan Cordice's athleticism against Scarborough one Sunday morning in '85 (Jabez Barnes would never have agreed to that one) that set us up for the Gola title; Duck's trio and a 25-yarder from Willie Watson against Telford in '76; Eddie Presland's venomous freekicks against Barnet in '73; Danny Bailey against Alvechurch a couple of years ago; you could go on and on. Yes, we've had our money's worth from Lower Mead. Not bad entertainment for £1,650 over 69 years.

In my youth I spent long summers working on the ground along with others, repainting, resurfacing and weeding. I love this place but we've become blind to its imperfections over the years.

Incredulous, I've heard visiting supporters criticising Lower Mead as being: "a slopey pitch poked in behind a Cinema" and last year the News of the World, in a feature on our former player Stuart Pearce, described the ground as a "corrugated iron arena". I was horrified. Then I looked at Lower Mead, for once, with a critical eye and saw that it was true.

Perhaps this move will be our salvation for you can't stand still in football. This club has really been marvellously progressive over the years, embracing pro football when all around were umming and aching and then leaping headlong into the Alliance Premier League when to be honest we had no right to be there. The one time Wealdstone tried to tread water was after the 1985 'double' year . . . and that was when the financial troubles started that have led to today's sad, sad final game at Lower Mead.

So let's make the best of it. Like a house, a football ground is only earth and mortar; it's the people inside who make it a home. Vicarage Road can spawn some great Wealdstone memories for the future, when folk will look back and say: Yes, I remember Lower Mead. But you can still get Wrigley's Spearmint Gum at Vicarage Road and the programme smells the same.

by TIM PARKS

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS! by Toby Jackson

Each of us will take his own memories with him when finally saying farewell to Lower Mead. Some happy, some sad, yet all intertwined creating an atmosphere that only time and history can instil into what is a second home to many of us.

I moved to the Harrow area in the autumn of 1965 and did the rounds of the local Non-League grounds to find a club to which I felt I could become attached and offer my allegiance. Arriving on the scene at the time of the formation of a side capable of winning the F.A. Amateur Cup some seven months later was fortuitous, but one particular match was responsible for 26 years of support to date.

Saturday, October 2nd 1965 saw the 3rd Qualifying Round of the F.A. Cup come to Lower Mead. The opposition were the Southern League semi-professionals Stevenage Borough, a formidable task for Isthmian League amateurs, Wealdstone. Boro included in their line-up one Johnny Brooks, the former Spurs and England forward.

The match burst immediately into life with three goals in the opening seven minutes. The Stones started nervously with three back-passes to substitute keeper Smith, deputising for the unfit Goymer. Bobby Childs was also missing from a depleted Stones line-up. After only two minutes Sherriff charged down an attempted clearance and fired the visitors ahead with a low shot. Almost immediately the popular Eddie Dilsworth's clever overhead kick was powered home by Jim Cooley for an equaliser. In the 7th minute Stevenage went ahead again when Cashmore burst through unchallenged to supply Walker at the far post with a simple header. Yet after 21 minutes, the Stones were level again with Dilsworth forcing home the ball from close range.

Despite a good spell of home pressure, the visitors were next to score when a 30 yard shot from England flew past Smith. As half-time approached another turning point occurred following a bad foul on Stone's winger Brian Allen. Charlie Townsend's lob into the penalty area caused some confusion and referee Adey ruled that a forward had been fouled. It looked harsh and the protests were equally vehement. Hugh Lindsay cared not and lashed the spot-kick past Peacock for 3-3. The protests heightened and Brooks was dismissed for abusive language. The referee's patience seemed to have reached its limits. The Harrow Observer described the Stevenage tackling as "nothing short of brutal" and the Stones' wingers, Allen and Bremer were prime targets, the latter re-appearing after the interval with a heavily-bandaged leg.

