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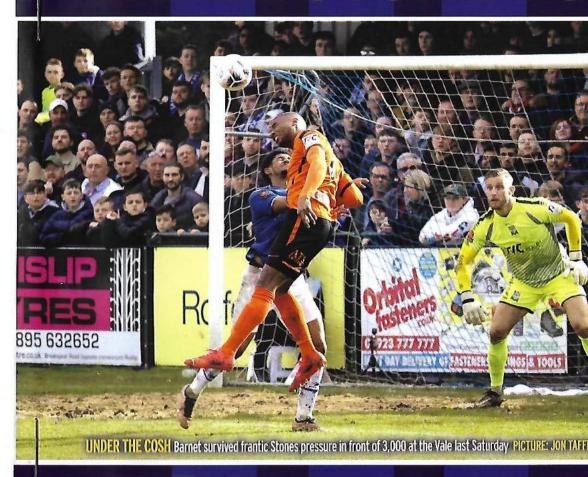
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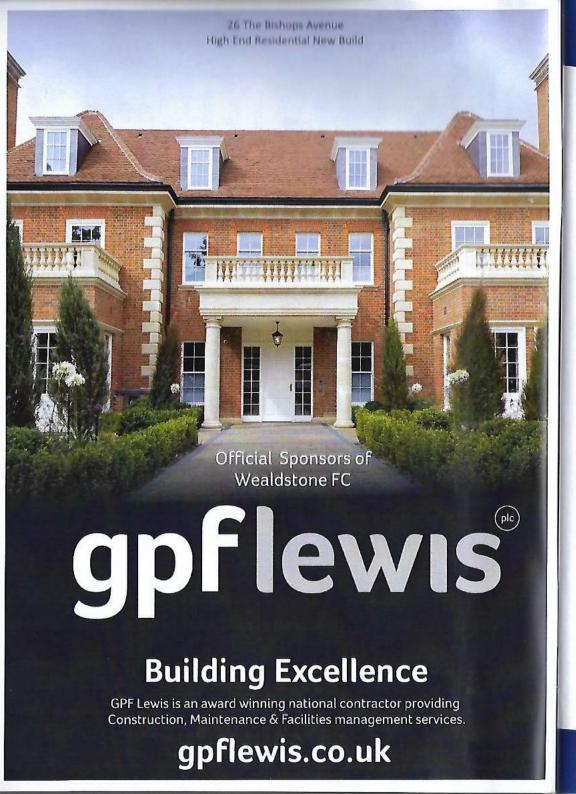


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Written in Stone

ello once again and welcome back to the Vale as we fight for Vanarama national league points against Oldham

I never thought I'd be saying that 30 years ago, when six divisions separated the Southern League South Division Stones from the Premier League Latics! And (prepare to read this again in a Rewind feature later in this edition) how bored must Oldham fans and officials be with those sort of comparisons already this season after becoming the first 'Prem' club to drop into non-League? But that is where we are and where Oldham are... and we just look back and smile in wonder at a season so far that has never stopped giving.

We welcome the Lancashire club's players, officials and supporters this evening and hope to see a healthy contingent of Latics followers - not tempted to stay by their firesides and watch on the NL stream. Oldham made a decent start and of course their first-ever defeat outside the football League came at the hands of the Stones. 2-1 at Boundary Park on August 16. But they then hit the skids and looked in genuine danger of dropping straight through this division into the NL North until a much-improved spell of form in the new year. They've drawn their last two games against Dagenham and Solihull Moors 1-1 but recently defeated both Barnet and Woking and will be a stiff test for the Stones - who have now lost three on the spin since the successive

victories over altrincham, Maidstone and Torquay had us dreaming of the playoffs.

Did Barnet deserve to go back to The Hive with all three points last Saturday? We were fast, strong and competitive with Corie Andrews and Olufela Olomola causing early panic stations and our two new captures - Charlie Clayden returning from Charlton Athletic and Lewis Simper on loan from Cambridge United until May - outstanding.

It was always going to be a case of 'first goal wins' but we couldn't put the ball in the net and Barnet's Nicke Kabamba and Harry Pritchard are very good at doing just that. Two nil probably flattered them but we'll take the positives: a battling display that just came up short and a magnificent 3,012 crowd on non-League day that showed this club's potential. The stands and bars were packed and everyone had a good afternoon... imagine how wonderful it would have been if we'd won!

We're at home once more on Saturday (to the delight of your programme team) when Aldershot Town roll into Ruislip and, like this evening we have the chance to notch another NL 'double' following the 2-1 win at The Rec back in October. Fingers crossed!

Finally, apologies to Terry Stern and Nick Symmons who donated the matchball for the Barnet game in honour of fellow Downer School ex-pupil Mick Fishman's 70th birthday but went cruelly unmentioned in these pages. Blame it on my own senility!

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WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2022/2023

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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

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

Performance Analysts

Yusef Ahmed, Tommy Wilson

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

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 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.

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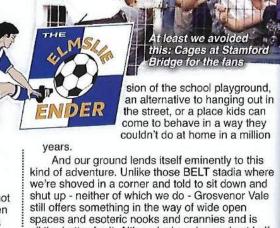


BY MARTIN LACEY The Elmslie Ender

The Stones yoof ...weren't we just as bad, or worse, 45 years ago?

ne thing that struck me during our recent home game with Chesterfield recently was how many of those strange creatures known colloquially as 'young people' were in attendance. This, most people agree, is a positive thing. During our nomadic years we lost an entire generation of support, and since putting down roots in Ruislip there's been a slow but steady decline in the average age of our crowd demographic, fuelled by cheap tickets and community initiatives.

Of course, they don't just come to watch the football. Observing those around me it appears not all of them are rivetted to the on-field action - even when we're not losing 4-0 - indulging instead in a variety of activities such as loudly insulting each other, play-fighting in the manner of young tigers, chatting up girls, chatting up boys etc. I enjoyed a significant part of the match in close proximity to a group of lads - average age about eleven - intent on displaying their expansive vocabulary, probably not acquired in English lessons, by launching a barrage of profanities at the Chesterfield players without any reference to the course of the actual match. Grosvenor Vale, in short, appears to be an exten-



sion of the school playground, an alternative to hanging out in the street, or a place kids can come to behave in a way they couldn't do at home in a million

kind of adventure. Unlike those BELT stadia where we're shoved in a corner and told to sit down and shut up - neither of which we do - Grosvenor Vale still offers something in the way of wide open spaces and esoteric nooks and crannies and is all the better for it. Although changing ends at half time is a luxury we're not often afforded these days I still like to watch a match for an assortment of vantage points and may move my location as many as half a dozen times over the ninety minutes. You can't do that at Oldham. Long live non-league!

