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Royal Blue Review



12p

The Official
Programme
of

Wealdstone
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Winners:

FA Amateur Cup

1965-6

Athenian Lge.

1951-2

Southern Lge.

Div. 1 (South)

1973-4

Saturday, 2nd September, 1978

Kick-Off 3 p.m.

Southern League
Premier Division

WEALDSTONE

v.

TELFORD UNITED

WEALDSTONE (Royal Blue & White)	v	TELFORD UNITED (White)
I. Cranstone	1	P. Weir
P. Thomas	2	J. Lumsden
A. Fursdon	3	I. Britton
J. Watson	4	G. Hurst
D. Parratt	5	K. Malcolm
F. Barwick	6	N. Atthey
J. McVeigh	7	J. Steele
S. Hockham	8	E. Hogan
R. Moss	9	D. Hicktom
G. Duck	10	M. Gavin
S. Briscoe	11	K. Draycott
A. Doyle	12	N. Perry

Referee: Mr M. Dimbelbee (Stevenage)

Mr D. J. Wiggins
(Hemel Hempstead)
(Red Flag)

Linesmen

Mr H. Franks
(London Colney)
(Yellow Flag)

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Reflections on the Eve of the New Season

Good afternoon, folks! Today sees the opening of our League campaign at Lower Mead, and our first visitors for season 1978/79 are our friends from Telford. To their officials, players and supporters we extend a cordial welcome. We trust they had a pleasant run down, and enjoy their brief visit to Harrow.

David Martle is taking a respite from his long stint as compiler of the programme notes, which he undertook last season, and the writer is picking up the pen, in his stead, whilst David has a well-earned "breather".

Football is probably the most unpredictable game in the world. Probably, viewed overall, this is a good thing, as otherwise the score-sheet on Saturday evenings would be devoid of those surprises which we all love.

This was, however, scant consolation to us, last Saturday, after our visit to Gravesend. Flushed with the success of our emphatic two-leg victory over Maidstone in the preceding week, our confidence on the trip to Stonebridge Road was strengthened by the knowledge that previous meetings with Gravesend had been unusually profitable.

This time the home side were really "on song". Holders of the Southern League Cup, and victors in five out of six of their pre-season matches, Gravesend were in no mood to be denied, and by their 5-2 swamping of the 'Stones took sweet revenge for past indignities suffered at the hands of their victims.

It would be uncharitable to detract from Gravesend's victory. The chances were there, and they took them relentlessly. Yet, despite their continuous onslaughts in the first half, and the fact that they had the "Stones" rearguard under constant siege, they only notched a one goal lead at the halfway stage.

In the second half, however, the scoreline told a different tale. Ironically, the 'Stones came back in this session, and at times the home side lost their composure, as the 'Stones enjoyed more of the game. But the scoreline told its ultimate tale.

In mitigation, and not as excuses, it must be placed on record that the cards were not stacked Wealdstone's way. Early in the second half, Ian Cranstone sustained an accidental kick in the head, and played on suffering from double vision. Ian is not given

EVERY SHOT A WINNER

on Kodak FILM

to making excuses, but he admits that he knew very little about three of the second half goals. Just as importantly, from our point of view, "Willie" Watson is a long way yet from the powerhouse to which we have become accustomed. His recent debilitating illness had us all sorely worried as to "Willie's" future. Happily things were not as bad as we feared, but this great-hearted player concedes that he is still feeling the pace. All credit to him for the performances he has turned in under handicap.

Two final words on the Gravesend chapter. On Monday they went to Bath and lowered the home team's colours for the first time in over a year. They said this week, though, that the 3-1 victory in Somerset was easier than their match with us! And despite the drubbing, George still got on the score-sheet—with Dave Parratt!

Supporters will be pleased to know that the news from Steve Brinkman is considerably brighter. His trouble was diagnosed as severe abdominal strain. He is moving about painfully, and with some difficulty, but is keeping his fingers crossed that his inactivity will be limited to about a month. We hope you're right, Steve.

We are anxious to improve the amenities at Lower Mead, to enhance your entertainment. With that object in view we have been recruiting gate staff and terrace stewards. Both positions are paid, and we could do with one or two more applicants in both areas, but particularly concerning the stewarding. In the latter case, of course, a steward can watch practically the whole of the match and be paid at the same time! If, therefore you know someone who would be interested, pass the information on, and contact any members of the Board. It's your comfort we are concerned about, so if you can, help us to help you.

BILL EMERSON

Supporters Club Notes

Good afternoon, True Blues, and welcome to Lower Mead for the first home game of the new Premier Division season.

