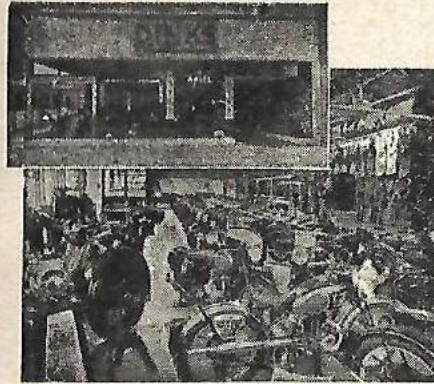


WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB

*Golden*  
*Jubilee Handbook*  
*1900 - 1950*





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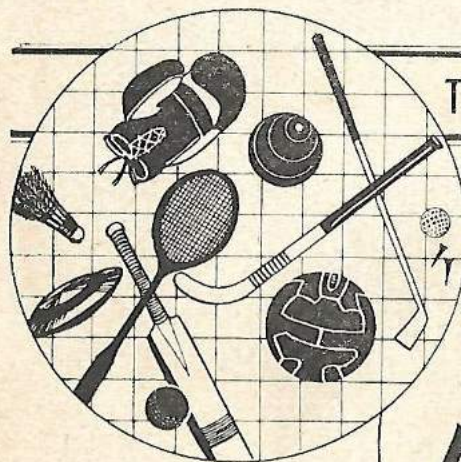
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WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB

1900 - 1950

GOLDEN JUBILEE  
HANDBOOK

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J. N. & H. LOCK & CO  
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Roxeth Corner, Harrow

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EDITED AND ARRANGED BY  
PHILIP E. CARDEN



C. E. BRADY, O.B.E., F.R.E.S.

*( President of the Club )*



**H. H. HARRISON**  
*( Chairman of the Club )*

## WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB

### Golden Jubilee Handbook

1900 - 1950

### STORY OF THE CLUB

By PHILIP E. CARDEN

#### I

*Pioneers of Organised Football in Wealdstone . . . The First Wealdstone F.C. . . . Football in the Fields . . . Admission 2d., Ladies Free . . . "Play Up, 'Stones!" . . . Wealdstone v. Hayes . . . Players in Caps . . . Villagers' Enthusiasm.* 13

#### II

*Our First President . . . Some Early Players . . . Champions, but Success Shortlived . . . Opening of a New Era . . . Match with Chelsea Brings Record "Gate" . . . War.* 16

#### III

*The First Post-war Season . . . Frank Harbud and Bill Gallagher . . . Lower Mead Acquired . . . Mr. C. E. Brady Elected President . . . Wealdstone Meets Clapton Orient and Arsenal in Successive Weeks . . . The Late Mr. C. V. Elmslie.* 20

#### IV

*Reserves as Champions . . . Life Membership for Mr. C. E. Brady, Mr. W. H. Peace, Mr. C. V. Elmslie, and Mr. H. C. Hird . . . A "Christmas Present" for Supporters . . . Billy Williams Joins the Club . . . Thank you, Mr. Burch . . . Election to the Athenian League.* 22

#### V

*Life Membership for Mr. G. W. Pitts and Dr. Margaret Brady . . . High Scoring in First Season of Athenian League Football . . . Reserves Win the Championship . . . Mr. A. J. Halsey a Life Member . . . F.A. Cup-ties with Dulwich Hamlet . . . Two County Cups Won.* 25

#### VI

*Goals Galore! . . . Wealdstone to Notts County . . . "Wooden Spoonists" . . . Reserve Team Champions for a Second Time . . . Death of Mr. C. V. Elmslie . . . Mr. H. A. Luck Appointed Hon. Secretary.* 28

VII

*Three Successful Years . . . C. E. Bunce, a Brilliant Centre-forward, a Popular Skipper, and a Great Sportsman . . . Life Membership for Mr. Ernest Bellchambers . . . Arthur Loveday, Bob Ellis, Ken Baldwin, Bert Dyke, Charlie Barker, and Other Popular Players . . . Middlesex Cups for the 'Stones' . . . More Successes for the Reserves . . . Wealdstone v. The Rest.* 30

VIII

*War . . . Famous Clubs at Lower Mead . . . A Season of Outstanding Success . . . Some Wartime Difficulties . . . Two Notable "Guest" Players.* 36

IX

*Football's Contribution to the War Effort . . . Herts and Middlesex League . . . Third Place in the League and Three Cups . . . Len Dolding's Accomplishments . . . Jack Russell's Goalscoring Achievements . . . Loss of Ken Baldwin and Ernie Walker.* 40

X

*Athenian League Restarts . . . Two Popular League Appointments . . . Wealdstone Successes in First Post-war Season . . . Presentation of the Wealdstone Football Club Cup . . . Cold Weather Closes Ground . . . On the Television Screen . . . Life Membership for Mr. H. Howman, Mr. H. A. Luck, and Mr. W. Rich . . . Fine Cup Performances . . . A Great Match with Leytonstone . . . Mr. F. W. Harbud a Life Member* 43

XI

*Amateur Cup Achievements . . . 13,504 Pay to See Cup-tie v. Leytonstone . . . Fourth Place in the League . . . Champions Score 10 Goals Against Wealdstone . . . Success of "A" Team Experiment . . . Arrangement with Chelsea F.C. . . . Tribute to Mr. C. W. Elliott . . . Work on the Ground.* 48