There are those grumpy old gits of course who aren't altogether keen on the youth element, muttering under their breath about bad language.

FA fines for the pyrotechnic

displays and the spiralling cost of stewarding. The more indulgent old gits like me are more likely to embrace - or at least tolerate - the lively atmosphere the maligned youngsters bring with them. Would you want to

go back to Northwood, where there was frequently more life in the cemetery behind the goal than in the ground? After all, they're just like we were at that age, aren't they? Hmm... Actually I think some of us were probably worse.

he 1970s were the age of hooliganism, don't forget. Mass brawls, pitch invasions, wrecked trains. Hooliganism at non-league football

was, it has to be said, the poor relation. Not an awful lot happened. Wealdstone indeed, were a pretty well-behaved bunch, especially when the great Barbara Robson was in charge of away travel, and our numbers, home and away, meant nobody was likely to try it on with us. The one regular exception (which occurred to me when we entertained our good friends from The Hive tree days ago) was Barnet.

I recall one fateful occasion where an advance party from Barnet attended our previous home match, against Chelmsford, just to forewarn us what they were planning to do, and beat up a few Chelmsford fans while they were about it. You had to admire their style.

I once saw a thousand Plymouth fans race the length of the pitch to assault the Rookery before a third division match at Watford. In nonleague circles these events were somewhat less impressive: a raiding party, maybe twenty or thirty strong would emerge from their end and sidle round the pitch. At this point a hush would descend over the crowd as everyone anticipated the prospect of a punch-up which would probably

be more exciting than what was happening in the match. Meanwhile, the raiding party would get steadily smaller

as it made its way By the way, on the last occasion Barnet visited us, we did have a spot of crowd trouble. We have naturally taken the precaution this time of having adequate police supervision, but we do appeal to everyone to enjoy what I am sure will be a fine game without any incidents.

My next wish is for everyone to enjoy the game without any incidents on or off the field. So I remind the lads of their personal guarantee. Cheer as loud as you like but no bad language or

round, as the bravado which might have made the attack seem like a good idea from a hundred and fifty yards away wore off and the more unwilling participants faded inconspicuously back into the crowd.

The next step was infiltration. Then the singing would start. To have your opponents singing in your end was the ultimate insult, so this was where you had no choice but to react or run. Somebody would throw a punch and then it all went off. A couple of people trading blows and a lot more jumping up and down, shouting and waving their arms about as if they were trying to hit someone but really they weren't. And after maybe 20 seconds of chaos one side or the other would retreat to a safe distance.

Then there was the other great ritual of non-league hooliganism: mugging someone much smaller than you for their scarf. I reckon the leader of the Barnet mob must have had an entire set of Southern League Premier Division scarves on his bedroom wall. Not mine though. I could run quite fast in those days.

You might ask, naively, what were the police and stewards doing while all this happened? The answer, kids, is stewards hadn't been invented and police presence at a Wealdstone match was very much a rarity, even if it was a high risk fixture like the aforementioned bank holiday match against Barnet where everyone knew exactly what was coming. As Phil Lynott said, if the boys wanna fight you better let them.

nyway, I just thought I'd throw this in in case you're thinking of moaning about the behaviour of today's youth. Incidentally, an idea for the suggestions box coming up. Whiling away an hour or so in a pub at St. Pancras while waiting for my train back North a fellow drinker spotted my Wealdstone hat and said, "I didn't expect to see another Wealdstone fan here." It turns out he wasn't actually a Wealdstone fan, but a Watford fan who sometimes came to matches. For some reason the conversation turned to our youth faction and he said, "I know all about them. In fact I teach most of them. When I go to a match it's all 'Hello sir' and they're good as gold."

So there's your answer. Furnish local teachers with free season tickets and a substantial float behind the post-match bar and the kids will behave like angels.

Maybe so we know who they are we could ask them to wear gowns and mortar boards and carry a cane like a teacher in

a 60s comic? Over to you, boardroom.

The late lamented Elmslie End at our old Lower Mead ground in Harrow.. hence the eponymous 'Elmslie Ender' magazine which has prompted this article. EE was among the first-ever football fanzines in the 1980s, following on from the Stones' 'Long Ball Down The Middle' mag of the 1970s

Above: appeals in both the Barnet and Wealdstone programme editorials in August 1976 for 'no incidents' in either game. Sure enough it all kicked off at both ends of the ground

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Joel Taylor New dad Joel has a

New dad Joel has a battle on two fronts... starring for the Stones & getting enough sleep!

ur classy capture from Notts County, Joel Taylor, will be hoping to avoid having his name added to *The Curse of the* Stones interview!

the 'curse' theory until Brooklyn llunga became the latest casualty after being featured in the programme... the game kicked off, our Milton Keynes Dons loanee collided with a Chesterfield player and ten minutes in he had to be helped off with a fractured jaw.

And nobody is more aware than me that the man who came on to replace him - Joel Taylor - is now appearing in print...

"Ah, I don't believe in all that" laughed Joel, 27 last Friday, when I listed the many featured players who have fallen foul of injury or poor form this season. The left-back was a surprise capture from Notts on the eve of the Chesterfield game and has had a baptism of fire with two heavy defeats in his first two games.

Not that any blame can be attached to the defender who came through the youth ranks at

"I know it sounds a bit crazy but although we lost I can see how good this side can be. We are eighth in the league for a reason.

Stoke City.

"I played against Wealdstone for Notts in the National League last season and to be honest I hadn't really heard of the club - they've gone under the radar a bit - but I was genuinely shocked at how good their performance was in that game". (Stones were beaten 3-2 but deserved a point against the title-chasers).

Joel had nothing but plaudits from the County fans when he was released and he is realistic about the reasons.

"I've been out on loan at Dagenham and only played 14 games this whole season" he said when we spoke last week. "I had a good start and even scored (from 25 yards) in an early win over Maidenhead... but then I didn't figure in a few games and, to be fair, Notts were absolutely flying. Adam Chicksen is a terrific left back so there's not much I could do or say to get games there - though I had three assists this season.

