

# TODAY'S LINE-UPS

## WEALDSTONE ROYAL BLUE/WHITE/WHITE



## YORK CITY WHITE/BLACK/BLACK

|                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| G Archie MATTHEWS 1    | 1 Harrison MALE G         |
| Jack COOK 2            | 2 Ryan FALLOWFIELD        |
| Anthony GEORGIU 3      | 3 Adam CROOKES            |
| Deon WOODMAN 4         | 4 Darragh O'CONNOR        |
| Alex DYER 5            | 5 Callum HOWE             |
| Mason BARRETT 6        | 6 Paddy McLAUGHLIN        |
| Enzio BOLDEWIJN 7      | 7 Tyrese SINCLAIR         |
| Craig EASTMOND 8       | 8 Alex HUNT               |
| Sean ADARKWA 9         | 9 Dipo AKINYEMI           |
| Max KRETZSCHMAR 10     | 10 Ollie PEARCE           |
| Todd MILLER 11         | 11 Ashley NAT'NIEL-GEORGE |
| G Jacob ADAMS 13       | 12 Leone GRAVATA          |
| Micah OBIERO 14        | 13 George SYKES-          |
| Elliot SIMMONS 15      | KENWORTHY G               |
| Luke DREHER 16         | 14 Lenell JOHN-LEWIS ©    |
| Dom HUTCHINSON 17      | 15 Marvin ARMSTRONG       |
| Christian SCOTT 18     | 16 Rory WATSON G          |
| Adrian MARIAPPA © 19   | 17 Callum HARRIOTT        |
| Sam ASHFORD 20         | 18 Dan BATTY              |
| Kallum SESAY 21        | 19 Billy CHADWICK         |
| Yacou TRAORE 22        | 20 Ricky AGUIAR           |
| Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23  | 21 Cameron JOHN           |
| Henry SANDAT 24        | 23 Joe FELIX              |
| Jack WELLS-MORRISON 25 | 24 Billy MARSHALL         |
| Declan PHILLIPS 28     | 25 Sam TAYLOR             |
| Callum McFARLANE 29    | 26 Leon GIBSON-BOOTH      |
| Brandon MASON 32       | 27 Alex HERNANDEZ         |

**Officials** Referee: Alan Dale Assistants: Alex Bradley and Ciaran Fidler  
Fourth Official: Robert Evans Observer: Ian Corner Coach: Steve Bratt

TODAY'S RESULT: WEALDSTONE  YORK CITY

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capture from  
Fulham, Callum  
McFarlane,  
causes problems  
for Solihull Moors  
in last week's  
feisty 1-1 draw

PICTURE:  
JON TAFFEL

# THE MIGHTY, MIGHTY stones

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## v York City

Vanarama National League  
Saturday September 7, 2024, KO 3pm

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**YORK CITY - 7TH SEPTEMBER 2024**



**Good Afternoon and welcome to Grosvenor Vale for our National League fixture against York.**

We are six games into the season now and beginning to get the rewards as performances have deserved and are now unbeaten in our last three games.

With Sam Ashford making a second half appearance in our well deserved draw against Solihull last weekend and with some of our injured players closing in on a return to first team duties hopefully we can start to climb the table over the few weeks.

Adding to our team selection decisions and making their Wealdstone debuts away at Solihull we welcome Premier League 2 player of the season nominee, Midfielder Jack Wells-Morrison who joins us on loan from Crystal Palace and forward Callum McFarlane on loan from Fulham. Jack wears the number 25 shirt and Callum the 29.

You will, I am sure be aware that our much anticipated home game with Barnet is our next home fixture after today's on Saturday 21st September. Please be aware that this match has been chosen to be televised live by the National Leagues broadcast partner DAZN and that the kick off time has been moved to 5.30 as a result.

Thanks finally to everybody who has supported the playing budget already this season by becoming a Match or Ball sponsor for a game or sponsoring a

# Written in Stone

BY MARK HYDE



players kit.

It goes without saying there are still plenty of opportunities for you to join their ranks and full details on the pricing and contents of these packages, as always can be found on the relevant pages within this programme.

Up the Stones

**Mark**

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# WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2024/2025

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

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  - Entering the field of play before, during or after a game without prior authorisation
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  - Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others • Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulls stand
- 2) No spectator ball games.
- 3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.
- 4) Vehicles parked on the Grosvenor Vale site are at the owners' risk.
- 5) Wealdstone Football Club supports the FA's campaign on pyrotechnics (e.g. flares and smoke bombs). Any misuse of such items in and around the Ground will result in those responsible being asked to leave the ground and, in line with football authority guidance, may result in a report to the Police, potential prosecution and a ban from the Club of up to three years.
- 6) No Smoking or Vaping inside the ground.

Wealdstone FC Board of Directors

## THE GAFFER'S COLUMN:

# MATTY TAYLOR'S INSIDE TAKE

**Hello and welcome back to Grosvenor Vale for this afternoon's fixture vs York City.**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Adam, his staff, players and the supporters of York City Football Club.

Today's game will be another tough test for our players, but one I know the group are looking forward to.

Recent performances have delivered results and we go into today's game 3 unbeaten. My challenge for the players is to try and continue that run this afternoon.

There is, of course lots for us to work on, however the players are continuing to develop, retain information and be more consistent on the pitch.

We know that the season is still very much in its infancy and the players are still learning about each other.

Hopefully we will have one or two of the injured players available today.

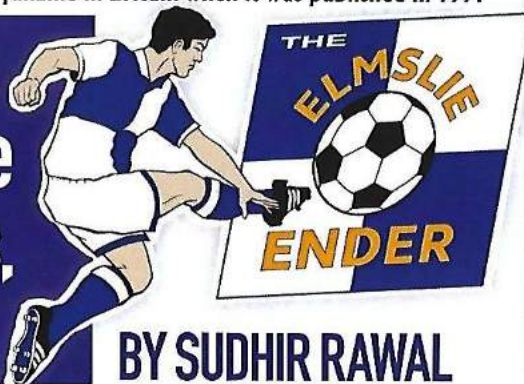
Again, I thank you all for your continued support.  
**Matt**



**'Hopefully we will have one or two of the injured players available today'**

©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

# A big hats off to the legendary fans 'The Hartlepool 33'... yes, all 300 of them!



BY SUDHIR RAWAL

**THE 'HARTLEPOOL 33' might one day find themselves in Wealdstone folklore - and by the time a few years have gone by, those that claimed to be in the 33 will have grown tenfold.**

We have always prided ourselves on our away support, especially in the lower leagues where it was traditionally more than pretty much anyone at the level we were playing in.

Obviously in the National League with sides attracting far more than we do, in absolute terms our away support doesn't hit the higher echelons, but as a percentage of home support it is still pretty decent.

But thirty-three at Hartlepool on a Saturday is frankly embarrassing, it's the level of proper tinpotters, so what went wrong? Well, so as someone who *wasn't* going to give it a swerve and then *did*, I can only say what my reasons were. A bank holiday didn't help, but not too much of an issue: the killer for me was the price of the train ticket that was just exorbi-



tant. Maybe that was surmountable, but three changes on the way back, having been on the beer all day, was a no no.

And then, hardly anyone else was going (er, excuse me -Ed) so the pull of going just wasn't there. You might ask why the SC didn't run a coach, well apart from that the time on the road is a real pain, the need for two drivers would have meant that the SC would have

had to charge over £50 per person assuming you get a full coach.

Anyway, this small travelling band were chattering about which game historically had seen less support for a Wealdstone away fixture. All sorts of noddy cup games were rolled out and next week Tim is going into more detail about some of the all-time ones which saw less than 50 Stones fans - but for me, the lowest away league following that I can remember was at Canterbury City in 1994. The attendance that night in



33 years ago... Tony Kelly scores the final goal at Lower Mead in front of the Elmslie End faithful (April 1991)

Kent was a paltry 42 (Canterbury averaged around 20 at the time), the match was between the team second from bottom, (us) and the team just one place above. There were no more than 20 Stones at Canterbury, though now some 200 claim to have been there. Stones hadn't won away from home for thirteen months, it was only the foolhardiest or the incredibly loyal that were making that trip.

I am not sure which category that I fit in, but it became almost something you had to do to see us finally win on the road. Two goals from the legendary "Have a fag, have a beer, score a goal" Vic Schwartz gave us the win.

That season we were saved from relegation because Dunstable Town's finances were actually worse than ours and were demoted. Remember this was the first season at Yeading, and this side was the worst team probably in Wealdstone history, when the supporters side, SFC Wealdstone, were probably better.

There is no doubt for a Saturday, the away support at Hartlepool was the lowest it has been in decades, when our crowds are at their largest since the sixties. Before then, the lowest in the NL on a Saturday was 92 at FC Halifax Town and in midweek, 37 at Altrincham last season for a rearranged game at relatively short notice.

Oh, Braintree played them last week and only took 18 fans!

As for the game, Wealdstone were excellent in the first period and had they gone in more than one goal ahead, it would not have been an unfair reflection of the game. Second half, Pools came more into the game as you would expect, but as the game ticked into the 98th minute, of 7 minutes of injury time, a long punt from the keeper just sailed over the heads of our defence and Dieseruwwe poked the ball past Matthews. A sickener, but the first point on the board for the season.

**The late summer bank holiday saw AFC Fylde come to the Vale and how they lost by a single goal still baffles most of those that were there.**

A relatively even first half, but the second half attacking down towards the Bulla should have seen us add another three or four more goals. There



Take a bow: The Hartlepool 33. Pic: JON TAFFEL

was a profligacy in front of goal that we must address. A welcomed first three points of the season, but ironically Stones went down a place, as almost everyone around us also won.

The last game to discuss was last Saturday's trip up the A40 to Solihull when we returned home with a point from a venue where we traditionally play well but return pointless. We were sloppy in the first half,

gave the ball away too often and were reliant on Archie Matthews to keep the score to a manageable level.

Matt Taylor then made two substitutions, bringing on the two new loanees from Premier League academies, Jack Wells-Morrison and Callum McFarlane, for their first appearances for the Stones and both looked at home at this level.

The second half was chalk and cheese to the first. Stones much more in the game and levelled when Boldewijn's cross was deflected into his own goal by a defender. Defensively Cook and then Mariappa made three incredible blocks, whilst we could have won it late on when MacFarlane's shot from close in was saved by Walker with his feet. A deserved point, nonetheless.

Finally, a word for Archie Matthews. It is fair to say that our custodian has attracted some attention on social media but there is no doubt that he's grown into his shirt and is making some valuable contributions to the team.

His performance at Solihull was his best of the season with some crucial saves, named in the NLP team of the day, and I am not sure I have EVER seen a Wealdstone keeper catch the ball as well and as confidently as he does.

**'I am not sure I've ever seen a Stones keeper catch the ball as well and as confidently as Archie does'**



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## THE No.10 VIEW: MAX KRETZSCHMAR TAKES IT TO THE **MAX**

**HELLO ALL and welcome back to The Vale. It's nice to be writing these matchday notes today with a belated win on the board and two well earned draws on the road.**

It does baffle me how condensed the fixtures are around the bank holiday in August. A Saturday match followed by a Monday fixture a mere 46 or so hours later is very taxing on the players, especially the (shall we say) 'more senior' players like myself.

The long slog up to Hartlepool was an arduous journey made harder by losing a few more players through injuries in the run-up to the game. We showed once again how dominant we could be for large spells against Hartlepool, especially in the first half which saw Micah Obiero open his account this season.

Such has been the seriousness of the injury crisis so early on, Micah has had to fill in up front but I think his hold-up play and work rate has been outstanding so it was personally pleasing to assist him for his goal. The

way we conceded in the dying embers of the game however, was soul destroying considering the journey, the performance and the ever growing injury list.

I counted that we arguably had five probable starters out injured for the trip.

And so after four games, fans and people around the club could be forgiven for being a little apprehensive regarding our results but it is important, as players, to

step back and look at the bigger picture. Being 'process driven' is something you hear week in week out from elite athletes from all sports globally. When looking at the 'process', we have performed well in every match this season. A lack of concentration here, a lack of quality in the final third there has cost



The skipper congratulates goal King Henry

### Our skipper Mapps was furious after the Fylde game.. his standards are so high after playing at the top level for so long!

us in games. Fortunately, Fylde were unable to punish us on the Bank Holiday Monday as we spurned chance after chance in a game which probably should've finished three or four nil. The frustration was evident on the captain Adrian Mariappa's face in the changing room after. It was clear he was frustrated, maybe even upset that the winning margin wasn't much bigger. A sign to me of how Mapps has played at the highest level for so long. His standards are high!

Last Saturday I had to endure the pain of score updates and notifications on my phone as I missed the game through a minor calf problem which should be fine soon... an issue I know most reading

this are all too familiar with. If anyone has any tips on how to stay calm and keep busy with distractions from football I'm all ears! A very good point it seems brought back from Solihull in a game which we could've won but also lost. Something we've rarely done since I've been here is picking up points away at tough grounds when maybe the ninety minute performance hasn't been there.

Today we welcome York City, a club who have made great strides in recent years and have a new, exciting brand of football. I have some of my fondest Wealdstone memories playing City both home and away so it would be nice to create a few more! Enjoy the game and get right behind the boys! UTS!



