

# HOW THEY LINE-UP TODAY



## WEALDSTONE

Royal Blue/White/White



## WOKING

Red/Black/Red

- G Sam HOWES 13**  
**Jack COOK 2**  
**Lewis KINSELLA 3**  
**Ashley CHARLES 4**  
**Ayodeji ELERWE 5**  
**Mason BARRETT 6**  
**Tarryn ALLARAKHIA 7**  
**Nathan FERGUSON 8**  
**Olufela OLOMOLA 9**  
**Stephan Rhys BROWNE 10**  
**David SESAY 11**  
**Matthew YOUNG 14**  
**Elijah HEARN 15**  
**Dominic HUTCHINSON 17**  
**Alex DYER 18**  
**Malachi NAPA 19**  
**Jordy MONGOY 21**  
**Max KRETZSCHMAR 22**  
**Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23**  
**Sam HABERGHAM 28**  
**Tecane SHROWDER 29**  
**G Eric NEGRARU 31**

- 1 Ethan WADE G**  
**2 Kyran LOFTHOUSE**  
**3 Josh CASEY**  
**4 Scott CUTHBERT**  
**5 Joe McNERNEY**  
**6 Luke WILKINSON**  
**7 Ricky KORBOA**  
**8 James DALY**  
**9 Reece GREGO-COX**  
**10 Pdraig AMOND**  
**11 Tyreke JOHNSON**  
**12 Dan MOSS**  
**13 Craig ROSS G**  
**17 Jim KELLERMAN**  
**18 Jack ROLES**  
**23 Jermaine ANDERSON**  
**24 Rohan INCE**  
**25 Sid NELSON**

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**4TH OFFICIAL** Andrew Humphries **OBSERVER** Philip Crossley **COACH** Stephen Dunn

**RESULT: WEALDSTONE**   **WOKING**

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**NEXT AT THE VALE**  
**Saturday September 17 WEALDSTONE v TORQUAY UNITED**  
(Vanarama National League) kick-off 3pm

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SEASON 2022-23



PROGRAMME £3

# WEALDSTONE FC



**BROWNIE'S ON FIRE! (PART TWO)** Rhys Browne wheels away (with the gaggle of Stones fans in the far background) after winning the points at Gateshead against all the odds last weekend. PIC: JON TAFFEL



**v WOKING**  
SUNDAY SEPT 4, 2022 KO 12 NOON



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# Written in Stone

BY MARK HYDE



Welcome back to The Vale

## SMELLS LIKE TEAM SPIRIT

**W**elcome to Darren Sarll, the directors, staff, players and traveling supporters from Woking FC. We hope you have a pleasant afternoon and a safe journey home to Surrey after the game.

Today is a bit of a novelty with us playing on a Sunday and live across the nation as BT Sports featured game.

The last week or two have witnessed some incredible team performances and demonstrated the amazing team bond that Stuart often refers to in his programme notes.

We went into the tight bank holiday weekend on the back of a 1-0 home win against Halifax

Town and sitting second in the league. Obviously second in the table couldn't last so we decided to go top for a few days following a gritty away win at Gateshead in the glorious North Eastern sunshine.

Just two days latter expectations were high and a bumper Monday crowd witnessed the team grab a much deserved draw against Yeovil here at the Vale.

The context of these 4 points shouldn't need spelling out, but for a small part time squad to play two games in 3 days, traveling nearly 560 miles gain 4 points and not concede a goal despite playing 133 of the 180 minutes with 10 men is nothing short of heroic.

Mark

**MATCH SPONSOR - KEITH WALKLATE**

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**MASCOT - MITCHEL PALMER**



Today's mascot is Mitchell Palmer from Uxbridge.

Mitchell plays for Wealdstone U9 whites where he has played in defence and upfront for the last two seasons.

His favourite premier league club is Arsenal but when asked what football team he supports he always answers 'Wealdstone FC'!

His favourite Wealdstone players are Rhys Browne and Fela Olomola.

## LOVE FOOTBALL. PROTECT THE GAME

Every football fan should feel safe when watching their team. But last season we saw a minority of supporters ruining the game for others. That's why we're supporting strong measures across football to tackle antisocial and criminal behaviours within football grounds.

These include entering the pitch without permission, carrying or using smoke bombs or pyros and throwing objects onto the pitch, as well as discriminatory behaviour and taking drugs. All of these are illegal, dangerous and have no place in our game. For everyone's safety, clubs will report anyone carrying out these offences to the police, which can result in a permanent criminal record. These measures could also now apply to the parents or guardians of children involved in these activities.

From the start of the 2022/23 season, anyone who enters the pitch and those carrying or using smoke bombs and pyros will now automatically be banned by their club. These measures reflect the seriousness of the risks to fans and staff – pyros can burn at 2000 degrees Celsius and cause life-changing injuries, while entering the pitch endangers players, managers and match officials – it is impossible for anyone to tell the difference between a celebrating fan and a violent attacker.

The football authorities are working with clubs and the Football Supporters' Association to make sure everyone feels safe on matchdays. We ask all fans to come together to show that those who commit these illegal acts do not represent the majority of supporters.

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# WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2022/2023

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1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

## LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

## MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

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1964 / 1965 Senior Cup  
1967 / 1968 Senior Cup  
1984 / 1985 Senior Cup  
2003 / 2004 Charity Cup  
2010 / 2011 Charity Cup

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1997 / 1998 Isthmian League Division 2 (3rd)  
1998 / 1999 Isthmian League Division 1 (3rd, annulled)  
2003 / 2004 Isthmian League Premier Division

The legal name of Wealdstone  
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Football Club (2000) Ltd  
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Shares in excess of 10% are  
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## GROUND REGULATIONS

People are only allowed entry to The Vale on match days subject to the following rules and regulations:

- 1) The club reserves the right to eject from the ground any person who is considered to have committed any of the following acts:
  - Entering the ground through any means other than through the turnstiles or entrances
  - Entering the field of play before, during or after a game without prior authorisation
  - Being drunk, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs • Using violence of any nature
  - Carrying items which may be considered a danger to others, including cans, bottles, or glasses containing alcoholic beverages
  - Throwing any article onto the field of play • Climbing floodlight pylons, fences, stands or any structure or building
  - Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others • Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulla stand
- 2) No spectator ball games.
- 3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.
- 4) Vehicles parked on the Grosvenor Vale site are at the owners' risk.
- 5) Wealdstone Football Club supports the FA's campaign on pyrotechnics (e.g. flares and smoke bombs). Any misuse of such items in and around the Ground will result in those responsible being asked to leave the ground and, in line with football authority guidance, may result in a report to the Police, potential prosecution and a ban from the Club of up to three years.
- 6) No Smoking or Vaping inside the ground.

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BY SUDHIR RAWAL



# The Elmslie Ender

## EE reflects on just how very important your football friends are.. so cherish them

**M**en's social circles are shrinking. As we have ventured back to reclaim social lives and normality, reports have suggested a profound decline in close friendships - over the past three decades, friendship groups have become smaller.

And men appear to have suffered a far steeper decline than women. Thirty years ago, majority of men (55%) reported having at least six close friends. Today that number has been cut by half. Slightly more than a quarter (27%) of men have six or more close friends today. 15% of men have no close friendships at all, a five-fold increase since 1990.

Women have witnessed a friendship decline that is far less pronounced. In 1990, roughly four in ten (41%) of women said that they had six or more close friends, compared to 24% today. 10% of women report having no close friends.

We all know how important friendships are. They provide emotional and personal support. Men particularly struggle to articulate their feelings, hence the rise in suicides not only in the UK but around the world. It is the number one killer of men under 45 in the UK.

So what has this got to do with Planet Wealdstone? Well, friendships ebb and flow, growing from acorns at school, mates going out, work, through university and, as parents, with other parents at school as your children enter the school system.

Some endure for a lifetime, others fall away - but those of us that watch football



Sudhir holds court with pals in the pub at Gateshead on Saturday

regularly have another group to lean on, our football friends.

**I**'ve always thought that football mates end up being the ones that last longer than most. As we grow older, and our traditional groupings move away (my brother's four 'closest' pals now live in four different countries) your football mates remain a constant.

When we were growing up, your football friends you saw when you watched the game on a Saturday, maybe midweek too, then played football with them on Sundays and saw them at training too. They became your mates too.

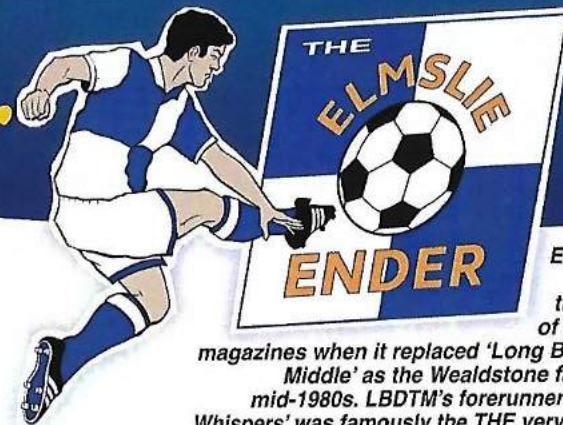
Now as we grow older, and as friendship circles change and develop, your football friends

are a constant - you see them more than your so-called closest friends.

The beauty of your football friends (not literally!) is that they are probably a more diverse social and demographic mix than in any other part of your life. A world where people from different jobs, ways of life, income brackets mix for a common love of their shared football team.

Not a discussion about children, house prices et al but a chat over a few beers about all things Stones. As the Wealdstone family grows, the football friends groups grow and multiply, and you can go to different games with an eclectic mix of people that can change from game to game, or stay the same over many years.

**A**nd talking of football friends, what a fantastic day in Gateshead - with an unlikely trip to Sunderland and a smidgeon of Newcastle last Saturday - with your football



Elmslie Ender was among the first wave of football club magazines when it replaced 'Long Ball Down the Middle' as the Wealdstone fanzine in the mid-1980s. LBDTM's forerunner 'Wealdstone Whispers' was famously the THE very first football fanzine in Britain when it was published in 1971

mates! I have family who live between Sunderland and Durham and when I mentioned that I was visiting the home of the Mackems, they thought it was a somewhat dubious choice to say the least.

Our resident southern Wearsider, and esteemed programme editor (Mark Hyde) was beside himself with excitement, but the rather paltry choices of pubs was rescued by a taproom in an industrial state, with a McDonalds and B&M for company.

Onto Gateshead and the bleak athletics stadium in which the local council can't be bothered to roof the side in which away fans are housed.