Joel in typical

Scunthorpe on

Saturday as he

made his full

debut for the

MIKE RENNY

action at

Stones

PICTURE:

apflewis

"When Wealdstone found out I'd left Notts, Stuart Maynard got in touch with my agent to say he'd been monitoring me and would I like to sign short term for the rest of the season? I like the football that Wealdstone play and I've been impressed with the coaching and attention to detail... it's very similar to Notts which is great in a part-time setup.

"At the moment it's short term but, personally, if things go as well as I think they will, I wouldn't rule out signing for longer"

So is left-back your favourite position? I asked. "Well I started off in centre-mid and then moved out to left midfield" he said. "More recently it's been

left back but I know the gaffer likes to play with three at the back and wing backs and I'm happy there too... I like to push on and deliver the ball, feeding people like Corie and Micah. Scunthorpe were doubling up on Micah last week so they'd done their homework on him".

oel was brought up in Smethwick, right next door to West Bromwich and he was spotted playing for the county side (in central midfield) by Stoke City - and was with the Potteries side from age eight to 20. He never played a first team game but was on the bench for the Premier League game at Sunderland in January 2017.

"The left back got injured and I was hoping I'd get on.... but instead they re-jigged the team and I missed out".

He played in League One while on loan at Rochdale a few weeks later, against Bristol Rovers, and then after being released it was off to National League North sides Kidderminster and Chester for a combined 93 games between 2017 and 2020.

Joel's growing reputation landed a move to Chesterfield in the Covid season - and then Notts signed him up in 2021.

So how is he fancying the long commute down to Harefield for training, and the Vale for matches?

"Well I live in Willenhall now, near Walsall, and it's just less than two hours drive down... Nottingham was an hour and 15 minutes so not a big difference. And Dagenham was three hours 20 mins so a big improvement!"

I asked if the move to playing part time might be disruptive for a full-timer? "Well, I spend time in the gym and training on my own to keep my fitness levels up. I'll be looking for work outside of playing for Wealdstone but haven't had time to get anything sorted yet".

The biggest disruption in the Taylor household now is nothing to do with football... for Joel has joined skipper Jack Cook in the New Dad's Club after his partner Keyana Douglas gave birth to their daughter Alaia eight months ago.

Never mind Curse of the Interview: it's more likely *Curse of the Lack of Sleep* that will sideline our new left back. Wake up Joel!





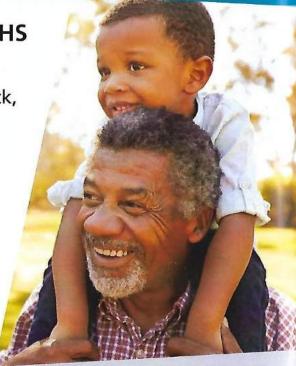
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TONY DREW OBITUARY

Fan in the Stand Special

Wealdstone through and through.. the club remembers Tony and gives thanks for his 60 years of unstinting, devoted support. A true original

ast Saturday Weadstone and Barnet observed a vociferous minute's applause for one of the Stones' best-loved fans: Tony Drew, for so long a presence among the club's most passionate supporters. Although his last game was the disappointing 2-1 defeat to Gateshead here at The Valein January, he would have thoroughly enjoyed the 4-0 eclipse of Altrincham which immediately followed his passing. We asked his son, Peter Drew, a few pertinent questions about his dad for this special Fan in the Stand feature ...

How long had you been coming to watch Wealdstone with your dad, Peter? 52 years Do you recall your first game together and when it was? Difficult as I was only seven! However think it might have been Gloucester City at home in the Southern League when we won 2-1 (had to do a little research!)

Do you know when your dad's first game was?

Tony as we best remember him, cheering on the Stones! Right: a lovely gesture from the club and goalkeeper Sam Howes for Peter Drew (far left in the opposite picture) . . the keeper's shirt presented by Club President Paul Rumens and long-time friend Mark Snell

got an Uber to the match! He loved all football but Wealdstone was his passion.

Which did he say was his favourite era of stones football? Did he have favourite players? He didn't really have a favorite era....however his fondest times were when he was travelling around the country in convoy with his mates Ron Moore, John Burrows, Danny (Mr Chairman) Helen, Val Shearer and Ron Davies. Plus me and brother Steve. He always spoke of George Duck and Stuart Pearce as favorites.

Sorry for your (455)
Trateful for yours and Tong's
prort this season!

On a Stone, always a Stone, 11

What was his and your normal matchday routine? We would normally leave home around 1.30 and arrive at the ground for 2pm. Dad always bought a matchday programme and then pop into the bar for a couple of drinks. Dad would then always have his hot bacon roll. Time would be spent discussing and dissecting team selection. Dad as a season ticket holder would make his way into the ground at around 2.30.

Over the years he had many favourite places to stand and watch: Lower Mead would be opposite the main stand on the High Mead terrace along with his pals, and more recently at Grosvenor Vale behind the goal we were attacking. But in recent times he was happy

Where did he work? Amazingly Dad until a few weeks ago was still working in a solicitor's office in Eastcote. He worked for Midland Bank for many years and took early retirement in 1991, joining the solicitor's a year later up until

moved to the Harrow area in 1960 and spent the last 48 years in Harrow Weald.

Where were you brought up? have been in Harrow all my life

sion for you both? Absolutely, we both always looked forward to games, home and away. For many years my brother Steve also travelled to games together until he moved from the area

What did the club mean to him? Everything, it was a huge part of his life and what he always looked forward to games and seeing his friends with his similar passion.

I think he'd have enjoyed that 4-0 win over Altrincham to mark his passing...

Yes he would have loved it, cheering away and with his trusty stopwatch keeping an eye on the ref's timekeeping! Up the Stones, RIP Tony

Dad started watching Wealdstone in 1963 - the first game of season against Redhill which ended as a thrilling 3-3 draw.

Did you go along to watch other teams too? Dad was very much a Wealdstone watcher, however he kept an eye on Charlton and I do remember him taking me to watch Arsenal at Highbury, and Chelsea play Liverpool at Stamford Bridge in the 70s.

The last game dad attended was home to Gateshead - typical dad he had only just been released from hospital having had a pacemaker fitted so

sat in the stand.