XII

*Wealdstone in the Headlines . . . Early F.A. Cup Victories Drawn Against Colchester United . . . Stanley Mortensen's Views on Colchester . . . Televised Again . . . Bill Saunders's Goal Carries the Day . . . Wealdstone v. "Goalsster".* 53

XIII

*Who Next? . . . Away to Port Vale . . . The Press on Wealdstone's Chances . . . Welcome at Hanley . . . A Great Display . . . Danny Wiltshire's Wonderful Saves . . . The Press on Wealdstone's Performance.* 58

XIV

*Amateur Cup Hopes . . . Failures Against Sutton United, Salisbury, and Uxbridge Town . . . Middlesex Senior Charity Cup Won . . . Fifth in League Table . . . Maidstone United at Lower Mead . . . Fred Haydon Goes to South Africa.* 62

SPECIAL ARTICLES

	Page
Foreword .. .. .	9
Wealdstone F.C. Record .. .. .	10
Officials for the Jubilee Season of 1949-50 .. .. .	11
Roll of Honour .. .. .	12
A Tribute to Charles Edward Brady, President of the Club since May, 1921 .. .. .	65
A Glance Round After 50 Years, by the SPORTS EDITOR of the "HARROW OBSERVER AND GAZETTE" .. .. .	66
A Word to the Youngsters, by DENIS COMPTON .. .. .	69
Three Factors in the Progress of Wealdstone F.C., by H. A. LUCK .. .. .	71
Golden Jubilee Celebrations .. .. .	73
Some Personal Reminiscences by THE PRESIDENT .. .. .	77
Lower Mead of the Future, by JACK HOLT .. .. .	79
A Spectator Tells of When Wealdstone Played at Wembley .. .. .	81
Wealdstone's Most Popular Player—C. E. Bunce .. .. .	84
Twenty-one Years' Service—Mr. H. A. Luck's Record .. .. .	85
In the Dressing Room, by W. F. SHOWLER .. .. .	86
Social Activities at Lower Mead, by ERIC BRYANT .. .. .	88
"Regular Training is the Thing," says BILL GALLAGHER .. .. .	90
Athenian League Record .. .. .	93
Golders Green 11, Wealdstone 23 .. .. .	94
The Club's Colours .. .. .	94
An Absent Friend—The Late Mr. G. T. Duffell .. .. .	95
Who's Who at Lower Mead—Pen Pictures of the Players .. .. .	97
A Lone Worker .. .. .	100

## FOREWORD

THE compilation of sporting records can be a past-time of absorbing interest. Many followers of our great national games of football and cricket, for example, derive immense pleasure and satisfaction from keeping their own records. Very often, of course, their efforts are modest—lists of goalscorers, league tables, batting and bowling averages, and so on. But some people are much more ambitious.

The interest of the late Mr. H. D. Skoyles in football generally, and the Wealdstone Football Club in particular, was largely of a statistical nature. His association with the Club in an official capacity was of comparatively short duration. After a very few seasons' service on the committee he resigned in order that he might devote his energies on the Club's behalf exclusively to his records. Mr. Skoyles, who had been collecting information concerning the Club's early history many years before he became connected with it officially, had a flair for this sort of work, and he would go to tremendous trouble in pursuing any line which he thought might conceivably add something to his existing data.

In presenting this Golden Jubilee Handbook, therefore, grateful acknowledgment is made of the labours of our late friend and colleague, for it is largely on the information gathered by him over a long period that this volume is based.

Acknowledgment is made also of the co-operation afforded Mr. Skoyles by so many in his zest for details of Club history. In particular, the Club wishes to express its gratitude to the Editor and staff of the *Harrow Observer and Gazette*. Through their kindness and assistance Mr. Skoyles was able to make full use of the files of the local newspaper. In a similar way the editors of other journals were able and willing to assist Mr. Skoyles in his efforts.

My own part in the preparation of this Handbook has been overshadowed, not only by the efforts of the late Mr. Skoyles, but also by the very willing co-operation of others, including those who have contributed articles to these pages. In this respect the Club is especially indebted to the Sports Editor of the *Harrow Observer and Gazette*, to Mr. Denis Compton, whom the Harrow district was proud to number among its residents for a number of years, and to Mr. Harold Gittins, of the *London Evening News*, for the privilege of reproducing some of his excellent cartoons.

