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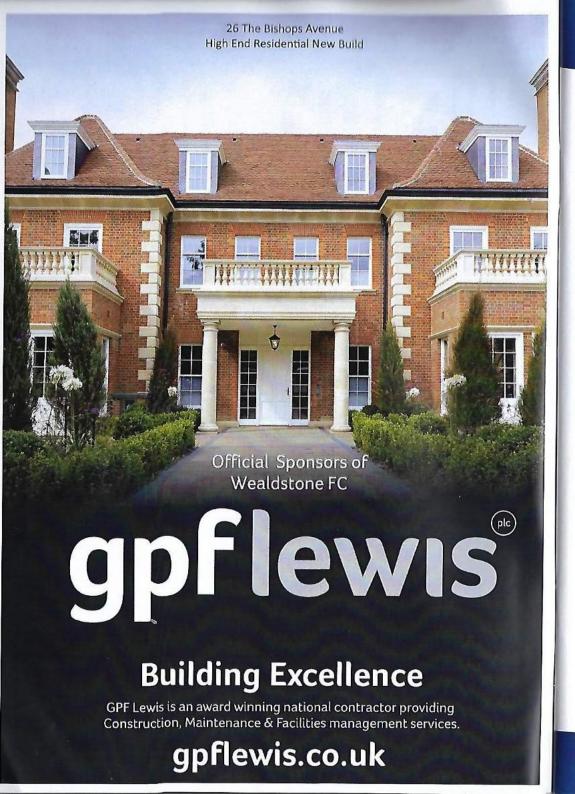
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SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2023, KO 3PM









# Written in Stone

ood afternoon and a warm Wealdstone welcome to our near neighbours and rivals Barnet ... also to the BT Sport cameras who have quite rightly chosen this as their 'Match of the Day' on non League Day 2023.

The return of the Stones' ex-manager Dean Brennan and former skipper Jerome Okimo has added spice to what will be a raucous atmosphere at the Vale. I don't know about you, but these last few years back in the National League top tier and reunited with the Bees has seen proper 'derby' atmospheres for the first time in a decade.

I was brought up with Barnet and Enfield as the Stones' traditional local rivals - the trio were arguably the best outside the EFL in the mid to late 80s - and we even had a triangular 'Supporters Challenge Shield' to play for between the fans' teams almost 40 years ago! Who can

remember the overall winners the last time we did battle in 1985? (answers at the foot of this column).

Last season, of course, it was Wealdstone triumphant both home and way as we finished 16th and Barnet 18th. This year the resurgent Bees are in a scrap for the play-offs and were full value for their 2-0 win when the teams met at The Hive back in December. And they will definitely be favourites to make it their own 'double' today.

We have been shorn of outstanding loan stars Miguel Freckleton (recalled by Sheffield Utd) and Brooklyn Ilunga (fractured jaw v Chesterfield) while Alex Dyer and Ashley Charles are both missing through international call-ups today. But we have the strongest squad ever assembled and this is a chance for others to step up ... and how we need it today

ANSWER: Wealdstone Supporters beat Barnet 5-0 and Enfield 7-1 to lift the Shield.

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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY WILL JOSEPH FARRAR

Will is going to be 15 on Sunday the 26th March. He is in year 10 at Queensmead School in South Ruislip studying for his PE GCSE and would love to get into the Wealdstone academy. Besides following Wealdstone home & Away Will also works as a Film Extra.

### MASCOTS BOBBY (6) & GEORGE (4) PATTERSON

Cousins Bobby and George Patterson are from Norfolk. They are now the fifth generation of their family to watch the Stones, a tradition started by their Great, Great, Grandfather who started attending in the 1930's at Lower Mead, where he also kept goal for the Reserve side! - Bobby attends Stalham Infant's School and plays for Old Catton FC and Carvalho Academy, with his first tournament coming in June at PSG in France. George attends Stepping Stones Nursery & play's in the Norwich City FC mini-soccer.



### PLAYER ESCORTS

### SACRED HEART & ST.TERESA'S SCHOOLS

Our player escorts today are from Sacred Heart School in Ruislip and from St Teresa's School in Harrow Weald. Both schools work with the Wealdstone Foundation as part of our Community programme. Hundreds of parents and children from both schools have also attended Stones matches as our guests as part of the Tickets for Schools Initiative.

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# WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2022/2023

GROSVENOR VALE, RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX HA4 6JQ

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### NATIONAL CUPS

1965 / 1966 FA Amateur Cup 1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

### **LEAGUE CUPS**

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

### MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

1958 / 1959 Senior Cup 1962 / 1963 Senior Cup 1964 / 1965 Senior Cup 1967 / 1968 Senior Cup 1984 / 1985 Senior Cup 2003 / 2004 Charity Cup 2010 / 2011 Charity Cup

### NON TITLE-WINNING PROMOTIONS

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 Football Club is Wealdstone Football Club (2000) Ltd (Registered Number 03953962). Shares in excess of 10% are held by Peter Marsden Property Finance Ltd & Wealdstone FC Supporters Club

### **GROUND REGULATIONS**

The Vale Bar & Banqueting

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

Performance Analysts

Yusef Ahmed, Tommy Wilson

Rachel Hill

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. Smoking or Vaping inside the ground.

Wealdstone FC Board of Directors



### Wealdstone FC Executive Club

Club, Kit, Travel & Stand

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Programme

Barracuda Fish and Chips Goals **GPF Lewis** Guy Mummery roofing specialist NHS Lung Health Check Hughes Pie & Mash Rameet Kennels Rolfe East

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BY SUDHIR RAWAL The Elustic Ender



# EE ponders whether he wants Torquay to stay up.. and why we crashed so badly to Chessy and Scunny

've been wondering whether Torquay would be missed should they go down this season. The English Rivera, on an early March weekend, with

its faded glory, well past its best, bereft of decent pubs (bar the excellent Hole in the Wall), a pig of a train journey home, longer than Gateshead, is not overly a place to visit. Yet, especially for a BELT, the welcome from their supporters is warm - is there another former Football League club that allows away fans into their bar?

Our record at Plainmoor is not great either. We had never won there, though it was a very late equaliser in the BCD season that stopped us bringing home all three points.

Make no bones about it, Torquay look in trouble. Marooned in the bottom four for most of the season, seven points away from safety, they look in danger of falling through the trapdoor door for the second time in recent years. Their style is agricultural and even Gary Johnson their manager, lamented that we were likely to out-pass them.

Johnson seems to have struggled once his son was unable to loan him players from Bristol City and he bemoaned the fact that we have more chimney pots in HA4 than in Torquay and that we could attract better players and loanees than the Devon side (despite them being full time and with a budget at least double ours). Their chances weren't helped having a player sent off after six minutes. Again, Johnson felt aggrieved that the sending off was

too early in the game despite it being high and dangerous. Stones controlled the half and probably should have gone in at the break more than just one goal ahead. Three would not have

been an unfair reflection of the game.

Torquay hit back early in the second period. Sam Howes rushed off his line and made a hash of the clearance but there was still a huge amount for the forward to do to send his shot just over Jack Cook's desperate attempt to head the ball away. It was a fantastic finish. We continued to pass and pass and pass, on a cabbage patch of a pitch.

Former Gull Corrie Andrews - who copped a lot of stick from their crowd - should have done better with a couple of chances. So too Fela. Then deep into injury time a delicious pass from Olomola sent Oberio clear and his expert finish nestled in the net to spark joyous celebrations in the away seats. It was fair to say that Andrews enjoyed the post-match celebrations against his former club! At Wealdstone we have a decent reputation of welcoming back former players, giving them a good reception, even if they have

taken the filthy lucre elsewhere. Torquay's abuse of Andrews was rather strange, He obviously didn't settle there. Even by their own admission, he looks leaner, fitter, faster than in his time at Plainmoor. We look after former Torquay forwards; show them some love and help them realise their potential. You only have to look at Josh Umerah banging in the goals in the Football League for Hartlepool.

Match winner Micah

Obiero is foiled this time

by the Torquay keeper

on our trip to Devon.

Picture: JON TAFFEL

One amusing anecdote is that Sam Howes was staying in the same hotel as us - or his doppelgänger was. He stepped into a lift with two of our fans on Saturday morning, who were admittedly somewhat hungover, heading to the gym and none of them recognised him! I will not mention whom they were, but one (let's call him Clive) has rather quietly and secretively retired a recently.