King of the assists! Max gets a hug from the gaffer after the win over AFC Fylde. Pix: Jon Taffel

Don't miss my revealing vlog >>> [youtube.com/@maxtalksfootball](https://www.youtube.com/@maxtalksfootball)



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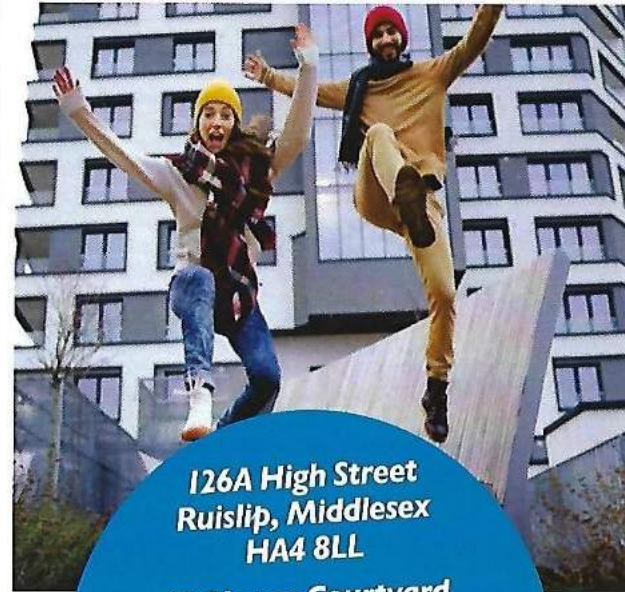


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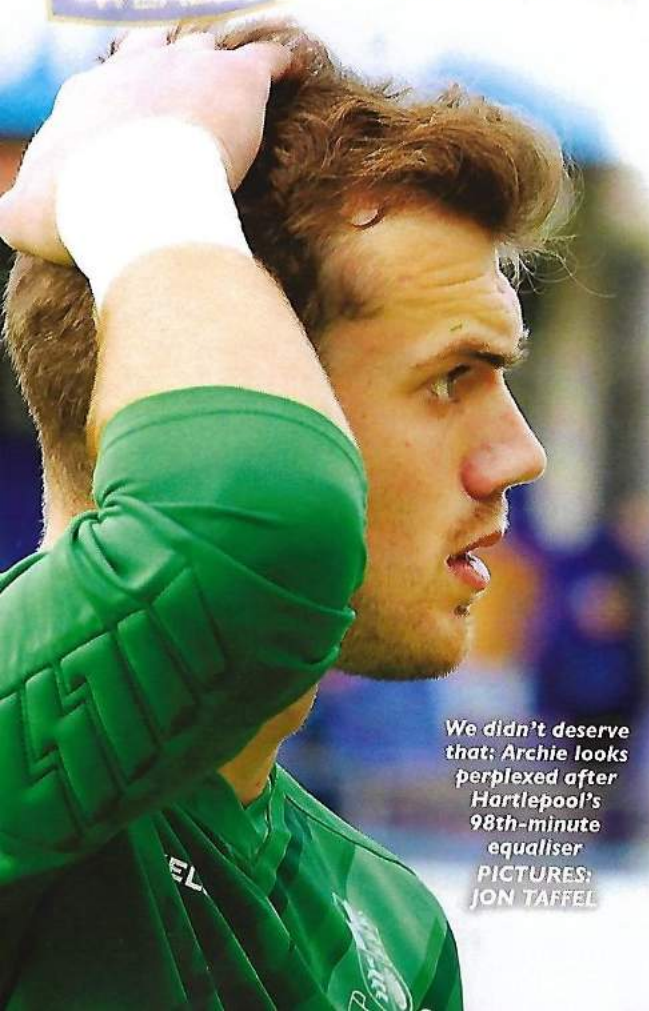
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# Coming of age in the Stones goal: Our No.1 on injuries, last-gasp frustration and how to beat the dark arts!



We didn't deserve that: Archie looks perplexed after Hartlepool's 98th-minute equaliser  
PICTURES: JON TAFFEL

**ARCHIE MATTHEWS** wasn't to know it at the time, but a short spell at Swindon Town with Matty Taylor six years ago was to lead to the goalkeeper's biggest break in football.

"The call from the gaffer, this summer, came completely out of the blue" said the 23-year-old shot-stopper. He just said "Would you like to come and play for us?"

"When I was a 17-year-old at Swindon, Matt was in the last year of his playing career and he must have seen something in me.

"He is mates with Dean Thornton - who was goalkeeping coach at Swansea when I was there - and I think they got their heads together last summer when I was about to leave that club.

"You wouldn't believe what a wand of a left foot the gaffer has!" said Archie. "Even now he's still got it, pinging ridiculous 35 yard free kicks and taking the corners as we practice defending set pieces... It's pinpoint every time!"

Like so many goalkeepers - indeed, I've interviewed many on these pages - Archie was left scrabbling around for a new club having failed to make the breakthrough in the Football League at a club with an abundance of keepers.

He has been dogged by a series of injuries that interrupted the youngster's promising progress... although it was a slice of good fortune that led to his League Two debut for Swindon in February 2021.

Matej Kovar, their No.1, had been recalled by Manchester United and then Mark Travers, his deputy, was injured in the week before the game. Even then Joe Wollacott was expected to start in goal but he picked up an injury in the pre-match warm up!

"I had 30 minutes notice before starting my first League game" said Archie, "but that was probably a good thing - I was chucked in the deep end and really enjoyed the match as we won the game, at Northampton, 2-1."

So was that your favourite match, I asked him? "No, that was in the Covid season so it felt like a game behind closed doors. My favourites have been every Wealdstone game... I've loved every minute of every match although it was so frustrating to concede that equaliser at Hartlepool in the 98th minute. And the AFC Fylde game was memorable too, our first league win and my

first clean sheet".

I asked him: are you one of those goalkeepers who analyses every part of their game?

"I think every goalkeeper does that, fast-forwarding to the moments when you think you may have done better or you've been pleased with yourself."

I told him that I didn't think he could be blamed for any one of the five goals we've conceded so far.

"The Oldham goal was just unlucky" said Archie, "with the ball spinning off Deon (Woodman) as it looped over and into the far corner... I spent hours poring over the tape to see if there's anything I could've done better. I know I'm not perfect and we've been working on my kicking in particular."

One of his main strengths is his decisiveness and sure handling when coming off his line for crosses. Archie is 6ft 2ins and is as confident in the air, in my opinion, as any Stones keeper of the past decade.

"It helps the boys to defend and it's something I've tried to be better at. The older you get, the more you realise that coming for crosses prevents shots on goal... although from dead balls and corners the opposition are very cute at pinning goalkeepers on their goaline".

**Archie was born and brought up near Bath, in Midsomer Norton, but he's not a closet Bath City fan!**

"We went as a family to the occasional game like the Boxing Day matches against Weston-super-Mare, and I think my dad used to go and watch Bristol Rovers when they ground-shared at Twerton Park. But I was more tied up playing as a youngster at Swindon Town. I've always been a goalkeeper, I think it comes from being stuck in goal by my two older brothers, but I've never played any other position".

Archie was an unused substitute in the EFL at the age of 17, but then came a series of loans in the Southern League to AFC Totton, Thatcham Town and Melksham.

Injuries were always lurking on the horizon though and a bad knock in an FA Cup match for Totton preceded a worse one after he had been transferred to Birmingham City in August 2022.

"The Birmingham move was a great one for me - playing for a Championship club, floating between the first team and the under 23s, was massive in my development. But I never got to play in the Cham-

pionship, and after I had gone out on loan to Bath City in the National League South I picked up a bad ankle ligament injury in training.

"I had a pretty crap three years to be honest. My next loan move when I had recovered, was to Gloucester City in the National League North, but then I damaged my other ankle on the dodgy astro-turf pitch at Bradford Park Avenue in a 2-1 win.

"But when my Birmingham contract ran out, I managed to get fit and come through a trial to sign for Swansea City... and then of course, having gone out on loan to Oxford City it took just two games to tear my anterior cruciate ligament on their plastic pitch!"

I can't imagine that you're fan of artificial pitches?

"Well, you get used to it and they are generally much better now. I think I've just been unlucky".

**So often in these interviews our signings have been drawn to the club by knowing other players, but Archie didn't have much of a clue about the changing room he was walking into.**

"But they've been a great bunch and, playing-wise it's been lovely to be honest to have people like Cookie and Mapps defending ahead of me.

"They have such huge National League, EFL and Premier League experience while I haven't played many games at this level. They've been giving me lots of pointers in the games and to be performing in front of big crowds at places like Hartlepool are all part of the learning curve.

"There is a degree of meanness in the way teams play games, it's all about the three points which is why the Fylde game was so satisfying... and their goalkeeper wasn't bad, was he? To be fair to the lad he did really well, though we should've scored a few more goals.

"The Sutton game was another frustrating one with that goal coming out of the blue... It was almost teasing, the opportunism and the way he lifted it over my head. It was a good finish.

"I'm enjoying the physicality of this league and you have to learn the dark arts quickly!"



Archie safely takes another cross



A smart save at Hartlepool on his near post. Picture: JON TAFFEL





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## ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YORK CITY, THE MINSTERMEN

# Today's opposition in focus

The present club was formed in 1922 and prior to their election to Division Three North of the Football League in 1929 played in the Midland League. They remained in the Northern Section until 1958 when they became one of the original members of the Fourth Division. (During the Second World War when the League was suspended from 1939 until 1946 the club operated in the various wartime competitions). Over the next 45 seasons (1958-2004) the club won promotion six times. In 1958/59 and 1964/65 they moved up to the third tier only to suffer immediate relegation.

### 1937-1962 CUP GLORY

Over the years City have earned themselves the title of "giantkillers" and when in the Third Division North reached both the quarter finals and semi-finals of the FA Cup. In the Football League Cup they reached the quarter finals in 1961/62 and in the mid 1990's beat Premier clubs Manchester United and Everton in successive seasons.

En route to the 6th round in 1937/38 they defeated First Division clubs West Bromwich Albion and Middlesbrough before bowing out to Huddersfield Town in a replay at Leeds Road. The



game against Town at York attracted Bootham Crescent's record crowd of 28,123.

In 1954/55 City beat top flight clubs Blackpool and Tottenham Hotspur and in the semi-final drew 1-1 at Hillsborough against Newcastle United to become the first Third Division side to appear in an FA Cup semi final replay which was lost 2-0 at Roker Park.

### 1970-1977 FOOTBALL LEAGUE RISE & FALL

City again gained promotion in 1970/71 and in 1974 reached the

Second Division (Championship) for the first and to date only time in our history.

In two seasons in the second tier of English football the club competed with Manchester United, Chelsea, Aston Villa, Sunderland, West Bromwich Albion and Nottingham Forest amongst others and in 1974/75 achieved their highest ever League placing when they finished 15th.

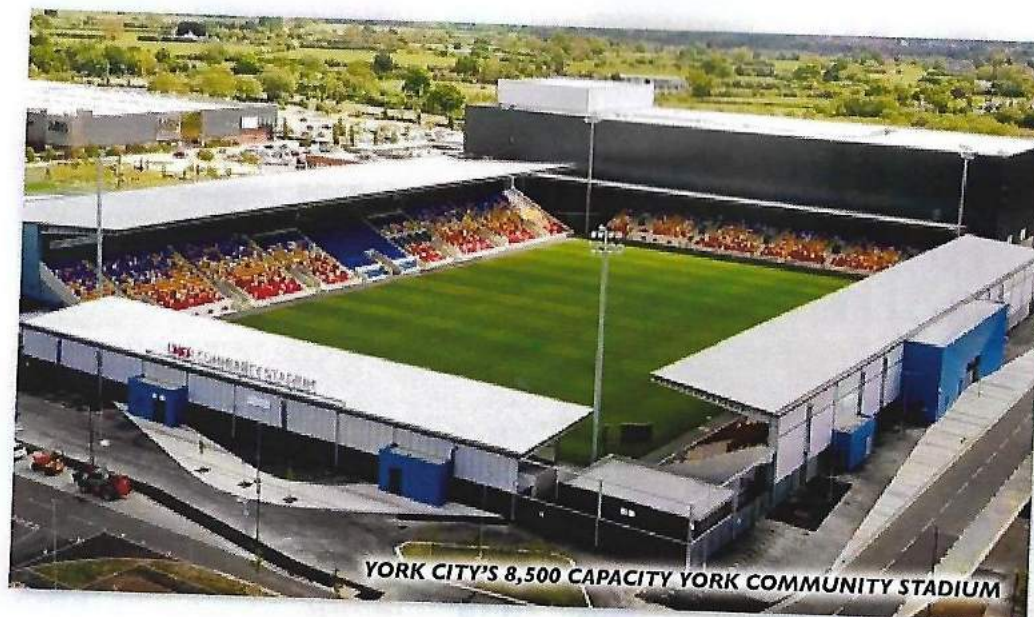
The following campaign, however, they were relegated and by 1977 were back in the Fourth.

### 1983-1995

#### RECORD BREAKING GIANT KILLERS

In 1983/84 City won their first major honour when they finished runaway Fourth Division champions with 101 points becoming the first club in Football League history to reach three figures.

City's next promotion success in the Football League was via the playoffs in 1992/93 when on the club's first ever visit to Wembley Stadium they beat Crewe Alexandra in a penalty shoot out.



In January 1985, York City famously beat Arsenal 1-0 in the 4th round of the FA Cup at Bootham Crescent thanks to a last minute Keith Houchen penalty. That one kick of the ball sent the fans into total delirium and the club into the 5th round to face Liverpool.

City secured a 1-1 draw against Liverpool in the 5th round at Bootham Crescent, but faced a 7-0 defeat in the replay at Anfield. Incredibly, the following season York City made the 5th round and drew Liverpool once again. We again secured a replay at Anfield following another 1-1 draw, losing 3-1 after extra time.

On 20th September 1995 the club hit the national headlines with a stunning Coca Cola League Cup 2nd round upset at Old Trafford. City thumped future double winners 3-0 Manchester United in front of their own fans. The return fixture resulted in an aggregate 4-3 result and one of the biggest cup shocks of all time.

### 2004-2012

#### RELEGATION, THEN WEMBLEY TWICE

In 2004 the club finished bottom of Division Three (League Two) and dropped down to the Conference bringing to an end 75 years membership of the Football League. During that time they had spent two seasons in the second tier and 16 in the third tier.