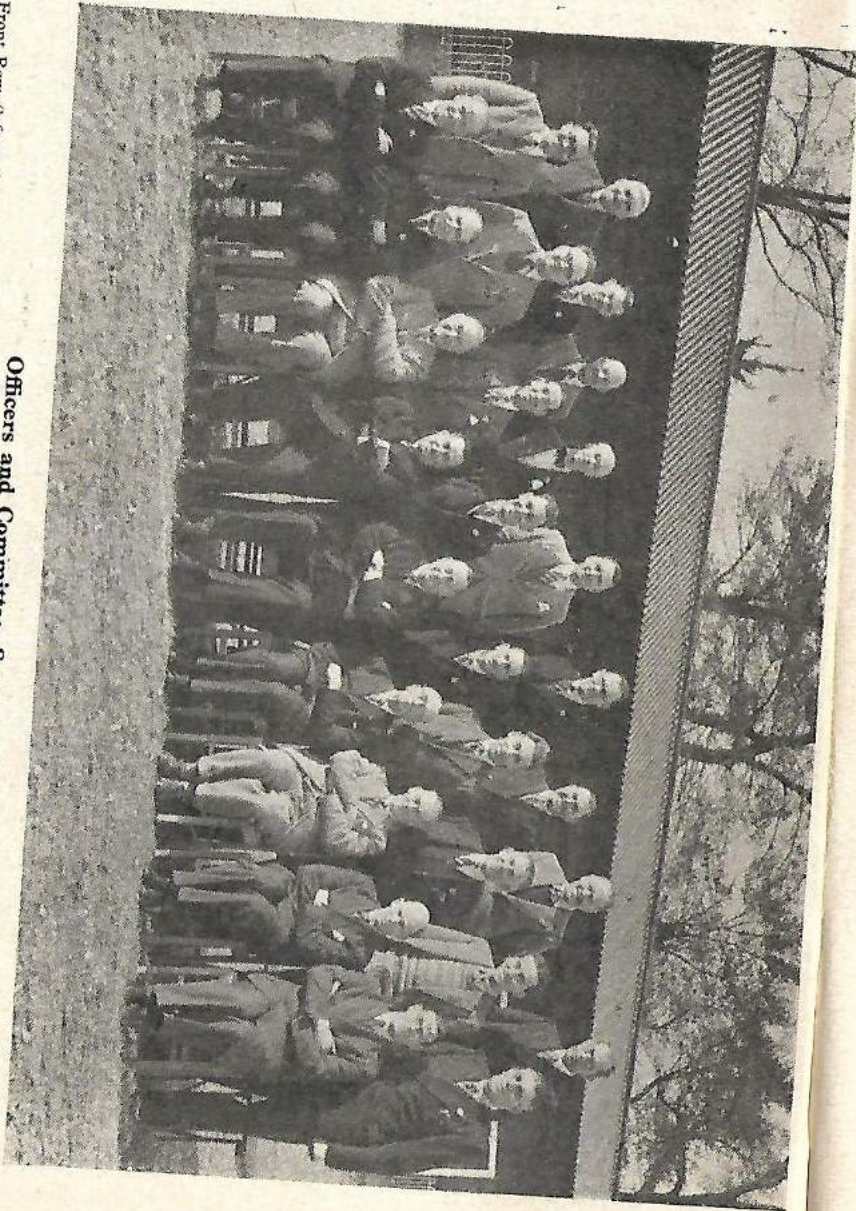
Every assistance has also been forthcoming from my colleagues on the committee and from the printers.

No claim is made that this Handbook covers adequately the activities of the Wealdstone Football Club through the years, but it is hoped that its contents will be found of interest by followers of the Club and, perhaps, by others into whose hands the book may chance to fall.

JULY, 1950.

P.E.C.

Nine



Officers and Committee, Season 1949-50

Front Row (left to right): R. A. Lemmings (Hon. Assistant Treasurer); A. W. Evans (Hon. Press Secretary); H. A. Luck (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer); J. Rogers (Deputy Chairman); H. H. Harrison (Chairman); C. E. Brady (President); P. W. Lanning (Vice-Chairman); W. G. Leadbeter (Hon. Assistant Secretary); J. Hall (Hon. Ground Secretary); Centre Row: H. J. H. Finney; A. J. Tucker; A. Dallinger; W. Whilshire; Back Row: J. Lawender; J. H. Piers; (S.A. Whilshire); W. F. Shore; (S.A. Whilshire); Hon. Match Secretary: E. H. Clynnes; J. C. A. Breen; E. J. Bryant; F. W. Harbott; F. Sibley; H. Wright; A. J. Spanner.

Eight





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Front Row (left to right) : R. A. Lemmings (Hon. Assistant Treasurer) ; A. W. Evans (Hon. Press Secretary) ; H. A. Luck (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer) ; J. Rogers (Deputy Chairman) ; H. H. Harrison (Chairman) ; C. E. Brady (President) ; P. W. Lanning (Vice-Chairman) ; W. G. Leadbetter (Hon. Assistant Secretary) ; J. Holt (Hon. Ground Secretary). Centre Row : H. J. H. Finney ; A. J. Tucker ; A. Dallenger (Assistant Hon. Match Secretary) ; E. H. Norton ; D. Wiltshire ; W. F. Showler (Hon. Match Secretary) ; A. McDonald ; P. E. Carden ; W. Wiltshire. Back Row : J. Lavender ; J. H. Pyers ("A" Team Hon. Secretary) ; E. H. Clynes ; J. C. A. Breen ; E. J. Bryant ; F. W. Harbud ; F. Sibley ; H. Wright ; A. J. Spanner.

## WEALDSTONE F.C. RECORD

### Winners

SEASON	COMPETITION	SEASON	COMPETITION
1909-10	North-West London League	1937-38	Middlesex Senior Cup
1910-11	Willesden and District League (Premier Division)	1937-38	Middlesex Senior Charity Cup
1912-13	Willesden and District League (Division I)	1938-39	Middlesex Senior Charity Cup
1912-13	London League (Division II)	1939-40	Middlesex Sports Red Cross Cup
1912-13	Middlesex Junior Cup	1940-41	Middlesex Senior Cup
1920-21	Middlesex Senior League	1940-41	Middlesex Sports Red Cross Cup
1921-22	Middlesex Senior League	1940-41	Cambridge Hospital Cup
1922-23	Harrow Charity Cup	1941-42	Middlesex Senior Cup
1923-24	Harrow Charity Cup	1941-42	Middlesex Sports Red Cross Cup
1924-25	Spartan League (Division II)	1942-43	Middlesex Senior Cup
1924-25	Harrow Charity Cup	1945-46	Middlesex Senior Cup
1926-27	Harrow Charity Cup	1945-46	Harrow Charity Cup
1928-29	Athenian League (Division II)	1945-46	Northwood War Memorial Cup
1928-29	Harrow Charity Cup	1945-46	Wealdstone Football Club Cup
1929-30	Middlesex Senior Cup	1947-48	Middlesex Intermediate Cup
1929-30	Middlesex Senior Charity Cup	1949-50	Middlesex Senior Charity Cup
1930-31	Middlesex Senior Charity Cup	1949-50	Wealdstone Football Club Cup
1933-34	Harrow Charity Cup	1949-50	Harrow, Wembley and District League (Division I)
1934-35	Harrow Charity Cup		
1935-36	Athenian League (Division II)		
1935-36	Harrow Charity Cup		
1936-37	Harrow Charity Cup		