Stones secured a one nil win. Did we deserve it? Probably not as Gateshead seemed to dominate possession, but in the same way that much of last season panned out for us, they didn't have any end product.

They did hit the woodwork twice, missed a sitter, but their style was summed up by the lead up to our goal. Three or four minutes of possession that led to nothing, but we pounced, and Brownie broke the bookies' hearts again with a sublime finish.

After a harsh dismissal, we played a different style to our normal game and the s\*\*thousery displayed was a sight for sore eyes, it was beautiful to see, reminiscent of the days of the Cowley brothers' sides at their finest.

I thought we battled magnificently - as we did again with ten men against Yeovil last Monday - and Sam Howes' handling was immaculate.

Three points secured and top of the national league for the first time in 36 years (if you don't count the brief spell in the Covid-hit season). We might get more than thirty seconds as the last game of the day on the highlights show now!



Above: a section of the terrific away following at Gateshead last weekend... a great mates' day out

# Sam Howes

After two loans to the Stones it's no surprise our 'new' ex-Hammers keeper looks a bit familiar!

Football never fails to amaze with its random tales of success and glory... although the flip side, of course, is when that chance never materialises.

The Stones new 24-year-old goalkeeper Sam Howes still has the chance to hit those heady heights but his big opportunity seemingly came and went in the early months of 2016... when he was a teenage West Ham player on loan at Wealdstone!

I'd read about how Sam, the Hammers' bright young shot-stopper with caps for England at under-16, under-17, under-18 and under-19 level (and winning the Euros with the Three Lions at 17) had been close to a breakthrough at an FA Cup tie at Anfield.

But I never put two and two together and realised that was why he suddenly became unavailable again in the middle of his loan spell at Grosvenor Vale.

"Yeah, it was a crazy story really" said Sam the day after the epic trip to Gateshead last weekend.

"I'd made my West Ham debut as an 18-year-old on a pre-season trip to Sydney, Australia, but



Sam plunges to save yet another home attempt during the 1-0 win at Gateshead last weekend

with keepers like Adrian and Darren Randolph and a couple more ahead of me I knew my chances were slim. Adrian was just brilliant, ridiculously so, and when Wealdstone contacted them for an emergency loan (Northy had got injured) I was off to the Stones for my first-ever loan spell. And I liked it! Gordon Bartlett was the manager and I made my debut in 2-0 win at Chelmsford.

"Then a couple of draws, a horror pitch at Gosport, a five-times postponed Trophy game at Weston (which Sam wasn't able to play in) and then a trip to Eastbourne we lost 3-0... and then I was preparing for the next Stones game when I had the call to return back to Upton Park .

"West Ham were at Liverpool for a 4th round FA Cup tie and short of keepers... I was No.3 in line but in the hotel on the morning of the game Adrian had to leave as his wife was giving birth! So I was on the bench - and just a few minutes into the

game Darren Randolph took a heavy knock and my heart was beating fast!"

Sam was told to warm up and for a minute or two it looked like he would be handed his big chance. But Randolph recovered and had an outstanding game in the goalless draw... and Hammers even won the replay 2-1 at The Boleyn Ground, the last season of football at the club's iconic home.

"So you nearly got to play in front of 50,000 at Anfield?" I asked him. I remember the game, and in my capacity on the Mirror sports desk would doubtless have come up with a cheesy headline, something like 'Howe's that for starters' as Sam wowed the crowd with a Cup debut clean sheet.

But it wasn't to be. Instead he has the memories of that magnificent stadium, days after turning out on a sodden pitch at Gosport where Sam remembers the game being in serious doubt "until a bloke turned up with a tractor with a ton of sand and dumped it in the centre circle!"

When the keeper returned to West Ham the stones had to apply for ANOTHER emergency loan and Joe Taylor arrived from Fleetwood, quickly followed by James Bransgrove from Colchester who stayed until Northy recovered to complete the season.

Six keepers in one season, if you include the forgettable Garry Malone and Scott Dutton!

Meanwhile, the one we wanted to keep returned to the first team squad at West Ham for an unhappy season.

"I knew I wasn't going to get close to a start" said the realistic Sam. "Tony Carr, the legendary Academy Director left and the new man didn't really fancy me. That's the way it often is in football - so I cut my losses and went to Watford, who also

had a stack of keepers!"

Sam says he quickly knew that his chances at the Hornets were slim. "At one point they didn't have a goalkeeping coach so I spent some sessions playing out as a midfielder - which ironically made me a better keeper as we are expected to be as good with our feet as with our hands these days. I was out there playing with half the current Stones squad, people like Ashley Charles, Dom Hutchinson and David Sesay".



Hammers debut: Sam (right) replaces Adrian on the summer 2015 tour of Australia

The writing was on the wall at Vicarage Road for the 6ft 1in keeper especially with the revolving door of Italian managers and the constantly evolving squad of players - so Sam accepted a two year offer to go to Woking in the Conference, teaming up with Alan Dowson who had been his boss when earlier on loan at Hampton & Richmond Borough.

"You must have played against the Stones a few times after being out on loan at Chelmsford,

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

# STONES INTERVIEW CONTINUED

Hampton and Eastbourne during those Watford days?" I asked him.

"Mate, I played against Wealdstone LOADS of times!" he laughed. "We always seemed to be playing you when I was at Hampton, in the league and in county cup finals. And I used to hate coming to the Vale 'cos the ground is so tight and intimidating and the away changing rooms aren't the best!"

"But my worst memory was playing against the Stones for Eastbourne a few years ago when I was sent off after six minutes for volleying Tarryn (Allarakhia) in the face. I hope he's forgiven me for that!"

After being left out of the Woking side Sam turned down the offer of a further year at Kingfield and opted to drop two divisions and play for his local club Horsham in the Isthmian Prem.

"A pal of mine from schooldays said 'why not come and play here?' And, to be honest it was the best thing I've ever done."

Sam was born in SE London but was brought up in East Grinstead - and moved to Horsham with his girlfriend Emma when he dropped out of the full-time pro game.

He's now set up his grassroots goalkeeper-coaching business with friends across Sussex, a one-to-one training scheme that has expanded from just a few young keepers to around 120.

That proximity to home was a big appeal.

"I just needed to be playing games and I played 63 or 64 for Horsham last season! We won the League Cup 4-0 in the final against Margate and finished halfway in the league - so when our season was over the last thing I was expecting was a phone call from Jason (Scannell) at Wealdstone. I'd not spoken to him in nearly a year so I thought 'what on earth does he want?'"

"He told me George (Wickens) had concussion and the Stones needed a keeper for the two games over the May Bank Holiday - could I help

them out?' I nearly said 'no, I've played 64 games and I'm on holiday' but I'm so glad I didn't!"

"I played against Dagenham and then at Yeovil and I thought 'I enjoyed last season but this is the level I want to be playing at now'."

"The National League is a big step up and certainly different from six years ago when I last pulled on a Wealdstone shirt. Then it was more physical, more direct, we got the ball from back to front more quickly and it was a case of hitting the ball onto the head of Jonny Wright on the right wing!"

"When I had the call from Stuart Maynard in the summer it was a no-brainer to come and sign... I really liked the club before, the people and the fans but I've noticed the ground is bigger, new stands and a great playing surface but it's still got that intimidating feel for the opposition."

"We had those hiccups in pre-season - being 6-0 down to QPR was a shock, despite the calibre of their players, and then the 3-0 defeat by Chelmsford - but I really think it did us a lot of good. It shook us up and we knew we had to defend the box better, and after the poor first half against Bromley we've got better every game."

I asked Sam if his performance at Gateshead was his stand-out display so far. "Personally? Yes it probably was, everything seemed to stick to my gloves but it was a team performance of real character - we showed a great mentality and maturity to defend for that entire second half with 10 men but I think we deserved it. We showed how tough we can be."

"By the time I got back to Horsham it was about half past midnight but we were all buzzing from the performance and the fact that we are top of the league. But we're not daft, we know the main target is to avoid relegation but the way we've started has made people take notice. Long may that continue!"



Sam on his first loan at the Stones in 2016 and (below) winning the League Cup with Horsham last year



## GATESHEAD 0

## WEALDSTONE 1

Browne 44

**MATCH STATS**

**GATESHEAD V WEALDSTONE**

9	SHOTS ON TARGET	3
7	SHOTS OFF TARGET	0
10	CORNERS	0
2	OFFSIDE	0
10	FOULS CONCEDED	10
4	YELLOW CARDS	3
0	RED CARDS	1

HEADS UP: Gateshead clear a Wealdstone ball into the box  
PICTURE: Chodie Wough

**LINE-UPS**

Goalkeeper: 1	Defenders: 2, 3, 4, 5	Midfielders: 6, 7, 8, 9	Forwards: 10, 11
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GATESHEAD: 1: Walker; 2: Hill; 3: Pavey; 4: Harris; 5: Tol; 6: Allan; 7: Suba; 8: Not used; 9: Montgomery; Williamson; WEALDSTONE: 1: Belsey; 2: For; 3: Barnett; 4: 10: Suba; 5: For; 6: Not used; 7: Dyer; 8: Mungby; 9: Krasica

# Stones go top on the Tyne

**By Jeff Bowron**

**TEN-MAN** Wealdstone produced a smash-and-grab raid on Tyne-side to move to the top of the National League after a fourth win from the opening five games.

Stones defender Ayode Elerewe was sent off for holding Heed striker Paul Blackett, who would have been through on goal, just seven minutes into the second half.

Injury-hit Heed bombarded the visitors goal having 16 goal attempts to the Stones three in the game, and winning the corner count 10-0.

But a backs-to-the-wall Wealdstone effort, aided by some prolific finishing and the woodwork, being struck twice in a minute - both from Blackett - somehow saw winless newcomers Gateshead fail to score.

The game's only goal on the stroke of half-time, well taken by Rhys Browne, came from a bad error from Heed captain Greg Olley. Stones boss Stuart Maynard delighted with his side's resilience.

"For 135 fans to make the journey all the way to Gateshead with everything that's going on at the minute was brilliant, and for us to give something back to them was great," he said.

"The lads gave absolutely everything and I think we got what we deserved."

"Huge credit to Gateshead, though, they are a very good footballing team, similar to us in a sense of their philosophy. It just wasn't their day and our work ethic got us through."

Gateshead had never beaten Wealdstone in six meetings between the two clubs, the first for 35 years again going Wealdstone's way.

Tarryn Allarakhia, released by Don Hutchinson, had a great chance to give the Stones an early lead but was denied by Heed keeper Dan Langley's leg.