Did he live in Harrow? Dad

Was Wealdstone a great pas-

Opposition in focus

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LATICS

ine Villa was formed in 1895 but on July 4, 1899 ceased to exist. However, there were no tears because the name was changed and the birth of Oldham Athletic came about. Latics enjoyed success in the early years finishing runners-up in the First Division (the equivalent of today's Premier League) in 1914/15 having earlier reached the FA Cup semi final in 1913.

They lost their top-flight status in 1923 and would not regain it for 68 years. In the intervening years, most was spend in Division Three North, Divisions Three and Four. The club's three championship winning campaigns also came in this period in 1952/53 under the legendary George Hardwick, 1973/74 and 1990/91.

There had been dark days when Latics had to go cap in hand to the Football League to seek re-election after finishing in the bottom four in the basement division.

Latics have had a roller-coaster ride over the last twenty years, seeing action in the Premiership and the equivalent of the Championship before suffering relegation down to the current Coca-Cola League One.

They were founder members of the Premier League back in the 1992-93 season, and stayed in the top flight for three seasons - one campaign in the old First Division, two in the Premier League.

They also enjoyed glory in both cup competitions (FA and League Cup). Indeed, they appeared in the 1990 Littlewoods Cup Final at Wembley, only to lose 1-0 to the late Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest, a game that even 'Cloughy' himself said was an unfair result.

LOKOTYONDANI

The FA Cup also brought disappointment for Oldham when they lost two semi-finals to Manchester United. Their 1990 appearance in the last four was their first foray to that stage since 1913, but they bowed out to Manchester United 2-1 in a replay after a thrilling 3-3 draw in the initial clash.

Latics appeared in the semi-finals again in 1994, losing out 4-1 in a Maine Road replay following a 1-1 draw at Wembley.

The club lost its EFL status at the end of last season but the subsequent takeover by the Rothwell family as given the club renewed hope as it looks ahead to the future.



BOUNDARY PARK

Record League victory: 11–0 v Southport, Division 4, 26 December 1962

Record Cup victory: 10-1 v Lytham, FA Cup, Round 1, 28 November 1925

Record League defeat: 4–13 v Tranmere Rovers, Division 3, 26 December 1935

Record Cup defeat: 1–7 v Sunderland, League Cup, Round 2, 24 September 1962

Record home attendance: 47,671 v Sheffield Wednesday, FA Cup, Round 4, Boundary Park, 25 January 1930

HONOURS

Football League First Division: Runners-Up 1914-15

Football League Second Division: Champions 1990-91 Runners-Up 1909-10

Football League Third Division: Champions 1973-74

Football League Third Division North: Champions 1952-53

Football League Fourth Division: Runners-Up 1962-63, 1970-71

FA Cup: Semi Finalists 1912-1913, 1989-90, 1993-94

League Cup: Finalists 1989-90

Lancashire Combination Division One: Winners 1906-07

Lancashire Cup: Winners 1907-08, 1966-67, 2005-06

Manchester Senior Cup: Winners 1092-03

Oldham Association League Second Division: Winners 1897-98

Ford Sporting League: Winners 1970-71

Opposition in focus
OLDHAM ATHLETIC

1. JAYSON LUTWILER - GOALKEEPER

The towering 'keeper has represented Switzerland at U16, U18, U19 and U20 level before switching his nationality to Canadian, earning three caps for the senior side and he was named in the 2017 and 2019 CONCACAF Gold Cup squads...

2. JORDAN CLARKE - DEFENCE

He began his career at his hometown club Coventry City and after, proudly, captaining their U16 side, he earned his professional debut aged 17.

3, ZAINE FRANCIS-ANGOL - DEFENCE

The former Hartlepool United and Motherwell player has been capped 19 times by Antigua & Barbuda
4. LIAM HOGAN - DEFENCE (C)

Liam's professional career spans more than ten years with seven clubs, arrived at Boundary Park straight on the back of a second promotion from the National League with Stockport County last season.

5. HARRISON McGAHEY- DEFENCE

McGahey arrived at Boundary Park ahead of the 2021/22 season after spending two-years at the heart of Scunthorpe United's backline.

6. LOIS MAYNARD - DEFENCE

Lois Maynard arrived at Latics with two National League promotions to his name. The 33-year-old, who experienced success in the division with Salford in 2020, joined from last season's champions, Stockport County...

8. DAN GARDNER - MIDFIELD

The 32-year-old midfielder, who played 72 times for Latics across two seasons from 2017, re-joined the club after spending recent seasons with Wigan and Doncaster.

9. CHRIS PORTER - FORWARD

After scoring 31 goals in 75 games for Latics across two seasons during the early part of his career, Chris Porter rejoined Latics after spending the last five years at Crewe Alexandra.

10. LUKE BURGESS - MIDFIELD

The 23-year-old, who started out as a youngster at Everton before moving to Wigan, spent the previous two-and-a-half years at Moor Lane with SALFORD

11. HALLAM HOPE - FORWARD

Born in Manchester, Hope actually began his career on the blue half of Merseyside. He has represented England at U16, U17, U18 and U19 level before proudly being called-up to the Barbados senior squad

and he's scored four goals in six games.

13. MATHEW HUDSON - GOALKEEPER Hudson, who was at Preston until last summer, joined Oldham having previously spent time with National League North side Buxton.

14. NATHAN SHERON - MIDFIELD

The 24-year-old, who began his career with six seasons at Fleetwood Town, arrived at the club from Harrogate Town.

15. DEVARN GREEN - FORWARD 16. MARK SHELTON - MIDFIELD

The 26-year-old signed a contract until the end of the 2024/25 season, and made his debut at home against York City in a 2-0 win.

17. JOHN ROONEY - MIDFIELD

John Rooney signed for Latics from Barrow in September with a hugely impressive pedigree. The 31-year-old midfielder, brother of former Manchester United and England international, Wayne,Rooney is an experienced player winning promotion with Barrow in 2019/20.

18. BEN TOLLITT - MIDFIELD

The 27-year-old former Everton youngster who has also featured for Tranmere and Wrexham, arrived at Boundary Park on a one-year contract. Tollitt spent the previous two seasons at AFC Fylde

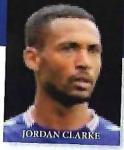
19. MAGNUS NORMAN - GOALKEEPER

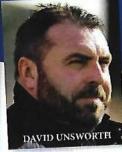
Magnus joined from Carlisle United in the summer of 2022. He has been capped by England at U18 level and signed on a one-year contract after leaving Brunton Park at the end of the previous season.