'd written this rather early, thinking our deadline

was the Sunday after our trip to Devon. so our esteemed editorial team asked me to tag on the Chesterfield and Scunthorpe games. Boy, were they chastening? It is fair to say that Chesterfield are over their mid-season slump



having recruited a slew of top-level forwards. For the first twenty-five minutes or so, the game was pretty even. Chessy looked dynamic, defending if their lives depended on it. High fiving, fist-pumping every challenge and then we just made the crassest errors for their first two goals, literally giving them the goals.

Just before half-time, Andrews was through on goal and appeared to be fouled - though the replays were maybe less conclusive - and then Oberio should have buried the loose ball. A goal right on half time might have raised the spirits. We didn't lay glove on Chesterfield in the second half and two more basic errors saw the score end 0-4.

The referee did miss an obvious penalty when the score was still goalless, when Oberio leaped high and was taken out mid-air by the Chesterfield defender. Anywhere else on the pitch and it's a free kick, so why not in the penalty area? Probably more importantly for our prospects for the rest of the season, Brooklyn llunga suffered a broken jawbone after a very robust challenge early in the first half. He's been excellent in our recent good form and will be sorely missed. We can only wish him a speedy recovery.

If the result was bad v Chesterfield, the performance and score line were shocking at Scunthorpe. Our worst performance of the season by a long way, even worse than our recent trip to Halifax and we once again shipped some very easy goals against, whatever anyone says, a poor Scunthorpe side who still look likely candidate for the NL North. They huffed and puffed a bit, but really were a side that we should have passed our away around. Their fourth summed up the day and our performance perfectly, as the left back eased past some rather lame challenges to finish easily.

It would be a shame now if we fall away as the season winds down. A top half position is well merited, but our squad now seems threadbare. Hang on in there boys!

> I love the stories of hardship and perseverance associated with following the Stones: Here we have Sateesh Khanna and Big Dave Jones (sandwiching some old boy) who caught a bus from Victoria at 6am on the day of the Torquay game and had to wait until 1am on Sunday for the cut-price return trip. They probably spent the difference while waiting in the pub

The '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

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Sonny Blu Lo-Eventon

He's back for another dose H of the Stones ...and Sonny is planning to show his

parent club **Derby just** first reaction to seeing how good he is in Blu exotic' as the next comment. Only The Athletic online sports paper attempted to

rst of all, let's clear up The 'Sonny Blu Lo-Everton' on the teamsheet is an intake of breath and 'that's original' or 'that's a bit

address it - but that's behind a paywall so nobody really gets beyond the first paragraph describing how the 20-year-old

: (currently on loan at the Stones Name Business. Everyone's from Derby County) can technically play for England, Scotland, China or Hong Kong.

But Sonny was happy discussing it, as if he isn't bored with people fixating on his name rather than his extravagant ability!

"My dad is English, Johnnie Everton - and my Mum Pauline Lo is half Chinese and half Scottish, so they combined the names. And Sonny Blu is what I was christened" he explained patiently when I called for a chat last week.

According to The Athletic (yes I had a peep behind the paywall) his dad, now 57, is a lifelong Chelsea fan and was a talented youth player at Crystal Palace

"But not good enough to make it as a pro" he interjected on the speaker phone.

The Lo-Evertons live In East Acton but Sonny was under the wing of Watford FC from the age of five or six when he was spotted playing like Lionel Messi for his school team at Hurlingham Park in Fulham.

"Officially I started there at the age of nine but I was a Watford player right up until last summer. I made my debut for the under-23 side when I was 15".

He chose to represent Scotland at youth level and starred for the Under-16. under-17 and Under-18s - even captaining the under-17s at an overseas tournament.

nny is the definition of a child prodigy and was famously earmarked for stardom two vears ago when The Guardian looked at all the academies of the then-Premier League clubs and selected one player from each to make the grade.

Watford's head of academy, Barry Quinn, praised his 'fantastic attitude' and said 'he's an independent thinker and can open up the game with one inspired pass'.

But although Sonny trained with the Hornets first team he

decided two and a half years go - when he had impressed in Watford's Youth Cup quarter final defeat to Newcastle - that he needed to be playing men's football to advance his game.

Watford agreed and his first loan at Wealdstone (in the midst of Covid-19, in the behind closed doors season) started just as we began a run of games against the top sides in the NL shorn of most of our experienced players due to furloughing.

Sonny came on as 65th minute substitute against Hartlepool at The Vale when we were 7-0 down. The heads had dropped; up in the live stream commentary box I was looking on with that day's pundit Ross Lafayette and the striker was describing it as "a terrible day at the office" as the visitors ran riot.

It was heading for a record Wealdstone home defeat

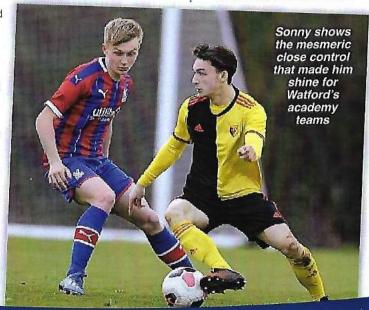
at this level when suddenly Sonny lifted the gloom with an outstanding individual goal (shown in the picture sequence on the following page). What did Sonny remember of his introduction that day?

"Well we were in a hopeless place. But with five minutes to go I managed to get on the ball just inside their half and I just kept running. I literally didn't have any options to pass because basically no one was running with me!"

Sonny ghosted through one tackle; nutmegged another defender outside the box and homed in on goal, placing his shot wide of Slovakian Heinrich Ravas as the Pools keeper raced out. Wow!

"It was definitely the best goal I've scored" said Sonny, who went on to feature in the Stones' last ten games - and

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



### THE STONES INTERVIEW CONTINUED

### FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

even ended with another goal in his last appearance as we beat Woking 4-2 on their own pitch.

That was a clean strike from the edge of the box after Ryan Gondoh had set Sonny up.

"That was a good way to end the season and it had me wanting to play more football on loan as the National League is a much higher standard than academy football. It sounds like a cliche, putting food on the table but it means far more than in the under-23s. There are points at stake and you're also doing it for the fans; they've put in the commitment of getting to games so you can't let them down".

o why didn't he come back to Wealdstone last season and extend that loan?

"Well, Watford agreed to me going out on loan again but I went to Yeovil partly because Darren SarrI was the manager - my academy manager for years at Watford - and partly because of the full-time thing; I wanted to experience living away from home and stretching myself that way.

"They are a good club and I enjoyed my time there but in a footballing sense ilm more attuned to the Wealdstone Way. Yeovil tended to defend and play on the break and yet we had some great results playing that way: we won 2-0 at Wrexham and did the double over Stockport, and we beat Stevenage in the FA Cup before going out to Bournemouth".

I reminded Sonny that he 'got Alex Dyer sent off' in the feisty 0-0 draw at the Huish at the end of last season!

"I don't think that's true" he laughed. "It was just a bit of a late challenge, similar to Tom Lapslie's one against Max at Torquay last week. Funnily enough, Lapslie got me sent off in the Torquay-Yeovil game last season after a similar tackle so I don't have too much sympathy for him!"

So what was behind the move away from his boyhood club Watford to Derby County -especially as The Hornets had offered Sonny a new deal?

"It was a bit of a mess" he said. "We were negotiating the contract but it wasn't right. A lot of technical things weren't in place. And the then-Derby manager Liam Rosenior has the same agent as me; they took me for a trial and within a week had offered a one year deal".

Unfortunately Sonny suffered an AITFL ankle injury in October, which needed several months' rehab, and he's not managed to get in the first-team frame for the League One side - now coached by

Paul Warne after the departure of Rosenior.

"To be honest it's hard to get much exposure to the first team, and with the under-23s returning some poor results you're not going to get noticed there. That's why I was very keen to get out on loan and I'm 100% revelling in the way we play at Wealdstone."

onny's only been been back at the Stones for a couple of weeks and (when I spoke to him) hadn't actually been along for a training session yet because of playing three games a week. But he's already made an impact - starting against Maidstone and providing that typical telling pass inside the full back as Brooklyn Ilunga picked out Corie Andrews for our second goal - and as for the future, the youngster is guite chilled.

"I'm just gonna do my best and see what happens" he says. Blu and Lo aren't going to figure in it.

Past one defender.. and he's in ..slotted home!

# Stones Fan Zone BY TERRY HISSEY

### **COMMITTEE UPDATE**

the WFCSC Executive Committee met on the 16th March to review recent events and plan for next season.