Stevenage's wrath had not abated during the interval and the bandaged leg of Bremer was immediately targetted as he was scythed down for another Boro booking at the start of the second half. Despite the extra man, the Stones seemed unable to capitalise and when Mickey Doyle, our normally impeccable full-back, brought down England just inside the box, Cashmore put the visitors 4-3 up from the spot. Worse was to follow in the 63rd minute with Walker extending Boro's lead further.

One quality Wealdstone were not short of in those days was guts. Amateurs with a love of the game and a pride in their performance. Our England Amateur Internationals Townsend and Lindsay feverishly toiled to create openings refusing to accept defeat. The clock ticked away and seven minutes remained. Faint hope came in the form of a combined Cooley and Dilsworth effort that led to a further foul in the box and Hugh Lindsay penalty, the third spot-kick of the game, reducing the deficit to 4-5. With 90 minutes looming, the Lower Mead faithful were rewarded with Lindsay hooking home an excellent equaliser, despite Cashmore's effort at goal-line clearance, to secure his hat-trick. Sections of the 2,539 crowd erupted believing the game then to be over and spilling onto the pitch in jubilation at saving the game.

In the last minute with the pitch cleared and the game restarted, a final free-kick was awarded to Wealdstone some 35 yards from goal. Hugh Lindsay positioned the ball and stepped back a few paces. A short run-up and the ball was propelled with such velocity that Peacock barely had time to raise his arms before the roof of the net stopped the ball's flight. Gazza himself could not have hit that ball better to clinch a 6-5 victory. The final whistle came almost immediately to prompt a further joyous pitch invasion including yours truly leaping around as eagerly as my 11-year old legs and duffle-coat would allow. I was hooked on Wealdstone and on Lower Mead.

In the Harrow Observer as the next round approached, an enlightened journalist commented: "There is one trump card the club believes may be up its sleeve - the reborn enthusiasm of a strongly vocal body of supporters. After the remarkable rally that swept Stevenage out of their way, the players were loud in their praises of the help received from the terraces." Let's strive some 26 years later at Vicarage Road to kindle such "reborn enthusiasm" again and put our faith in Brian Hall's ability to build a side worthy not only of its new setting but of a place in our hearts alongside those heroes of Isthmian days.

SIDELINES by Neale Harvey

It is always interesting to take a look around the rest of Europe at this stage of the season and see who's in line for the various League Championships on offer. Italian football seems to be all the rage these days and with just four matches left to play it looks like outsiders Sampdoria are going to win. Their 3-2 win over Bari last Sunday took them three points clear of closest rivals Internazionale who could only manage a 0-0 draw at Fiorentina. AC Milan's disappointing season continued with a 1-1 home draw with Roma whilst Juventus' woes piled up when their multi-million pound strike force fired a blank once again with a 0-0 at Cagliari. Things have gone very sour for the Turin club recently and the 1-3 1st Leg Cup Winners Cup semi-final defeat was closely followed by great controversy the next weekend at Fiorentina. Juventus having been awarded a penalty, their regular spot-kick man Roberto Baggio refused to take it because he didn't want to upset his former club! Needless to say the penalty was missed by his replacement and Baggio has been slated by the local press who are wondering where his loyalties really lie. World Cup hero 'Toto' Schillaci is also in the doghouse in Turin as he hasn't managed to score since November and has only four goals to his credit all season. Another man feeling the heat after last weekend is Ex-England manager Bobby Robson whose PSV Eindhoven side went down to their third defeat, 0-1 at Sparta Rotterdam. Robson had been accused earlier in the season of being "Technically naive," after defeat at the hands of Montpellier in the Cup Winners Cup. He appeared to have ridden out that particular crisis until two recent defeats, the second one being last week, re-opened speculation. However these are fortunate times for dear old Bobby and PSV's nearest challengers Groningen also came a cropper 2-4 at Twente Enschede to remain two points behind. Ominously however Ajax of Amsterdam took full advantage with a 4-0 home win over SC Heerenveen which brought them to within three points of PSV with a game in hand. As in Italy, the outsiders from Kaiserslautern are looking good in the German Bundesliga. They lead Werder Bremen by three points with holders Bayern Munich a further point behind in third place. Anderlecht are four points clear of Mechelen and look to have the Belgian championship in hand, whilst Barcelona's 3-0 victory over Seville last week virtually assured them of the Spanish title. Things are a little tighter in France where Marseille faltered slightly by drawing 1-1 at lowly Rennes. Monaco took their chance to trim their lead to two points with a 2-0 win at Sochaux, but with Chris Waddle's team having a game in hand it still looks as though Marseille will prevail. Finally, the battle is on to see which two teams from the old East German League can join the unified Bundesliga from next season. Hansa Rostock lead the way by four points from Dynamo Dresden who are in turn three points clear from Rot-Weiss Erfurt. It is widely accepted that the clubs finishing below second spot face a bleak future. Places three to six will earn a place in the second division of the Bundesliga, below that oblivion awaits. Famous old names like FC Magdeburg, Lokomotive Leipzig and FC Berlin may disappear for ever!