20. MIKE FONDOP - FORWARD

Born in Cameroon, the forward began his footballing journey at Stanway Rovers in Eastern Counties League. He has also

THE PLAYERS TO WATCH





SIII Oliveria de la constanti de la constanti

Ellis Chapman is currently on loan at Latics from Cheltenham Town.

37. JOSEPH EDWARDS - MIDFIELD

Tue 16th August 2022- (A) W 2-1 Att: 6869 Browne, Allarakhia

Academy graduate Joe Edwards signed a professional contract for the 2022/23 campaign after a number of successful seasons with the club.

38. TREY TURNER - MIDFIELD

LAST MEETING

Trey Turner is another product of the club's Academy who signed a professional deal for the 2022/23 season.

41. OLIVER KILNER - DEFENCE 42. PETER CLARKE - DEFENCE

Fan favourite Peter Clarke returned to the club from Walsall until January. Clarke originally joined Latics in 2016, having played for a host of clubs including Huddersfield and Southend.

44. JOSEF YARNEY-DEFENCE

1895

Josef Yarney signed a short-term deal with the club at the start of January, but then extended his deal until the end of 2022/23

45. JOE NUTTALL -FORWARD

Nuttall began his career in the academy at Manchester City. He then moved to Scotland with Aberdeen. He had loans at Stranraer and Dumbarton, before returning to England with Blackburn. He moved to Blackpool for an undisclosed fee at the start of the 2019/20 season, spending time on loan at Northampton, before a move to Scunthorpe at the start of the current calendar year, scoring 11 goals in total.

MANAGER. DAVID UNSWORTH

The former defender, who enjoyed a distinguished playing career at Goodison Park spanning more than a decade, also stepped in to manage the Everton first team on an

interim basis in 2016 and 2017. Unsworth spent the vast majority of his playing career at Everton, winning the FA Cup in 1995. Following that cup win, he received international recognition with England, establishing himself as one of the most reliable performers in the top division during the first decade of the Premier League.

represented Billericay, Oxford city, guisley, Halifax, wrexham , Chesterfield & Maidenhead.

24. DAVID OKAGBUE - DEFENCE

David Okagbue signed on loan from Stoke City in September.

25. ALEX REID - FORWARD Striker Alex Reid arrived at Boundary Park in November after his release by Stockport. A National League winner at Edgeley Park last season, alex joined Latics after scoring eight goals on loan at Solihull earlier in the campaign.

26. MARK KITCHING - DEFENCE 27-yearold Mark Kitching arrived at Latics after two full seasons at Stockport County, where he won the National League title last season.

27. TIMMY ABRAHAM - FORWARD The

21-year-old, who can also operate as a wide player, arrived at Latics from Walsall, a club he joined in the summer after three years at Fulham.

Abraham, the brother of England striker Tammy, has recently had loans at clubs including Bristol Rovers and Newport.

29. JUNIOR LUAMBA -

FORWARD Junior Luamba became a firm favourite with Latics fans with notable winning goals last season at Sutton United and Scunthorpe.

30. VANI DA SILVA -

FORWARD Vani Da Silva is another successful youth team graduate, showcasing his ability for the Academy, as well as during forays into first-team action.

32. WILL SUTTON DEFENCE

33. BENNY COUTO - DEFENCE A highly-rated youngster whose career has been subject to rapid progress in the past year, Benny Couto agreed on three-year deal with the club in October 2021

36. ELLIS CHAPMAN - MIDFIELD

e Stones Alphabet BY JON TAFFEL

Jon gets a bit Queasy as he tackles the hardest letter

no here we go - we've reached the 17th instalment of this alphabetical adventure, and with it the most difficult letter to date, it's Q! In time honoured tradition I'm desperately trying to rule out any repetition from series 1 and 2.

Queen of the South fans at their cup final

So that rules out QPR, and even though Loftus Road was the scene of our only ever appearance in the FA Cup 3rd round way back in 1978..... any mention of that particular cup competition is too painful to bring up given our woeful record over the years.

Instead we'll head north of the border and bring QUEEN OF THE SOUTH into the equation. I love Scotland and whenever I visit I try and

take in a new ground. Whilst I haven't been to their home ground in Dumfries, their 2008 adventure in reaching the Scottish Cup final for the first time ever meant that getting a ticket for Hampden Park proved very easy, they aren't that well supported. Off I went for the weekend, and my seat was pretty much on the edge of the



Queen of the South section just vards from the opposition Rangers fans. It was a lively affair, but just why so many Rangers fans felt the need to bait the fans of my adopted team for the day is a bit of a mystery. 'We' gave a good account of ourselves going down 3-2, and despite great wins en route to the final including a semi-final victory over Aberdeen, this particular fairy tale didn't have a happy endina.

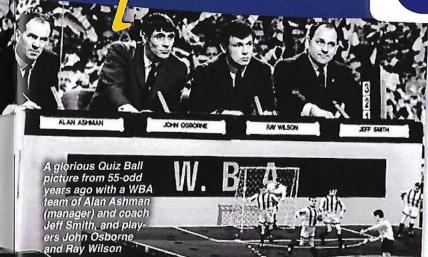
Q is also for QUIZ BALL, one of the greatest TV shows ever invented. This ran from 1966 to 1972 and was must watch TV for all football fans. Presented originally by the great

> later by the disgraced Stuart Hall, this was a three players or ofteams made their way ing questions of varying difficulty (Route 1 being the hardest), scoring if their opponents failed to

David Vine and then quiz game between two teams, each comprising ficials of that club and a celebrity supporter. The up the pitch by answer-

tackle them.

Rangers fans (above) enjoy baiting the plucky QoS supporters... what makes fans of the bigger clubs want to do this? Insecurity I quess...