### Runners-up

SEASON	COMPETITION	SEASON	COMPETITION
1911-12	London Junior Cup	1936-37	Athenian League (Reserve Section)
1911-12	Middlesex Junior Cup	1937-38	Athenian League (Reserve Section)
1911-12	London League (Division II)	1938-39	Middlesex Senior Cup
1922-23	Spartan League (Division I)	1939-40	London Senior Cup
1923-24	Middlesex Senior Cup	1946-47	Harrow Charity Cup
1931-32	Athenian League (Reserve Section)	1948-49	Wycombe Hospital Cup
1935-36	Middlesex Intermediate Cup		

## OFFICIALS FOR THE JUBILEE SEASON OF 1949-50

\* \* \*

Patron: Air Chief Marshal Sir John Slessor, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.  
 President: C. E. Brady, O.B.E., F.R.E.S.  
 Chairman: H. H. Harrison  
 Vice-Chairman: P. W. Lanning  
 Deputy Chairman: J. Rogers  
 Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: H. A. Luck  
 Hon. Assistant Secretary: W. G. Leadbetter  
 Hon. Assistant Treasurer: R. A. Lemmings  
 Hon. Press Secretary: A. W. Evans  
 Hon. Ground Secretary: J. Holt  
 Hon. Match Secretary: W. F. Showler  
 Assistant Hon. Match Secretary: A. Dallenger  
 "A" Team Hon. Secretary: J. H. Pyers

\* \* \*

### COMMITTEE

H. E. Batson, J. C. A. Breen, E. J. Bryant, P. E. Carden, E. H. Clynes, G. T. Duffell, H. J. H. Finney, F. W. Harbud, J. Lavender, A. McDonald, E. H. Norton, F. Sibley, A. J. Spanner, A. J. Tucker, D. Wiltshire, W. Wiltshire, H. Wright.

\* \* \*

### LIFE MEMBERS

E. G. C. Bellohambers, C. E. Brady, O.B.E., F.R.E.S., Dr. Margaret Brady, C. W. Elliott, A. J. Halsey, F. W. Harbud, H. C. Hird, H. Howman, H. A. Luck, W. H. Peace, W. Rich.

The late Mr. C. V. Elmslie and the late Mr. G. W. Pitts were also life members of the Club.

\* \* \*

### JUBILEE SUB-COMMITTEE

P. W. Lanning (chairman). Members: F. W. Harbud, A. J. Spanner, D. Wiltshire, W. Wiltshire. Co-opted members: E. J. Bryant, P. E. Carden, A. Dallenger.

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in two World Wars



### 1914-1918

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Bellchambers, C. F.	Goodage, R.
Bird, C.	Howman, W.
Bowells, H.	Martin, F.
Bradberry, R. W.	Robertson, G.

### 1939-1945

Baldwin, K.	Parr, W. W.
Bidewell, R.	Walker, E.
Bunce, C. E.	Winterbotham, W.
Burton, W. A.	



They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old,

Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

## Story of the Club

### I

*Pioneers of Organised Football in Wealdstone . . . The First Wealdstone F.C. . . . Football in the Fields . . . Admission 2d., Ladies Free . . . "Play Up, 'Stones!" . . . Wealdstone v. Hayes . . . Players in Caps . . . Villagers' Enthusiasm.*

ALTHOUGH the Wealdstone Football Club as we know it today was, it is generally agreed, founded at the beginning of the 1899-1900 season, records reveal that two clubs bearing the title were in being many years before that time. From existing records we are able to gain quite a clear picture of events leading to the formation of the present club.

The employees of a firm of gunsmiths, Messrs. Cogswell & Harrison, appear to have been the pioneers of organised football in Wealdstone. The firm came to the district from Birmingham in 1887. Its managing director, Mr. Edgar Harrison, who resided in Hindes-road, Harrow, took a great interest in his employees' football activities. Two local opponents of the factory team were the Wealdstone Mission F.C. and a club called "The Oaks," the latter being comprised of members of the clerical staff of Messrs. Cogswell & Harrison. "The Oaks" played on fields opposite the factory, near Rowe's Farm. The Bridge Schools in Station-road were later built on the site of this farm.

It was mainly from the players of these two clubs—Wealdstone Mission F.C. and "The Oaks"—and the factory team that the first Wealdstone Football Club was formed in 1890. This club played in the Middlesex Junior Cup final in 1893, losing 1-3 to Robin Hood F.C. (a nursery club of Tottenham Hotspur F.C.) at Northumberland Park, Tottenham. It is recorded that in this match the Wealdstone players wore distinguishing red sashes, as both teams were playing in white shirts. This first Wealdstone F.C. amalgamated with Harrow Athletic and a second Wealdstone club was formed in 1896. But its career was indeed a short one, for it had been in abeyance for some time before the present club first saw the light of day.