We are delighted to welcome former Treasurer Pete Worby back onto the Committee after a long 'retirement'. Thanks to Adam Edwards for his sterling service with the Club Shop in difficult weather conditions, even though we are still awaiting a permanent megastore. Dave Reader has also undertaken a great job in running the coaches to away matches and the recent game versus Scunthorpe Utd had two for the first time in many years. We would like to thank him for his efforts in this area and his successor will certainly benefit from his knowledge and experience.

Presently we have vacant positions and if anyone feels that they can fill them, please speak to a committee member. Adam has agreed to be Vice Chairman until the AGM. The 50:50 draw has been a great success and we thank everyone who has brought tickets to date. We have now agreed some house rules which are available from the SC Secretary, Samantha Evans.

We recently hosted several hundred Newcastle United fans for the League Cup Final feeding them with our culinary skills on our BBQ. Our brand new appliance worked perfectly and has increased our capacity enormously. Many messages from fans, thanking everyone for the BBQ and the effort put in for them, have been received and they are

happy to come back again. Next up is 10 coaches of Bolton Wanderers on the 2nd April and we have generously been given a signed Wanderers' football shirt to raffle off.

Two items presently on our radar at the moment are the AGM, watch this space, and the Easter Raffle. Lots of prizes, including some delicious Easter Eggs are on offer so do support it, the draw is on the 10th April after the game. Please note there will be no 50:50 draw that day and the voting for the end of season awards will close too.

Lots of ideas for next season are in the melting pot and the Executive Committee will use the close season to plan these.

### 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.

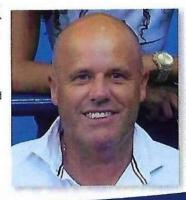
Terry

### IN MEMORY OF DARREN HOOKER

On January 22nd 2016 we lost a great man, partner, father and friend in Darren Hooker. Over the years the memories do not fade and he continues to be a big part of all the lives he touched.

He was a devoted man and football was one of his big loves . As has become a tradition every year since he left us , we again want to remember Darren at the home match closest to his Birthday and proud to sponsor Wealdstone in his memory on behalf of his family and friends .

Although a Blackpool fan , man and boy , he followed both Tottenham and Wealdstone after making the move south and was always passionate about the game . So there is no better event to get together, and there will be around 50 of Darren's friends and family at todays game to share stories and raise a glass in memory of him.



Right: Pictures taken from the video of the Hartlepool game. Ross Lafayette had just recommended 'switching off' the stream... but I'm so glad we didn't **SUPPORTER PROFILE: PAUL COOKE** 

# The Fan in the Stand

There's only two Wealdstone Cookies: Meet Paul, a fan since those desperate 90s

Your name and age? Paul Cooke, 46
Whereabouts do you live, Paul?
Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
Have you always lived in that
area? No, I grew up in Stanmore
after moving down from the North

West when I was 4.

When was your first Stones game? Went to Lower Mead once with a school friend in the 1990/91 season, can't recall who it was against, but it was my one and only time at the old ground. What I refer as the start of my Stones journey was in the Yeading years, first game was in the 94/95 season midweek to Clevedon Town. Not sure why I came back for more, as it wasn't the best football on offer, but something caught me. It was much more accessible and I've always been a football follower - I've never looked back really.

It was in the Edgware years that I started going to all the games home and away. Made some great friendships and travelled regularly in the early days with Adam and Steve Williams, Mark Hobbs and Chris Halsey, many hazy memories made.

What were your first impressions of the club? Passion, plain and simple. I quickly learned of the club's plight and was regaled with the glory of the (then) recent past. Whilst the football on offer wasn't the best, I was quickly dragged in. If those around me were still attending after all they had

been through, there must be something special about this club. Who introduced you to the Stones? Richard Harries, my now brother-in-law

he was a ball boy at Lower Mead when he was younger.

What was the first football match you ever saw live? Or on TV? The first one I remember was the 1983 league cup final replay at Maine Road, Liverpool beating Everton 1-0. My first live match was the FA cup final in 1986 - a 3-1 Liverpool win also against Everton.

Do you follow any other team? All my family are from Liverpool and I have been lucky enough to follow them, but to be honest the match day experience isn't what I want or what I knew growing up. Sadly this view isn't unique.

What's the most memorable non-Wealdstone game you've EVER seen?

Has to be the 2005 Champions league final with Liverpool's comeback in Istanbul, Roy of the Rovers stuff.

And the best Wealdstone game? Dulwich play-

off final in 2004. We had scraped into the play off places, and I remember feeling really nervous going to the game. It felt so important at the time due to the restructuring going on with the leagues - we basically had to win to stay at the same level. Total mayhem when Jolly scored the winning penalty, The match is on YouTube, and I'd recommend watching it for those who haven't seen it. A defining moment in the history of this great club.

The journey back home was eventful with Dave Lloyd's beloved Alpha Romeo's engine blowing up on the M25 slip road. At least it made it to the game though.

What level of football do you prefer?

I do watch the top leagues as the level of football can be phenomenal and a joy to watch at times. But as a match going fan you can't beat lower leagues (or England away).

Have you ever played the game yourself, and to what level? Played Sunday league for few years, position was centre half but very limited, was never going to make a living

out if it. Also played quite a few games for the Wealdstone supporters team. Best moment was scoring twice against Brentford and us winning the four team tournament at Bishops Stortford (line-up pictured left). I can still hear the Adam Williams tackle/foul from that day:)

Who are the best Wealdstone players you've ever seen? My favourite XI in no particular order or formation are: Sean Cronin, Jack Cook, Marvin Morgan, Ross Lafayette, Brian Jones, Richard Jolly, Glenn Little, Simon Garner, Jermaine Beckford, Ashley Charles, Lee Walker. (We've tried to force that XI into a formation for the graphic below, but it looks a bit forward-heavy! -Ed)

What do you think of the Vale? Home is where the heart is. The club have come such a long way, moving to the Vale has given us the opportunity to play at this level. We all know the limitations, but it has evolved to what we see today thanks to the tireless work of many special people. Obviously need to get the lease sorted for a longer strategy, and then who knows what can be achieved together. The fact that we sing the "The Vale" instead of "Lower Mead" now proves its cemented in our DNA forevermore.

What's the best away day you've experienced so far? Too many to mention, but from the NL away days of the last couple of seasons so far, Grimsby, Halifax, Wrexham and Gateshead have been favourites.

And finally.. where do you think the Stones will be in five years? At least National League - I'm loving this level of football and all that it brings through exposure, professionalism and great away days.

### 1 Sean Cronin

2 Ashley 4 Lee 5 Jack 3 Brian Charles Walker Cook Jones

7 Richard 6 Glenn 8 Simon 11 Marvin Jolly Little Garner Morgan

10 Jermaine Beckford 9 Ross Lafayette

COOKIE'S FAVOURITE ALL-TIME WEALDSTONE LINE-UP



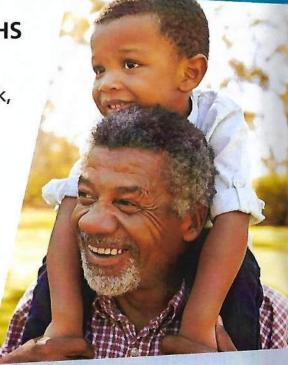
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# Opposition in focus

# BARNET FC

HOME GROUND -THE HIVE CAPACITY - 6,500 MANAGER - DEAN BRENNAN 2021/22 - 18TH NATIONAL LEAGUE

## THE BEES

ootball in Barnet can be traced back to the formation of the original Barnet FC in 1888, with the club plying their trade in the London League until folding in 1902. Local rivals Avenue FC subsequently took over their name and their Queens Road ground before merging in 1912 with near-neighbours Barnet Alston, a works team playing in a distinctive black and amber kit. In September 1907, they established a ground at Underhill where the current club continued to play for more than a century.

Founder members of the Athenian League, Barnet & Alston reverted to the name Barnet FC after the First World War and enjoyed moderate success, finishing outside the top half just once in the 1920s and recording a Herts Senior Cup triumph over St Albans City during the same period. The emergence of local boy Lester Finch at outside-left coincided with consecutive Athenian League championships in 1931 and 1932, the first of which saw Barnet win all but four of their 26 matches. Finch went on to become the greatest amateur player to feature for the Bees, with an England wartime international cap alongside the likes of Eddie Hapgood, Sam Bartram and Stan Cullis testament to his ability.