In Quiz Ball world, tackling meant answering the opposition's question to gain possession, getting it wrong meant an own goal conceded. The list of celebrity supporters that appeared on the programme is impressive, such as Magnus Magnusson for Kilmarnock, Jon Pertwee for Dunfermline, and Percy Thrower for West Bromwich Albion. This was quality TV, and if you're too young to remember it the good news is that the very first episode is available to view on BBC iPlayer.

ack to Stones-related matters, and as mentioned in 'O', the lockdown Quiz became a bit of a thing during COVID. A good way to keep in touch with friends that one would normally meet up with week in week out to

discuss all sorts of nonsense, the on-line Quiz was a bit of an outlet in an otherwise fairly miserable period with no football. For my particular cohorts, topics covered were multi-faceted, but Stones related stuff was always my favourite. Some Questions were rather extreme in the level of anal knowledge (not literally, thankfully) required, such as 'name numbers 1-11 in our starting line-up in a random match 20 years ago'. Anyway, here are a few that you may or may not

enjoy from that summer of 2020

1) Which one of the following resigned their position because of allegations about their expenses?

- a) Former Wealdstone Chairman Howard Krais;
- b) Former MP for Harrow East Tony McNulty; or
- c) Wealdstone President Paul Rumens
- 2) Which manager gave unlucky Alan O'Brien (ex Wealdstone winger) his Newcastle United debut?
- a) Bobby Robson, b) Graeme Souness, or
- c) Glenn Roeder
- 3) "What about the big questions. Is there a heaven, does God exist, and Did Jesus really

rise from the dead after three days?" Who asked this prior to their match v Wealdstone in season 2019-20?

- 4) Who wrote the following on the club forum? "The next appointment has to be spot on: if we go for the likes of Brennan and Maynard we will be looking for a new manager by Xmas...
- 5) Who responded to 4) above with "Great post"?
- 6) In 2019, Notts County

CONTINUED OVERPAGE



Stones Alphabet contd...

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

became a non-league club when they were relegated after losing to which of unlucky Alan O'Brien's former clubs on the final day of the season?

7) A Which? Survey in 2014 found that an average doner kebab contained how many calories? Answer to the nearest 500.

8) Which London Underground Station contains all 5 letters in the name Pratt and in the correct order?

Good luck with these, answers at the end!

is for also for *QUILLFELDT*. Who, or what I hear you ask? Well this was Mr Quillfeldt, my A-level economics teacher from 1977 to 1979 at St Nicks in Northwood. A couple of things of note here, he was a good teacher who generally enjoyed a laugh and a joke with his pupils. He soon became aware that I was a Wealdstone supporter and even more aware that Wealdstone had a striker by the name of George Duck,, and this seemed to amuse him. Nonetheless, first lesson of the week he would always ask how we got in and in particular whether George Duck had scored, I liked his interest.

Sadly I was less interested in economics, in

fact I ing a tried to the ab For m worke was to proble felt that as it shad to June, I 'O' leve kicked they've kept their figures

fact I ing a tried to the proble felt that as it shad to June, I 'O' leve kicked wasn't they've kept their figures

fact I was generally speaking a very lazy student who tried to get by with doing the absolute bare minimum. For most of my life that has worked well, but in 1978 this was to become a massive problem. Mr Quillfeldt clearly felt that my progress was not as it should have been, and whereas the rest of my class had to sit internal exams in June. I was made to sit an 'O' level - fail and I would be kicked off the course. That wasn't a problem in itself, but what was a problem was that the exam in question clashed with the dates of the Stones

participation in the Italian leg of that season's Semi-Professional Anglo-Italian tournament. My parents were fine with me missing school, and I was all set to be in the hired van from Jafvans with fellow supporters Kevin Bright, Duncan Towell, Mark Chamberlain, Dave Heath and Dave 'the Dog' Thomas. To this day I remain gutted not to have been there for the matches against Reggiana and Arezzo. Whilst it could be argued that this was all of my own doing, thanks for nothing Mr Quillfeldt. I duly passed my exam as well as the A level the following summer, but I'd have rather been in Italy, probably a never-to-be-repeated

experience.

So that's that for this edition, Roll on the R's next time!

QUIZ ANSWERS:

- 1) Tony McNulty MP
- 2) Graeme Souness in Jan 2006, he was sacked within a month and never managed again
- 3) Paul Barker, Hampton & Richmond Borough's
- chaplain
 4) "Bornundertheelmslie" 5)
- "Breakspearstone"
- 6) Swindon Town
- 7) 2000 (blimey!)
- 8) Great Portland Street

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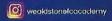
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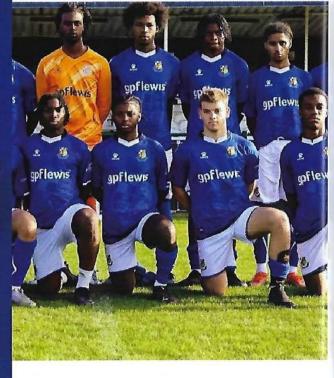




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Thirty years ago (yes, you've guessed it) Oldham were in the Premier League and Stones were a little bit lower...

urprise surprise! The Stones have never played Oldham Athletic before - of course we haven't, don't you know they were in the Premier League 30 years ago while we were playing Dog & Duck Reserves in the Harrow & District Combination Div 3?

Well, almost as bad as that. How bored must the Oldham fans be this season when they open programmes and read comparisons about almost every single club (apart from Notts County, Wrexham and the other national League 'big boys' I suppose) being umpteen divisions below them three decades ago?

Well, just for the record Wealdstone were six levels below Oldham as they settled into a mid-table slot in the inaugural Premier League table in March

On Saturday Jan16 1993 (date of the orginally scheduled game) the Latics were pipped 1-0 at home by Lancashire rivals Blackburn Rovers in front of a 13,727 crowd - and this was a Blackburn side who



went on to finish 3rd and 5th the next two seasons, and then lift the PL title in 1995 thanks to hotshot Alan Shearer & Co.

How were the Stones doing back in those footballing dark ages? Well, thank you for asking, to be honest it was pretty bleak. The club had inadvisedly sold our iconic Lower Mead ground 18 months earlier because of £1m of debt and

groundshare at Watford's Vicarage Road. If it sounded daft then, it was positively laughout-loud ridiculous a year later as we were relegated to the Southern League's Southern Division in front of crowds of barely 400.

Quite funny though, when you think that we were then playing in a stadium designed for top flight football and actually about 5,000 bigger at the time than Oldham's 17,000capacity Boundary Park.