There are records of a number of matches played in the Wealdstone district long before 1900. One of the earliest games of which details are available was one between "The Oaks" and the works team of Messrs. Cogswell & Harrison played at Marlborough-hill, Wealdstone, on Saturday, November 19th, 1887. "The Oaks" held a two-goal lead at half-time and added a further goal after the change of ends. The teams in that fixture were:—

"THE OAKS":—T. Hole; S. Gill, W. Stephenson; G. Browne, W. Parker, H. Darville; H. Jones, A. Norris, S. Matthews, H. Waghorn, J. Poole.

COGSWELL & HARRISON:—F. Hughes; C. White, G. Norton; J. Walker, T. Blake, G. Gibson; S. Simons, J. Collins, T. Smallwood, G. Dickenson, A. Norman.

A return match was played between these two teams on Cogswell & Harrison's ground on December 3rd, 1887, "The Oaks" again being the victors, but this time by the reduced margin of 1-0.

The Wealdstone Mission team had its meeting place in a corrugated iron building on a site at the corner of Rosslyn-crescent, Wealdstone, near the gun factory in Ferndale-terrace. Mr. Edgar Harrison took a keen interest in the work of the Mission. The Mission building was demolished in 1904 when the Wesleyan Methodist Church was built in Locket-road. It is believed that at about this time the members of the Wealdstone Mission F.C. joined the Wealdstone F.C. A photograph of the Mission F.C. shows:—COMMITTEE: Messrs. Mallet, Basset, Roberts, and J. Williams. PLAYERS: Messrs. C. Donnelly, F. Cobb, E. T. Little, W. Medhurst, C. Cooper, F. Farr, G. Griffiths, S. Groves, A. Williams, J. Hopkins, and two others whose names can no longer be read.

The playing pitch of the first Wealdstone Football Club was transferred in 1889-90 from Marlborough-hill to a field which today forms part of Nibthwaite-road. A fixture card for the 1890-91 season gives the names of the following officials:—PATRONS: Messrs. J. E. Lilley, E. Harrison, J. Smithers, R. Blackwell, and F. S. Blackwell; COMMITTEE: Messrs. G. Horton, J. Poole, A. Darville, H. Hills, and W. Crook; TREASURER: Mr. R. Meadows; SECRETARY: Mr. T. A. Dickinson, 4, Percy-terrace, Canning-road, Wealdstone; CAPTAIN: Mr. S. Gill; VICE-CAPTAIN: Mr. S. Simons. The headquarters of the Club were then at the Railway Hotel, Station-road, Wealdstone, and the colours were white shirts and blue knickers. Among that season's opponents were Harrow Town, Southall, Wembley, Greenhill Hall Rovers, St. Albans, and Watford Rovers.

In the following season the matches were played on a field at what was to become the corner of Welldon-crescent and Angel-road, the site being taken later for the building of a Primitive Methodist Chapel. Details of the 1893-94 season show that the Club's ground was at Greenhill, the dressing rooms being at the "Havelock Arms," Station-road. Admission to the ground was 2d. for ordinary matches and 3d. for cup-ties, no charge being made for ladies. On November 11th, 1893, Wealdstone beat Hayes on their opponents' ground in the second round of the Middlesex Junior Cup before 200 spectators. The score was 5-0, all the goals being obtained in the second half. The third round of this competition was played at Wealdstone on January 13th, 1894, when Uxbridge Reserves won 2-1. It is recorded that G. Perry, a Wealdstone player, broke a leg in this match.

At 2 o'clock in the morning of Tuesday, July 16th, 1894, a serious fire at the works of Messrs. Cogswell & Harrison did considerable damage. It was suggested at the time that sparks from a railway engine fell through a hole in the roof of the factory and ignited some shavings. Shortly after the fire the firm removed to London.

At a meeting held on September 8th, 1894, Wealdstone F.C. decided to amalgamate with Harrow Athletic F.C. The local paper recording this decision stated: "This will greatly strengthen the Athletic Club, which will now be able to run three teams and, with a good list of fixtures, hopes to make the coming season even more successful than the last."

Wealdstone Athletic F.C. was formed at a meeting held at the Railway Hotel on Thursday, April 25th, 1895, Councillor E. J. Powell presiding in the absence of Mr. J. E. Lilley. A report of a meeting

held the following month states: "Mr. Durrant's offer of a field at £12 per annum was accepted." Mr. J. E. Lilley was elected president and it was agreed to ask several other gentlemen well known in the neighbourhood to act as vice-presidents. Mr. J. W. Clench was elected hon. secretary, with Mr. C. Rowley as his assistant.

A note by "Referee" in the local paper dated August 30th, 1895, is not without interest. "I hope Wealdstone will be able to raise a decent team," he wrote. "Are all the Wealdstone players who were in last year's Harrow team going to play in their 'own country'?" They certainly strengthened the Harrow Athletic Club's ranks last season, but one missed those stirring matches that used to be played two years ago at Greenhill. I for one shall be heartily glad to hear the old cry again 'Play Up, 'Stones'."

At a meeting of Wealdstone Athletic held at the Coffee Tavern, Wealdstone, on April 15th, 1896, it was reported that a number of players had left the Club "owing to water between goal posts and other ground difficulties."