Although the Second World War curtailed competition to regional Cups, of which Barnet won more than their fair share, the resumption of the League in 1945-46 brought three major trophies to Underhill in consecutive years; two more League championships in 1947 and 1948 and a 3-2 win over amateur giants Bishop Auckland at Stamford Bridge in the 1946 FA Amateur Cup final. The Bees went on to lose to Leytonstone in the final of the same competition two years later. Barnet were also featured in the BBC's first ever 'live' televised game

in October 1946 against Wealdstone and became the first English club to play Hong Kong opposition, beating the League winners 5-3 the following year.

Success eluded the Bees throughout most of the following decade, although another Athenian League title in 1959 dulled the pain of Wembley defeat against Crook Town in the Amateur Cup final the same season. Two further consecutive League successes in 1964 and 1965, plus a narrow FA Cup third round defeat to Preston North End, were the catalyst for the Bees to turn professional, which they did when joining the Southern League Division One in time for the 1965-66 season. A 10-1 rout of Hinckley Athletic at Underhill in Barnet's first game whetted the appetite for a third successive league title, and elevation to the Southern League Premier Division at the first attempt.

Another Wembley final in 1972, a 3-0 defeat to Stafford Rangers in the newly-created FA Trophy, and an epic FA Cup battle with Queen's Park Rangers the following season proved to be the highlight of a quiet decade that saw the likes of Bob McNab, Terry Mancini and the mercurial Jimmy Greaves appear for the Bees. Barnet became founder members of the Alliance Premier League (later re-named the Conference) in 1979-80 but, despite new manager Barry Fry's attempts to rebuild the team, the Bees flirted with relegation almost

constantly during the early part of the 1980s.

Saved from receivership, the club persuaded Fry to return to the Bees from rivals Maidstone for what proved to be a tumultuous 10 years at Underhill. After finishing runners-up three out of the previous four seasons, Fry finally led Barnet to the Football League after a dramatic 4-2 win at Fisher Athletic in their final game of the season. The Bees' maiden Football League season began with an extraordinary 7-4 home defeat to Crewe Alexandra and ended in play-off heartache, losing to BlackpoolP romotion to the third tier was achieved the following season but, following off-field turmoil in which the club escaped expulsion and lost virtually the whole playing staff, new manager Gary Phillips was unable to prevent the inevitable relegation back to the lower level.

Under Ray Clemence and John Still, the Bees quietly established themselves in the fourth tier, twice making the play-offs, before being relegated to the Conference in May 2001. It took Barnet four years to reclaim their Football League place as they secured the title at in Paul Fairclough's first full season as manager.

The 2008-09 season started poorly for the club and it wasn't until late September that the team recorded its first victory in any competition. Manager Fairclough subsequently brought forward his announcement to step aside and become a club director. Ian Hendon subsequently took charge of the first team and successfully steered the club away from relegation.

In 2009-10 League status was only guaranteed on

the last day of the season under reinstalled caretaker boss Fairclough.

In the close season of 2012 the entire backroom staff were released as the club entered a new era with the appointment of Fairclough as director of football and Mark Robson assuming the role of head coach, with the emphasis very much on youth. Many of the previous season's players were also released; including skipper Mark Hughes who had scored the winning goal at Burton.

In mid-October, with the team yet to record a victory in any competition, the world-famous Dutch international Edgar Davids was named as joint head coach alongside Robson. This appointment stunned the football fraternity and attracted worldwide media coverage for the club.

Davids became a fixture in the team and soon took sole charge of team matters. Despite many impressive results, including an away win at eventual champions Gillingham, defeat to Northampton on the final day of the season sentenced the Bees to the Conference on goal difference; the poor start to the campaign proving an impossible handicap to overcome.

There remained a mood of optimism at the club, boosted by the fact that Davids would again be at the helm for the Bees for the 2013-14 season butthe club narrowly missed out on the Conference play-offs, and Davids was replaced in the latter stages of the season. Ulrich Landvreugd and Dick Schreuder temporarily steadied the ship, before Martin Allen returned for his fourth spell as manager and led Barnet to the Football Conference title the following season.

A bright start to the 2017 season including a narrow defeat at Premier League Brighton in the Carabao Cup and a 4-1 win away to Swindon saw the Bees get off to a good start, but a poor run of form saw Mark McGhee replace Rossi Eames as manager in November.

McGhee was charged with appointing his successor and hired Graham Westley in January but with only 2 wins on the board in 11 games, Martin Allen was brought in for a fifth time. The Bees would win 5 of their last 7 matches but this wouldn't be enough to keep them up, relegation to the National League was confirmed.

Barnet finished the 2020/21 season second bottom and three places below Wealdstone and last season in 18th and two places below Wealdstone

# Opposition in focus BARNET FC

# THE PLAYERS TO WATCH

LAST SEASON Sat 13th Nov 2021 - (H) W 1-0 Sat 12th Feb 2022 (A) W 3-1

### 1. LAURIE WALKER - GOALKEEPER

Laurie signed in June from Stevenage. he came through the MK Dons' academy, where he earned a move to Cambridge United in 2009. Notable spells at Kettering Town, Hemel Hempstead Town, Oxford City and Brackley Town followed before returning back to Stadium MK in 2019. Last season also saw him make 10 appearances for Aldershot Town.

### 3. FINLEY POTTER - DEFENCE

Finley helped guide Sheffield United to the Premier League U18 Professional Development League title last season. Potter played in a defence that only conceded 21 goals in 23 league games (10 less than anyone else in the division).

### 4. DANIELE COLLINGE - DEFENCE

Danny started his career in Germany with VfB Stuttgart. Collinge would feature 15 times for their second team before moving to Colchester United in 2019. Loans followed at Maldon & Tiptree and AFC Sudbury before joining Dover Athletic. Collinge would play 38 National League games for The Whites. Collinge joined Barnet in June after the expiration of his contract with Dover Athletic.

### 5. MARVIN ARMSTRONG - MIDFIELD

Marvin signed a permanent contract with Barnet on 24 August 2022. Armstrong, who was at Worthing FC since 2019, joined the Bees as the new No. 5. The 23-year-old central midfielder made 88 appearances for the Mackerel Men. During his final season for Worthing, Armstrong played a pivotal role in securing their promotion to the National League South

### 6. JEROME OKIMO - DEFENCE

Jerome joined Barnet in 2022 from Wealdstone. This deal saw the 34-year-old become a player/coach. Jerome also featured in the 2019/20 National League South Team of the year because of his consistently excellent performances for title winning Wealdstone.

### 7. ROB HALL - MIDFIELD

Rob joined the Club on 21st September 2021 after being released by Oxford United. He brings a wealth of experience having played in all of

England's top four divisions. Hall come through West Ham United's academy before making his first senor appearance for The Irons in the Emirates FA Cup against Sheffield Wednesday in 2012. He has since represented Oxford United, MK Dons, Birmingham City, Bolton Wanderers and Forest Green Rovers.

### 8. DALE GORMAN (C) - MIDFIELD

Club captain Gorman, started his career at Stevenage before joining Leyton Orient in 2018. Gorman won the National league in his first season at Brisbane Road and gained valuable Football League experience the following year with The O's and Newport County. During his career so far, Gorman has also made appearances for Northern Ireland at U17, U19 and U21 level.

### 9. NICKE KABAMBA - FORWARD

Nicke signed fJune 2022 following his departure from Northampton Town. Kabamba stared out at Hayes & Yeading and joined Uxbridge in 2011. In 2015, Kabamba signed for Hampton & Richmond Borough. Stints at Portsmouth, Colchester United, Aldershot Town and Havant & Waterlooville followed before he signed for Hartlepool United in 2019. Nicke joined Scottish Premier League club Kilmarnock in 2020.

### 10. DANIEL POWELL - FORWARD

Daniel joined in 2021 after spending the previous two seasons with Crew Alexandria. He is a product of the MK Dons academy. A successful period at Stadium MK followed for

Powell as he went on to make 271 appearances. Powell made the move in 2017 to Northampton Town where he enjoyed two seasons before joining Crewe in 2019.

### 11. IDRIS KANU - FORWARD

Idris signed for The Bees in 2022 from Peterborough United. Kanu started his career in the West Ham United academy before joining Aldershot Town in 2016. He then signed for

Peterborough United. Loans at Port Vale, Boreham Wood and Northampton followed. Kanu has also represented Sierra Leone at international level.

### 12. JAMES CALLAN - GOALKEEPER

James Callan made National League history during the 2020-21 season when he became the youngest goalkeeper ever to play in the league after he came on as a substitute, aged 16, against eventual champions Sutton United. Callen is a product of the Barnet FC academy.