It took 34 minutes for the home side to threaten, Tom Allan racing clear only to be undone by good defensive work from Elerewe, the Heed then finishing the half strongly.

But after a marathon spell of passing Olley's misdirected pass in midfield saw Browne ghost past Heed centre-backs Carl Magnay and Kenton Richardson to finish with aplomb.

Blackett then headed against the bar and hit the inside of the far post on the stretch as Gateshead raced out of the blocks after the break.

Elerewe's red card then saw Gateshead lay siege to the Stones goal for the rest of the half, Sam Howes making important saves while Heed sub Will Harris went close with two headers.

"The lads gave everything physically," said Gateshead boss Mike Williamson. "We kept pushing until the last moment but we were found wanting."

"Look at the statistics, the chances and possession we had, it's not tallying up and we have got to find a way collectively."

**STAR MAN:** Rhys Browne (Gateshead)  
**ATK:** 154  
**ENTERTAINMENT:** ★★ ★★  
**REFEREE:** Matt Deacon

As the Stones rose gloriously to the top of the fledgling National League table last weekend - albeit briefly following the goal-less draw with Yeovil - there was finally recognition of the achievement in the Non-League paper with a front page story and decent match report inside (which we have lifted, on the left with its memorable match stats). Trailing 16-3 on goal attempts is quite impressive when you win a game 1-0, but that's maybe not surprising when you are down to ten men for the final 40 minutes. And then to keep another clean sheet when a man short again for almost 90 minutes against Yeovil (including added time) two days later... well that's extraordinary! To give away a one man advantage for almost a game and a half and NOT CONCEDE ONE GOAL shows exactly the spirit and backbone in Stuart Maynard's team. Medals all round!



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# Stones Fan Zone

BY MARK RANDALL



## 50-50 Tickets

50-50 Tickets are on sale pre-match from the programme kiosk as you enter the car park and also from our wandering sales people. 50% of the ticket sales goes to the winner with the remaining 50% going to Wealdstone FC.

At a cost of £1 per ticket, entry is affordable to all and offers a great opportunity to help raise valuable funds. The winning ticket is drawn just after kick-off with the winning ticket number announced over the PA system as well as on this website and on social media.

Please buy a ticket or two if you can.

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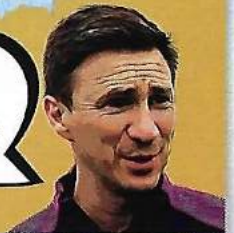
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# The Fan in the Stand

**'I like the top end of non-league: it seems to me like the sweet spot, affordable and the clubs still have plenty of soul, but the standard of football is still good'**

Today's 'victim' is 19 year-old Jamie (Jay) Harrington...

**Whereabouts do you live, Jay?** In West Harrow, near the train station, and I've lived there my entire life

**What was your first game?** My first Stones game was back in 2013, a 'derby' against Harrow Borough, which we won 2-0. I remember I could only just about see over the old fence but I enjoyed it a lot regardless and wanted to come back.

**What attracted you?** I liked how close you were to the pitch and the players which was a nice change from top level football. One of my early Wealdstone memories was one of the away subs (Lowestoft I believe) came over to where me and my dad were stood and spent a lot of the game chatting to us, which I thought was very nice

**What was your first 'live' match?** That was a couple months before the Harrow Borough one, it



Jay (and fellow fan Luca Rosetti) proudly fly the flag en route to another away game

was a boring 0-0 draw between Arsenal and Everton at the Emirates. Not a great start admittedly! I was brought up as an Arsenal fan and do still keep an eye on their results to an extent but these days I'm not really too interested.

**The most memorable game you've ever watched?** That is probably the Euros final last year, I'm sure I don't need to go into much more detail on that one...

**And most memorable Wealdstone game?** There are a few contenders but I'd say the 3-1 win away at Barnet last year (pictured left). It was a great performance and an unreal away end to be in, and it also felt like a sense of justice after all that happened with that ground. 7-0 against Bath, and Billericay in the Trophy (5-2) are also up there, I'd probably have said that if we weren't



so disappointing in the semi final against Brackley.

**Who first brought you along?** It was my dad. He didn't grow up locally but since he moved here he'd try and get to the games against Harrow Borough because he knew a couple Wealdstone fans. He took me and my brother along once and even though my brother didn't really get into it, me and my dad started going to more games and eventually we got season tickets.

**What's your favourite level of football?** I'd say I have a bit of a preference for the lower end of the Football League and the top end of non league, mainly because it feels to me like the sweet spot where it's affordable and the clubs still have plenty of soul, but the standard of football is still good. That being said I'm happy to go to pretty much any football.

**Is it a big part of your life?** It's quite a big part. When I was younger I used to play (quite badly), now these as well as following the Stones home and away, I try to get to some other local and occasionally not so local football.

**How does football fit in with your work and family life?** I'm lucky in the sense that it's never actually been too difficult. Back at my job I had to sometimes do late shifts but if we were playing on a Tuesday I was always able to get swapped onto an earlier shift - my boss being a Wealdstone fan definitely helped with that! In terms of my family, as long as I'm not out at the football every day and pay for it myself there are never really any issues in that regard.

**Where do you work or are you a student?** Up until a couple of weeks ago I worked doing dispatch for a telecommunications company in Wembley. I'm taking a few weeks off now before I start University down in Southampton. I'll still go to as many Wealdstone games as I can though.

**Has the Stones' start surprised you a bit?**

I wasn't one of these people thinking we'd sink without a trace but I'd have probably taken 4 points from our opening 4. I'd never have imagined that we'd be 2nd at this point. Some of the football so far has been incredible too.

**What's your favourite Stones team since you've been watching?** Jonathan North, Jacob Mendy Mendy, Sean Cronin, Jack Cook, Nik Tavares, Godfrey Poku, Billy Clifford, Danny Green, Rhys Browne, Scott McGleish, Ross Lafayette.

**What keeps you coming back to the Vale?** One of the main appeals of Wealdstone in general is the social aspect of it, I've made a lot of friends through the club, and I probably spend more time in the social club that I should. That aside, I just enjoy supporting my local team, it's far more rewarding that just sitting at home and treating football as a TV show

**Favourite all-time Stones games?** Aside from the couple that I mentioned earlier, Southend on the sunny bank holiday was a fantastic away day. Winning away at Oldham is up there too

**Did you enjoy your evening as a Stonecast panellist?** Well I always like talking about Wealdstone with my mates so it was nice to have it recorded on the podcast and have a chance to listen back.

**Are the Stones a realistic prospect for the EFL?** I know there are limitations facility-wise but we've definitely got the fanbase for the EFL. If we can consolidate at this level and advance the club off the pitch then I see no reason why we can't get there eventually. I'll do my best to win the lottery in the meantime!



Jay's first game and Danny Leech scores an own goal to seal the 2-0 win over Harrow Boro. Pic: Steve Foster



# Opposition in focus



## THE CARDS

**W**oking Football Club, known as the Cards (from the Cardinal red of the red and white halves), was formed in 1889. The Club joined the West Surrey League in 1895/96, winning the title by one point on the final day of the season. However, within 21 years of being formed, the Club was in danger of folding for financial reasons. The turning point came when, in January 1908, Woking played Bolton Wanderers in the First Round of the FA Cup, having battled through five qualifying rounds. Despite losing the away game 5-0, the Club made it into the national press. Bolton Wanderers, impressed by the minnows they had defeated, travelled to Woking for a friendly match the following season, which kept the Club solvent.

In 1911 the Club joined the Isthmian League, maintaining their place in the top division for 72 years and finishing as runners-up to Wycombe Wanderers in 1956/57. That achievement was eclipsed the following season when, in front of a 71,000 crowd, the Cards beat Ilford 3-0 in the last FA Amateur Cup Final to be televised live. Sadly, the Club then went into decline, culminating in a first-ever relegation in 1982/83. By the end of the 1984/85 season the Club had plunged to Division Two South of the Isthmian League. It was during that season that former player, Geoff Chapple, was appointed as manager. Although he was not able to save the Club from relegation, the renaissance was underway. Just missing out on promotion at the first attempt, the Club clinched the Division Two South title in 1986/87 and, after two third place finishes in Division One, they were promoted back to the Premier Division at the end of the 1989/90 season.

The next season saw the Club become part of FA Cup folklore. Entering the competition at the Fourth Qualifying Round, they beat three Conference sides



THE LATHWITE COMMUNITY STADIUM  
Pic radiowoking.co.uk

to set up a Third Round tie away to West Bromwich Albion. Recovering from being a goal behind, Woking triumphed 4-2, thanks to a superb team effort and a never-to-be-forgotten hat-trick from Tim Buzaglio. To be drawn out of the hat with a home game against Everton was beyond everyone's wildest dreams. The tie was switched to Goodison Park and, against a team packed with internationals, the sides were separated only by a solitary Kevin Sheedy goal. Over 34,000 people remained in the ground to give the players a rapturous standing ovation.

Promotion to the Conference was achieved in 1991/92. The Isthmian League title was clinched in early April, with seven games still to be played.

The FA Trophy was won in 1994, 1995 and 1997 and the Cards also achieved five successive top five finishes in the Conference, including being runners-up in 1994/95 and 1995/96.

At the end of the 1996/97 campaign, having just clinched the FA Trophy for the third time, Geoff Chapple and his coach, Colin Lippiatt, left the Club and joined Kingstonian. John McGovern, the former Derby County, Nottingham Forest and Leeds United midfielder, was appointed. Hopes were high that he would lead Woking into the League but, although the Club finished in third place, his style of play and his personality did little to endear him to the

# WOKING FC

HOME GROUND - LATHWITE  
COMMUNITY STADIUM  
CAPACITY - 6,036 (2,500 SEATED)  
MANAGER - DARREN SARLL  
2021/22 - 15TH NATIONAL LEAGUE

disappointment, culminating in the Cards' relegation in summer 2009 from the BSP after 17 years in the top flight of non-League football.

A storming end to the 2009-10 season saw the Cards clinch 5th place. Dover Athletic were beaten in the play-off semi-final but the Cards lost to Bath City in the final.

The Club went part-time in summer 2010, with Baker and Dack both being awarded new two-year contracts. But, in spite of good runs in the FA Cup and the FA Trophy, both decided to leave the Club in January 2011, with Garry Hill taking over the reins till the end of the season, with Steve Thompson as First Team Coach. A dramatic upturn in league fortunes took the Club into 5th place, but the Cards lost to Farnborough in the play-off semi-final.