There were certainly some rum goings-on at Gravesend last week, when we made a disappointing start to the new season by losing 5-2. However, this came into the "freak-result" category, and I can't see it happening again this term—I nope. Ian Cranstone's injury obviously hampered our young 'keeper and despite the conclusive scoreline, we still had enough chances to have forced a draw.

Certainly a side that beat Maidstone twice to lift the 'Stones Trophy, and then hammered Hillingdon out of sight in the League Cup wasn't expected to lose so heavily at Stonebridge Road—but they will just have to redeem themselves with an extravagant win this afternoon against Telford United, to whose supporters we bid a warm welcome. We have had some excellent games with the Shropshire side in the past few seasons, for they are a team that likes to come forward both at home and away. Here's to a few goals today.

On August Bank Holiday Monday, last week, several supporters made the trip to Turnfurlong Lane, Aylesbury, to see the local United side beat visitors Folkestone and Shepway 3-2 in the First Division South. It was a match that illustrated the gap between Premier and First Division Southern League football, with some very scrappy play in the first half compensated for by a free-scoring finish. Despite the addition of

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ex-Oxford United fullback Dick Lucas, Aylesbury lack a little polish and I cannot see them getting into the promotion pack this season. Folkestone, despite such seasoned campaigners as Keith Robinson (ex-Dover, Dartford) and Colin Priestley (ex-Maidstone, who once scored a glorious goal at Lower Mead) were slightly worse and the fact that they had lost to wooden-spoonists Canterbury the previous week (nobody loses to Canterbury!) underlines their weaknesses. Aylesbury have a very enthusiastic set-up, however, and a crowd of 569 made the compact ground seem quite full.

Aylesbury were approached with a view to arranging a football match between their supporters and ours; Mark Chamberlain and Co. have been busily organising a Wealdstone Supporters team in the past few weeks and a friendly match has already been arranged versus the RAF, Uxbridge, in the near future. Anybody interested in playing **MUST** be a Supporters Club member, **MUST** be available for every game and **MUST** be prepared to train once a week. The motto: if you're keen enough, you'll be good enough.

Sales of the Supporters Club magazine "Long Ball Down the Middle" number 10 went extremely well at the Hillingdon game, and if you haven't yet bought a copy I strongly advise you to do so this afternoon as there aren't too many left. Price 15p, the magazine contains news, views, pictures and articles on Wealdstone FC — excellent value.

So — it was a poor start to our League programme last week, but with your continued support I'm sure the lads can put a couple of points in the bag this afternoon. The vocal support at Gravesend was quite magnificent — I'm sure the locals enjoyed the rendering of "Cheer, cheer, here come the Fleet" — and a repeat today would be much appreciated. Telford beat Hastings 2—0 last week so will be in confident mood — but I'm sure we can surprise them with a dazzling display.

STARTLE 'EM. 'STONES!

Tim Parks

P.S.—Don't forget the team sponsorship sheet, behind the door in the Supporters Club Office — we need your names.

Referee!!!

Perhaps you would like to Referee, if so why not contact Tom Lattimore, Hon. Secretary, Harrow Referees Society, 53 Mount Drive, Harrow, Middx. (01-866 1167) for further details. The most you can lose is a 9p stamp.

Reserves

Our Reserve team with several new players on view have made a fair start to the new season in the Suburban League Section 'B', collecting three points from the two home games played to date. On Saturday 19th August our visitors from Whyteleafe were a capable side and held our lads to a 0—0 draw. Several good chances were missed but the defence played well, and little was seen of the Whyteleafe attack.

Last Saturday, newcomers Fleet Town were our visitors and the result was a comfortable victory for our lads by 5—1 after being five—nil up after one hour. The goal scored by Fleet Town paid the penalty for taking matters too easy during the final period of play. Goals were scored by Chris Springle (2), Tony Knight, Brian Meacher and Bob Breakspear, one each. The real inspiration behind the victory was the outstanding performance of Terry Boyle who completely monopolised the midfield.

Teams ; v. Whyteleafe: Andy Clark, John Plaskett, Stuart Pearce, Mark Hinson, Shamus Horgan, Tony Knight, Bob Breakspear, Ian Stratford, Chris Springle, Brian Meacher, John Makepeace. Subs: Terry Wiseman, Rodney Findlay.

v. Fleet Town: Clarke Plaskett, Pearce, Hinson, Horgan, Knight, Terry Boyce, Breakspear, Stratford, Springle, Meacher. Subs: John Mangan, Keith Bushell.