### 14. HARRY PRITCHARD - MIDFIELD

Pritchard joined following his release from Eastleigh. He began his career at Flackwell Heath & later moved to Maidenhead United where he spent almost seven years. Pritchard's impressive performances with the Magpies earned him a two-year deal at Blackpool in League One He then moved to Bradford City in 2019. After two seasons he signed for Eastleigh in 2021.

### 16. KIAN FLANAGAN - MIDFIELD

Kian joined in 2021 after rising through the ranks at Crystal Palace. He had spent time at the Eagles playing in the Under-23s from the age of 17. Flanagan has also represented Republic of Ireland at youth level.

# 17. SAM GRANVILLE - MIDFIELD Sam came through the ranks of our Academy before signing his first professional contract in the summer of 2021. Granville has had a loan spells at Bedford Town and Beaconsfield Town...

### 18. CONNOR SMITH - MIDFIELD

Connor signed from Boreham Wood. in 2011 and made eight championship appearances for watford. Smith then went on to join AFC Wimbledon and Plymouth Argyle. He also played for **Wealdstone**. Smith has also represented the Republic of Ireland at U17, U19 and U21 levels.

### 20. DAVID MOYO - FORWARD

David joined from Barrow AFC where he has made 19 appearances this season. Before Barrow, he played in the Scottish Premiership with Hamilton Academical.. Before his time in Scotland, Moyo played for Brackley Town, Hemel Hempstead and St Albans City.

### 21. BEN WYNTER- DEFENCE

Ben signed in July 2022. He spent the last four seasons at Torquay United. After coming through the Crystal Palace youth system, Wynter enjoyed a brief spell at Bromley before signing permanently for Torquay in 2018.

23. SAM BEARD - DEFENCE Sam signed ofrom Dorking Wanderers at the beginning of July 2021.

### 24. DOMINIC REVAN - DEFENCE

Dominic signed after his contract with Aston Villa expired in June 2022. Revan has played for all of Aston Villa's youth teams. He sent time on loan to Weymouth and Northampton.

### 25. COURTNEY SENIOR - MIDFIELD

Courtney has made over 120 EFL appearances with Wycombe Wanderers, Colchester United and AFC Wimbledon.

### 27. MOUSSA DIARRA - DEFENCE

Moussa signed n June 2022 on his Release by Woking. He has also represented Hampton & Richmond Borough, Barrow & Dover Athletic.

### 28. SAM WOODS - MIDFIELD

Woods signed in October 2021. Having come through Crystal Palace's youth system, Woods was sent out on loan to Hamilton Academical in 2020, Sam also brings EFL experience into the ranks following a short loan spell Plymouth Arcyle last season

### 30. HARRY SMITH - FORWARD

Smith started his career at Folkestone Invicta then joined Millwall in 2016. Following a loanspell with Swindon Town, Smith signed for Macclesfield Town. Smith then signed for Leyton Orient.

### 31. AYMEN AZAZE - GOALKEEPER 32. JORDAN CROPPER - DEFENCE

### 33. RYAN DE HAVILLAND - MIDFIELD

Ryan De Havilland arrived at The Hive in October 2021 on a long-term permanent deal. The central midfielder enjoyed a successful youth career at Fulham, where he spent 11 years. When with the Cottagers youth system.

### 44. MICHAEL PHILLIPS - MIDFIELD

Michael arrived at The Hive in June 2022. Phillips came through the ranks at Crystal Palace. Phillips already has two promotions to his name after winning the Vanarama National League South with **Wealdstone** 2020/21 and Maidstone United in 2021/22.

### 47. JAMAR LOZA - FORWARD

Loza came through the Norwich City Academy. The wide knows the National League well, having represented Maidstone United for three seasons, The Cardinals across 2 ½ years and King's Lynn Town.



# BY MARTIN READ World of Ball

# Some commentary on commentary – or why MOTD in that Lineker-free weekend should serve as a warning

o be blunt, I've always wanted to know what Match of the Day would be like without all the chit chat. I've long lamented the say-what-yousee airheads too often tasked with commentating on the big games, as well as the vacuous, excessively cheery twaddle the pundits come up with between the ten minutes of each game's highlights the BBC can show from any Premier League game. Fortunately, Gary Lineker's decision to keep teasing his profile up through Twitter gave us all an opportunity to find out what a world without the constant thrum of footie voices on TV would sound like.

The raw footage was interesting: the whole concept of a football highlights package had been stripped to the bone, the absolute minimum being done to bring the day's games to our screens. But as an experiment. I found myself, perhaps surprisingly, less than satisfied. It turns out that football commentary, when it's done well, actually performs more than one duty.

It's principal job is, of course, to inform: who is that? What just happened? What's happened off the ball? How many games has this midfielder played?

What I think I've missed all these years is that a good commentator also acts like a friendly crowd member, a confidante who brings you in on the action, as if sitting next to you and oozing the kind of enthusiasm you'd want to be experiencing yourself if you were in the ground next to them.

He or she is communicating not just the facts and figures but all the buzz of 'being there'; they're the equivalent of your mate who "oohs", "aahs" in delight or shouts out in despair, just as you do. The phrase "wow, that is a difficult skill to master" is something you'd just as likely hear from the fella on your right at the game as you would Cliff Tyldesley on a Sunday afternoon. The difference? Lack of partisanship - no easy task if you are, in fact, a supporter of one of the sides involved.

### Elementary? My dear Motson

This is what the best commentators do. Their words literally bring life to the action. That sounds obvious, I guess, but what I've realised is that it's really important. And sadly, I'm only appreciating it now that one of its greatest exponents, John Motson, has shuffled off his sheepskin for the final time. With apologies to Sam Matterface, who has perhaps taken too many barbs in this column already. Motty was great because he could literally have been standing next to you on the terraces delivering his excitable commentary. Imagine having to tolerate poor Sam, making some typically dire connection between the action and a recent topical event.

### Taking the Mike

So MOTD's shortened special taught me that we will all miss Monty, and want more of his kind in the future. Butcourse, the great pandemic push has accelerated acceptance of independent commentary these days, coinciding with our own elevation to the National League. These days we have our very own Tim Parks, Paul Franklin and others doing sterling work behind the mike, made all the better by being our own club's representative3s. We've also seen some of our former seventies, eighties and nineties stars - Fergus Moore! Throbbin' Robin! brought in take on the co-commentator gig.

Plus there's the BT Sports commentary, of course. (There's a persistent rumour that the BT cameras will one day return to Grosvenor Vale. btw - but I'll believe it when I see it.)

All of it is fantastic - but if only we'd had it vears ago. Frankly I'm a little bit sad that there



is no (independent) commentary from our FA Trophy final win. The video we have does just enough to communicate the sense of occasion, but imagine that 1985 double-clinching game given the full BT Sport treatment. For one thing, you can be sure that one or other phrase would have echoed down the generations.

"Graham, from the corner, traps it, and ... oh! OH!! Oh my word, that is sublime! And look at that, barely two minutes on the clock!"

(Cue our late eighties fanzine not being Elmslie Ender but instead "Barely 2 Minutes... The Unofficial Wealdstone Fanzine".)

Or perhaps, in homage to the great Motty himself, we'd have had:



"And that's it! Bowgett's boys have beaten the pilarims' posse!"

### **Pundit purgatory**

It's worth saying that there were two thing missing on that MOTD 'Lite' night. It wasn't just the lack of commentary, it was a lack of punditry too. And while I've grown a new appreciation for the former, the lack of the latter? Man, was that a huge relief.

Some of what is said in modern day punditry doesn't just border on the banal, it invades Banalia and takes over its capital. How many more times must we suffer some spruced-up ex-pro informing us of how Team X "needs more energy" or Team Y "can't just leave their striker isolated".

There's Gary himself, of course. Pretty decent, to be fair, in keeping things moving. But way, waaay too fond of his own jokes. And there's 'Chappers', who sits there manspreading for England while somehow under the illusion that "talk to me about" is the beginning of a question. Some of the experts are fine - Micah Richards for one - but it does all tend to merge into one noisy blob of inanity.

I'd happily take a shorter MOTD without punditry. Perhaps if MOTD continued with its commentators but got rid of the chat show between games? Why not run pundit analysis as a silent ticker at the bottom of the screen, in sync with the highlights themselves? ('Shearer: "Maguire needed to be five metres to the left when that ball came in'. 'Osman: you can see the problem here is an exposed midfield three'.)

I'm pretty damned sure we'll get that soon, and I'll be all over it when it comes. For now, though, I'll have to keep muting the TV any time Martin Keown is asked for his thoughts.