I quote the following article from The Western Daily Press published on April 20th "An amateur football team were sick as parrots yesterday after struggling through a tough first half - against the wrong side. The silly squad played for 20 minutes before they discovered their mis-match of the day. And they only realised they had been sold a dummy when they heard cheers for the team on a nearby pitch - who were supposed to be playing them. Blundering Bristol Crusaders Reserves went 2-0 down in the opening minutes of the confusing clash. Little did they know they were being outclassed by Broad Plain who were three divisions above them in the Bristol Suburban League. They battled on until one confused Crusader heard shouts of support for scheduled opponents Raysfield. Amazingly, no one in the Raysfield team had realised they had also kicked off against the wrong side - Broad Heath. As the stunned crowd looked on, the two teams swapped pitches and started again. As Crusaders secretary and defender Ivan Jellif said, "I've never known anything like it, it was very embarrassing!"

I thought I'd indulge in a bit of literary licence and dish out a few awards of my own that I feel would be appropriate at the end of another long season. They don't necessarily apply to Wealdstone so here goes: Player of the season - Stuart Pearce, for Wealdstone - Steve Smart; Manager of the season - Ray Hartford (Wimbledon), for Wealdstone - Mark Harrison!; Goal of the season - Paul Gascoigne (v. Arsenal), for Wealdstone - Barry Blackman (v. Gloucester, home); Wally of the season - Robert Maxwell, for Wealdstone - Tony Lynch!; Miss of the season - Ray Houghton (Eire v. England), for Wealdstone - David Gipp (various!); Individual Merit awards - Brian Little (Darlington), Arthur Cox (Derby County, what loyalty to the fans!), for Wealdstone - Neil Cordice; Team Merit awards - Wimbledon (how do they do it? - Brilliant), Penzance (Played 29 in the Jewson South Western, won 0, drawn 2, lost 27, goals against 130!); Obscurity of the season - The Professional foul law, for Wealdstone - Who was Johnson? (see Chelmsford at Home, December 22!); Bore of the year - Jimmy Hill, for Wealdstone - My train journey home after a midweek match!; Likes of the season - Paul Gascoigne, Brian Hall returning; Dislikes of the season - leaving Lower Mead, all the Buffs who are here today - scavengers!!

(Sidelines continued)

Of course in spite of the undeniable truth of that last 'tongue in cheek' remark the fact of the matter is that this is it! The day has finally dawned when Wealdstone Football Club has to pack up and move on. Many people have expressed fears that the move to Vicarage Road will not do us any good and no doubt a few will not follow us in Watford, either because they can't be bothered or, as in the case of some younger or older supporters, simply can't make the journey. However, we do have recent history on our side and there are three excellent examples of clubs leaving their old headquarters to become successful elsewhere.