Ken Jones

Did you know that . . .

Dave Parratt made his 100th league and cup appearance for Wealdstone when we beat Maidstone 3—1 in the 'Stones Challenge Trophy recently; John Watson chalked up his 250th league and cup appearance for 'Stones at Hillingdon in the Southern League Cup a fortnight ago; and that Wealdstone and Telford have each had three wins in the eight matches played to date between the two clubs.

Previous results to date:—

Southern League Premier Division

Season	Home	Away
1974/75	1—3	2—0
1975/76	3—2	0—4
1976/77	4—2	2—2
1977/78	1—1	1—3

(Wealdstone's score given first.)

Summary of League Encounters

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home	4	2	1	1	9	8	5
Away	4	1	1	2	5	9	3
Total	8	3	2	3	14	17	8

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AFTER THE MATCH JUST THE PLACE FOR A MEAL

Telford United Pen Pictures

Geoff Hurst. A tremendous career as a superb England Forward and the only man to score a hat-trick in a World Cup Final. After many successful years with West Ham, Stoke City and West Bromwich Albion, he was appointed Manager of Telford United in March, 1976. He is also closely involved with the coaching of school children throughout the town and is now involved as Assistant Coach to Ron Greenwood and the England team.

Kenny Draycott. A local player who has now been an established first teamer for five seasons and is a consistent goal scorer.

Alan Harris. A defender who started with Villa as a winger and then moved to Wolves where he was converted to a full back. Now in his 11th season with Telford and he gives non-stop displays both in defence and attack. He had a deserved benefit last season.

Phil Weir. Professional goalkeeper who rejoined the club from Wolves. Now in his 8th season with the Club and long established as first choice for this position. He has been playing for Edmonton, Canada during the close season. He has been Player of the Year three times.

John Galley. Last season signed from Hereford United. 111 appearances for Rotherham and 48 goals, 175 appearances for Bristol and 82 goals. As a centre forward converted to centre half at Hereford for whom he made 57 appearances and scored 8 goals.

Martin Gavin. Signed last season, previously with Bromsgrove Rovers. A tenacious midfield player who can play anywhere in the middle three and has the ability to open up a defence. Won Player of the Year Award.

Nick Atthey. Had a very successful career with Walsall for whom he made over 500 appearances. A good, solid, reliable midfielder player with a great deal of experience..

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Colin Preece. An 18 year old exciting product from Telford's Youth policy, capped for England's Schoolboys. Now in second season as a contract player.

Ian Britton. Signed last season from Walsall. A young left back with the ability to score a goal or two. Previously with Birmingham City.

Jimmy Steel. A young player signed from Shrewsbury Town in the close season. Very keen and hard working with a lot of potential.

John David Lumsden. A close season signing from Stoke City. A full back with a number of first team games to his credit and considered a useful acquisition.

Eddie Hogan. A midfield player with a lot of Southern League experience. Transferred to the club from Redditch United. Previously with Burton Albion and Derby County.

Neil Michael Perry. A product of our scouting system. Transferred to the club from Tamworth where he had Southern League experience last season. Has the ability to score goals.

Bob McCauley. A local player who has been with the club for four seasons. Proved himself last season good enough to become a contract player.

Douglas Hickton. A striker well-known in the Southern League. Last season with Yeovil and previously with Burton Albion.

Ken Malcolm. Played a few games with the club last season, but most of his football was with Llanidloes in the Mid-Wales League. A midfield player now on contract. Also played for Shropshire County Team.

Amrik Khaira. A young player who has graduated through our Youth and Reserve Teams. A defender generally but has played on the wing. Capped for his County Team.

Forthcoming Fixtures

September 9th. Southern League, Redditch United, Home 3 p.m. Suburban League, Aldershot, Away 3 p.m.

September 11th (Monday). Southern League, Hillingdon Boro', Away 7.30 p.m. F.A. Youth Cup (1st Round Qual.), Ruislip Manor Youth, Home 7.30 p.m.

September 16th. Southern League, Weymouth, Away 3 p.m. Suburban League, Opponents to be named, Home 3 p.m.

September 23rd. Southern League, Bath City, Away 3 p.m. Suburban League, Opponents to be named, Home 3 p.m.

September 25th (Monday). Suburban League, Harrow Borough, Earlsmead 7.30 p.m.

September 26th. (Tuesday). Southern League Cup (2nd Round), Barnet, Away 7.30 p.m.

September 30th. Southern League, Hastings United, Home 3.00 p.m.

KEN JONES

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