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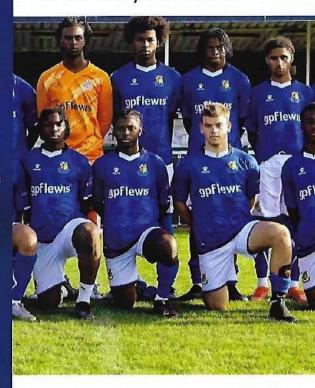




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### As match day sponsor you will enjoy:

- Match tickets for 4 people (inc. prime main stand) seats if required)
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over the PA system, website and social media together with a piece in the programme

- Boardroom, Gordon Bartlett Lounge or Main Hall hospitality including a pre-match hot meal with wines and half-time refreshments courtesy of in-house caterer Lynn Evans.
- Match-day programmes for all in your party.
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- Naming and presenting the 'Man of the Match' award
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If you or your organisation are interested in sponsoring a mate here at The Vale, please email Club President, Paul Rumens (paulrumens59@qmail.com) or call 07710 929692 to discuss.

Please note that we can accommodate multiple match sponsors an tailor the experience to whatever your requirements are. (EG we ca cater for as many as 10, 20 or 30 people in your group.)



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Pre-Season Friendly



### BROMLEY

Saturday, 6th August Vanarama National League



FC HALIFAX TOWN Saturday, 20th August Vanarama National League



YEOVIL TOWN Monday, 29th August Vanarama National League



### WOKING

Sunday, 4th September Vanarama National League



TORQUAY UNITED Saturday, 17th September Vanarama National League



## SOUTHEND UNITED Saturday, 24th September Vanarama National League



BOREHAM WOOD Saturday, 8th October Vanarama National League



### NOTTS COUNTY

Tuesday, 25th October Vanarama National League



WREXHAM Saturday, 12th November Vanarama National League



### SCUNTHORPE UNITED

Saturday, 26th November Vanarama National League

Saturday, 7th January Vanarama National League

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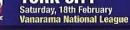


### GATESHEAD

Saturday, 28th January Vanarama National League

DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Saturday, 4th February Vanarama National League

YORK CITY



ALTRINCHAM Saturday, 4th March Vanarama National League

**MAIDSTONE UNITED** Tuesday, 7th March Vanarama National League

**CHESTERFIELD** 

Tuesday, 14th March Vanarama National League

BARNET Saturday, 25th March Vanarama National League

OLDHAM ATHLETIC Tuesday, 28th March Vanarama National League

ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday, 1st April Vanarama National League

SOLIHULL MOORS Tuesday 10th April Vanarama National League

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People for Print

# BY JON TAFFEL The Stones Alphabet

Pitches, progs & pink...our literary editor goes off piste this week, not for the first time

is for the **PREMIER LEAGUE**. Now maybe I'm in the mine. maybe I'm in the minority here, but I have absolutely no interest in this overpriced overhyped football competition that our media obsesses over as if no other football exists. The recent row over Match of the Day really didn't bother me one iota as I can't remember the last time I watched the programme. If I ever inadvertently stumble across football at that level on the telly, I don't recognise the majority of the names and have no idea as to their backgrounds. The amount of money floating around is obscene, and that includes what BBC license payers pay for the privilege of watching overpaid Pundits.

As far as watching football on TV is concerned. I really don't go much beyond the BT Sport National League coverage (which is excellent)and I'm not just saying that because they are here today covering our game live. I do get annoyed on weeks where there is no highlights show, particularly when we win! Today is nonleague day, there is no Premier League football so hopefully today's televised match here at the Vale will be a good one that attracts more punters to the Vale to watch the Stones again.

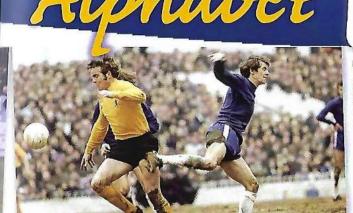


Beyond the National League I may watch the occasional Cup tie whether FA Cup or Scottish Cup, usually favouring the underdog, but I draw the line at Champions League nonsense.

Moving on and P is also for PINK - and here are a couple of Pinks for you. Firstly, the worrying trend of Pink club garments. I really don't do Pink, I'm under threat from the missus that she'll bin me if I ever wear Pink. Firstly we had the Pink and grey kit a few years ago, the socks were particularly garish

and unpleasant. Now we have Pink in our tracksuits, and whilst the physical specimens that are our playing staff wear it with some aplomb, I'm not convinced it suits some of our more portly supporters. Let's hope that this a short term blip and we can resume palatable colours in due course.

More importantly for me growing up was the PINK newspaper. This was something that I first experienced on our travels to the Midlands in the seventies. Our coach would be returning home on a Saturday evening and we'd



...and here's the pitch at White Hart Lane for the Chelsea-Watford semi-final in 1970 that Jon talks about. Mudtastic!

stop for an unnecessary journey break at Watford Gap or the like to witness the miracle that was the Pink. Barely had ninety minutes passed since our game ended on a Saturday afternoon, and a whole Pink newspaper had been produced and hit the shelves full of match reports and results from the day - including all the local non-league clubs.

If there was a flaw with this must-buy publication it was that the non-league match reports seemed to get as far as about 70 minutes due to the deadlines. This meant that a match report might report that in the 70th minute Steve Briscoe scored to put AP Leamington ahead (yeah right), only to look at the final score and see that his team had lost. Compare this with what we had in the South, a Saturday evening that gave us a late edition of the Evening News if you could find one. That paper was totally Football League focused, you might get a couple of non-league

results in the stop press section if you were lucky. No internet or teletext back then, so for a southern based non-league fan it was a long wait for the Sunday morning papers.

More nostalgia and P is also for PITCHES. Apart from the PLASTIC horrors we come across these days, for the most part the playing surfaces are very good and conducive to good football. This has been tested in recent weeks with trips to Halifax and Torquay, and at Plainmoor in particular it may have been tempting for the referee to postpone the game such was the state of it after heavy rain. All a far cry from

PITCHES in days gone by, one of the earliest 'big' matches that I attended was the FA Cup semi final at White Hart Lane in 1970: Not a blade of grass to be seen! Apart from the playing surface itself, I do miss the unique characteristics of lost Pitches such as the unique slopes we found at Underhill, Loakes Park and Huish to name but three.

P is for the PROGRAMME, and long live the PRINTED PROGRAMME.

> If you're reading this in the ground, in the pub, in the loo or wherever, then thank you for taking the time to do so. I would hate our club to go down the digital-only route our Programme is always jam packed with original content that has deservedly won many awards over the years. For me I rarely read it on the day so I can't as some people claim that it is an essential part of their matchday experience. It's more something I dip in and out of often over several days, particularly now that I have the burden of contributing to it hanging over my head. Writing is more time consuming than reading for sure, and

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

The Fabulous Wealdstone alphabet Today, Mr Piffle WEALDSTONE F.C. explains his favourite THE FINAL LEAGUE MATCH moniker and AT LOWER MEAD no, it's not Monica EAGUE (sadly) IT'S P FORL programme feature.
Yes, for sure Peter with
Memorability would have
been a famous cariotion, so
take great pleasure in include take great pleasure in including a picture of Ella, one of my cast that I adopted a couple of year ago. She quickly developed at interest in a lot of my Wealth stone goodes collected over

Pinky or perky? Ross Lafayette (above) models the grey and pink kit that we wore as a change strip in the Covid season. Luckily not many people saw it live

Stones Alphabet contd

### FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

with fixtures coming thick and fast, take a moment to think of the volunteers that spend so much time making it what it is.

For me, my Programme collection is an essential part of my sad life, I am by nature a hoarder and along with other printed football memorabilia, I can often be found reading stuff from fifty years ago.... anything to deflect from other everyday tasks that I really should be attending to.

But: A few things about **PRO- GRAMMES** that I dislike. Firstly, those with glossy production but no substance, and secondly copy and paste articles that are the same week in week out. As an away fan, reading exactly the same stuff about the Stones wherever we go is a turn-off and the reason why I've pretty much abandoned buying away programmes. Hats off to programme editors that add their own slants

to standard articles submitted by visiting clubs.

is also for **PHOTOGRAPHERS**. No surprise that I've squeezed this one in. One of the things I've enjoyed about taking photos for the club is getting to meet other Photographers, whether affiliated to the opposition club or maybe freelancers working for the press. For the most part they're a decent bunch, and many are long-term supporters like myself.