In eight years in the Conference City reached the promotion play offs three times. In 2006/07 they lost at the semi-final stage and in 2009/10 went down to Oxford United in the final and then, on May 20th 2012, promotion back to the Football

**LAST SEASON**  
SAT 5TH AUG 2023 - W 2-1 (H)  
SAT 2ND MAR 2024 - W 3-2 (A)

**OUR RECORD AGAINST YORK CITY**  
P4 W4 D0 L0 F10 A5 GD +5

League was achieved when Luton Town were beaten 2-1 at Wembley.

This latter game marked the club's 4th appearance at the national stadium in four years and completed a league and FA Trophy double at Wembley in just eight days.

### 2016-2022

#### REGIONAL FOOTBALL, THEN PROMOTION

After four years back in the Football League, York dropped back into the Conference finishing in 24th place in League 2 in 2015/16. The following season City suffered a second successive relegation, after finishing in the final relegation place in the National League and will compete in regional non-league football in 2017/18 for the first time since 1929.

Against all the odds, City successfully battled through a tough National League North playoffs to achieve a return to national football in the club's historic centenary year. The final against Boston United was held at City's new LNER Community Stadium, with a 2-0 victory securing promotion.

# Who's who for the visitors



**HARRISON MALE**

**1. HARRISON MALE - Goalkeeper**

The shot-stopper is a product of the Leeds United academy, having spent over a decade coming through the youth ranks in West Yorkshire. Male joined the club following a season at Dorking Wanderers

**2. RYAN FALLOWFIELD- Defence**

Ryan Fallowfield joined York City in the summer of 2022. Ryan previously played at North Ferriby United in the National League and Harrogate Town where he played a pivotal role in their rise to the Football League.

**3. ADAM CROOKES- Defence**

York City secured the signature of Adam Crookes in the summer of 2022. The left-sided defender began his youth career at Nottingham Forest, heading out on loan to Lincoln and Port Vale before signing permanently at Vale. Crookes featured 49 times in League Two before moving on to Grimsby Town, who had just been relegated to the National League.

**4. DARRAGH O'CONNOR- Defence**

The central defender departed Greenock Morton in the summer of 2024, O'Connor made 20 appearances for Wexford in the First Division of Irish football as a youngster. Performances at Wexford earned him his first professional contract at Leicester City, signing for the Premier League outfit in August 2019. A switch to Scotland followed signing for Scottish Premiership side Motherwell in 2021 and featuring for Queen of the South on loan in January 2022

**5. CALLUM HOWE- Defence**

Howe joined the Minstermen from fellow National League side Solihull Moors, where he was club



**TYRESE SINCLAIR**

**8. ALEX HUNT- Midfield**

The central midfielder joined York until the end of the 2023/24 season initially in February, before turning permanent following transfer for an undisclosed fee in June 2024. A product of the youth setup at Sheffield Wednesday from the age of seven, the midfielder made 17 appearances for his hometown club across the Championship and various other cup competitions.

**9. DIPO AKINYEMI - Forward**

Dipo Akinyemi joined for an undisclosed fee from Ayr United in the summer of 2023 after finishing the season as the Scottish Championship top scorer and Player of the Year.

**10. OLLIE PEARCE- Forward**

Ollie Pearce joined the Minstermen from Worthing in 2024 following an incredibly successful six-year stint on England's South Coast. After several years at Bognor Regis Town, Pearce made the move along the coast in 2018 to join The Rebels.

**11. ASHLEY NATHANIEL-GEORGE Forward**

York City announced that winger Ashley Nathaniel-George had agreed to join the Minstermen following the expiry of his contract at Maidenhead in summer 2024, following a two-year stay at York Road. The winger spent his youth career at Arsenal, Watford, Wycombe, and Wealdstone, before moving

captain, in the summer of 2023.

**6. PADDY MCLAUGHLIN- Midfield**

Midfielder Paddy McLaughlin became Steve Watson's first signing as City manager when returning to the club in January 2019 on loan from Hartlepool United.

**7. TYRESE SINCLAIR- Forward**

York City signed attacker Tyrese Sinclair upon the expiry of his contract at Rochdale in May 2024. The forward began his youth career at Blackburn Rovers

to Potters Bar Town. After an impressive season at Hendon, he joined League 2 side Crawley Town between 2018-20.

**12. LEONE GRAVATA- Forward**

York City announced the signing of winger Leone Gravata from Eastbourne Borough on a permanent deal at the start of March 2024.

**13. GEORGE SYKES-KENWORTHY- Goalkeeper**

York City announced the capture of goalkeeper George Sykes-Kenworthy on a permanent transfer for an undisclosed fee from Bradford (Park Avenue) in October 2023. The goalkeeper started his footballing journey with Bradford City at under-8 level within the Bantams' Academy, signing his first professional contract in March 2018.

**14. LENELL JOHN-LEWIS- Forward**

Vastly experienced forward, nicknamed 'The Shop', who joined City initially on loan from Grimsby Town in February 2022. John-Lewis has spent the majority of his career playing in the Football League for the likes of Lincoln City, Bury and Newport County.

**15. MARVIN ARMSTRONG- Midfield**

York City announced the signing of Marvin Armstrong on a permanent transfer from Barnet in the middle of March 2024. The midfielder linked back up with manager Adam Hinshelwood again, having played under the manager whilst playing for Worthing.

**16. RORY WATSON- Goalkeeper**

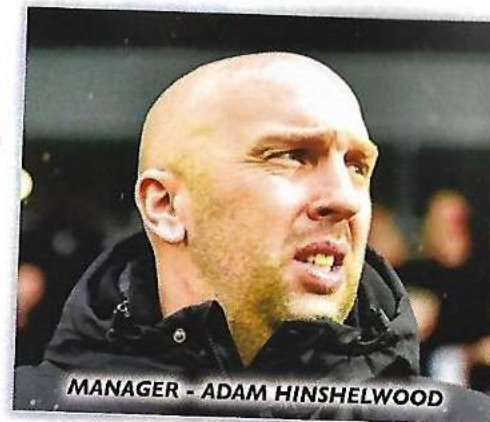
York City signed Rory following his departure from Doncaster Rovers in August 2023. York-born Watson spent the 2022/23 season with Wrexham, having joined from Scunthorpe United.

**17. CALLUM HARRIOTT- Forward**

Callum Harriott joined the Minstermen in the summer of 2023 from Yeovil Town. The winger started his career at Charlton Athletic as a young child, going on to feature professionally for The Addicks 95 times across Championship campaigns. Reading acquired his services in 2016 for an undisclosed fee from Charlton, featuring 29 times before departing for Colchester United, where he'd previously been on loan in 2015.

**19. BILLY CHADWICK - Forward**

The forward penned a permanent deal with the Minstermen following his release from League Two's Stockport County, where he signed in the



**MANAGER - ADAM HINSHELWOOD**

summer of 2023 before heading out to Gateshead on loan.

**20. RICKY AGUIAR- Midfield**

Midfielder Ricky Aguiar signed on a permanent transfer from EFL League Two side Swindon Town for an undisclosed fee in July 2024, ending a three year spell Aguiar broke into senior football down on the south coast with under manager Adam

Worthing Hinshelwood.

**21. CAMERON JOHN- Defence**

York City announced the signing of Cameron John following a successful trial period with The Minstermen on August 1st, 2024. The 24-year-old left-back, who can also operate centrally, put pen to paper with City after departing Rochdale in the summer of 2023.

**23. JOE FELIX- Defence**

Joe Felix agreed to join the Minstermen upon the expiry of his contract at Worthing, following a successful year, in the summer of 2024. Felix started his career as a Fulham scholar before moving across to QPR and heading on loan to Burgess Hill, Woking and Farnborough. Other spells also saw him land at Hampton and Richmond Borough, Hendon, Maidstone United, Billericay Town and Torquay United in the National League.

**MANAGER. ADAM HINSHELWOOD**

The attack-minded manager joined the Minstermen on a long-term deal in February 2024, following over six-years at Worthing FC. Hinshelwood's Worthing side racked up over 269 league goals since the beginning of the 2021/22 campaign. A Football League defender by trade during his playing days, Hinshelwood boasts over 100 Brighton & Hove Albion appearances across the Championship and League One.

Spells at Aldershot and Wycombe in the Football League also followed for the central defender during a playing career hit by injury. In 2013, Hinshelwood was appointed manager of the Rebels before leaving a couple years later to pursue a coaching role at Brighton & Hove Albion.

A return in 2017 has seen an Isthmian Premier Division title and a Sussex Senior Challenge Cup secured since, with Worthing now plying their trade in the National League South.



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# 'I've barely missed a game in the last 40 years...I think that you should be branded with your birthplace and only follow that club'

**Your name and age?** Steve Saxton, dare I say just turned 60! I've been a season ticket holder for over 40 years and a member of the Supporters Trust Board.

**What was your first York game and what do you remember?** For someone who hasn't often missed the kick of a ball live for 40 years,

and attended quite often previously, it's sad to say I'm not 100% sure. I do know it was a League (Carabao!) Cup game at home. I think being 95% sure of how old I was, records show it being v Huddersfield early in the 73/74 promotion season. Unmemorable otherwise!

**Do you travel to away games as well?** Yes, I attend almost every single game home and away. You can count on two hands with fingers to spare, the games missed in the last 40 years or so.

**Did you come down to Grosvenor Vale then last season?** Yes, both previous visits. We deservedly lost easily first time. Last season, we started the game well, but ran out of steam. There were significant issues with our pre-season including the training programme.

My initial impressions were perhaps typical of non league stadia and some clubs. Tidy, very friendly people and welcoming, but punching above its weight in terms of facilities.

**Do you follow any other team, or been tempted?** I'm one of those people who believes you should be branded with your birthplace and only support that club!

That said, I always had a fairly keen interest in Tottenham growing up, for no other reason than they played attractive football. I guess I've always liked an underdog! I have my dad, who's now 91, to blame for my devotion to City. He's still a season ticket holder, and my wife and I get him to most home matches.

**What is your favourite York City memory of all time (maybe a top five)?** For my generation, there will always be a split between our first win at Wembley (Division Three Play Off Final in 92/93) and that wonder-

*A poignant moment for Steve as York's famous old Bootham Crescent ground is decommissioned. It is all housing now*



ful evening when we won 3-0 at Old Trafford a couple of seasons later, in the first leg of a League (Carabao) Cup tie. In the early days of 'weakened' teams / rotation, they still had 10 internationals (present or future). They turned up with the big guns for the 2nd leg, beat us 3-1, but we went through on aggregate. The best thing was seeing Alex Ferguson's face after the first leg and the headlines the day after. "The Grand Old Nukes of York" and simply "Yorked" stuck with me!

We've had many famous cup games and victories. Actually many would say the best occasion was the next round after beating United, QPR away, again a top league side. We took the lead but went out after a great night. Four wins from six games at Wembley is a record many might envy.

**How many City fans can we expect on September 7, and how are they travelling?**

That might depend on the reliability of trains! I drive everywhere but know that for many, rail is their viable option. We had just over 400 at Sutton recently on a day with travel issues. Take that away, you could easily be looking at around 700 maybe. We have a strong southern following too.

**It's a long time since City fell out of the EFL... is the non-League novelty wearing off?** We have been relegated from the EFL twice of course in recent memory. The first time did have the usual perverse novelty for a while. And it didn't really feel much different to being in the league (it was actually a relief to find that some

away toilets were as bad as those at our old Bootham Crescent home!) Second time we knew what to expect. Being relegated again to NLN was an altogether different experience. Many fans struggled with that and stayed away or cherry-picked games. At least now, we are back to a level with traditional opponents, so it's a mixed bag of experience really.

**Can York mount a promotion charge this season?** We are in a better position now than the last two seasons since being promoted, when the timing of ownership changes really impacted strategic planning on and off the field. The consensus of most fans seems to be that we have a leaner squad of better quality, and that a top half finish, perhaps pushing towards the play offs is a reasonable expectation.

Last season there was also an initial element of naivety, perhaps bordering on incompetence from the new owner (which I am pleased to say, seems to have quickly become a lesson learnt). We put too much reliance of an inexperienced 'Head of Recruitment' who's dual status as a player didn't help. We also naively centralised a big part of recruitment with one agency, nearly all of whose clients formed a negative clique within the dressing room. We simply also had too big a squad.

More naivety came in the form of the pre season training structure employed by the Manager at the time. We seemed to have done too much and hit a wall in the last third of games until at least October.

**Did you also see the return game last season as the Stones completed (another) double over the Minstermen?** Yes! You beat us tactically that day. More naivety, although much more understandable, from a new manager trying to implement a playing style, with players who simply couldn't do it.

**Have Wealdstone surprised you? And had you heard of them before, or even where it is!** You initially came over as the typical club doing well but punching above its weight. As with many of those, clubs then settle to a certain level. And yes unlike some, I did know where Wealdstone is, and how to get there. Having a well known and rather large RAF base nearby, helps! I remember our Trophy winning year (2012) well, when Wealdstone reached the semi-final and we might have been drawn together.

We drew Luton, which formed part of an unusual rivalry between our clubs at that time. The natural thing with due respect, was to want yourselves in the semi final.

**Is football a big part of your life and do you find it hard fitting it into working/family responsibilities?** And God made the seventh day for Football! And in my case, Rugby League (note the proper version and not the poncey rah-rah Southern kind), Cricket and occasionally, other sports. And I have a very understanding and lovely wife! To be fair, she shares my love of City and I've even got her into the Rugby too. I travel a lot for work and have done for years. It's funny how I'm able to make it fit around my football rather than vice versa! Friends and family all say that!

I'm also a member of the Supporters Trust Board who are 25% owners of our club, so trying to give a little back where I can.

**Has National League streaming been a temptation not to travel for any City fans?**

Yes I think so for some, there are plenty of mentions of hooky firesticks and VPN's on social media! But it's not had too much of an impact. Pro rata to our attendances and in general numbers, we have an excellent travelling support, even more so after far more downs than ups over the last 20 years in particular.