Mr. S. Simons, who joined the Cogswell & Harrison factory team in 1877 at the age of 19, writing about the Club's activities in those early days, says that they had only 14 playing members and it was sometimes very difficult to get a team together. He recalls one instance of a player's keenness. "We had a fixture at Hayes and on this particular occasion we started off in our horse-brake without one of our best players. We expected to have to play a man short, but, to our surprise, the missing player arrived on the ground five minutes after we did. He had run and walked across country all the way from Harrow to Hayes and then played as good a game as usual."

Another player of those days, Mr. Percy Smith, reminds us that nearly all the players wore caps. "I remember," he says, "Harry Darville, our captain, used to wear a Rugby cap with a tassel—and how proud he was of it!"

Wealdstone had an "away" following, for it is recorded that there was considerable enthusiasm among the villagers. There were, of course, no motors on the roads and the supporters made their journeys in horse-drawn brakes and other vehicles.

Mr. Percy Smith has some interesting comments to make on the standard of play in those days. "Football nowadays to me seems far more skilful and faster," he writes, "whereas in the early days it was more a question of stamina and brawn. What are now called fouls were laughed at then; in fact, a club's greatest asset was a centre-forward renowned not for skill but strength, who could bundle the opponents' goalkeeper through the goal whenever the ball was in its vicinity—it was then quite legitimate."

## II

*Our First President . . . Some Early Players . . . Champions,  
but Success Shortlived . . . Opening of a New Era . . . Match  
with Chelsea Brings Record "Gate" . . . War.*

THOSE of us who have been acquainted with the Wealdstone district only in comparatively recent years will find it difficult to visualise it as a place with but some 6,500 inhabitants. But such it was in the closing 1890's when the Wealdstone Football Club, as at present constituted, came into being. The Club had been in abeyance for two or three seasons and a ground difficulty was immediately encountered. This was overcome, however, through Mr. J. E. Lilley, a solicitor, whose interest in local football was noted in the previous chapter, allowing matches to be played in his fields where today we find Marlborough-hill and Headstone-drive. Mr. Lilley was the Club's first president. The Club was also fortunate in having Mr. W. T. Bellchambers for its first chairman and Mr. T. Matthews, who held joint office as secretary and treasurer. Both Mr. Bellchambers and Mr. Matthews worked very hard to enable the Club to overcome financial and other difficulties.

The selected colours of the Club were black and white stripes and the dressing rooms were at the "Queen's Arms," Wealdstone, by invitation of the licensee, Mr. Harry Bentley, who was another ardent supporter of local football and who had been associated with previous clubs in the district. Others who helped to restart the Club and often played in the team were the two sons of Mr. Bellchambers, along with Messrs. E. E. Beckley, W. Couzens, J. Franklin, H. Livey, A. Lane, G. Keech, and G. Elmslie.

The first fixture of the reorganised Club, a friendly, was played on October 7th, 1899, when Wealdstone inflicted a 6-1 defeat over Northwood on the opponents' ground. Wealdstone's line-up that day was:—W. Bellchambers; W. Couzens (capt.), — Johnson; T. S. Matthews, W. Payne, E. White; H. Couzens, H. Livey, E. Dear, S. Dear, G. Hillier. On the same day a reserve team beat Queens Park Olympic 12-0 in a friendly game away from home, the Wealdstone team in that match being:—F. Farmborough; H. Dymock, W. Welch; G. Keech, H. Welch, — Welch; G. Moffatt, — Key, — Royce, W. Baldwin, — Kirby.

The Club competed in Division II of the Willesden and District League in the 1899-1900 season. In the following season it played in Division I, there being no second division then, and finished in sixth place. Among local clubs in the league were Harrow Athletic, Harrow Weald, Pinner, Wembley, Stanmore, Northwood, and Roxeth Brigade Old Boys. Wealdstone played later on the Wealdstone Recreation Ground and things seemed to be going along very well, so well, in fact, that on September 5th, 1902, the local paper stated:—"Since the football club has been in existence the prospects have never looked so rosy as at present. Last year the Club had a remarkably successful

season and showed in the ranks many players of real merit. In addition, it has signed on several new players, including one from Clapton Orient."

Success did indeed come the way of Wealdstone, for in the 1905-06 season the Club became champions of the first division of the Willesden and District League. But this success was shortlived, and a report, headed "Defunct," in the local paper for October 20th, 1906, stated:—"It is with regret that we have to record the demise of what used to be the well-known Wealdstone F.C. Since the commencement of the present season, the dilatoriness of the players in arriving on the field at the start of the game and the thin line of spectators who dotted the line of demarcation along one side of the ground all betokened a sad falling-off of interest. This is more to be regretted because the Club went very strong last season and headed the list of Division I of the Willesden and District League, thus winning the cup and medals after a very successful season. This year," the report continued, "it expected to enhance its chances by new blood, but, as is often the case, it failed to act, as the players, not knowing each other, could not combine with that facility so necessary to good football and consequently lost every match. So now, we believe by unanimous consent of players and committee, it has disbanded completely and probably we shall notice players of the team in the lists of other teams."

Wealdstone's fixtures in the Willesden and District League were taken over, as from October 14th, by Wealdstone Church Athletic, and it is to the Athletic's credit that it finished in third place. Many players and officials of the former Wealdstone F.C. joined forces with the Church Athletic club.

It was not until the 1908-09 season that the Wealdstone Football Club came into being again. "This season opens a new era in the fortunes of the Wealdstone F.C.," stated the local paper of September 4th, 1908. "The committee has secured the College Farm ground, Locket-road, and hopes to be able to run a team worthy of the town of Wealdstone. Of course, to do this it is absolutely essential for the supporters of the Club to rally round in large numbers on Saturday afternoons (when the small charge of 2d. will be made) so as to place the Club on a sound financial footing and to allow scope for improvements."