Bearing in mind where I live at the moment, the club I'm probably most qualified to talk about in this respect is Bristol Rovers. 'The Gas' as they are affectionately known were forced out of their old Eastville home in the mid-eighties when a combination of financial difficulties and a burnt down stand meant they accepted a golden handshake from the local authority and set up home at Twerton Park, Bath. Since then, on a very tight budget which means that Rovers' players possibly earn less than any others in their division, the club has gone from strength to strength. The appointment of Gerry Francis as manager proved to be the catalyst for success, but what has really held the club together over the past few years has been the way the Rovers supporters have stuck by their team. Bath is about 12 miles from 'The Gashead's' native territory, yet they still travel to Twerton in good numbers and most I have spoken to seem to enjoy it as a day out and therein may lie the appeal for us.

Last season Rovers won the third division from deadly rivals Bristol City and took 35,000 to Wembley for an unsuccessful tilt at the Leyland Dai Trophy. The club's eventual aim is to return to Bristol and a new stadium, but the local council is not doing much to assist (sounds familiar!). Noises are now being made that they might remain at Bath for the foreseeable future, possibly in a new stadium on the outskirts of the City. The supporters however will stick with the club.

Two other relative success stories on the pitch have been Charlton Athletic and Maidstone. Although neither club is currently setting the world alight, both achieved playing success immediately after leaving The Valley and London Road respectively. Charlton were promoted to the first division at Selhurst Park and Maidstone have consolidated their fourth division place, reaching the playoffs recently. The problem with both these clubs is that unlike Bristol Rovers their supporters have faced more inconvenient journeys and in lots of cases have simply refused to go. That is a problem that Wealdstone supporters should not find insurmountable.

From the centre of Harrow to Vicarage Road is just a little over 5 miles so travelling by car is going to be pretty quick. For those without a car, the train from Harrow and Wealdstone to Watford High Street takes just 13 minutes, the tube from Harrow-on-the-Hill takes about 20 minutes and there are also the nice new 258 buses which will drop you off up near the High Street.

So what do you think we can look forward to when we get there? Well, it's a big ground, not enormous by Football League standards, but it will be big for us and will take some filling. One of our big frustrations over the last three seasons is the fact that we haven't had a competitive team, a team that can remain in the top three or four all the way. We have, in Brian Hall, one of the top managers in non league football. He knows exactly what is required to regain our coveted Conference place and with his famously judicious use of money available will no doubt bring in the right players for the job. You can rest assured that his commitment to that end will be total during the summer.

How will we fill the ground? That to me is the big question and in answer, I can only say that if Wealdstone Football Club has real aspirations for the future then we have to gear ourselves professionally straight away. In the past, Watford have led the way in terms of attracting people to watch them. They have always marketed themselves very well and more importantly in the correct way. They have produced leaflets and magazines for home delivery, giving details of fixtures, attractions, family arrangements, ticket deals and the benefits of merely supporting Watford. On top of this, they organise open days, take their players around schools and youth clubs and generally do everything they can to ensure they maintain a high community profile.

Of course, some will say we are outsiders and can't possibly compete from a non-league base. Well, my answer to that would be that we are not competing with Watford. They won't be playing at home when we are, will they? So we have our chance to build our own niche and our own identity. Why not try a Sunday afternoon or two? Why not a Friday night? A good Commercial manager is surely a must, somebody who is skilled at seeing the main chance and exploiting it. I feel that we have to average crowds of 1000 plus from day one, 400 inside Vicarage Road just doesn't bear thinking about. From that base we can build and become challengers for a place in the Football League.



THE MODERN DAY - The popular Steve Brown seen in action v. Atherstone.

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George Duck closes the final Lower Mead programme, with him in action against Udinese, in the Anglo-Italian Tournament on 25th March 1978. Our loyal support is emphasised by faces in the crowd, most of whom are still with us today, and no doubt will be with us at Vicarage Road.