When you are a supporter as well as a photographer, it can be hard not to express opinions on the match, offering friendly advice

at close range to the linesman or referee for example. The Maidstone photographer was telling me about an experience that he had at Ramsgate a few years back, when he had been offering some tips to the referee and was ordered to leave the ground. Not content with this, the referee included this in his match report, the matter went to the F.A. and he was fined £100! It makes you think, but it's also hard to control the natural supporter emotion!

Finally for today, you may recall that in the Alty programme a few



It would be remiss not to mention Stuart PEARCE, our famous former electriclan who went on to captain England. Here he shows off his terrific collection of trophies and caps. There'll be a 1982 Southern League championship medal in there somewhere...

weeks ago we featured N for Netstretcher magazine. Now in researching for that particular article, I came across a copy which will be of great interest to fans who were following Stones in the Alliance days. The front cover (below) was dominated by none other than the popular Northwich Victoria keeper Dave Ryan, referred to fondly as 'PIGS in Goal'.

Nowadays there's a fine line that needs to be trodden, what is fair and what is unfair for paying spectators to say to footballers? Dave would be the first to admit that he wasn't slim of build, and he was certainly of the character to embrace the good natured way in which 'Pigs in Goal' rang out behind him every time he took a goal kick.

So that's it for today, I must get my thinking cap on, the Q's might be more challenging!



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## REWIND >>>> ON THIS DAY



45 years ago it was Wealdstone v Udinese in an Anglo-Italian mudbath at Lower Mead.. it could never happen nowadays

Saturday, March 26 1978, Anglo-Italian tournament: Wealdstone 0 Udinese 1

nome extraordinary things were happening to our club in the early days of 1978. We may currently be revelling in the highest level of football the club have ever (arguably) appeared in, but 45 years ago manager Alan Fogarty's side had reached the Third Round of the FA Cup; chairman David Martle had decided to put the Stones forward for Football League membership; and then, on the back of all that publicity, the organisers of the Anglo-Italian non-League tournament wanted the Stones to represent England (along with heavyweights Bath, Maidstone, Nuneaton, Minehead and Bangor City) that summer.

Even a 1970s version of The Raider would struggle to elevate the club's profile any higher!

Little has been written about the Stones' one and only competitive venture abroad but now, thanks to Wealdstone's No.1 fan in Italy, Matteo Tonna, we have unearthed press cuttings from Udinese, Paganese, Reggiana and Arezzo, the four clubs we faced almost four decades ago.

And on this day - March 25 1978 - the Stones faced the most glamorous of all those sides. Udinese, at our old Lower Mead ground. The Italians

(far right) to the fore have been an established Serie A side since the mid-1990s but back in the 70s they were in Serie C (the third and semi-pro level of Italian football) and hoping to re-establish the glory days of the 1950s when they were only pipped to the Serie A title by AC Milan.

The Stones (in yellow) square up to their rugged Italian opponents with skipper Willie Watson (centre) and Steve Brinkman

But we almost never played them. There was no wriggle-room for re-arranged games with a dozen Southern League Premier Division fixtures to fulfill as Easter approached, and referee Tom Bune was well aware that the Italians were in no position to fly back home and re-visit... but the problem was the weather. It had rained for two weeks solidly and the Lower Mead pitch, bare at the best of times, was now an unapologetic morass of mud. The picture (above) tells the whole story. Yet the game went ahead and the Stones, who had beaten fellow Serie C side Paganese

CONTD OVERPAGE...



WA FASE DEUTORNEO ANGLO-MALIANO PER SQUAT

La squadra friulana ha salvato il bilancio delle italiane battendo di misura ma meritatamente il Wealdstone - Pareggio della Reggiana, mentre le altre squadre sono state tutte sconfitte - Quattro espulsi e sette ammoniti nella Reggina

### Wealdstone Udinesa 0-1

MARCATORE: De Berner

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WEALDSTONE Cramto-Harvel, Person; Brink-net Walson, Parratt Muss, bick, P. rry, Porwards, Bel-

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triano e mon al sa mas) co

### La situazione RESULTATI

CLASSIFICA ITALIANE:

CLASSIFICA INGLESI

Maidelage Leggina 34

### CONTD OVERPAGE ...

4-2 in our first game - a very sporting, end-to-end affair a week earlier - were shocked by the approach of the men from Udine. Unlike Paganese, who looked fragile at the back (whether or not they were more interested in their own domestic league) Udinese were clearly looking to carry on their success in Serie C by carrying off the Anglo-Italian trophy.

After getting a 1-1 draw in midweek at Maidstone, this win in torrential rain at Lower Mead almost guaranteed their place in the final. Indeed, they were the only Italian team to notch a victory on English soil... it was our bad luck to be grouped with the outstanding team in the competition.

dinese were talented and tough. They didn't like some of the tackles from Willie Watson & Co on a wet and muddy surface, but the Italians weren't averse to giving a bit back! With Udinese tak-

ing a 21st-minute lead through De Barnardi, the game erupted at one point in the second half with punches being thrown in the centre-circle as the players comically rolled around in a parody of a mud-wrestling competition.

Fortunately for referee Bune, the tropical rainstorm gave him an excuse to take the players off the pitch and by the time they returned

the spite had gone out of the game. We threatened the Udinese goal just once when George Duck sprang their well-rehearsed offside trap but keeper Della Corna (in his grey Dino Zoff jersey) flew off his line to make a smothering save.

Matteo has translated for us a couple of the Udine newspapers of the time, which were headlined:

### "UDINESE ARE THE ONLY TEAM WHO WIN"

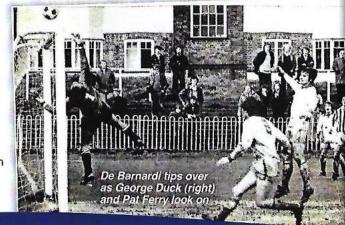
The Friulian side came to the rescue of Italian teams in the tournament with a narrow but deserved win against Wealdstone. There was a draw for Reggiana while the others are all de-



feated

Reggiana had four players sent-off and seven booked at Nuneaton.

"WEALDSTONE (London) - You know how this kind of match begins, but you do not know how it may end. You may be the better side, both in terms of technical ability and in playing pat-





## Bonora e Leonarduzzi «Che battaglie nelle notti inglesi»

Gli ex bianconeri rivivono l'anglo-italiano vinto nel '78; la rissa di Della Corna, la parata in rovesciata di Paleari



di Massimo Meroi

Reward, Francu Bondra e Valentino Leonardarai, icitar Seder biancederai diegi suno; del biancederai diegi suno; riversigano il nastro della emmoria per nastriodere le nesti ingiori dell'Udinano edistore 77-71 nel suineo Anglo stallaco viano habiende in fissile si Printi il 21 giugno con un coloante 5-01l Batta Care.

Conventes. La compagna d'Inghilerra dell'Ultimere ditro quattro glarra (del 24 del 25 mazm. La squadra all'entrè del Giasione a spinal del del sesione a cessa già spotecario i la protroccione in il mella prima gua afficultazione di Melioscolini et chia fila perfetta di Londra e pareggiareno 3-1, tratiere deno accompliazioni di primeri deno accompliazioni di



orano dell'idelegga Franco Resoracon l'allera providente pietra Brustelle, to sitte, Valentina Leonardessi

Alle 11 il volo per Liverpool: rifinitura fissata per le 18.30

# Ubis

Scanerà alle 10 di questa mattina l'operazione Liserpou par l'Udivisse, La comitiva bisinconera liserarà lo studio Frinti e la polimarisi dirigata Al seroperto di Ronchi dove alle 11 presderà li volto per Linerpost. Con arrivo presisto per le 12.30, o

Above: the report from the Udinese regional newspaper ten years ago before they played Liverpool in the Champions League. They looked back on some past 'battles' against English clubs...

terns, but you don't always manage to avoid defeat or, better still, to win just like Udinese deservedly did yesterday after an incident-packed match.

"Udinese superiority was not in doubt from the start, given the fact that manager Giacomini chosed to field the best available line—up (alternating De Bernardi in the first half and Ulivieri in the second); that superiority soon allowed Udinese to go 1-0 up thanks to a De Bernardi goal on the 21st minute.

Twice were the goalposts hit by Udinese, then in the middle of the second half - when the match was firmly in the Italians' hands even if Wealdstone were persisting (with No. 9 Ferry a Pruzzo lookalike, and the dangerous left-wing Furphy) - a scuffle started in midfield: under the pouring rain and hail, punches and kicks were thrown. Bune, a valiant and athletic referee, tried to sedate things between the players, but in a matter of minutes he was forced to stop the match due to the blinding hail which made play impossible. Some Udinese players, not accustomed to this sort of situations, objected not real-

izing that it would just be a temporary stop.