A new ground was secured for the 1910-11 season—"at the end of Belmont-road with a good path to the field." In that year Pinner were the champions of the Willesden and District League, with Wealdstone runners-up. In that season, also, it would seem that Wealdstone received their first representative match honour, F. Theobald being selected to play for Middlesex Juniors v. Kent Juniors. J. Wright and H. P. Higham (Harrow St. Mary) and W. J. Steele (Roxeth Institute) were other local players in the Middlesex eleven.

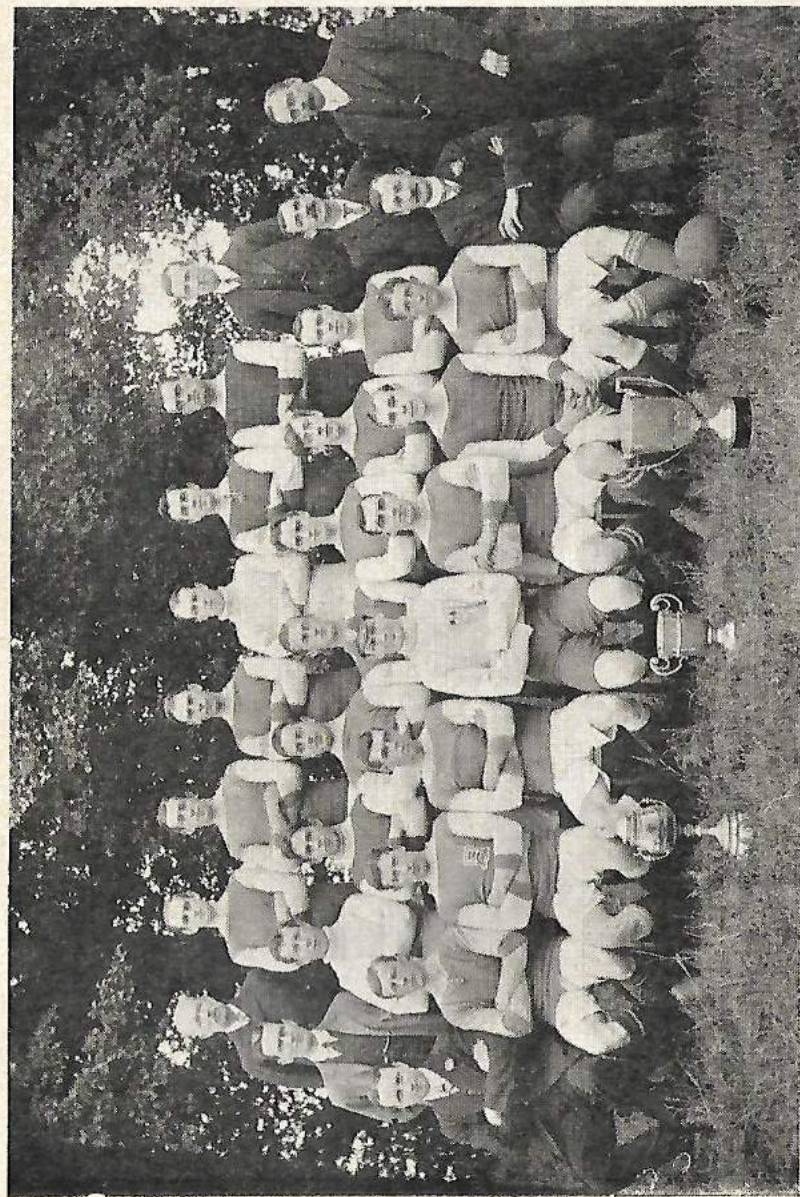
A report of the Club's annual general meeting held at the Church Room, Headstone-drive, on June 25th, 1912, records that the gate receipts for the 1911-12 season totalled £26 and that the Club had a balance in hand of £65, which included some generous donations.

The minutes of a committee meeting held on October 28th, 1912, record that it was agreed to accept an offer by Chelsea F.C., made earlier in the season, to play a friendly match at Wealdstone for a

guarantee (to Chelsea) of £3. This match was duly played on November 3rd and it resulted in a record "gate" of £5 3s. 7d. being taken. Chelsea won the match 2-0. The fixture was something of an event. Programmes were printed and these show that the Wealdstone team that faced the men from Stamford Bridge was as follows:— T. Bradberry; E. Bellchambers, F. Martin; F. Rogers, F. Cane, H. Hillier; S. E. White, A. E. Mallett, W. Walker, P. Andrews, R. Kirby.

At the Club's annual meeting on June 11th, 1913, the hon. secretary, Mr. G. E. Elmslie, was able to report that the 1912-13 season had been easily the most successful period since the Club was formed. In that season Wealdstone had won the Middlesex Junior Cup, the London League (Division II), and the Willesden and District League (Division I). Of the 51 matches played, 39 were won, six drawn, and six lost, 167 goals being scored and 62 conceded.

The Club closed down for the duration of the first world war, in which many members served, a number losing their lives.