While Oldham were battling Blackburn for Premier League points we were also losing by the only goal at Salisbury City in front of a 271 crowd, denied the use of our two most dangerous players David Venables (injured) and Sean Pearson (suspended) for what was a totally forgettable SL clash. As were so many that season. The Stones were treading water and just months away from administration as we tried to recoup some of the funds following the bungled Lower Mead sale and the ruinously expensive groundshare.

ust a few years later Oldham were in a similar boat in choppy seas - admittedly much higher up the foodchain as the Stones re-grouped in the Ryman Division Three in 1995, a mindboggling eight levels below the Latics who had by then slipped into League One!

Oldham will always have the dubious claim to fame of becoming the first ever former PL club to fall into non League. And our own club's rise back to parity in the 'Conference' is a heartwarming lesson in the power of the football pyramid.

Hedge sent off as Wealdstone lose to disputed penalty

Salisbury 1 Wealdstone 0 NEITHER seam deserved to win this match at Salisbury on Saturday. Good football was virtually impossible on a very heavy surface and it was no surprise that it took a penalty, and that a disputed one, to settle the issue.

Wealdstone were lacking top scorers Sean Pearson, who was injured, and the suspended David Venables, and as a result struggled in this department.

Salisbury enjoyed the early pressure without creating a worthwhile chance and the home keeper was the first in real action, rushing off his line to block Neil Cordice as he sped onto Dermot Drummy's free kick. Cordice was later set free by Colin Tate's astute pass but he shot high and wide.

Shortly after, Salisbury looked set to score when Hicks missed a through ball and Sanders ran clear only to be upended by Shanahan on the edge of the box. Salisbury demanded a penalty but referee Ellis of Poole awarded a free kick after consulting his linesman. Payne fired the kick over the bar as the crowd wondered how Shanahan had escaped with not even a warning.

Unfortunately, this was not the only

By Steve-Marshall

occasion when the referee confounded everyone with his extraordinary decisions. The most contentious came on 58 minutes when Roger Emm's header bounced off the surface onto Andy Hedge's leg and onto his hand. Though there was no intent, Mr Ellis ruled penalty and to everyone's amazement ordered Hedge off. Payne converted the

Martin Blackler didn't deserve any sympathy for a very late tackle straight from the restart which earned him a caution and Shanahan followed soon after for a quite innocuous challenge.

Towards the end Salisbury's Chalk and Emms followed into Mr Ellis's notebook as Wealdstone introduced Gayle and Adamson in a bid to recover the deficit. But Stones were keft ti bemoan the absence of Pearson and Venables, though to be fair, even they would have struggled to make an impact on the heavy pitch.

Weeldstone: Tenkorang, Petiller, Shanshan, Watson, Hicks, Cordice, Drummy (Gayle), Blackler, Hedge, Hippolyte (Adamson), Tate.

Saturday January 16 1993, Southern League Div One South: Salisbury City 1 Wealdstone 0

hirty years ago, although we had just been relegated from the Southern League Prem (one division lower than the Football Conference, in those days before National Leagues North and South) we were actually having quite an enjoyable season

back in the SL South. Last time we were there - ten years earlier

 the Stones had won literally every trophy on offer and there were signs that Dennis Byatt's side were capably of bouncing straight back up. By the time of the Salisbury game on February 16 the Stones were second in the table and had won eight of the previous nine

CONTD OVERPAGE...

REWIND >>>> CONTINUED

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

games - and Byatt (a member of the legendary doublewinning team of 1984-85) had just been crowned manager of the month.

A week earlier the Stones had travelled to Baldock and won 4-3 with Venables, Pearson and Blackler scoring our goals, with the 19-year-old Kevin Phillips getting one of the Baldock trio. Phillips had famously just been converted from a lightweight full-back to a striker and was on his way to Premier League and England glory in the next decade.

Below: The Premier League results for the day (of our original meeting) 30 years ago. Quite a different beast in those early days with Wimbledon, Middlesbrough, Coventry, both Sheffield clubs and Ipswich (and Oldham!) all in the top flight

PREMIER LEAGUE

10 years ago: Concord and the Cowleys given a bloody nose at the rocking Vale

Thursday March 28 2013, Ryman League Premier Division: Wealdstone 2 Concord Rangers 1

ho remembers this dingdong of a game at the Vale ten years ago? The feisty, spiky Concord Rangers side under control of the Cowley Brothers (Nicky and Danny) were jostling for position alongside the Stones, Lowestoft and East Thurrock in the play-off positions whilst still trying to catch the eventual champions Whitehawk.

Only a couple of weeks earlier we'd drawn 1-1 at Whitehawk thanks to Alex Dyer's beautiful finish from the edge of the box. And that day was also memorable for the emergence

of Gordon Hill (Wealdstone Raider) as he responded to some abuse from home fans... yes ten years ago Where has that time gone!

Bad weather meant that we had to play on the Tuesday night, just two days before this clash with Concord at The Vale, and kept the pressure on our rivals with an emphatic 4-2 win at Margate.

The Essex side were supremely well organised and (you have to admit) worthy of at least a point from this clash in front of 610 fans. And that despite



White for a simple 70th-minute header past Jonathan North. Our plight looked pretty hopeless until a goal appeared out of nowhere with just two minutes remaining - Lee Chappell's corner flew over everyone in the box to Esmond James, lurking 15 yards out beyond the

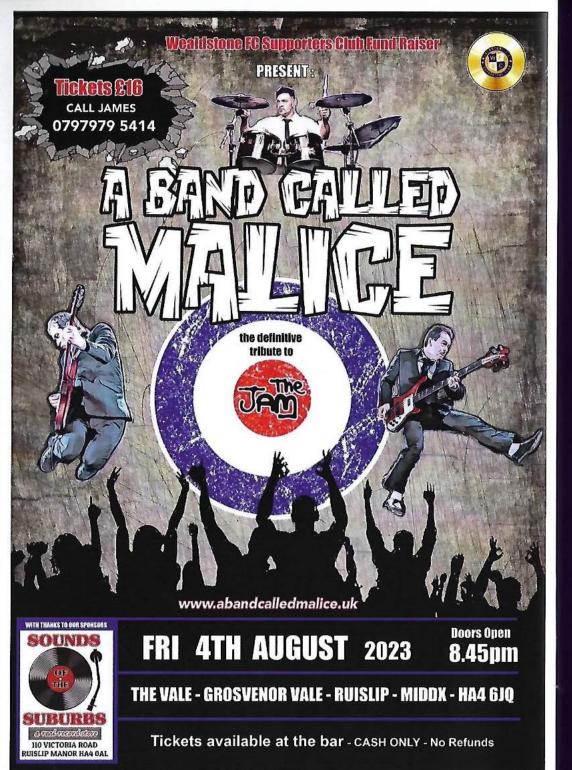
back stick. He let fly and the crowd roared its relief as the ball found the net through a crowd of limbs.