"After a five-minutes suspension, during which the dressing rooms offered shelter to players and officials, play restarted. Italian players reacted very well, especially given the extreme conditions of the waterlogged pitch, more suitable to the style of play of the home team. The quality that Udinese showed yesterday is the reason why the black-and-whites are the only team to leave England with an unbeaten record after the first two matches of the tournament."

n interview with Udinese players before the Liverpool tie in 2012 (above) was all about previous matches against English opponents. And of course they talk about Wealdstone! In particular it is mentioned that after a clash between the Italian keeper and the "Wealdstone centre-forward", a lone Stones' supporter tried to invade the pitch to tell the keeper what he thought of him and that policemen were fortunately on hand to stop him doing just that.... (Rumour has it that one of our ex stewards is the gentleman in question. We'll have to ask Don Cross if he is related - Ed)







# 2022/2023

	VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE				FA CUF		FA TROPHY			S	DLE ENIC CUP	R	CH	DLE IARI CUP		TO	TAL	.S	STONES CAREER			
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DRAHLEW

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\*All above subject to current COVID restrictions.

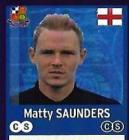
	BROMLEY Saturday, bin August Vanarama National League	Alan C	ouch
0	FC HALIFAX TOWN Saturday, 20th August Vanarama National League	Toby Jackson	on (Lapels)
AEOAR LOHN SG	YEOVIL TOWN Monday, 28th August Vanarama National League	Duncan & Sandra Tov in memory of Arthur Ro	
	WOKING Sunday, 4th September Vanarama National League	Mike & Va	l Weston
W	TORQUAY UNITED Vanarama National League	Stuart	Kane
SOUTH COURT (D)	SOUTHEND UNITED  Vanarama National League	In Memory o	of Kat Kelly
	BOREHAM WOOD Vanarama National Loague	Nick Wo	oolford
	NOTTS COUNTY Treeday, 25th Potober Vanarama National League	The Rawdo	en Family
	WREXHAM	In Memory of Kat Kelly	Jim Kane



	SCUNTHORPE UNITED Saturday, 26th November Vanarama National League	Tony	Platt
	MAIDENHEAD UNITED  Vanaranta National League	In Memory of Roy Couch	Mike Pullin & Graham Clark
	EASTLEIGH Saturday, Thi January Vanarama National League	In Memory of	Roger Rumens
Contract of the second	GATESHEAD Sharday, 28th January Vanarama National League	Graham Clark	& Mike Pullin
	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Vanarama National Loague	Stuar	t Kane
0	BRENTFORD B Middlesex Senior Cup Quarter Final	Russel	l Grant
	YORK CITY Solution, Bill February Vanarama National League	In Memory	of Kat Kelly
	ALTRINCHAM Schurdery His March Vanarama National League	Toby Jackson (I	Lapels Badges)
WITCH CONTROL OF THE PARTY OF T	MAIDSTONE UNITED Tresday, 7th March Vanarama National League	The Vale Social Club	In Memory of David 'Ginge' Croombs
(E)	CHESTERFIELD Vanarama National League	Glencar Construction	Tony Paulley
NON NON	BARNET Sellurday, 25th March Vanarama National League	Alan (	Couch
No.	OLDHAM ATHLETIC Vanarama National League	Luca, Alex Gord River, Rio, Ma	lan, Alex Kilroy, thias and Jay
	ALDERSHOT TOWN Vanarama National League	Clir. Richard Mills & Clir. Steve Tuckwell	Adam Herne
0	SOLIHULL MOORS Vanarama National League	Mick Fishman	Your name or husiness here
	DORKING WANDERERS Vanarama National League	In Memory of Fans No Longer With Us	Your name or business here

# **WEALDSTONE FC** KIT DONORS 2022/2023









RORY FITZGERALD

















Tecane SHROWDER

2 9 29.2.92 | 1.83m CM

Simeon AKINOLA

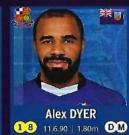
2.0 6.8.92 | 1.78m CF

DAISY FARRAR

SARAH GOWDY



RAY CORNER



David SESAY

WEALDSTONE FC TRUST

















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# Next at The Vale



# Oldham Athletic

**National League** Tuesday 28th March 7:45pm



### **Aldershot** Town

**National League** Saturday 1st April 3:00pm



### Solihull Moors

**National League Easter Monday** 10th April 3:00pm

For all Vanarama National League fixtures:

£12 admission for EFL or Premier League season ticket holders and members of the armed forces "

	NARAMA NATIONAL				UL.				но	ME					Δ	WA۱	,					RESL	IITS
	AGUE PREMIER BLE @21/3/23	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			L			P	w	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	(H)	(A)
IA								-		-							-						
1	Wrexham	38	29	7	2	97	35	18	17	1	0	57	15	20	12	6	2	40	20	62	94	0-0	1-3
2	Notts County	39	27	10	2	97	36	19	14	4	1	43	11	20	13	6	1	54	25	61	91	1-6	
3	Woking	38	20		10	62	39	19	10	5	4	34	20	19	10	3	6	28	19	23	68	1-1	1-1
4	Chesterfield	38	20	8	10	65	44	18	11	2	5	33	21	20		6	5	32	23	21	68	中海	1-1
5	Barnet	37	19	6	12	69	61	19	11	3	5	33	27	18	8	3	7	36	34	8	63		0-2
6	Eastleigh	39	19	6	14	48	43	20	14	3	3	28	14	19	5	3	11	20	29	5	63	3-1	
7	Boreham Wood	37	16	13	8	44	32	17	7	7	3	20	15	20	9	6	5	24	17	12	61	1-2	
8	Wealdstone	38	15	10	13	49	59	18	9	4	5	28	25	20	6	6	8	21	34	-10	55		-
9	Solihull Moors	38	15	9	14	58	53	20	9	5	6	33	23	18	6	4	8	25	30	5	54		1-2
10	Southend United	37	15	8	14	45	38	20	9	4	7	26	18	17	6	4	7	19	20	7	53	0-1	
11	Bromley	37	13	13	11	51	47	20	7	9	4	28	22	17	6	4	7	23	25	4	52	3-2	3-3
12	Dagenham & Redbridge	37	15	7	15	54	61	20	10	4	6	33	31	17	5	3	9	21	30	-7	52	1-0	
13	Altrincham	38	13	10	15	58	69	18	9	3	6	30	24	20	4	7	9	28	45	-11	49	4-0	1-0
14	Maidenhead United	39	13	8	18	43	53	20	8	6	6	25	22	19	5	2	12	18	31	-10	47	3-2	0-0
15	Oldham Athletic	37	12	9	16	48	53	18	9	3	6	30	26	19	3	6	10	18	27	-5	45		2-1
16	Halifax Town	37	11	10	16	35	43	18	8	4	6	23	20	19	3	6	10	12	23	-8	43	1-0	
17	Aldershot Town	38	12	7	19	52	63	19	5	4	10	25	30	19	7	3	9	27	33	-11	43		2-1
18	York City	38	11	9	18	46	50	19	6	5	8	24	27	19	5	4	10	22	23	-4	42	3-1	2-1
19	Yeovil Town	37	7	17	13	32	42	19	6	8	5	18	18	18	1	9	8	14	24	-10	38	0-0	0-0
20	Dorking Wanderers	37	10	7	20	52	83	18	8	4	6	30	36	19	2	3	14	22	47	-31	37		
	Gateshead	35	7	14	14	42	53	17	3	8	6	21	26	18	4	6	8	21	27	-11	34	1-2	1-0
	Scunthorpe United	38	8	9	21	46	71	20	7	3	10	32	37	18	1	6	11	14	34	-25	33	3-1	
	Torquay United	37	7	10	20	43	67	19	4	6	9	29	36	18	3	4	11	14	31	-24	31	1-1	2-1
	Maidstone United	38	5	9	Name and	40	200	18	3	7	8	19	30	20	2	2	16	21	51	-41	24	2-1	1-1

# Stones on the road



**National League** 

NottsCountyFC.co.uk @Official NCFC



### Boreham Wood

**National League** 

Saturday 15th April 3:00pm **BerehamWoodFootball** 

Saturday 29th April 3:00pm SouthendUnited.co.uk Club.co.uk @SUFCRootsHall

Southend

United

**National League** 

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