**Who will be the key figures on (and off) the pitch as York attempt to hit the play-offs?**

Most will say our two main strikers, Dipo Akinyemi and Ollie Pearce. Although our club captain Lenell John Lewis owes us absolutely nothing, and is still a major influence. Watch our vertically challenged right back Joe Felix though. He has the most potential in our squad. Off the pitch, it's whether our manager Adam Hinshelwood, has the ability not to be tactically one dimensional. The jury is out for most fans on that aspect I'd say.

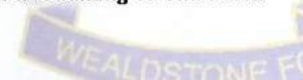
**There was criticism of the City programme on the club's forum... what do you think the future of the programme is, and how can it be reversed? Is this just a City thing or all ALL programmes now barely worth reading?**

It's certainly not just a City thing and the obvious answer is that people rely and get information much more quickly and diversely, through digital channels. It's rather left the written programme behind in most cases, and many seem off the peg. Ours is the usual scenario of too much content being 'fish and chip wrappings' and has too much reliance on historical information.

I rarely bother to buy them these days but probably have well over 1,500 under the stairs at home (the understanding wife again!).

The digital age has undoubtedly impacted people's communication skills too in general life, and maybe, that has reduced the number of original contributors to programmes. Only originality may reverse the trend. Monthly magazines may be a better approach.

**Steve Saxton was talking to Tim Parks**



## FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS PROFILES TEN LEADING YORK CITY MANAGERS

# MANAGING TO SUCCEED

BY LEIGH EDWARDS



original five directors in May 1922 and honorary secretary two years later. After York joined the Football League, he was appointed full-time secretary in February 1930 and replaced Jock Collier as manager from March 1930 until May 1933. He teamed up with

Tom Lockie to run the team again after Jimmy McCormack quit in September 1954. They worked in tandem for 18 months, guiding City to the FA Cup semi-finals in 1954-55. Retiring in May 1961, 'Mr York City' continued as president until his death in June 1977.

### SAM BARTRAM

Sam Bartram managed York City to promotion in 1958-59. The legendary goalkeeper impressed with Boldon Villa prior to joining Charlton Athletic in September 1934 and featured prominently as Jimmy Seed's team soared from the Third Division (South) to First in consecutive seasons, then finished League Championship runners-up in 1936-37. Playing in three Cup finals at Wembley Stadium between 1944 and 1947, including Charlton's 1947 FA Cup final triumph, he made a club record 579 League appearances before becoming York boss from March 1956 until July 1960. He then managed Luton Town and died in Harpenden in July 1981.

### TOM LOCKIE

Scottish centre-half Tom Lockie gave York City excellent service as a player, trainer and manager. He played for Glasgow Rangers, Leith Athletic and Barnsley prior to joining York in May 1933. Scoring once in 29 League games, he moved to Accrington in July 1934, then had a spell at Mansfield before returning to York as trainer in August 1936. He assisted as they were FA Cup quarter-finalists in 1937-38, then worked with Billy Sherrington as City were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1954-55. York's manager from July 1960 until October 1967, he plotted promotion in 1964-65. He was later a wages clerk at Rowntree Mackintosh and died in July 1977.

### TOM JOHNSTON

Tom Johnston managed York City from the Fourth Division to Second. The winger played for Peterborough United be-

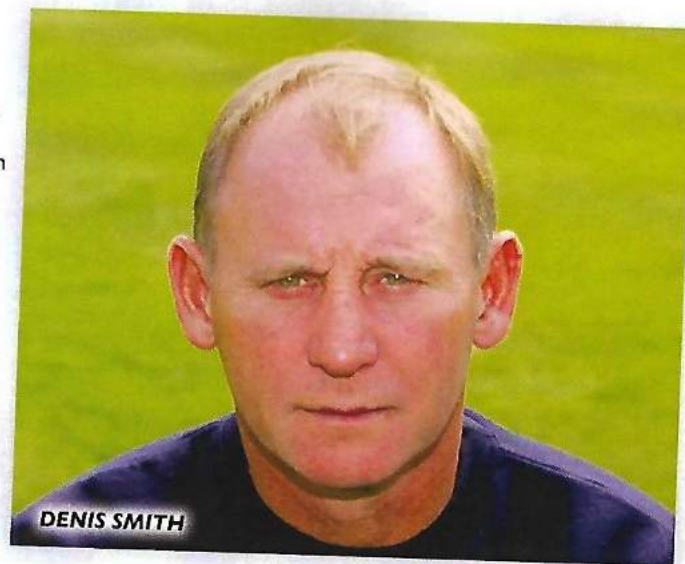
fore joining Nottingham Forest in May 1944 and moved to Notts County in August 1948. Starring in their 1949-50 Third Division (South) title triumph, he had a spell as Hearnor's player-boss prior to becoming manager of Rotherham United in November 1958. He guided them to the first-ever League Cup final in 1961, then managed Grimsby Town before taking Huddersfield Town to the League Cup semi-finals in 1967-68 and York from October 1968 until January 1975. Later managing Huddersfield again, he died in November 1994.

### DENIS SMITH

Denis Smith managed York City to the Fourth Division title in 1983-84. Previously with Stoke City, the central defender starred as they won the League Cup in 1972 and were twice FA Cup semi-finalists. He also helped them regain top-flight status in 1978-79 and became York's player-boss in May 1982. Scoring five goals in 37 League games before hanging up his boots, he guided them to the FA Cup fifth round in 1984-85 and left for Sunderland in May 1987. He led them back to the top-flight, then managed Bristol City, Oxford United to promotion in 1995-96, West Brom and Wrexham to promotion in 2002-03 and LDV Vans Trophy in 2005.

### JOHN WARD

John Ward laid the foundations for York City's 1992-93 promotion success. Signing professional for Lincoln City in March 1971, he was leading marksman in their 1975-76 Fourth Division title triumph and reunited with Graham Taylor at Watford in July 1979. He had spells with Grimsby Town and Lincoln again before joining Watford's coaching staff in May 1982 and later assisted Graham Taylor at Aston Villa. Becoming York's manager from November 1991 until March 1993, he then managed Bristol Rovers, Bristol City to promotion in 1997-98, Cheltenham Town to promotion in 2005-06, Carlisle United, Colchester and Bristol Rovers again.



DENIS SMITH

### ALAN LITTLE

Alan Little managed York City's 1993 Third Division play-off final triumph. A former Aston Villa apprentice with his older brother Brian, the midfielder moved to Southend United in December 1974. He was a promotion winner with Barnsley in 1978-79 and Doncaster Rovers in 1980-81, then played for Torquay United, Halifax Town and Hartlepool. After assisting John Bird and John Ward at York, he was City's manager from March 1993 until March 1999, also guiding them to the Second Division play-offs in 1993-94 and plotting League Cup wins over Manchester United and Everton. He later managed Southend and Halifax and scouted for his brother.

### GARY MILLS

Former England U-21 striker Gary Mills managed York City's 2012 FA Trophy and Conference play-off final triumphs. The son of ex-Northampton winger Roly Mills, he played in Nottingham Forest's 1980 European Cup success, moving via Notts County to Leicester City in March 1989. Rejoining Notts County in September 1994, he featured in their 1995 Anglo-Italian Cup triumph. Later Grantham's player-boss, he has also managed King's Lynn, Tamworth, Notts County, Alfreton, York from October 2010 until March 2013, Gateshead, Wrexham, York again from October 2016 until September 2017, plotting further FA Trophy glory in 2017, then Corby

### JOCK COLLIER

Scottish right-half Jock Collier had two spells as York City's manager. He played for Victoria Hawthorn, Denbeith Star, Inverkeithing United and Raith Rovers prior to joining Hull City in July 1920. Later their captain, he joined QPR in July 1926 and became York's player-boss in July 1928. His playing career was ended by a broken ankle but he continued as manager when City were elected to the Football League in 1929. He left in May 1930 to run the Punch Bowl Inn but returned as York's manager from May 1933 until March 1937. Leaving to return to Scotland to go into business with one of his brothers, he died at just 43 in December 1940.

### TOM MITCHELL

Winger Tom Mitchell was both a player and manager at York City. He had spells with Parkside United, Tudhoe United, Spennymoor United and Blyth Spartans prior to joining Newcastle United in May 1920. Moving to Leeds United in November 1926, he was ever-present as they won promotion to the top-flight in 1927-28 and joined York in September 1931. He scored five times in 23 League games, including the first goal at Bootham Crescent, then returned to York as manager from March 1937 until resigning in February 1950, guiding City to the FA Cup quarter-finals in 1937-38. Later a York director, he had a sports shop and died in November 1984.

### BILLY SHERRINGTON

Billy Sherrington served York City for 55 years as secretary, manager, director and president. A civil servant, he became one of the club's



TOM LOCKIE



Gary Mills



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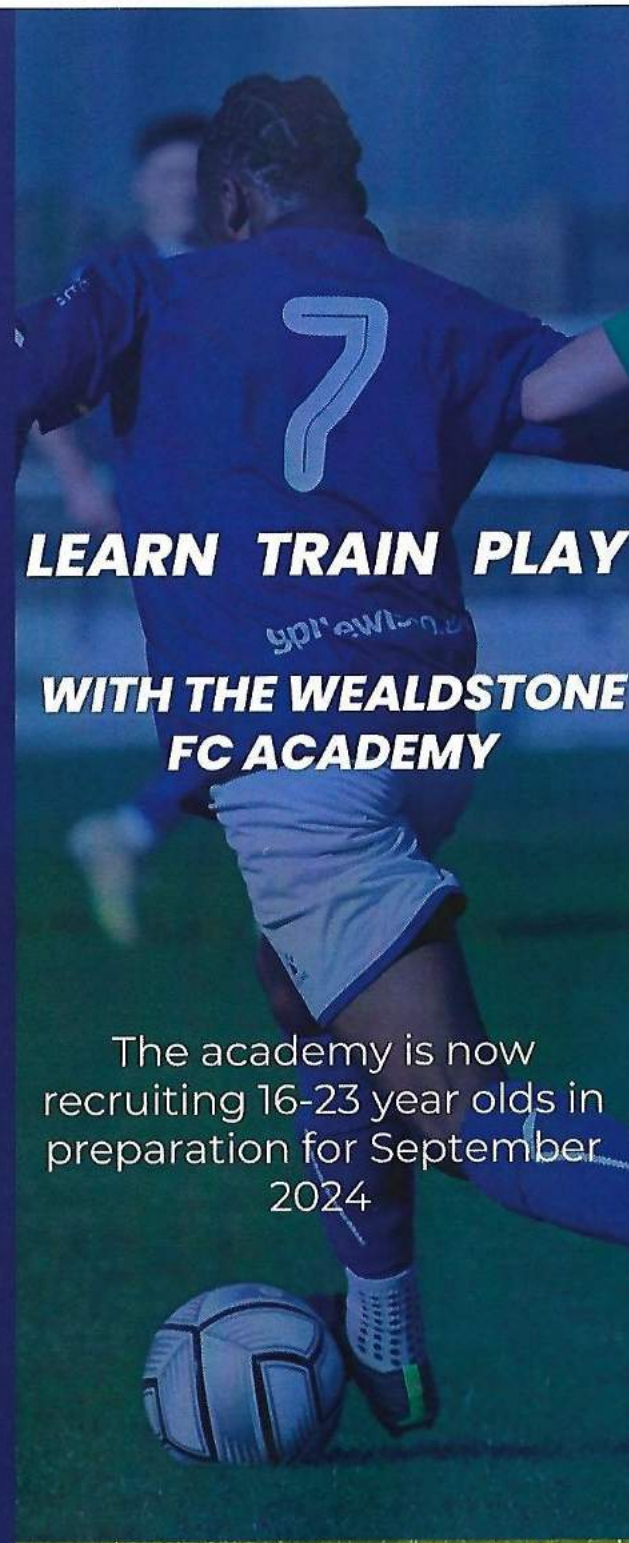
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# FIRST TEAM RESULTS & FIXTURES 2024-2025

| AUGUST                    | Comp   | Score      | Att.  | (Away) | Opp | Goal scorers |
|---------------------------|--------|------------|-------|--------|-----|--------------|
| 10 Dagenham and Redbridge | VNL    | <b>1-2</b> | 1,523 | 215    | 16  | Ashford      |
| 17 OLDHAM ATHLETIC        | VNL    | <b>0-1</b> | 1,825 | 517    | 19  |              |
| 20 SUTTON UNITED          | VNL    | <b>0-1</b> | 1,566 | 310    | 21  |              |
| 24 Hartlepool United      | VNL    | <b>1-1</b> | 3,614 | 33     | 21  | Obiero       |
| 26 AFC FYLDE              | VNL    | <b>1-0</b> | 1,325 | 50     | 21  | Sandat       |
| 31 Solihull Moors         | VNL    | <b>1-1</b> | 948   | 180    | 20  | (Own goal)   |
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b>          |        |            |       |        |     |              |
| 7 YORK CITY               | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 10 Woking                 | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 14 Forest Green Rovers    | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 21 BARNET                 | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 24 SOUTHEND UNITED        | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 28 FC Halifax Town        | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>            |        |            |       |        |     |              |
| 5 Gateshead               | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 12 YET TO BE DRAWN        | FAC40  |            |       |        |     |              |
| 19 YEovil TOWN            | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 22 BRAINTREE TOWN         | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 26 Ebbsfleet United       | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>           |        |            |       |        |     |              |
| 9 Aldershot Town          | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 16 ROCSDALE               | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 23 Eastleigh              | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 26 TAMWORTH               | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 30 ALTRINCHAM             | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| <b>DECEMBER</b>           |        |            |       |        |     |              |
| 7 YET TO BE DRAWN         | FAT R3 |            |       |        |     |              |
| 14 Oldham Athletic        | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 21 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE   | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 26 Maidenhead United      | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| <b>JANUARY</b>            |        |            |       |        |     |              |
| 1 BOSTON UNITED           | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 11 Altrincham             | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 14 Sutton United          | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 18 HARTLEPOOL UNITED      | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 25 AFC Fylde              | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b>           |        |            |       |        |     |              |
| 1 SOLIHULL MOORS          | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 8 GATESHEAD               | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 15 Yeovil Town            | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 18 Braintree Town         | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 22 EBSFLEET UNITED        | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| <b>MARCH</b>              |        |            |       |        |     |              |
| 1 ALDERSHOT TOWN          | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 4 Tamworth                | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 8 Rochdale                | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 15 EASTLEIGH              | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 22 WOKING                 | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 29 York City              | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| <b>APRIL</b>              |        |            |       |        |     |              |
| 5 FOREST GREEN ROVERS     | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 12 Barnet                 | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 18 Boston United          | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 21 MAIDENHEAD UNITED      | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| 26 Southend United        | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |
| <b>MAY</b>                |        |            |       |        |     |              |
| 5 FC HALIFAX TOWN         | VNL    |            |       |        |     |              |