The revival continued apace in the 2011-12 season, with the Cards reaching the top spot in late September and staying there throughout the campaign in spite of being pushed hard by Dartford. The BSBS title was won by nine points, with only five games lost all season.

The Cards finished in a comfortable 12th place in their first season back in the Conference Premier, playing an entertaining brand of football, and did even better the following season, ending in 9th place after showing great form in the second half of the campaign. The 2014-15 campaign saw the Club finish in a commendable 7th spot, missing a play-off place by only three points. Garry Hill maintained his record of top-half finishes the following season as the side ended in 12th position. But the summer of 2016 saw the loss of some experienced players and the side struggled throughout the 2016-17 season, eventually averting relegation thanks to generally improved form from the new year onwards, finishing in 18th place.

In May 2017, following an announcement that new investment would take place in the Club, Anthony Limbrick was appointed manager, with Jason Goodliffe joining him as assistant manager shortly afterwards. The Club also announced that it would be moving gradually to full-time status.

2018/19 saw the Cards promoted back to the National League after beating Welling 1-0 in the play off final.

fans. A poor start to the 1998/99 campaign led to his dismissal. Brian McDermott, the former Arsenal player, joined Woking on a non-contract basis and achieved a temporary upturn in fortunes, guiding the team to a ninth place finish.

Significant events had taken place off the field. The downturn in the Club's fortunes had led to a financial crisis. With the Club facing administration or worse, successful businessman and long-time fan, Chris Ingram, came to the rescue, becoming Chairman in February 2002. He continues to own the ground, with the Club enjoying a 125-year lease at a peppercorn rent, but his financial backing of the Club and involvement in its running ceased at the end of the 2010-11 season.

The Club went full-time in the summer of 2003. The fans' hopes were borne out by a much better season, with the Cards achieving a ninth place finish, having been on the fringe of the play-off places until the last few weeks. Again, only a poor finish the following season deprived the Cards of a play-off place, but a final placing of 8th with 68 points was the best achievement since 1997/98. Disappointingly, the Cards failed to mount a challenge for a play-off place in 2005/06, finishing in 11th place. 2006/07 was another season of underachieving and, despite bringing in fresh faces during the January transfer window, the Cards finished in 15th place.

The reprieve proved only temporary, with the following two seasons producing more

# Opposition in focus

WOKING FC

## 1. ETHAN WADY - GOALKEEPER

The promising young goalkeeper signed for the Cards on a season-long loan deal in the summer of 2022 from Chelsea. The American-born shot-stopper has been with the Premier League side since midway through the 2017/18.

## 2. KYRAN LOFTHOUSE - MIDFIELD

An attacking wide player who has been utilised as a full-back, wing-back, and out-and-out winger during his first two years with the Cards. The right-sided player first joined Woking on loan in October 2020, a deal which was eventually extended to the end of the season, and after making 41 appearances in all competitions he joined on a permanent deal that summer, signing a two-year deal..

## 3. JOSH CASEY (C) - DEFENCE

The left-back has been Woking's captain since his arrival at the club in the summer of 2018. Over the past four years he has made more than 150 appearances in all competitions, won promotion to the National League, reached the third round of the FA Cup and an FA Trophy semi-final. During a memorable first season with the club he also won three Player of the Year Awards.

## 4. SCOTT CUTHBERT - DEFENCE

The veteran defender joined Woking in the summer of 2022 after a hugely successful Football League career. A former Swindon Town, Leyton Orient, Luton Town, and Stevenage centre-back, he played more than 400 EFL games over a 13-year spell, notably winning promotion to League One with Luton in 2018 and winning the Player of the Year Award at both Orient and Stevenage, in 2012 and 2019 respectively.

## 5. JOE MCNERNEY - DEFENCE

A former Woking academy graduate in his second spell with the club after re-joining the Cards in the summer of 2021. An experienced centre-back, he made over 250 appearances in all competitions during his first spell with the club, scoring 15 goals. He was part of the team promoted from National League South as champions in 2011/12, playing 33 times in that campaign, before becoming a crucial part of Garry Hill's successful Woking side of the mid-2010s.

## 6. LUKE WILKINSON - DEFENCE

The experienced defender joined the Cards on a two-



CRAIG ROSS

JOSH CASEY

year deal in the summer of 2022 following the expiry of his deal with manager Darren Sarll's former club Yeovil Town. The centre-back joined Yeovil from another of Sarll's former clubs, Stevenage, in 2019 and went onto make 89 appearances in three years – helping the club reach the National League play-offs in his first season and serving as club captain during his final year at Huish Park.

## 7. RICKY KORBOA - FORWARD

A dynamic wide player, he joined the Cards from Sutton United on a two-year deal in the summer of 2022, following the expiry of his contract with the League Two side. He spent one season at Gander Green Lane, where he was predominately used as an impact substitute, with arguably his best moment being a memorable brace in a 3-1 away win at Oldham Athletic. He made a total of 20 appearances in all competitions including 14 in the Football League.

## 8. JAMES DALY - FORWARD

A versatile attacking player signed in the summer of 2022. He joined the club following his release from League Two side Stevenage, having also played in League One for Bristol Rovers and in the academy setup at Premier League Crystal Palace. An athletic and pacey left-footed player, he is predominately a centre-forward, but can also be utilised anywhere down the left flank.

## 9. REECE GREGO-COX - FORWARD

A right-sided forward, he joined the Cards for a second-spell in the summer of 2022, following his release from League Two side Crawley Town. He previously spent four months with Woking in the 2017/18 season, scoring four times in 18 appearances, in a disappointing campaign which ultimately ended in relegation

# THE PLAYERS TO WATCH

## LAST SEASON

Sat 21st August 2021 - (H) L 1-2

Sat 22nd January 2022 (A) L 0-2



ROHAN INCE

PADRAIG AMOND

from the National League. His efforts were one of the few highlights of that period, with goals against Gateshead, Hartlepool, Macclesfield, and Torquay.

## 10. PADRAIG AMOND - FORWARD

The experienced striker joined Woking in the summer of 2022 on a two-year deal after leaving League Two side Newport County. The former National League golden boot and promotion winner, who has scored 200 career goals, is renowned for his goalscoring abilities in both league and cup football, having scored ten times for the Exiles in the FA Cup since 2017. Torquay.

## 11. TYREKE JOHNSON - MIDFIELD

A predominately left-sided midfielder also capable of playing as an outright winger or deeper in a wing-back role. He is in his second spell with Woking having initially enjoyed a successful loan spell in 2019. He re-joined the club on a permanent basis two years later and made 38 appearances in all competitions last season.

## 12. DAN MOSS - DEFENCE

An exciting and highly rated young prospect, the right-sided defender joined Woking on a two-year deal in the summer of 2022, following the expiry of his contract with Championship side Millwall. The full-back began his career with Burnley, before moving to London in 2019, where he became the captain of the Lions' Under-23 team and graduated from the club's academy two years later.

## 13. CRAIG ROSS - GOALKEEPER

The popular goalkeeper and two-time Fans' Player of the Year Award winner has made more than 150 appearances for the club since joining the Cards for a second-time in 2018. After graduating from the Woking academy in 2008.

**17. JIM KELLERMANN - MIDFIELD** The box-to-box midfield player joined the Cards on

a two-year deal in the summer of 2022, after failing to agree a new contract with fellow National League side Chesterfield. He was a popular figure during his single season with the Spireites, where he made 36 appearances in all competitions, helping the club reach a play-off semi-final, losing out to Solihull Moors, and the third round of the FA Cup, where they were beaten by Premier League giants Chelsea.

## 18. JACK ROLES - MIDFIELD

An exciting attacking midfielder player who first joined the Cards on a short-term deal towards the end of the 2021/22 season before signing a one-year extension in the summer. He made 10 appearances during his first campaign at Kingfield after joining the club from Premier League club Crystal Palace in February, scoring his first goal in memorable fashion, with a long-range effort against Eastleigh.

## 23. JERMAINE ANDERSON - MIDFIELD

A physical and athletic midfielder player who joined the Cards in December 2021. He made 16 appearances during an injury-hit first six months at Kingfield but did provide a memorable late assist for the winning goal in a 2-1 home win over Wrexham, Darren Sarll's first as Woking manager.

## 24. ROHAN INCE - MIDFIELD

An integral player at the base of the Woking midfield, he quickly became a firm fan favourite, after joining the club in the summer of 2021 from National League rivals Maidenhead United. A tough-tackling defensive midfielder also capable of pushing further forward, he made 37 appearances during his debut season with the Cards, whilst chipping in with two goals and four assists.

## 25. SID NELSON - DEFENCE

Woking bolstered their defensive options with the signing of the former Millwall, Tranmere Rovers, and Northampton Town centre-back in July 2022, following his release by the Cobblers. He joined the Cards having made over 100 Football League appearances in his career, which included being part of the Tranmere side promoted to League One in 2019.





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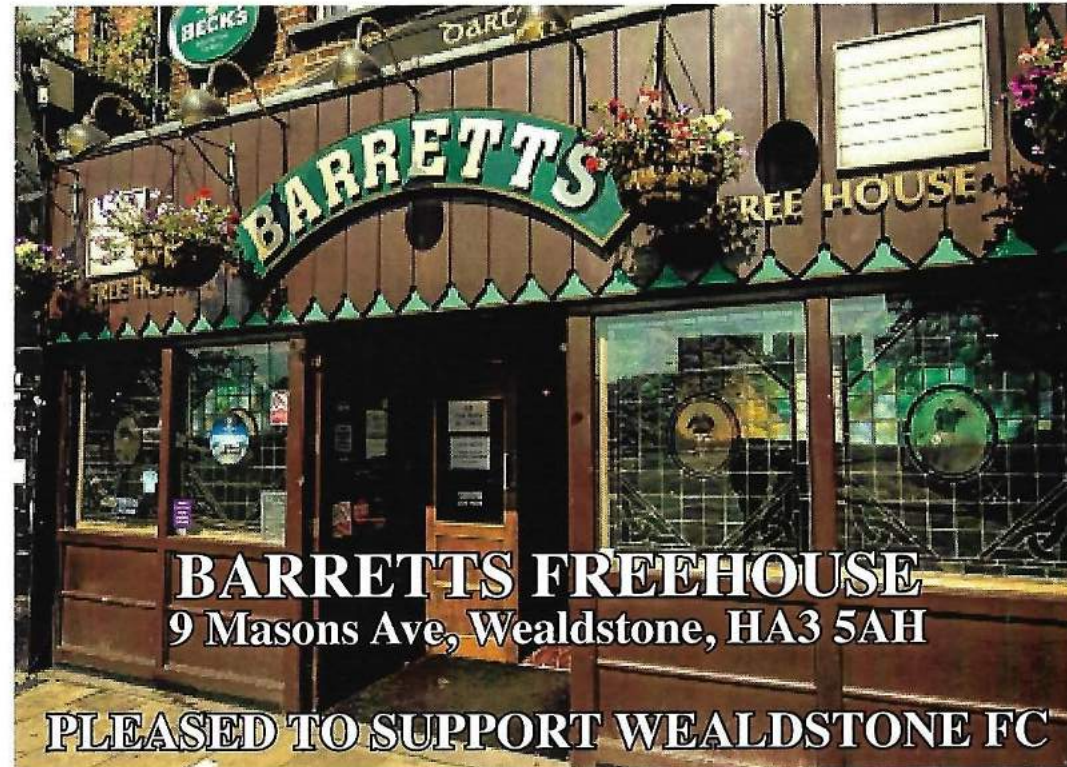
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BY MARTIN READ