And it was about to get better!

In the third minute of stoppage time Scott McCubbin threaded a great ball through to Tom Pett, who lifted his shot over the desperate Dale Brightly and the crowd exploded!

There were angry scenes at the end from the Concord players and management... and they had the last laugh as they KO'd Stones in the eventual play-off semi-final, and then beat Lowestoft to claim a place in the National League South.

William DICESTROOF Pears & Kavanah 5 juliups & Why & William DICESTROOF Pears & Kavanah 5 juliups & Why & William DICESTROOF State of the Control of the Con







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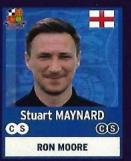
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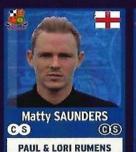
	BROMLEY Salurday, 8th August Vanarama National League	Alan Cou	ıch
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	BOREHAM WOOD Subridly, 8th October Vanarama National League	Nick Wool	ford
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3	BRENTFORD B Middlesex Senior Cup Quarter Final	Russel	l Grant
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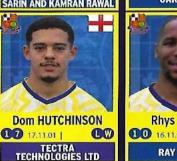


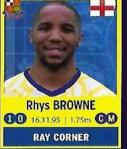
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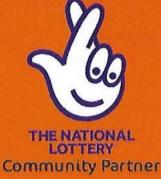
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Aldershot Town

National League Saturday 1st April 3:00pm



Solihull Moors

National League Easter Monday 10th April 3:00pm



Dorking Wanderers

National League Saturday 22nd April

3:00pm

E12 admission for EFL or Premier League season ticket holders and members of the armed forces

fixtures:

For all Vanarama National League

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.ltrincham	39	14	10	15	59	69	19	10	3	6	31	24	20	4	7	9	28	45	-10	52	4-0	1-0
laidenhead United	40	13	8	19	44	56	20	8	6	6	25	22	20	5	2	13	19	34	-12	47	3-2	0-0
Idham Athletic	38	12	10	16	49	54	19	9	4	6	31	27	19	3	6	10	18	27	-5	46		2-1
lalifax Town	38	11	10	17	35	45	18	8	4	6	23	20	20	3	6	11	12		-10		1-0	0-5
Idershot Town	39	12	7	20	54	66	20	5	4	11	27	33	19	7	3	9	27	33	-12	43		2-1
ork City	39	11	9	19	46	53	19	6	5	8	24	27	20	5	4	11	22	26	-7	42	3-1	2-1
orking Wanderers	38	11	7	20	55	84	19	9	4	6	33	37	19	2	3	14	22	47	-29	40		1-3
eovil Town	38	7	17	14	32	43	20	6	8	6	18	19	18	1	9	8	14		-11	38	0-0	0-0
ateshead	36	8	14	14	45	55	17	3	8	6	21	26	19	5	6	8	24	29	-10	37	1-2	1-0
cunthorpe United	39	8	9	22	46	75	20	7	3	10	32	37	19	1	6	12	14	38	-29	33	3-1	1-4
	38	7	10	21	44	69	20	4	6	10	30	38	18	3	4	11	14	31	-25	31	1-1	2-1
laidstone United	39	5	9	25	41	83	19	3	7	9	20	32	20	2	2	16	21	51	-42	24	2-1	1-1
	GUE PREMIER ILE @ 26/3/23 Vrexham Lotts County Voking Chesterfield Larnet Lastleigh Loreham Wood Looihiull Moors Looihoull Moors Loonley Looy Looy Looy Looy Looy Looy Looy Loo	GUE PREMIER LE @26/3/23 P Vrexham 39 Lotts County 40 Voking 39 Linesterfield 39 Larnet 38 Lastleigh 40 Lorieham Wood 38 Lorieham Wood 38 Lorieham Wood 38 Lorieham & Redbridge 38 Lorieham & Redbridge 38 Lorieham & Redbridge 38 Lorieham & Redbridge 38 Lorieham 40 Lorieham 40 Lorieham 40 Lorieham 40 Lorieham 40 Lorieham 41 Lorieham 39 Lorieham 40 Lorieham	## Company of the Company of the County of t	GUE PREMIER LE @ 26/3/23 P W D Verxham 39 30 7 Lotts County 40 28 10 Voking 39 21 8 Chesterfield 39 21 8 Chesterfield 39 21 8 Chesterfield 39 21 8 Chesterfield 39 15 10 Oricham Wood 38 16 14 Olihull Moors 39 15 10 Oricham & Redbridge 38 16 7 Vealdstone 39 15 10 Outhend United 38 15 8 Litrincham 39 14 10 Laidenhead United 40 13 8 Litrincham 39 14 10 Laidenhead United 40 13 8 Litrincham 39 12 7 Orok City 39 11 9 Orok City 39 11 9 Orok City 39 11 7 Orok City 39 11 9	Color	Color	Color	STATE Color Colo	Color PREMIER ALL Foot All	Color PREMIER ALL HOME	Color PREMIER ALL For A P W D L	Color PREMIER P W D L F A P W D L P A P W D L P A P	Color PREMIER ALL For A P W D L	Color Premier Color Premier Color Premier Premier	Color Premier Color Premier Premier	Color Premier All All	Color Premier All For All Provided Premier All Provided Provided Provided All All Provided Provided All All Provided Provided All All	Color Premier All For All All	Color Premier Color Premier Color Premier Color Premier Pr	Color Premier All All	Color Premier Color Premier Color Premier Color Premier Pr	Color Colo

Stones on the road



National League
Good Friday
7th April
3:00pm
RettsCountyfC.co.uk

@Official NCFC

BALLEUS

Boreham Wood

National League Saturday 15th April 3:00pm

BorehamWoodFootball-

Club.co.uk

Southend United National League Saturday 15th April 3:00pm SouthendHolledco.uk

@SUFCRootsHall

osmo/

Wealdstone FC's first team travel is sponsored by Osmo, specialists in the supply of wood finishes

Wealdstone FC Supporters' Club often runs subsidised coach travel to our away games. Check online for full details.