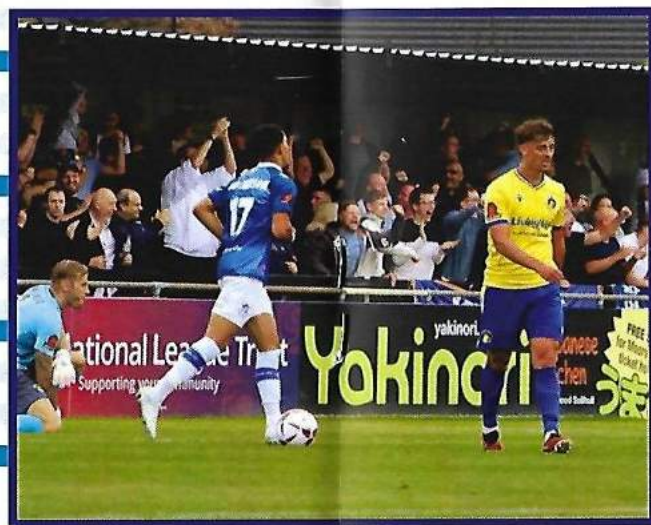
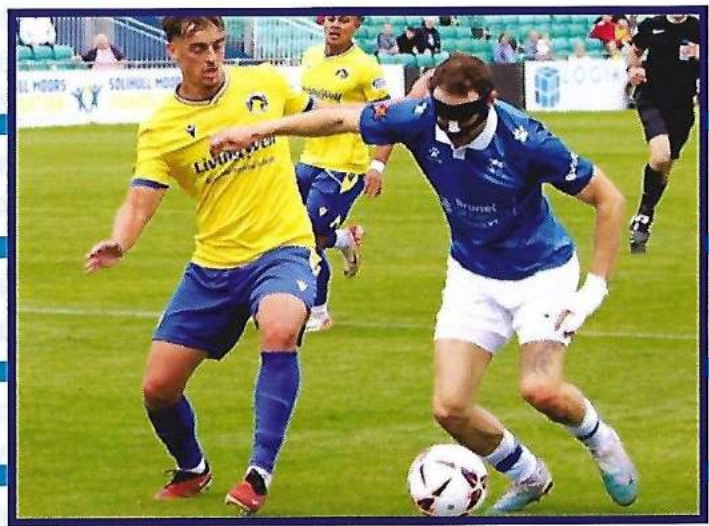
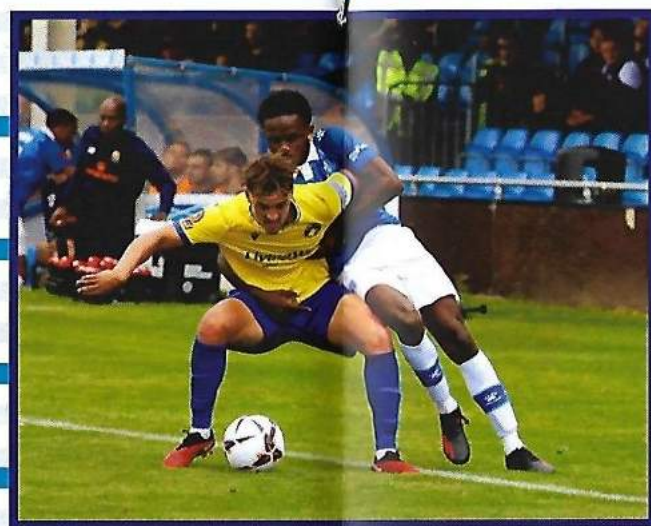
| Archie MATTHEWS | Jack COOK | Anthony GEORGIU | Dean WOODMAN | Alex DYER | Mason BARRETT | Enzio BOLDEWIJN | Craig EASTMOND | Sean ADARKWA | Max KRETZSCHMAR | Todd MILLER | Jacob ADAMS | Micah OBIERO | Elliott SIMMONS | Luke DREHER | Dominic HUTCHINSON | Christian SCOTT | Adrian MARIAPPA | Sam ASHFORD | Kallum CESAY | Yacou TRAORE | Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH | Henry SANDAT | Jack WELLS-MORRISON | Declan PHILLIPS | Jahmar CLARKE | Callum MCFARLANE | Brandon MASON |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
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| 1               | 2         | 3               | 4            | 5         | 6             | 7               |                | 8            | 9               | 10          | 11          | 12           | 13              | 14          | 15                 | 16              | 17              | 18          | 19           | 20           | 21                 | 22           | 23                  | 24              | 25            | 26               | 27            | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |

**KEY**

- Starter
- 1st player off
- 2nd player off
- 3rd player off
- 4th player off
- 5th player off

P Substitute

- P 1st on
- P 2nd on
- P 3rd on
- P 4th on
- P 5th on



Pictures from our 1-1 draw up at Solihull Moors last Saturday, courtesy of @RonnieRaffle

Date in Red = MIDWEEK fixture



# 1950's Rock 'n' Roll in Ruislip



Doors open  
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## IT'S NEW... IT'S ADAM HILLS' **STAT ATTACK**



Six games in and Wealdstone 'languish' in 20th place in the National League with just a single win from those opening fixtures.

Today's opponents York City on the other hand sit pretty in 6th place with the reversal of Wealdstone's fortunes to date with three wins and two draws from their opening sextet. But things on the whole have been positive for Matt Taylor's side who are on a three-game unbeaten run: the Gaffer referenced the building of momentum after the Solihull game and he will be desperate to see that continue today ahead of a run of tough fixtures in September.

There have been just 10 goals scored in the six games featuring Wealdstone this season, meaning that entertainment-hungry fans could feel short-changed at the measly 1.66 goals per game (GPG) currently on offer. That assertion is of

### Stones are settling into some form and it's masterful Max who's the key again



pre-season preview that Taylor has been something of a 'tinkerer' in his previous managerial spells at Walsall and Shrewsbury Town.

So far this season, Taylor has made 16 changes to his starting XI's across those first six games, an average of 3.2 per game. In comparison, the same opening six from his time with The Saddlers and Salop makes for interesting reading, albeit a small data set. At Walsall he made 8 changes to his starting XI across the first six fixtures (1.6 per game), a run that (like Wealdstone) garnered a win, two draws and three defeats. At Shrewsbury he made

just 2 changes in his first six games (0.4 per game) in a run that returned three wins and three defeats. Some supporters have muttered that he is struggling to find his best XI but that (limited) data set against the backdrop of the current injury crisis

### HOW STONES' GOALS PER GAME ARE ON THE SLIDE....

| Season | Home   |     |         |      | Away   |     |         |      | Totals |  |
|--------|--------|-----|---------|------|--------|-----|---------|------|--------|--|
|        | Played | For | Against | GPG  | Played | For | Against | GPG  | GPG    |  |
| 20/21  | 21     | 32  | 51      | 3.95 | 21     | 17  | 48      | 3.10 | 3.52   |  |
| 21/22  | 22     | 24  | 24      | 2.18 | 22     | 27  | 41      | 3.09 | 2.64   |  |
| 22/23  | 23     | 35  | 32      | 2.91 | 23     | 22  | 40      | 2.70 | 2.80   |  |
| 23/24  | 23     | 37  | 33      | 3.04 | 23     | 23  | 39      | 2.70 | 2.87   |  |
|        | 89     | 128 | 140     | 3.01 | 89     | 89  | 168     | 2.89 | 2.95   |  |

course tongue in cheek but it's much lower than the average of 2.95 GPG that Stones fans have been treated to over the last four seasons in National League football....though that number is slightly inflated by the 3.52 GPG during the farcical 'behind closed doors' season.

I expect today to be a similarly tight and cagey affair where the first goal may prove decisive.

Much has been made about Stones' early season injury crisis with a near double-figure number currently on Meatball's treatment table, pressing Matt Taylor into forced changes to his matchday XI. It was referenced on the StonesCast

suggest he likes to find a settled side.

The latest name on the injured list was **Max Kretzschmar** who limped off during the Fylde game and missed Saturday's trip to Solihull. He hopes to be involved today but it's worth looking at the impact that the Stones talisman had during the 2023-24 season. Kretz only managed 3 full ninety-minutes (admittedly he played 80+ mins on a further 7 occasions) but it's telling to see his contribution in both the points and goals per game columns (see stat box left). His experience at this level is invaluable and as we've

already witnessed this season, he's impactful in the final third. Indeed our Max was joint first in goal contributions (13) and narrowly second in minutes per goal contribution (166.08) last season. For the record, Sean Adarkwa took the plaudits for both categories...shame he's injured!

### ...WHILE MAX'S GOALS PER GAME ARE AMAZING!

| Minutes | Games | Points | PPG  | Goals | GPG  |
|---------|-------|--------|------|-------|------|
| 90      | 3     | 7      | 2.33 | 6     | 2.00 |
| 45+     | 23    | 36     | 1.57 | 35    | 1.52 |
| < 45    | 23    | 20     | 0.87 | 25    | 1.09 |
| 0       | 10    | 8      | 0.80 | 11    | 1.10 |

MICK FISHMAN ON WHETHER A MISSED PENALTY BACK IN 1981

# That 'Jimmy Sweetzer moment' is still a gut-wrencher, 43 years on



but novice manager, Ken Payne, the club had performed a minor coup by appointing in his place legendary non-league gaffer, Allen Batsford. Having turned Walton & Hersham into a formidable outfit in amateur football just as the amateur status was abolished by the FA, Batsford (pictured below) moved to Wimbledon where he created a significant team that won the Southern League 3 seasons in a row and were elected to the Football League in 1977.

But it wasn't just its total dominance of the Southern League that brought Wimbledon national acclaim, it was also their FA Cup exploits. In 1975 they travelled to First Division Burnley's Turf Moor in the FA Cup 3rd Round and beat them 1-0. The next round saw them drawn away to the then mighty Leeds United and were good enough to

come away with a 0-0 draw. It was no fluke. In the replay it took a deflected own goal to see United through to the 5th Round.

Unfortunately, Batsford and his chairman, Ron Noades, fell out and within 6 months of the club's first season in the Football League there was a parting of the ways. Batsford next resurfaced at Southern League Hillingdon Borough, but he was not there long before Stones Chairman Fred Deanus persuaded him over to take charge at Lower Mead.

At this point the team had played 11 league games, winning just 2, drawing 4 and losing 5. The badly misfiring team included a number of excellent players who went on to enjoy considerable success at the club such as Fred Barwick, Stuart Pearce, Paul Bowgett, John Watson, Nigel Johnson, Robin Wainwright, Alan and Neil Cordice and Clevere Forde. What they lacked was organisation, tactical awareness and the addition of 3 or 4 quality players.

It took time for Batsford to turn things around. Following his appointment the team played 24 league games, winning four, drawing seven and losing 13 - at which point all seemed lost with 3 of the final four games being against formidable opponents in Boston United, Kettering Town and Barrow. By this point, however, four excellent signings had been made: defenders Colin Hardman, Steve Perkins and Dennis Byatt along with the soon-to-be infamous midfielder, Jimmy Sweetzer, on loan from Millwall. Performances had very much im-

**Continued over page>>**



**YOU have to be a Wealdstone fan of a certain vintage for "That Jimmy Sweetzer Moment" to make any sense whatsoever**

The Millwall loanee's penalty miss in the last game of the 1980-81 Alliance Premier League season effectively relegated the Stones... but was this awful experience (which had an immediate and long-term

effect on the club) the single most traumatic moment in the history of the club?

This question came to my mind after Manny Duku struck his penalty against the crossbar and in the process ended our interest in the FA Trophy back in March. Had we won, we would have been just 90 minutes away from the final at Wembley.

It sent me wondering if there had been any other penalty miss by a Wealdstone player since then that had a similar effect. So let me attempt to paint a picture of the scene back on May 2nd, 1981. Just under 800 desperate souls had shambled through the Lower Mead turnstiles that afternoon to celebrate what most hoped would be the completion of the club's heroic attempt to avoid the first relegation in its history.

Having started the season disastrously under popular

IS STILL THE MOST TRAUMATIC MOMENT IN WFC HISTORY...

# Heartbreak half hour for tragic 'Stones'



Alan Cordice... tripped

Wealdstone 1, A.P. Leamington 2

THE sea of tight-lipped, grim faces streaming away from Lower Mead on Saturday bore witness to 30 of the most tragic minutes in the long history of Wealdstone Football Club.

They had just seen a 1-0 lead turn into an astonishing 2-1 defeat in the final half-hour of the final match of the season.

And, in the process, Wealdstone waved goodbye to the Alliance Premier League.

The 'Stones only needed a draw to escape relegation. Three straight wins, against Boston, Kettering and Barrow, had brought the fans through the turnstiles confident of success against the far-from-invincible Leamington side.