# World of Ball

## 2014 and 2020 title-winning squads

Yep, it's the names from those that you'll be looking for this week in the second of these wordsearch weekends. Ordinarily I'd be making some comment on the joyous nature of our start to the season and the never-say-die spirit that will hopefully make us a must-watch on BT Sport this afternoon. But it appears I somehow got 'into the groove' with this whole wordsearch thing, so here we are. I rather suspect that this will be the last of these for a while, but ping us a DM if you want more of these over the season ahead. There's a certain enjoyment in piecing them together.

M	C	C	U	B	B	I	N	F	A	V	I	S	S	O	G	F
R	E	D	W	D	A	E	J	I	L	B	N	E	T	M	N	F
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R	R	E	R	E	T	O	S	A	L	C	L	L	W	A	T	T
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C	L	I	F	F	O	R	D	D	R	A	N	Y	A	M	E	R

### 2019/2020 Conference South

#### championship-winning squad and management team (ABOVE)

Arnold Beckles Richards Brennan Charles Clifford Cotter  
 Edjenguele Efete Emmanuel Everett Green Isted Jebb  
 Lafayette Lewis Maynard McLennan Mendy Noel Williams  
 North Okimo Oxborough Phillips Ringer Sellers Shomotun  
 Sheppard Smith Stevens Watt

### 2013/2014 Isthmian League Premier Division

#### championship-winning squad and management team (LEFT)

Bailey Bartlett Bawling Bentley Cronin Dean Gill Godfrey  
 Grant Hamblin Hammond Haxhia Hutchinson Johnson Little  
 Malcolm Malone McCubbin McGleish McCluskey Moore Morris  
 North Okimo ONien Parker Penny Pett Pigden Siva Strudwick  
 Wright



# 1ST TEAM RESULTS SEASON 2022/2023

Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers
6 BROMLEY	VNL 3-2	1,090	162	5	Olomola, Browne (P), Cook
13 Eastleigh	VNL 0-1	1,814	189	12	
16 Oldham Athletic	VNL 2-1	6,869	152	4	Browne, Allarakhia
20 FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL 1-0	1,197	72	2	Browne
27 Gateshead	VNL 1-0	1,104	135	1	Browne
29 YEOVIL TOWN	VNL 0-0	1,714	251	2	

## SEPTEMBER

4 WOKING	VNL
10 Altrincham	VNL
13 Maidstone United	VNL
17 TORQUAY UNITED	VNL
24 SOUTHEND UNITED	VNL

## OCTOBER

1 Aldershot Town	VNL
4 Solihull Moors	VNL
8 BOREHAM WOOD	VNL
15 TBD	FAC4
22 Dorking Wanderers	VNL
25 NOTTS COUNTY	VNL
29 Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL

## NOVEMBER

5 To Be Decided	VNL
8 CHESTERFIELD	VNL
12 WREXHAM	VNL
19 York City	VNL
26 SCUNTHORPE UNITED	VNL

## DECEMBER

3 Barnet	VNL
10 Bromley	VNL
13 OLDHAM ATHLETIC	VNL
17 To Be Decided	FAT3
26 MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VNL

## JANUARY

1 Maidenhead United	VNL
7 EASTLEIGH	VNL
14 FC Halifax Town	VNL
24 Yeovil Town	VNL
28 GATESHEAD	VNL

## FEBRUARY

4 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	VNL
11 Wrexham	VNL
18 YORK CITY	VNL
21 Chesterfield	VNL
25 Woking	VNL

## MARCH

4 ALTRINCHAM	VNL
7 MAIDSTONE UNITED	VNL
11 Torquay United	VNL
18 Scunthorpe United	VNL
25 BARNET	VNL

## APRIL

1 ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL
7 Notts County	VNL
10 SOLIHULL MOORS	VNL
15 Boreham Wood	VNL
22 DORKING WANDERERS	VNL
29 Southend United	VNL

## FRIENDLY RESULTS

5th July	Hendon	A	W 4-0	Allarakhia (2), Trialist G, Trialist I
9th July	Slough Town	A	W 2-1	Umerah, Trialist
11th July	Beaconsfield Town	A	D 4-4	Hutchinson, Allarakhia, Trialist E, Trialist B

Sam HOWES	Jack COOK	Rhys BROWNE	Ashley CHARLES	Alex DYER	Dom HUTCHINSON	Tarryn ALLARAKHIA	Max KRETZSCHMAR	Lewis KINSELLA	Matt YOUNG	Malachi NAPA	Jordy MONGOY	Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH	David SESAY	Nathan FERGUSON	Elijah HEARN	Tecane SHROWDER	Oriuela OLOMOLA	Mason BARRETT	Eric NGRARU	Deje ELEREWE	Sam HABERGHAM	
13	2	10 (7)	4		17 (19)	7	22	3		19	23 (3)		8				9	6		5		
13	2	10 (9)	4		17	7	22			19 (23)	23		8				9	6		5		28 (5)
13	2	10	4		17	7	22				23 (7)	11 (17)	8					6		5		28
13	2	10	4		17	7	22			19 (7)		11 (17)	8					6		5		28
13	2	10	4		17	7	22	3 (7)		19 (22)		11 (6)	8					6		5		28
13	2	10	4	18 (22)	17 (7)	7	22	3		19	21 (10)	11	8							5		28

DATE IN RED = Midweek fixture



Pictures from our win up at Gateshead last week, courtesy of Jon Taffel

16th July	Charlton A U23s	H	L 0-1	
20th July	QPR	H	L 2-8	Ferguson, Trialist A
23rd July	Bedford Town	A	W 4-1	Trialist B, Kretzschmar (2), Hutchinson
27th July	Billericay Town	A	W 5-1	Napa, Olomola, Allarakhia, Kretzschmar, Ferguson
30th July	Chelmsford City	H	L 0-3	

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BY JON TAFFEL



# The Stones

## Our 2022 alphabet is now up to full steam but somehow trapped in the 1970s... let's 'C' if Jon can update it by at least a decade

**C** is for Coach....not the form of transport to away matches, we did that one before back in the 2003-4 first incarnation of this feature. No, this time it is the football **COACH**, those that work with the manager with the aim of improving the players and the team to perform better. I am struggling to remember when the term became a thing to be honest. When I started watching the Stones all I remember on the bench was a Manager, perhaps an Assistant Manager and then a Trainer, who was actually the magic sponge man in case of injury. Even the 1966 World Cup winning squad picture only had a Manager and Assistant in Alf Ramsey and Harold Shepherdson.

Nowadays we have specialist **COACHES** of all kinds, specific to positions such as a goalkeeping coach. This set me off on a journey, seeing if I could establish when we first employed a coach under that title. It was not a very long journey to be fair, I will leave that for someone with more time to waste than me. However, a rummage through some old programmes showed that sometime during the 1981-82 season, Allen Batsford (Manager) and Brian Hall (Assistant Manager) were joined by Alan Ackrell (Staff Coach). A rummage further back in time also shows that in the late 60s and early 70s we didn't have a Manager or Assistant Manager, we had a Coach and Assistant Coach. At some time during the 1970-71 season, Alan Humphries changed from being Coach to Manager. So basically, this particular 'C' is going absolutely nowhere and has been a complete waste of yours and my time! For all that, the current set up we have at the club seems to be working quite well regardless of titles.

**C** is also for one of the greatest culinary delights know to humankind, the **CHEESE 'N' ONION ROLL**. For those unlucky enough to have listened to my recent debut on Stonescast (the unofficial podcast for all things Wealdstone FC run by Wealdstone fans), you may have heard me mumbling about one of my activities working in the Sup-



porters' Club tea-hut at Lower Mead back in the late 70's, and that was assisting making rolls under the watchful eyes of Tom & Julie Verrall. We made cheese rolls, ham rolls, combinations thereof and of course cheese and onion rolls, soft or crusty. These were made with the pinpoint precision of a Danny Green freekick\*,

each slice of ham or cheese had to be cut to the correct size so as to maximise the number of rolls produced given the raw materials available. We were more generous with the onions, these being far cheaper of course. Back then, this was for the most part the only food available at Lower Mead other than **CRISPS** and **CONFECTORY**, so a perfect precursor to the customary trip to the Dominion Fish Bar after the match had finished.

Nowadays it is generally harder to get cheese and onion rolls as the newer catering

Above: the humble cheese and onion roll looms large in Jon's Lower Mead memories. As I recall, the Verralls (of tea hut fame) had famously onion breath. An unfortunate by-product.

# Alphabet



outlets tend to focus on healthier options such as burgers and chips, but these are sometimes available in the bar or smaller outlets.

One thing is for sure, a cheese and onion roll is a perfect accompaniment for **CANAL WATER**, a term applied by some of those with absolutely no sense of taste whatsoever to the kind of beverage typically enjoyed by **CAMRA** members amongst others. Yes, this refers to proper ale that actually tastes of something rather than looking and tasting like a glass of bubbles and human waste. Many years ago, cloudy non-opaque beer could very often be associated with beer that was indeed off, usually combined with a vinegary smell, so for sure the appearance could well resemble something you would normally view from the towpath. Not today though, as some of the best beers are cloudy or hazy by design, brewers removing the use of finings from the brew process (finings are produced from fish bladders) for which the sole purpose is to make a drink look clear - absolutely nothing to do with taste, which in actual fact can be adversely affected by this addition. Anyway, something to ponder next time you drink **CARLING**.