And when Robin Wainwright gave Wealdstone the lead from Sweetzer's cross after 61 minutes their joy bubbled to the surface.

"We're staying up this year," sang the crowd behind the Leamington goal, a view seemingly confirmed when Alan Cordice was upended by goalkeeper Dulleston just four minutes later and a penalty awarded.

Two nil would have sealed the win. And Jimmy Sweetzer, taking only his second penalty for the club, looked confident enough as he ran up to take the kick.

But he missed. The crowd looked on in numbed silence as the ball rebounded from the stone wall to the right of Dulleston's goal.

Leamington, who also needed to win to avoid the drop, suddenly realised their plight was not as hopeless as they had at first thought.

## Corner

They pushed centre half Gary Brown into attack and in the 77th minute won their first corner of the second half. Farrington swung over the kick, Cranstone missed his punch and Tommy Gorman headed in.

As news filtered through that Nuneaton —, the other club in danger — were beating Telford, Wealdstone suddenly became a bag of nerves.

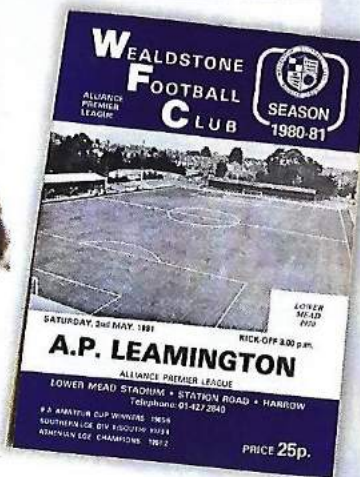
In the 86th minute, centre back Dennis Byatt failed to clear a hopeful knock on and Doug Hickton raced in to gleefully shoot past Cranstone.

The striker did a victory

jig while Wealdstone came to the shocked realisation that their Alliance Premier League life was ebbing away.

Four minutes later it had done.

For the first time in the club's history Wealdstone had been relegated. The news from Nuneaton, who eventually picked up a point in a 3-3 draw, and Barnet — who collected both against Northwich — confirmed that fact.



TIM PARKS on Wealdstone's troubled times

# 'Stones say: 'We'll be back'

WEALDSTONE chairman Fred Deanus put on a brave face this week and admitted: "I didn't sleep too well Saturday night."

I can assure Mr Deanus that he was in good company. Many, many supporters have since told me that losing to Leamington on Saturday was one of the worst experiences of their lives.

Not just the fact that Wealdstone will next season be playing among the little clubs of the Southern League. Not just the fact that they will lose their status as a senior non-League side.

More that the 'Stones have been relegated just as it seems manager Allen Batsford has assembled a good side at Lower Mead.

But Batsford himself feels that it will not be long before Wealdstone FC regain their place in the Alliance Premier League.

"If I can get the players I want in the summer we will have a very good team next year. Obviously I need a front player, someone who will score regularly, but I will be looking to sign four or five new faces," he said.

Saturday's result also affected him deeply. "It was a terrible blow. I thought before the game, and at half-time, that there was no way we could lose."

"Yet in the last 20 minutes it all went wrong. Tactics that have worked perfectly for a month failed. We never got to grips

with Leamington throwing so many men forward and it was difficult to communicate this to the players.

"Perhaps if we hadn't been having such a good spell we would have been more de-fensively minded. I don't know. It's history now."

Wealdstone now have to face the reality of Southern League football and all that implies.

Poor crowds, poor stadia and return trips to places such as Canterbury, Andover and Crawley Town — soccer backwaters they thought they had left far behind, in the dim and distant days of the Southern League Division One (South).

Yet if Batsford can find the goalscorer he has searched high and low for since taking over at Lower Mead in November, Wealdstone should be different class.

## No exception

They have been different class to many Alliance League sides this season except when it came to finding the net — and Saturday's crunch match was no exception.

Of Wealdstone's 16 shots throughout the 90 minutes, only two were on target; while Leamington only missed the target once from a paltry four attempts.

For that reason alone, Wealdstone deserve to go down.

**The Harrow Observer's view on Wealdstone's agonizing relegation 43 years ago. Young reporter Tim Parks turned out to be spot-on when his optimism was rewarded with an immediate promotion back to non-League's top flight**

## That 'Jimmy Sweetzer moment' continued

from previous page

proved, despite results remaining poor.

Arguably the game-changer was a friendly against Millwall's reserves in the middle of April when everything finally clicked. The young Lions were walloped 7-0, fringe striker Nigel Johnson scoring four while midfielder Jimmy Sweetzer was taken on loan from the South London club before the game, and proceeded to torment his former team mates.

Remarkably, full of new self belief, the Stones overpowered high-flying Boston United 3-0 at Lower Mead before travelling up the M1 to derail Kettering's title challenge with a single goal win. Stuart Pearce was the hero with a 25-yard freekick that was to become his trademark with Nottingham Forest and England.

Then the resurgent Barrow side arrived after a six-hour midweek journey only for another Pearce

humdinger - and a second half Sweetzer penalty - to send them home with a 2-0 defeat.

**In the light of what followed, the big question is: Why was the young and relatively inexperienced Jimmy Sweetzer allowed to take that spot kick against Barrow?**

It was an electric atmosphere, with the programme for the Leamington game four days later applauding the bigger-than-expected Elmslie End crowd for continuous singing. And when Alan Cordice was felled in the second half for a stonewall penalty we were surprised to see the Millwall loanee grab the match ball.

Skipper Paul Bowgett had converted five penalties already that season and even played a part in the incident, his pass playing in the livewire Cordice. And he was certainly no shrinking violet when it came to asserting his right to take the vital kick.

But the confident Sweetzer struck the ball home and all was sweetness and light, with the

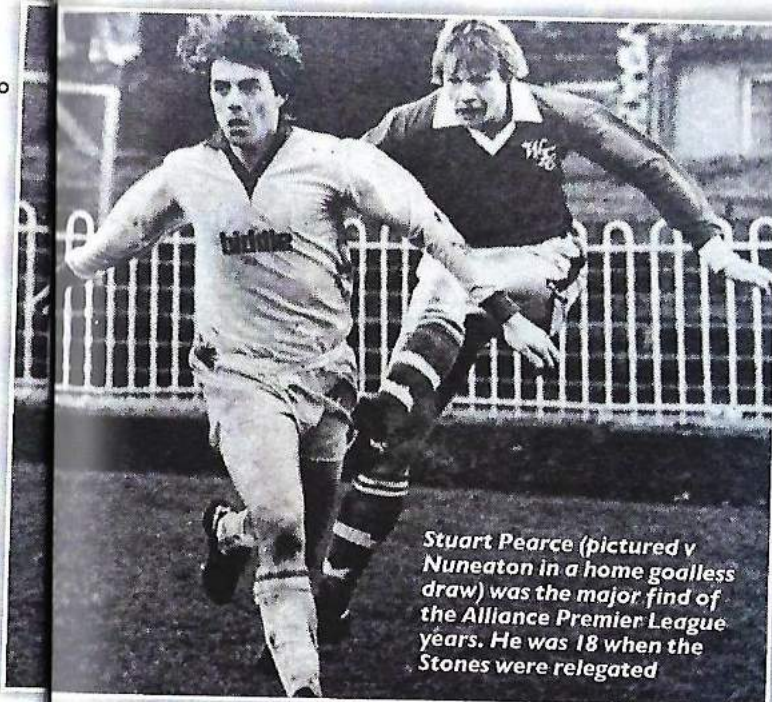
climactic final game with fellow strugglers AP Leamington just four days later. The way results had gone this was a straight duel for survival between ourselves and the midland side. Three points either way would decide who stayed up and who went down... while intriguingly Barnet were also in the mix if they lost their last game

But that all seemed academic. Cruising 1-0 after an hour through a Robin Wainwright goal against the limited Leamington side it seemed like game, set and match when Alan Cordice was upended by the visiting goalkeeper and a penalty awarded.

Up stepped the swaggering Sweetzer who started his run up confidently and struck the ball confidently but comfortably wide of the post. The hollow sound of the ball thumping against the concrete wall behind the Elmslie End goal lives with me to this day.

The relatively relaxed atmo-

**Left: The club's relegation that season was even more curious given that new president, David Morrilt, had gifted £20,000 even before a ball had been kicked. That twenty grand would be worth very close to £100,000 today!**



**Stuart Pearce (pictured v Nuneaton in a home goalless draw) was the major find of the Alliance Premier League years. He was 18 when the Stones were relegated**

sphere amongst the crowd switched instantly to one of fear and anxiety which quickly transferred to the players. The Leamington team had received an unexpected lift. Their manager sent up front their big centre half and started lobbing bombs into the Stones penalty area... and then came two catastrophic errors of judgement by keeper Ian Cranstone, described on the previous page in Tim Parks' *Harrow Observer* match report.

They allowed Tommy Gorman and Doug Hickton to score the goals that saved Leamington's season and sent the Stones down.

**Apart from Manny Duku's shoot-out miss against Solihull, the only other penalty failure I can bring to mind that had, arguably, a major effect on the club's future was Elliott Benyon's at St Albans early in the 2017/18 season.**

The team were drawing 1-1 and dominating play when the Stones were awarded a penalty as a result of defender Tom Bender handling the ball on the goal line, for which he received a red card. Elliott Benyon then placed a soft penalty into the goallie's arms... and it resulted in a general paralysis that allowed the 10 men of City to grab a second goal and an unlikely victory.

The St Albans defeat appeared to knock the stuffing out of the players as the team stumbled from one catastrophe to the next. Cruising to a 2-0 win at Gloucester City, they conceded twice from set pieces in the last 10 minutes to draw 2-2. The next game,

at home to Havant & Waterlooville, saw the team huff and puff to no avail and be picked off comfortably for a 1-0 defeat. Five days later a Scott Davies-inspired Chelmsford City came to The Vale and simply murdered the Stones. In a truly abject performance, but for City hitting the woodwork three times and Jonathan North pulling off some outstanding saves, the final 2-0 score to Chelmsford might have been far, far worse.

Grumbings against Gordon Bartlett and his coaching team had been bubbling under the surface and ready to erupt at any time. This display was so poor that, after 22 years, Gordon Bartlett was no longer Wealdstone's manager.

**In all my long years of supporting Wealdstone there have been just two matches that have left me with permanent psychological scars: the FA Amateur Cup semi-final defeat to Chesham United in 1968 and then that defeat to AP Leamington. But it wasn't just me.**

Wealdstone's most famous son is Stuart Pearce. The great man was the guest of honour at the club's centenary celebrations held at the Hilton Hotel, Bushey in 2000. During a hugely entertaining Question & Answer session, Stuart was asked by long-standing Stones fan Jon Taffel if he remained in Christmas card contact with Jimmy Sweetzer.

Well, that "innocuous" question switched the charming, genial, ex-England star into the psycho of legend. He launched into a ferocious invective aimed at his ex-colleague that took the breath away.

A man who had made 570 appearances in the top level of the English game, had been capped 78 times and had captained his country on nine occasions could still be brought to an incandescent rage by a penalty missed by a player in a match played 20 years earlier in the 5th tier of the English game!

Clearly, he too had been psychologically scarred by that missed penalty.

As I said at the very start of this article - you had to be there. I was. Stuart Pearce was. We have both been damaged by the experience. And yet Jimmy Sweetzer, wherever he is today, will have no idea. Oh Jimmy!

# £20,000 boost for ambitious Wealdstone

WEALDSTONE FC have been donated a staggering £20,000 on the eve of the new season by their new president David Morrilt.

by  
**Tim Parks**

them eventually into the Fourth Division. "I have so much trust in Fred that I am prepared to help him towards that aim," he said.

Half of the £20,000 has been used to pay off the club's major debts, while the evidence of the other half can already be seen around Lower Mead.

### Envy

The dressing rooms have been completely refurbished, with carpets and wood panels in the new board-

bought Orient's lights as they are putting in a new system, and they will be installed here in October," said Mr Deanus.

The lamps, two to each pylon, will each be 250 lux - five times as powerful as the present ones, and good enough for colour television. Wealdstone are hoping that Birmingham City will send their first team to open them in style.

### Largest

David Morrilt took over Morrilt Homes Ltd., one of the largest building firms in the area, from his father 12 years ago.

Since then he has established himself as a successful and has the



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## TODAY WE WELCOME FANS OF YORK CITY TO GROSVENOR VALE

**Good afternoon one and all and welcome to The Vale for this afternoon's game versus York City. We trust every fan has a pleasant stay here with us in the heart of Middlesex and have time to share a drink in the social club after a good game.**

Well, as always, it has been a busy close of season for the committee. The previous season hadn't even finished when a number of hearty volunteers swapped the trip up north to Oldham, on the final day of the campaign, to host our first BBQ / fanzone of the summer. That was a somewhat stressful day, trying to flip and serve burgers, as we were kept up to date of the ever-changing scoreline at Boundary Park. We all know it turned out great in the end and over the coming weeks we hosted another five fanzones, which generated a serious amount of cash which can be seen in the recent WFCSC donation of £15k to the football club for dugouts and other items around the ground. These are great events, if a little tiring, as there is a lot of pre work that needs to take place, fielding phone calls, taking bookings, cash

and carry runs, BBQ cleaning and the like to ensure the day is well run and a success. Since we have been doing this for over ten years, we have become quite adept at holding such days and the club's hospitality is always greatly received by the visiting fans. A shout out should also go to Sarah and Nathan and their team for the sterling effort to keep the beer pumps flowing with the amber nectar. Over the summer I think we played host to some 6,000 visiting fans. When you add to these events the other days spent down the ground at meetings, cleaning up and reorganising you can quickly see why the start of the season comes around all too soon.

Finally, a special mention to Nick Brown, who is a life-long York fan, but also follows the Stones when his first football love is playing away. Nick is a regular in the Programme Hut enlarging his treasured collection. Enjoy the day Nick and at least we know at least one fan will go home happy whatever the result.

**WHAT IS NEW TO THE MEGASTORE** – Well we might be a few games into the new season,

but we have several new items in and around both the Megastore and Old Programme Hut today. As with every new season we have had a few more mug designs produced. As it is probably fifteen years since our last Grosvenor Vale mug, it felt the time was right to bring out something different. As always, all mugs are £6 each. We also have a few new T-shirts available to purchase. We have a limited stock of 'Royals' shirts, as well as thanks to Gordon Hill, three different t-shirts for the visiting Raider fan, which believe it or not after eleven years there is still a demand. There is also a new Dead Fox Corner design available in store and online which has already proved quite popular.

We have also increased our range of polo shirts available. We have sizes that will fit even those Stones fans carrying a fair bit of relaxed muscle. We have had the Lonsdale style logo produced in a raised silicone breast logo, as well as a 'Stones' (technical terming coming) 3D embroidered puff logo which looks great and also adorns the left breast of a number of our polo shirts. This year you

are also able to Pick n Mix and select whichever badge we currently produced with your favoured shirt. Once selected we will go away and produce your item ready for collection at the following home game, likewise we are happy to post out to you.

### & WHAT IS THE SAME

– For those that have not seen these before we have various artistic prints of Lower Mead and other grounds from Turf Football Art on our shelves. We also have added the various Teddy Bears sporting Wealdstone badges on their tiny T-Shirts, glass coasters, clocks, notepads, Caps, scarves

and more. We have also refreshed and updated our vast range of programme fridge magnets which are available for three for £5. There is no reason not to stick you head in and have a gander.

### THE 'OLD PROGRAMME HUT'

– This is now up and running with a few changes having been made over the summer months. We have increased the shop space to allow even more programmes. As always, we carry a large quantity of Stones home and away programmes from seasons



past, as well as even more Fulham, Chelsea, Watford, West Ham, Millwall, Palace and many other football league club programmes. We also have a large volume of what we class as 'specials' in the form of England programmes through the decades, FA Cup and League Cup finals, Trophy finals and important Stones games. We are always willing to do a deal, so build a bundle and we will do a deal.

### WE WANT YOUR UNWANTED –

we are always happy to take any of your old and unwanted items. Some we can sell in the shops, others we will sell via our other outlets such as ebay. We love old programmes, LP's, football shirts and the like. We have even recently been offered a load of old Beano comics. There is very little we will turn down. It all gets found a new home and turned into cash for the club.

### 50/50 –

I don't believe we have had a winner come forward for the first 50/50 draw of the season vs Oldham. The winning ticket number was 19997 with a cash prize of £238 awaiting the winner. Today's tickets can be brought from several committee men and women who will be selling around the social club and inside the ground. It is only a pound so well worth a little flutter.

### SOCIAL MEGASTORE –

Keep up to date with the comings and goings of our new stock / kits etc with our Facebook page (Wealdstone FC SC Megastore) & Twitter (@WfcMegastore).

**GOODBYE & GOODNIGHT** - That ends my umpteenth set of programme notes. Thanks to all the bodies that have sweated and toiled over this very British summer to get the various Megastore premises ready, as well as Mrs Megastore and family for allowing me to do my football stuff off season (and for missing her Birthday on the bank holiday). Remember the shop will be open all home games and we are still online at wfcmegastore.co.uk and our eBay shop (wfcsc). Come on you Stones and don't forget to bring your wallets.

# WFCSC update

BY ADAM EDWARDS



Adam

(aka Stones Throw) & @Wfcmegastore on twitter  
On behalf of the Megastore Team  
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**Rio Rosenberg**

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# TIM PARKS HOPS INTO HIS TIME MACHINE AND TRAVELS BACK

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7 1974,  
SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREM:  
KETTERING T 2 WEALDSTONE 3



**IF you are a regular reader of the 'Rewind' columns in this programme you'll be familiar with my love of the 1974-75 season, now a worrying 50 years ago.**

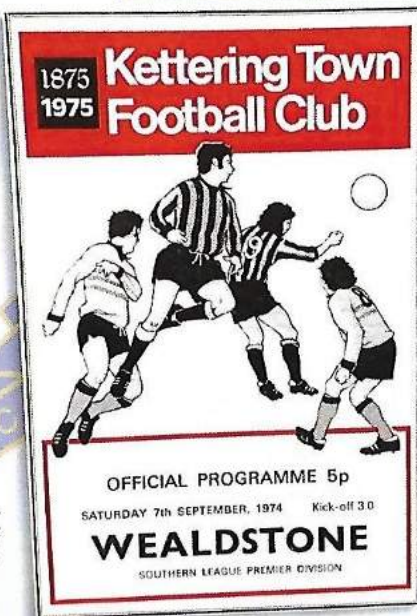
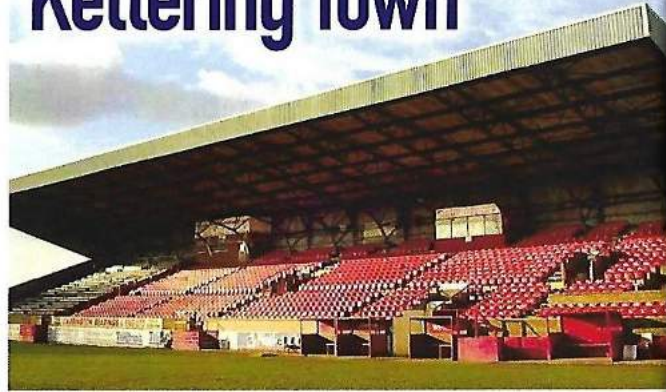
It was the first time the Stones had rubbed shoulders with non-League football's true elite - our amateur days had seen us face the likes of Enfield, Wycombe, Sutton and Hendon on a regular basis but after we'd turned professional in 1971, the lure of winning promotion to the Southern League Prem was what sustained us.

And then it happened. Under Eddie Presland, Wealdstone won the Southern League Div One South by 11 points and charged into the top division on a riptide of confidence, self belief and no little ability.

But we had to doubt if we'd really flourish there. And after two wins against Weymouth and Dartford, we foundered at Tonbridge and at home to Margate. That self belief was wavering.

Especially as we then faced this daunting trip up the M1 to Kettering, who had won the Southern League title in 1973 and then missed election to the Football League by just five votes the following year. They were managed by Big Ron Atkinson (just starting out on his impressive career in the dugout) and had a whole raft of ex pro stars who were just waiting to blow away the Stones. But remarkably, beautifully, the afternoon turned out rather differently. Turning up with three coachloads of supporters was nothing unusual in those days (most of our fans seemed to be very

# 50 years ago: The day Johnny H hit a goal to remember as Stones rocked title wannabes Kettering Town



old, or teenagers like myself) but the sheer size of Kettering's Rockingham Road and the 2,233 crowd really brought home the fact that we were sparring with the big boys.

The Ks scored within a few minutes through giant striker Jim Conde. As we'd been expecting. But what we weren't expecting was a sublime equaliser from Johnny Henderson that transformed the whole afternoon.

I can still picture it now. Imagine Tarryn Allarakhia's sublime jinking run against Boreham Wood in the televised game last season and crank it up several notches - Johnny H collected the ball 55 yards from goal, inside the centre circle and sprinted away from his first marker, before running diag-

# TO REVISIT EVENTS ON THIS DAY IN WEALDSTONE FC HISTORY....

## Managers Notes



Forgive me if I hark back to last week's game against Dartford but I don't think I can let it pass without making comment about the tremendous performance the team gave. It certainly ranks as the best display I personally have ever seen from a Southern League side and the fact that we scored four goals was an added bonus.

One factor that did disappoint me on Saturday was the size of the gate, which although was easily the highest in the league (and higher than several Fourth Division clubs) I'm sure that but for the lack of pre-game build up due to an industrial dispute by the local press our gate would have been considerably higher.

That over it is now time to keep the momentum rolling. After today we are faced with a number of away games and if we can get a fair points return from these matches it will stand us in good stead.

Next week sees the start of the new style reserve league when our youngsters take part in the autumn competition.

This season the league has been split into two sections, one before Christmas and one after. It is hoped that next year the league will be extended to become a very good competition.

Finally a word of congratulations to our groundsman Terry Jordan for the excellent playing surface that he and his helpers have prepared this summer.

## Kettering Town

## Wealdstone

- |                 |    |                 |
|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| DICK DIGHTON    | 1  | JOHN MORTON     |
| ROGER ASHBY     | 2  | DEREK EVANS     |
| JOHN LOUGHLAN   | 3  | JOHN WATSON     |
| MICK GOODALL    | 4  | ERIC BURGESS    |
| SEAN SUDDARDS   | 5  | JOHN McCORMICK  |
| FRANK LARGE     | 6  | JIM GODFREY     |
| TOMMY HORSFALL  | 7  | RAY FULTON      |
| GRAHAM ATKINSON | 8  | TERRY EVANS     |
| JIM CONDE       | 9  | BILL BYRNE      |
| ROY CLAYTON     | 10 | GEORGE DUCK     |
| JOHN PAWLEY     | 11 | JOHN HENDERSON  |
| SAM FERRIS      | 12 | PAUL FAIRCLOUGH |

Referee : P. J. DAVIS, Redditch.  
Linesmen : H. BOWDEN, Northampton. G. STEVENS, Syston.

**BALL DONOR FOR TODAY'S GAME**  
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Left: The impressive main stand at Kettering's old Rockingham Road ground and (above) their team boss Ron Atkinson - just starting out on his managerial career - sings his team's praises in the programme. Above right: How the teams lined up that memorable afternoon

onally towards the box faced by two more.

Gathered behind the goal, the 200+ Stones fans felt the first stirrings of excitement.

Talking to Johnny Henderson eight years ago (at the Brockenhurst FA Cup game in the New Forest, just a few miles from his home) he recollected that everything about the goal was instinctive.

"My first touch was good and the second one pushed the ball outside towards the touchline while I ran around inside the defender, who was a bit slow to react. Then as the next two defenders converged on me I slipped the ball between them and was through - just the keeper to beat" he said.

"Dick Dighton, the keeper, was really fast off his line but he left just enough of a gap to slide the ball across him and into the far corner. I'd scored!"

It was one of the great Wealdstone goals of all time, enhanced by the surroundings, the opposition

and the sheer unlikelihood of a goal just when Kettering were threatening to run riot.

As the attached report overpage shows, Jim Godfrey then headed the now-confident Stones in front only for the Ks' centre forward Conde to net his second goal of the game to equalise.

Kettering were now favourites to go on and win, but the real quality in this Stones side shone through again as our ace marksman George Duck coolly lobbed the stranded Dighton for the winning goal as the couple of hundred of us away fans cavorted on the open terraces behind the goal.

An away win at the team tipped to win the title! I've probably never felt as proud or excited to be a Stones fan as I did travelling back from Kettering that afternoon - there's nothing better than an away win against the odds, impressing a partisan home support and giving yourself a boost up the table.

We finished a creditable (though a bit disappointing) eighth that season but I'll never forget Rockingham Road 1974. Happy days!

continued overpage >>



Second half show earns win

# Tenacious 'Stones end Kettering's long run

Kettering 2, Wealdstone 3

**SENSATIONALLY** going a goal down after only 45 seconds, Wealdstone fought back with tremendous spirit to inflict on Football League aspirants Kettering their first home defeat for 11 months.

After the way the 'Stones flopped against Margate the previous week, few thought that the highly-professional outfit of Kettering would be their victims, and a point Wealdstone improved immeasurably in the second when facing a gale force wind, and deserved the points.

Although they had defeated Bury Town 2-1 three days earlier in the Southern League Cup second leg with goals from Godfrey and a Bury defender, Wealdstone, with several regulars absent, had not impressed, and did nothing to suggest that their trip to Northamptonshire would yield any kind of reward. But in the event, they re-

ceived a couple of games. But very sportingly, Ray Fulton, who since the Tonbridge game, felt he was not 100 per cent fit and so dropped out in favour of Derek.

I say "sportingly" deliberately, for every Wealdstone player knows that when he misses a game there is a very definite chance of having to fight to regain his place.

## BLUNDERS

Kettering's two goals in the second half were scored in the 60th and 65th minutes. The first was scored by Bobby Moss, who had been booked in the first half for a foul on Pawley. Kettering's best player, while Frank Large also went in the book. But it was a clean game, and an exciting one considering the conditions.

Kinrear was outstanding in the 'Stones back four, while Godfrey was outstanding in the 'Stones front three.

This win will put the 'Stones in great heart when they make the long trip to Yeovil. Yeovil have the same record, six points from five games, and themselves had a great victory at Maidstone on Saturday. It should be a battle royal.

Wealdstone: Morton; Kinrear, Watson, Burgess, McCormick; Godfrey, Evans (D.); Fairclough, Byrne, Duck, Henderson. Sub: Fulton.

COLIN POPE



Just beaten to the ball: Stones' cult hero Johnny H

session on the half-way line and in seconds Conde had majestically swept the ball into the net, Burgess contributing to the mistake.

Kettering could have gone further ahead as Wealdstone struggled to find some semblance of rhythm, but they survived and eventually drew level in the 42nd minute with a goal which had the 2,500 crowd applauding.

Henderson picked up a loose ball in the centre of the pitch, raced headlong towards goal, including desperate tackles from several Wealdstone players. Sufficiently placed the ball between Dighton and the right-hand post. It was a goal of sheer brilliance and even the Kettering players stopped to applaud.

Wealdstone played much better in the second half and only three minutes had gone before Godfrey rose beautifully to head in Fairclough's precision corner from the left.

## DUCK WINNER

After 64 minutes Kettering got back on terms, again through Conde, but Wealdstone were so unlucky to concede it. Evans was robbed well out on the left flank, and Clayton rounded Morton and drove towards the empty goal. Kinnear showing superb anticipation cut it off on the goal line, but his clearance struck Conde and the ball virtually rebounded into the net.