I think we'll cut out the middle man this week and just start with ten players

**C** LICHES must have been invented for football. Those well used and repeated sayings that add nothing to any insight into or analysis of our game. Many managers and pundits might struggle without them of course, but I do think a fine system should be in place and imposed upon them, maybe to benefit a charitable cause. So, let us get rid of 'a game of two halves,' 'we're taking it one game at a time' and 'at the end of the day' please.

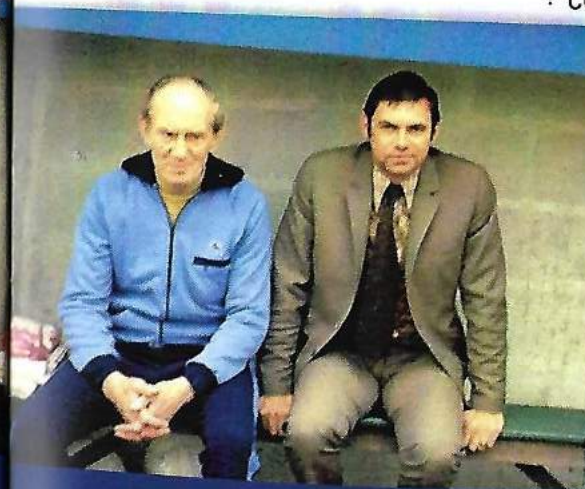
On this subject, we today have the BT Sport team with us, so when you get home and watch the replay later, play 'count the cliché' both with the pundits before and afterwards, as well as during the **COMMENTARY** - this

should be fun if they haven't read this beforehand. With the **CAMERAS** here, it would be wrong not to be looking forward to seeing Aaron McLean's Clothing - surely the best dressed man at the Vale since Steve King? Stuart Maynard may have something to say about that though with his little beige number against Yeovil last week. Check it out in the picture above.

Where to next then? A quick foray back into the 70s again, and this time our former manager Geoff **COLEMAN**. Geoff joined the Stones in April 1976 from league rivals Nuneaton Borough. Eddie Presland (pictured below left in the cosy dug-outs at Lower Mead... with a Coach indeed!) had been sacked the previous week in the car park at Hillingdon Borough after a poor run had left us 20th out of 22 clubs, with only Stourbridge and the dreadful Cambridge City below us. Apart from bringing a more negative defence-oriented approach to the club, he also brought a fine sheepskin coat, immensely popular in those days. According to the Harry O, leading scorer George Duck handed in a transfer request to the club before he even met the Brummie Coleman, so upset he was by the sacking of his friend Eddie.

As it was, Coleman's Stones went down to Weymouth on Wednesday April 7th having not won away since April 3rd the previous sea-

CONTINUED OVERPAGE



# Alphabet continued...

## FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

son (let that sink in) and promptly returned home with all the points. John Morton, another regular at the Vale these days may (or not) remember this well. As the Harry O reported, 'Stones looked in dire trouble when Morton who first damaged his right hand on Dyson's head punching clear, fell dazed to the ground after trying to cut out a cross.' Morton continued but was replaced in goal at half time by Willie Watson, with winger Adriaan Eglite coming on as sub in a rather unfamiliar left back position. For those that travelled and witnessed the 2-0 win this was an infamous 'I was there' night.

Geoff COLEMAN also presided over another infamous 'I was there' night – the 'massive night of soccer hate' when six players were sent off at Wimbledon later that month. Numbers that make our red cards against Gateshead and Yeovil seem rather tame. Stones somehow avoided relegation that season despite finishing in the bottom four by virtue of Dunstable's financial demise. Coleman's stay was short-lived, sacked in February 1977 with the Stones again languishing in the nether regions of the league. His successor was Alan Fogarty - his assistant at both Nuneaton and Wealdstone - under whom the Stones made the 3rd round of the FA Cup for the 1st and only time in their history the following season.

I don't often include current players in this column; however, I feel an exception needs to be made. We are taking CAPTAINS here, so step up Jack COOK to the Wealdstone Alphabet. I am sure that there are many CARDS fans here today that wish Cookie were still with them, but their loss is our gain, and he has been truly outstanding since arriving at the Vale in in the summer of 2021. An absolute warrior, outstanding competitor, scorer of key goals and the ability (sometimes) to run in



Get my best side, get my best side

the correct direction of the photographer when he does.

I must confess that I was a little concerned during the summer. Cookie featured on an excellent podcast with Stuart and Matty saying all the right things about us. But time moved on and there was no news about him signing on for the new season. I wasn't the only one to be mighty relieved when the news broke that he was staying.... all I ask now is not to put us through this particular wringer again next summer.

**O**n the subject of today's visitors, the first time I saw the CARDS play (if my programme collection is a fair guide) would have been in February 1970. In that programme Woking's colours were listed as 'Cardinal and White,' so when did Cardinal get dropped and standard red adopted? Answers on a postcard please. Whilst I remember little of that match, it would be remiss of me not to mention my first ever trip to Kingsfield in September 1975 – that

I do remember well, probably one of the greatest comebacks from a Wealdstone side I have ever seen. Just the small matter of turning around a 3-1 deficit in an FA Cup replay with 10 minutes to go. We won 5-3 after extra time, definitely worth risking bunking off school early to catch the coach there.

(Readers will be thrilled to learn that this game features in the 'Rewind' pages of this very programme -Ed)

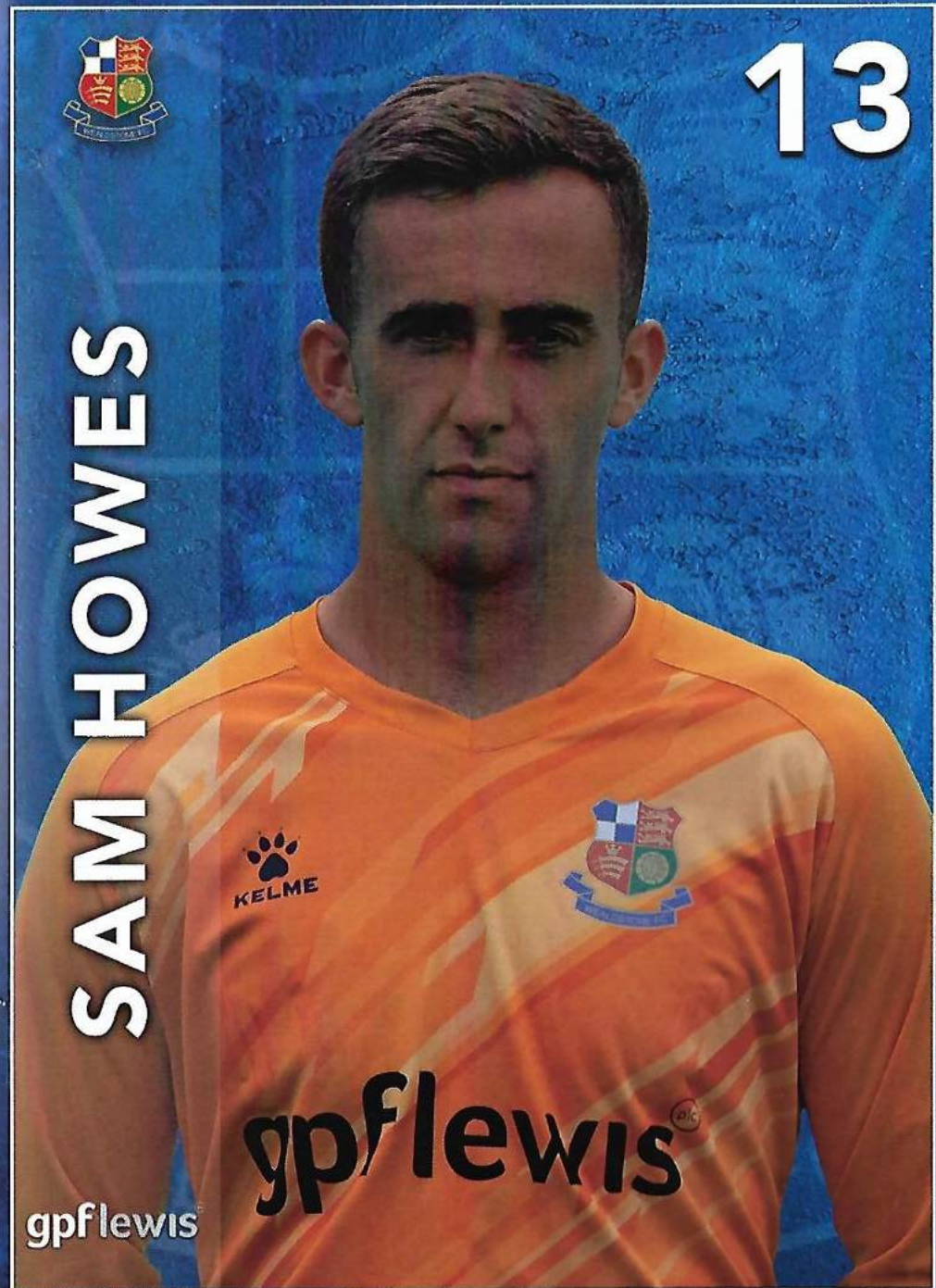
And so that brings us to the end of this week's literary adventure, please let me know if you have any D's you would like me to include next time around, but not Derek Dougan.

\* I lied about the Danny Green bit



# 13

# SAM HOWES



gp flewis

Above: Cookie heads the glorious late winner against Bromley and then sets off to locate our resident photographer Sir Ronald of Raffle



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# WOKING REWIND >>>>



BY TIM PARKS

It was April 1971. Decimalisation (when the British currency moved from pounds, shillings and pence to pounds and pence) was just three months old and the British public was outraged that shop prices were being 'rounded-up' by exorbitant amounts.

The new coins had been in circulation for three years, for people to get used to, to but D-Day itself was a terrible shock.

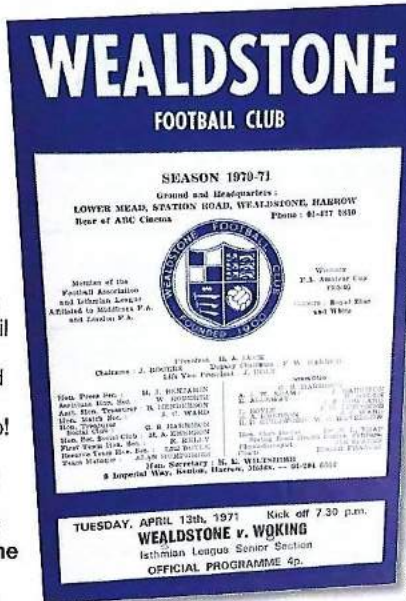
Housewives would carry around decimal converters in their handbags - a revolving cardboard wheel that showed the '£sd' equivalent to the new price tags - and everywhere you went the cry would go up: 'What's that in old money?'