Immediately afterwards Morton threw himself at Clayton's feet and Kettering swarmed to the attack. But Wealdstone, fighting like men possessed, gradually gained control. A period of intense pressure ended in the 84th minute when

three coaches of 'Stones supporters home happy.

Morton had his best game yet in the royal blue and white, and on four occasions showed immense courage when diving headlong at the feet of Kettering's forwards. His class showed perhaps for the first time.

Manager Eddie Presland had selection problems, for Terry Evans was unfit, while he had decided to rest Derek Evans, who had struggled for the previ-



Bobby Moss (in the foreground) waits hopefully as Kettering Town's goalkeeper Livsey is flooded by one of his colleagues in the Lower Mead mud.

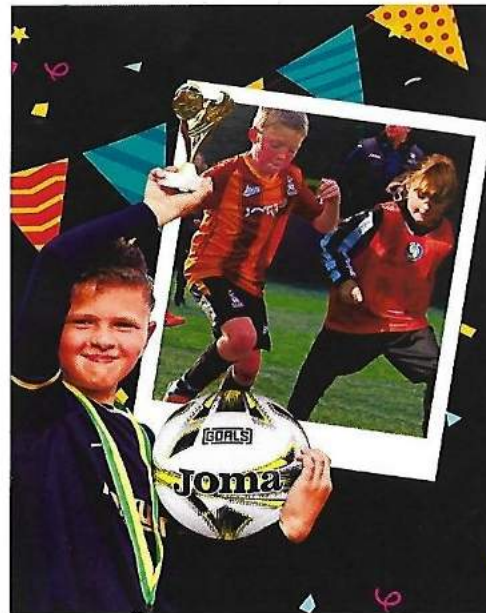
Above: The Harrow Observer's excellent coverage of the win at Kettering, and (top) popular winger Johnny Henderson in action at Lower Mead for the Stones later that season.

We completed a notable double over Kettering the following March on a Lower Mead mud heap (pictured far right) by 2-1 after a week of heavy rain. The programme cover (right) is as striking as Kettering Town's.

CONTINUED OVERPAGE >>







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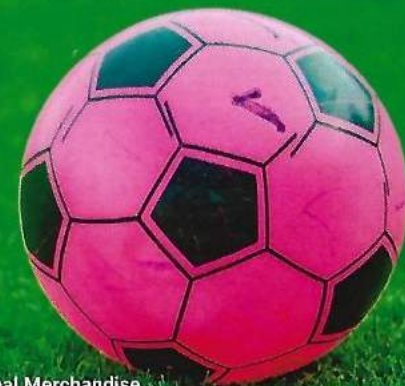
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Wells Glass  
Zinga Financial Services

### Programme, Community & Academy

Brunel University London  
Barracuda Fish and Chips  
Barton Petroleum  
Goals  
GO Sport Travel  
GPF Lewis  
Guy Mummery Roofing  
Homeflair

Harrow College  
LMS Sheridans  
Merchandise.co.uk  
Namaste Lounge  
Pinner Pavings  
PUKKA  
Rolfe East  
Sorrell & Son Appliance Sales

# LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES SEASON 2024-2025

A = APPEARANCES AS STARTER  
 S = APPEARANCES AS SUBSTITUTE  
 G = GOALS SCORED  
 \* = HAS SINCE LEFT CLUB

| CORRECT AS AT 26TH AUGUST 2024 | VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE |   |   | FA CUP |   |   | FA TROPHY |   |   | MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP |   |   | MIDDLESEX CHARITY CUP |   |   | TOTALS |     |    | STONES CAREER |   |   |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|--------|---|---|-----------|---|---|----------------------|---|---|-----------------------|---|---|--------|-----|----|---------------|---|---|
|                                | A                        | S | G | A      | S | G | A         | S | G | A                    | S | G | A                     | S | G | A      | S   | G  | A             | S | G |
| Adarkwa, Sean                  |                          |   |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   |   | 20     | 15  | 10 |               |   |   |
| Ashford, Sam                   | 1                        |   | 1 |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 1 | 1      | 1   | 1  |               |   |   |
| Barrett, Mason                 |                          |   |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   |   | 39     | 16  | 2  |               |   |   |
| Boldewijn, Enzo                | 5                        |   |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 5 |        |     |    |               |   |   |
| Cesay, Kallum                  | 5                        |   |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 5 |        | 12  | 2  |               |   |   |
| Clarke, Jahmari                |                          | 2 |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   |   |        |     | 2  |               |   |   |
| Cook, Jack                     | 5                        |   |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 5 |        | 134 | 5  | 13            |   |   |
| Dreher, Luke                   | 1                        | 1 |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 1 | 1      | 1   | 1  |               |   |   |
| Dyer, Alex                     | 4                        | 1 |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 4 | 1      | 221 | 45 | 35            |   |   |
| Georgio, Anthony               | 3                        | 2 |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 3 | 2      | 3   | 2  |               |   |   |
| Hutchinson, Dominic            | 3                        | 2 |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 3 | 2      | 23  | 10 | 1             |   |   |
| Kretzschmar, Max               | 3                        | 2 |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 3 | 2      | 54  | 22 | 16            |   |   |
| Mariappa, Adrian               | 5                        |   |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 5 |        | 5   |    |               |   |   |
| Mason, Brandon                 | 2                        |   |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 2 |        | 19  | 7  |               |   |   |
| Matthews, Archie               | 5                        |   |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 5 |        | 5   |    |               |   |   |
| Miller, Todd                   |                          | 2 |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   |   | 2      |     |    |               |   |   |
| Mundle-Smith, Jaydn            |                          |   |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   |   | 86     | 14  | 5  |               |   |   |
| Obiero, Micah                  | 4                        | 1 | 1 |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 4 | 1      | 62  | 14 | 11            |   |   |
| Sandat Henry                   | 4                        | 1 | 1 |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 4 | 1      | 4   | 1  | 1             |   |   |
| Scott, Christian               | 1                        | 2 |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 1 | 2      | 1   | 2  |               |   |   |
| Traore, Yacou                  | 3                        | 2 |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 3 | 2      | 3   | 2  |               |   |   |
| Woodman, Deon                  | 1                        | 2 |   |        |   |   |           |   |   |                      |   |   |                       |   | 1 | 2      | 1   | 4  |               |   |   |



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|  |  |   |  |   |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Matt Taylor</b><br>Ronnie Moore                 |  | <b>Paul Hughes</b><br>Pete Worby                              |  | <b>Wayne Andrews</b><br>Jon Taffel                                    |  | <b>Brett Aherne</b><br>Jon Taffel  |  |
| <b>Jason Scannell</b><br>Tom & Amy Marshall        |  | <b>Archie Matthews</b><br>Gary Smith                          |  | <b>Archie Matthews A</b><br>Gary Smith                                |  | <b>Jack Cook</b><br>David & Carolyn Edwards                                      |  |
| <b>Jack Cook</b><br>Raj                            |  | <b>Anthony Georgiou</b><br>Forum Charlie                      |  | <b>Deon Woodman</b><br>Lynn and Ian Austin                            |  | <b>Alex Dyer</b><br>IC Property  |  |
| <b>Alex Dyer</b><br>Hillcrest Group                |  | <b>Mason Barrett</b><br>Robert Barrett, Rolfe East            |  | <b>Enzio Boldewijn</b><br>Sponsorship available                       |  | <b>Craig Eastmond</b><br>@Stonescast85   |  |
| <b>Craig Eastmond</b><br>Jamie McGarrity & family  |  | <b>Sean Adarkwa</b><br>Luca                                   |  | <b>Max Kretzschmar</b><br>Adam Rowlands                               |  | <b>Todd Miller</b><br>In Memory of our dad Bernie Ingram, Wealdstone born & bred |  |
| <b>Jacob Adams</b><br>LTB Coaching                 |  | <b>Micah Obiero</b><br>Nicky Clark                            |  | <b>Elliot Simmons</b><br>Mick Fishman                                 |  | <b>Luke Dreher</b><br>Sarah Gowdy  |  |
| <b>Dominic Hutchinson</b><br>APA Events & Security |  | <b>Christian Scott</b><br>The 3 Amigos (John, James & Victor) |  | <b>Adrian Mariappa</b><br>Sudhir, Akhil, Nikhil, Sarin & Kamran Rawal |  | <b>Adrian Mariappa</b><br>Watford Stones (JP, Scott & Luca)                      |  |
| <b>Sam Ashford</b><br>Jim Sorrell                  |  | <b>Kallum Cesay</b><br>Matthew Snell                          |  | <b>Yacou Traore</b><br>Sponsorship available                          |  | <b>Jaydn Mundle-Smith</b><br>SytAllen  |  |
| <b>Henry Sandat</b><br>Sponsorship available       |  | <b>Jack Wells-Morrison</b><br>Sponsorship available           |  | <b>Callum McFartane</b><br>Sponsorship available                      |  | <b>Brandon Mason</b><br>Mike & Val Weston  |  |

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SUPPORT THE STONES HERE AT HOME AND ACROSS ENGLAND


Coming up here at The Vale >



**BARNET**  
Vanarama National League  
Saturday  
21st September  
5.30pm!




**SOUTHEND UNITED**  
Vanarama National League  
Tuesday  
24th September  
7.45pm




**YEOVIL TOWN**  
Vanarama National League  
Saturday  
19th October  
3.00pm

| VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE – TABLE AS AT 4TH SEPTEMBER | ALL |   |   |   |    | HOME |   |   |   |   | AWAY |    |   |   |   | GD | Pts | STONES RESULTS |     |    |     |     |
|--|-----|---|---|---|----|------|---|---|---|---|------|----|---|---|---|----|-----|----------------|-----|----|-----|-----|
|  | P   | W | D | L | F  | P    | W | D | L | F | P    | W  | D | L | F |    |     | H              | A   |    |     |     |
| 1 Gateshead  | 6   | 4 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 5    | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10   | 3  | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0  | 4   | 2              | 9   | 14 |     |     |
| 2 Eastleigh  | 6   | 4 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 6    | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7    | 4  | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1  | 4   | 2              | 5   | 13 |     |     |
| 3 Barnet   | 6   | 4 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 7    | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10   | 1  | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2  | 4   | 6              | 7   | 12 |     |     |
| 4 Rochdale   | 6   | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8  | 2    | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4    | 1  | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1  | 4   | 1              | 6   | 11 |     |     |
| 5 Forest Gree...                                     | 6   | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 6    | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2    | 1  | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1  | 9   | 5              | 5   | 11 |     |     |
| 6 York City  | 6   | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8  | 5    | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3    | 2  | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0  | 5   | 3              | 3   | 11 |     |     |
| 7 Aldershot Town                                     | 6   | 3 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 12   | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 11   | 7  | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2  | 4   | 5              | 3   | 10 |     |     |
| 8 Sutton United                                      | 6   | 2 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 6    | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8    | 4  | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0  | 3   | 2              | 5   | 9  | 0-1 |     |
| 9 Oldham Athletic                                    | 6   | 2 | 3 | 1 | 8  | 7    | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5    | 2  | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1  | 3   | 5              | 1   | 9  | 0-1 |     |
| 10 Hartlepool United                                 | 6   | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5  | 4    | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1    | 1  | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1  | 4   | 3              | 1   | 9  |     | 1-1 |
| 11 Yeovil Town                                       | 6   | 3 | 0 | 3 | 8  | 8    | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3    | 4  | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1  | 5   | 4              | 0   | 9  |     |     |
| 12 Woking  | 6   | 3 | 0 | 3 | 7  | 8    | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4    | 4  | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2  | 3   | 4              | -1  | 9  |     |     |
| 13 Solihull Moors                                    | 6   | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8  | 8    | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4    | 3  | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2  | 4   | 5              | +0  | 8  |     | 1-1 |
| 14 Halifax Town                                      | 6   | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5  | 5    | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3    | 4  | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0  | 2   | 1              | +0  | 8  |     |     |
| 15 Altrincham  | 6   | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4  | 9    | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2    | 2  | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2  | 2   | 7              | -5  | 7  |     |     |
| 16 Southend United                                   | 5   | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6  | 5    | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5    | 3  | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1  | 1   | 2              | +1  | 6  |     |     |
| 17 Dagenham & Redbridge                              | 6   | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6  | 8    | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3    | 4  | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1  | 3   | 4              | -2  | 6  |     | 1-2 |
| 18 Braintree Town                                    | 6   | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3  | 6    | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2    | 2  | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1  | 1   | 4              | -3  | 6  |     |     |
| 19 Fylde   | 5   | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6  | 8    | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3    | 2  | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2  | 3   | 6              | -2  | 5  | 1-0 |     |
| 20 Wealdstone  | 6   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4  | 6    | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1    | 2  | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1  | 3   | 4              | -2  | 5  | --  | --  |
| 21 Tamworth  | 6   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5  | 14   | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4    | 4  | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2  | 1   | 10             | -9  | 5  |     |     |
| 22 Maldenhead United                                 | 6   | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7  | 10   | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3    | 4  | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2  | 4   | 6              | -3  | 4  |     |     |
| 23 Boston United                                     | 6   | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4  | 13   | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2    | 11 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1  | 2   | 2              | -9  | 4  |     |     |
| 24 Ebbsfleet United                                  | 6   | 0 | 1 | 5 | 4  | 14   | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1    | 6  | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2  | 3   | 8              | -10 | 1  |     |     |


Follow the Stones on the road >



**WOKING**  
Vanarama National League  
Tuesday  
10th September  
7.45pm



**FOREST GREEN ROVERS**  
Vanarama National League  
Saturday  
14th September  
3.00pm



**FC HALIFAX TOWN**  
Vanarama National League  
Saturday  
28th September  
3.00pm

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