Well, if that sounds like a bygone age it was (until just four years ago) the last time Wealdstone and Woking met in a league match. Yes, 51 years ago! I was 13 at the time and remember being concerned that my pocket money wouldn't cover any increase at the Lower Mead turnstiles.

It cost 9d to get in as a junior (that's nine old pennies, the equivalent of 4p after D-Day) and although the price was held until the next season it had risen by a whopping 11p once we'd kicked off in the Southern League Div One North in August!

It was exacerbated by Wealdstone turning pro that summer. It was a few months of upheaval in every quarter of life but exciting as the Stones grasped the expensive nettle of professionalism and raised their prices accordingly (from what I remember, adult prices jumped from 1/6d for Isthmian League football to 30p for the Southern

## We had to wait from 1971 until 2018 to face The Cards in a league game!



League... double the money! Although if you take the rate of inflation as a guide to what 30p is worth today, it should cost £4.30 to get in today).

As a result of bravely leaving behind the era of 'shamateurism' there were a few heavy hearts at the thought of abandoning old adversaries such as Woking.

And the Surrey club will always hold a place in the affections of Stones older fans, like myself, for being our last opponents in an amateur match at Lower Mead. Yes, April 1971. The school Easter holidays.

Some matches always stick in the mind and this one definitely does. I had been out bike-riding in Northwood with my pal Mark during the day and so anxious about getting home in time for the game that he decided to come along too for his first WFC experience.

As a Chelsea fan he maybe felt he was slumming it - but right from the start, Stones clearly wanted to end the home amateur era with a bang. Neither ourselves or Woking were any great shakes; both rooted in mid-table, there was absolutely nothing riding on the game and the crowd was also unremarkable for this landmark occasion - barely 600 - but there was

more intensity in our performance than in any other game that season. I finally managed to unearth the match report last week and it confirmed the crucial moments that are crystallised in my mind. More so than most of what happened last season! Woking, and especially their

# 1971

# GOING OUT IN STYLE

WEALDSTONE (0) 3 WOKING (0) 0

Approx. attendance: 400

Wealdstone couldn't have found their shooting boots at a better time. The occasion — their last home league match as amateurs — demanded a storybook ending, and Wealdstone responded at Lower Mead on Tuesday with an opportunistic second-half display of finishing power.

The win gave them an Isthmian double — they had previously beaten Woking 2-1 — and must have raised morale as they head towards the professional ranks of the Southern League.

But what turned out to be a night of celebration — added to when skipper for the match Charlie Townsend received the Supporters' Club's Jock Law Trophy — could so easily have been one of misery had Woking not squandered two golden chances midway through a goalless first half.

In quick succession, Elliot blazed high from eight yards and then Leonard, needing only to round a stranded Chris Swain, hastily shot to see his effort smothered.

### SWERVE

Wealdstone had also had their chances — notably when Townsend led the post with a swerving free kick — but then on, they needed no further prompting.

Seven minutes into the second half, they took a spectacular lead when hard-working Rob Williams passed for Alan Pentecost to blast an unstoppable rising shot from the edge of the box.

With substitute Heath replacing Christmas, Woking briefly rallied when Elton and Leonard went close, but their hopes of saving the match disappeared on 70 minutes with a dismal attempted pass back from Edwards to goalkeeper Collyer.

### BOOKED

The pivot failed to notice John Ritchie, who nipped in to easily tap home. And 18 minutes later the young spearhead rose brilliantly to Townsend's cross to score with a glancing header.

Even then Woking's woe was not complete. In the second minute of injury time right-back, Brian Finn, was booked for needlessly tripping Dave Yerby, who typically was still looking for goals as Wealdstone bade farewell with a bang to Isthmian football at Lower Mead.

Wealdstone: C. Swain, J. Mahon, M. Bennett, R. Williams, A. Dafforn, G. Austin, D. Yerby, S. Townsend, J. Ritchie, A. Pentecost, N. Bunker, Sub: P. Finn.  
Woking: D. Collyer, B. Finn, P. Finn, S. Harding, D. Edwards, F. Smith, A. Christmas, R. Elton, S. Uzzell, M. L. (Sub): J. Heath.

### WEALDSTONE (Blue & White)

1. Chris Swain
2. Alan Dafforn
3. Micky Barnard
4. Bob Williams
5. Gerry Austen
6. Tom Mahon
7. Dave Yerby
8. Charlie Townsend
9. John Ritchie &
10. Alan Pentecost {
11. Neil Bunker
12. Bob Bennett (Sub.)

Referee: Mr. K. J. Underwood (Romford)

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### WOKING (Red & White)

1. D. Collyer
2. B. Finn
3. P. Finn
4. S. Harding
5. D. Edwards
6. T. Smith
7. A. Christmas
8. R. Elton
9. K. Oram
10. M. Elliot
11. D. Gale
12. J. Van De Berg (Sub.)

Linesmen: Mr. A. W. Ward (Southgate) (Carise Flag) Mr. P. H. Taylor (Greenford) (Orange Flag)

The line-ups for that last league game between our clubs... particularly memorable because Woking fielded Alfie Christmas at number 7. He featured in a wonderful anecdote concerning Enfield's pantomime villain Alf D'Arcy in the 1960s. Apparently Alfie was a thorn in D'Arcy's side, and when they tangled in a December fixture and the Woking man was about to be booked, the Enfield skipper sidled up to the referee and told him: 'This guy's a real wind-up merchant ref. Watch him - he'll tell you his name's Santa Claus'. And when Christmas gave his name the referee sent him off!

keeper Dave Collyer, kept the rampant Stones at bay in the first half and, with the benefit of hindsight, they were probably all playing with one eye on winning a professional contract the next season. We had promising young players in Bob Williams, Gary Austin and Tommy Mahon at the back, Dave Yerby in mid-field and John Ritchie up front but all bar Mahon were jettisoned by manager Alan Humphries in the summer.

One player who was definitely leaving of his own accord was the veteran Charlie Townsend, our England and Great Britain Olympic midfielder. He was scheming and probing throughout the game and as we changed ends, kicking towards the Elmslie End for the second half, he combined with Rob Williams to open up a chasm in the 'Cards' defence. Our long-haired No.10 Alan Pentecost danced through the gap, rounded Collyer and put us 1-0 ahead!

There was only one winner now and Ritchie (the former Arsenal youngster who went on to star for Enfield) made it two from close range after a poor back pass. With ten minutes left Townsend got away on the right and played a delicious cross into the near post for Ritchie to glance in No.3 with his head.

The crowd were delighted. A few weeks later we beat Wembley 5-1 in the President's Cup second leg at Lower Mead (winning 5-2 on aggregate) and we all went home convinced that we'd smash it when the new pro era started. It wasn't quite that easy...

CONTD OVERPAGE

# WOKING REWIND CONTINUED

## League double for Stones after 47 years...

So what happened to Wealdstone's and Woking's fortunes in the almost-five decades between the 1971 and 2018 meetings? Well, the Cards had gone into decline in the late 70s and early 80s and when the Stones were at their 1985 pomp (winning the non-League double, as we like to remind all and sundry) the Surrey side were languishing in the Isthmian League Div Two South, four levels lower. That was when the legendary Geoff Chapple took over the reigns at Kingfield. Within a few years he'd got the Cards back into the Premier Division... and then of course came the titanic 4-2 FA Cup win at West Brom, followed by promotion to the Conference and THREE Trophy wins at Wembley! Those were days when Stones were in the Isthmian League Div Three doldrums, literally passing Woking on our way down but never meeting in the same league. Until 2018 of course! Woking had suc-

2018

cumbed to relegation from the Conference and found themselves playing at the Vale in the fourth game of the season in front of a 1,400 midweek crowd... and under the lights it was a late Matt Lench penalty (after Dave Pratt had been felled in the Bulla End box) that secured a terrific 1-0 win. In January 2019 the teams met again, this time at Kingfield and with Woking flying high (the title clearly between them and Torquay) it was the Stones who shocked the 2,075 crowd with an impressive 2-0 win.

Tarryn Allarakhia (on a loan spell from Crawley) and Pratt filched the goals. The two sides met for a third time, of course, in May that year when Stones somehow snuck into seventh place and won our play-off eliminator at Bath. We were 2-0 up at Woking but a thrilling fightback (thank you Max Kretzschmar) edged the game 3-2, and they went on to win the final 1-0 against Welling.

## Stones come back from the dead to win titanic Cup replay at Kingfield 1975

Tuesday Sept 16 1975, FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round replay: Woking (away) won 5-3 a.e.t

BY GORDON MCKAY



1975

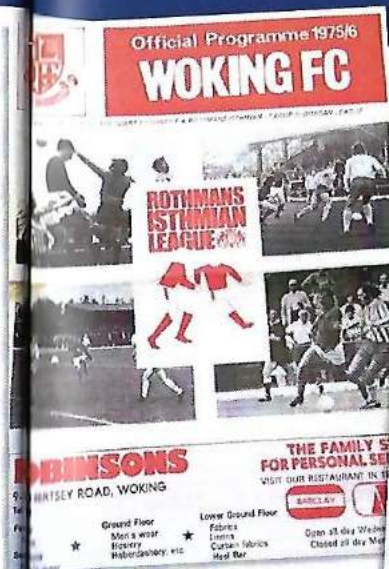
One of those nights that if you were there then it would never be forgotten. We'd taken on Woking the previous Saturday at Lower Mead and it ended 1-1... which was seen as a disappointing result as at the time we were a decent Southern League Premier side whilst Woking were languishing towards the bottom of the Isthmian League.

We hadn't played well but it was felt there would be no repeat of that performance at Kingfield and a comfortable win was expected. However from the start we were on the back foot as Woking tore into us. With 15 minutes to go we were 3-1 down and on the way out of the Cup - and in fact we were lucky to be

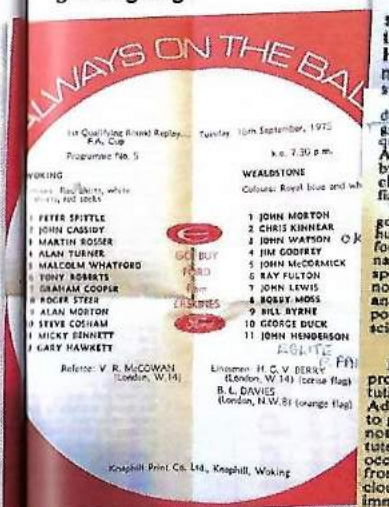
only losing 3-1 as a combination of bad luck, bad finishing and great goalkeeping from John Morton between the Stones posts kept it respectable.

But Bill Byrne pulled a goal back and then with literally minutes left Ray Fulton fired a shot with his 'dummy' right foot that somehow found its way through a crowd of players and into the net to draw us level. Cue bedlam on the terraces and a pitch invasion as the 200-odd Wealdstone fans joined in the celebrations.

That's the magic of the FA Cup and I still feel that way about it now. In fact Ray Fulton had what many considered his finest hour.



To us programme aficionados, that night's offering from Woking was a bit out of the ordinary. Bigger than A5 size; smaller than A4; content not great but an exciting circular line up page (pictured below). It didn't take much to get us going!



## 'Stones are outplayed but win in extra time

By Colin Pope

Woking 3, Wealdstone 5 (a.e.t.)

THE time was 8.50 pm and Wealdstone were 3-1 down, being outplayed by even their best friends would call competent, and just 15 minutes from the final side who have yet to win in ten games.

By 9.5 pm Wealdstone had, somehow (and how was not abundantly clear) level and were hanging on for dear life. At 9.6 pm a glorious header from Wealdstone's 10 Steve Cosham, one of the best players on view, was passing just under Wealdstone's bar for an obvious winner when Ray Fulton flung himself across the goal to head clear.

But more was to come. With just three minutes remaining Cosham thundered a drive against a Wealdstone post.

This, then, was the backcloth to an incredible Cup replay at Kingfield on Tuesday. A match which Wealdstone were never in front until extra time, when their superior stamina told and Woking, obviously torn apart by some cruel luck, ran out of heart.

This was lion-hearted Ray Fulton's finest hour. With due deference to the rest of the team, the scoreline could well have been Woking 3, Ray Fulton 5. For the ginger-haired Wealdstone midfielder scored two superb goals, kicked one off the line in the first half, and kept his side in the Cup when all seemed lost with his spectacular header.

And, to boot, he made a superb goal for Jim Godfrey in the last quarter of extra time. How richly he deserved being mobbed by jubilant Wealdstone supporters of the usual type.

Wealdstone have just over 14 days to get things right before going to Burnham in the second qualifying round on October 4. And let us not be carried away by the fact that this particular chestnut was pulled out of the fire on Tuesday.

The defence is simply not good enough and there is, in my humble opinion, a crying need for a class centre-back. I personally find it sad to see that fine sportsman John McCormick now struggling and, alas, now and again substituting physical power for what used to be science.

### SUCCESS

In point of fact, the game probably hinged on the substitution of Paul Fairclough for Adrian Eggle with 22 minutes to go. Manager Eddie Presland, not noted for his use of substitutes, decided to do so on this occasion. Godfrey moving up and again substituting Fairclough as sweeper. It was an immediate success and Fairclough's presence gave extra depth to a defence which is frequently caught four-square. I, for one, have always felt that Fairclough was unfairly made



Ray Fulton — a night to remember

goalkeeper to beat from five yards out shot tamely at John's body.

The disturbing aspect in the first half was that although Wealdstone played some reasonable stuff they weren't actually creating any chances and rarely throughout the game, in fact, got two strikers in the box at one and the same time.

### NO SURPRISE

It was really no surprise when Woking went ahead after 20 minutes, Morton striking a magnificent goal from the edge of the box, the ball dipping under the bar with tremendous power. Yet, and quite against the run of play, Fulton scored an equally good equaliser within five minutes, belting in a cross from Kinnear way out on the right corner flag.

Ten minutes after Woking regained the lead through Cosham, who shot through a ruck of players after McCormick had missed his tackle and the half ended with Wealdstone only really having set up the one chance which Fulton accepted.

The ignominy of inglorious defeat quickly loomed for Wealdstone in the second half when Alan Morton and Cosham combined splendidly down the left and Godfrey brought down Cosham in full flight. The same player easily scored from the

right footer past Spittle and almost immediately afterwards Fulton had the large Wealdstone contingent invading the pitch when, with his 'dummy' right foot, he shot through a crowded goalmouth to bring the scores level.

One now sensed that extra time would bring Wealdstone victory, and so it proved after they had survived Fulton's header off the line, and Cosham's shot against the post in the final minutes of normal time.

### PENALTY

Midway through the first quarter of extra time Godfrey now leading the attack, was brought down behind, and Duck gave Spittle no chance from the spot. So, after 98 minutes play Wealdstone were in front for the first time.

The match was finally settled with an excellent goal from Godfrey in the 115th minute. Fulton, who at one time had dropped to left back, overtopped superbly well, took the ball to the by-line before crossing hard and low and Godfrey brilliantly hooked the ball just wide of the goalkeeper's left hand and inside the post.

Woking must certainly be asking what they must do to win their first match. The answer is, of course to accept gifted chances.

That Wealdstone failed so dramatically to really take apart a very poor side is another indication of their appalling inconsistency, and it is consistency that wins battles. For some strange reason, too many players have too many off days, and this was certainly the case on Tuesday.

Woking let them off the hook. As the Cup rounds progress — and indeed, the Southern League — the opposition will not be so charitable and now is the time that action is needed.

Wealdstone's Morton, Kinnear, O'Kane, Godfrey, McCormick, Fulton, Lewis, Moss, Byrne, Duck, Eggle. Sub: Fairclough.

# WEALDSTONE FC

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If you or your organisation are interested in donating the match ball for a home match then please contact Club President, Paul Rumens on **07710 929692** or at **paulrumens59@gmail.com**

\*All above subject to current COVID restrictions.

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 <b>DAGENHAM &amp; REDBRIDGE</b> Saturday, 4th February Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>YORK CITY</b> Saturday, 18th February Vanarama National League	<b>In Memory of Kat Kelly</b>	Your name or business here
 <b>ALTRINCHAM</b> Saturday, 4th February Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>MAIDSTONE UNITED</b> Tuesday, 7th March Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>BARNET</b> Saturday, 25th March Vanarama National League	<b>Alan Couch</b>	
 <b>ALDERSHOT TOWN</b> Saturday, 1st April Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>SOLIHULL MOORS</b> Tuesday 10th April Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>DORKING WANDERERS</b> Saturday, 22nd April Vanarama National League	<b>In Memory of Fans No Longer With Us</b>	

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CB = Centre Back  
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RW = Right Winger  
CF = Centre Forward

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# Next at The Vale



**Torquay United**

National League  
Saturday  
17th September  
3:00pm



**Southend United**

National League  
Saturday  
24th September  
3:00pm



**Boreham Wood**

National League  
Saturday  
8th October  
3:00pm

For all Vanarama National League fixtures: £12 admission for EFL or Premier League season ticket holders and members of the armed forces

## VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE PREMIER TABLE @30/8/22

	ALL						HOME					AWAY					RESULTS (H) (A)					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L		F	A	GD	PTS	
1 Chesterfield	6	4	2	0	12	6	3	3	0	0	6	1	3	1	2	0	6	5	6	14		
2 Barnet	6	4	1	1	12	7	3	3	0	0	7	1	3	1	1	1	5	6	5	13		
3 Wealdstone	6	4	1	1	7	4	3	2	1	0	4	2	3	2	0	1	3	2	3	13		
4 Notts County	6	3	3	0	13	6	3	2	1	0	6	2	3	1	2	0	7	4	7	12		
5 Solihull Moors	6	3	2	1	13	7	3	1	2	0	5	2	3	2	0	1	8	5	6	11		
6 Boreham Wood	6	3	2	1	10	6	3	0	2	1	4	5	3	3	0	0	6	1	4	11		
7 Wrexham	5	3	1	1	11	6	2	2	0	0	7	1	3	1	1	1	4	5	5	10		
8 Eastleigh	6	3	1	2	7	7	3	2	1	0	4	2	3	1	0	2	3	5	0	10	0-1	
9 Bromley	6	3	1	2	6	7	3	2	1	0	2	0	3	1	0	2	4	7	-1	10	3-2	
10 Maidstone United	6	3	1	2	9	12	3	2	0	1	5	5	3	1	1	1	4	7	-3	10		
11 Woking	6	3	0	3	9	8	3	2	0	1	6	3	3	1	0	2	3	5	1	9		
12 Dagenham & Redbridge	6	2	2	2	8	7	3	2	1	0	7	3	3	0	1	2	1	4	1	8		
13 York City	6	2	2	2	6	5	3	1	1	1	3	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	+1	8		
14 Southend United	6	2	2	2	5	4	3	2	0	1	3	1	3	0	2	1	2	3	+1	8		
15 Oldham Athletic	6	2	2	2	7	7	3	2	0	1	6	5	3	0	2	1	1	2	+0	8	2-1	
16 Dorking Wanderers	6	2	1	3	11	15	3	1	1	1	5	7	3	1	0	2	6	8	-4	7		
17 Yeovil Town	6	1	3	2	6	7	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	0	2	1	3	4	-1	6	0-0	
18 Maidenhead United	6	2	0	4	5	9	3	2	0	1	5	3	3	0	0	3	0	6	-4	6		
19 Altrincham	6	0	4	2	5	8	3	0	2	1	4	5	3	0	2	1	1	3	-3	4		
20 Torquay United	6	1	1	4	2	6	3	0	1	2	1	4	4	3	1	0	2	1	2	-4	4	
21 Halifax Town	6	1	1	4	3	8	3	0	1	2	1	5	3	1	0	2	2	3	-5	4	1-0	
22 Gateshead	5	0	3	2	6	8	3	0	2	1	3	4	2	0	1	1	3	4	-2	3	1-0	
23 Scunthorpe United	6	1	0	5	7	13	3	1	0	2	5	7	3	0	0	3	2	6	-6	3		
24 Aldershot Town	6	1	0	5	5	12	3	0	0	3	2	8	3	1	0	2	3	4	-7	3		

# Stones on the road



**Altrincham**

National League  
Saturday  
10th September  
3:00pm  
AltrinchamFC.com  
@AltrinchamFC



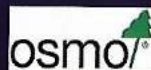
**Maidstone United**

National League  
Tuesday 13th  
September  
7:45pm  
maidstoneunited.co.uk  
@MaidstoneUnited



**Aldershot Town**

National League  
Saturday  
1st October  
3:00pm  
TheShots.co.uk  
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