**Wealdstone Football Club, Season 1912-13**

Front Row (left to right): G. E. Elmslie (Hon. Sec.), W. Howman, P. Andrews, J. J. Shadwick (Capt. 'A' Team), T. B. Bradberry (Capt.), W. Balkwill, G. Page, G. Fox, H. C. Hird (Hon. Treas.). Centre Row: R. C. Harding (Com.), A. Little (Trainer), C. Bird, H. E. S. Southwood, A. Harding, H. A. Stevenson, J. Mines, H. Miller, W. Deeley (Com.), W. Bellchambers (Com.), Back Row: W. Watson (Com.), H. Rolfe, F. Rogers, E. Bellchambers, H. Howman, (Vice-Captain), F. Martin (Vice-Captain), S. E. White, J. Hinchcliffe (Com.).



**Wealdstone Football Club, Season 1912-13**

Front Row (left to right) : G. E. Elmslie (Hon. Sec.), W. Howman, P. Andrews, J. J. Shadwick (Capt. 'A' Team), T. B. Bradberry (Capt.), W. Balkwill, G. Page, G. Fox, H. C. Hird (Hon. Treas.). Centre Row: R. C. Harding (Com.), A. Little (Trainer), C. Bird, H. E. S. Southwood, A. Harding, H. A. Stevenson, J. Mines, H. Miller, W. Deeley (Com.), W. Bellchambers (Com.). Back Row : W. Watson (Com.), H. Rolfe, F. Rogers, E. Bellchambers, H. Howman, (Vice-Captain, 'A' Team), F. Martin (Vice-Captain), S. E. White, J. Hinchcliffe (Com.).

### III

*The First Post-war Season . . . Frank Harbud and Bill Gallagher . . . Lower Mead Acquired . . . Mr. C. E. Brady Elected President . . . Wealdstone Meets Clapton Orient and Arsenal in Successive Weeks . . . The Late Mr. C. V. Elmslie.*

THE Club's activities were revived at an annual general meeting held on June 20th, 1919. At that meeting it was stated that "negotiations are proceeding with a view to a tenancy of the well-appointed ground formerly occupied by the Gamage Athletic Club." Teams were entered in the London League and the Middlesex Senior League for the first post-war season. It was in this season that Mr. Frank Harbud became associated with the Club. He played for many years and during his career he received many representative honours. Since hanging up his boots he has served the Club as treasurer, match secretary, and also as a member of the general committee and of the jubilee sub-committee.

Gate receipts in the first season after the 1914-18 war totalled £202 15s. 2d. and a balance of £29 was recorded as a result of the season's activities.

The ground in Belmont-road, where the previous season's matches had been played, was available again for the second post-war year, but another ground was acquired at the rear of a veterinary hospital in Station-road, described as "a most central position which should result in larger gates." But fixtures continued to be played at Belmont-road until the new ground was ready. The purchase price of the new ground, which was to be named Lower Mead and which was destined to become the Club's permanent headquarters, was £1,650 and, of course, such a large sum could only be raised on loan.

Among the players in the Club in the 1920-21 season was Bill Gallagher, who had played his first game for the Club in the 1910-11 season. His playing career with the Club was of comparatively short duration, but he was appointed trainer in 1923 and it is a tribute to his efficiency and popularity that he still holds that position today. In the 1920-21 season the Club won the championship of the Middlesex Senior League. A photograph, taken in Wealdstone Recreation Ground, shows the following players:—R. Wartnaby, F. W. Harbud, W. Gallagher, A. F. l'Anson, E. Theobald, F. Theobald, H. Miller, R. Bates, W. Burton, C. Durham, J. L. Smerdon, C. A. Latham, A. Smith, and W. Balkwill. In the following season, too, Wealdstone headed the Middlesex Senior League.

May 25th, 1921, was an important day in the history of the Wealdstone Football Club, for it was on that day that Mr. C. E. Brady was elected to succeed the Rev. Herbert Chapman (Vicar of Holy Trinity, Wealdstone, 1897-1927) as president of the Club.

The Club hoped to compete in the Athenian League in 1922, but the application was not successful. Application was made successfully, however, for admission to the Spartan League (Divisions I and II).

The new ground at Lower Mead was ready for the opening of the 1922-23 season and two attractive fixtures were arranged to commemorate the occasion. The first game, on August 26th, was with a Clapton Orient eleven, the professional club asking for a guarantee of £10. A week later an Arsenal eleven visited Lower Mead, the guarantee on that occasion being £15.

The Club's first season at the new headquarters was very successful, the senior team finishing second to Chesham United in the Spartan League, Division I. Among the clubs in the Spartan League at the time was Walthamstow Avenue. The Avenue finished in seventh place. Finchley and the Old Lyonians footed the table. The second eleven were rather less successful in its first year in new company, finishing seventh out of the 13 teams competing in Division II. The charge for admission to Lower Mead was 6d., with an additional charge of 6d. for admission to the stand.

Mr. C. V. Elmslie was a prominent officer of the Club at this period. He held several offices during the many years he was connected with the Club. When he died in June, 1935, he held the joint position of secretary and treasurer. It would be difficult adequately to assess Mr. Elmslie's great value to the Club. Visitors to Lower Mead will be familiar with the Elmslie Stand, which was erected in his memory. Mr. Elmslie was elected to the position of assistant secretary in 1922, at the same time becoming match secretary to the first eleven. He resigned on September 8th, 1925, but he held office again in the 1926-27 season as Press secretary. His next position was that of treasurer (1928) and in the following season he held the additional appointment of secretary. With the exception of a few weeks when illness prevented him from carrying on his duties, Mr. Elmslie held the joint offices until his death. He was succeeded by Mr. H. A. Luck as secretary and by Mr. W. Rich as treasurer.



## IV

*Reserves as Champions . . . Life Membership for Mr. C. E. Brady, Mr. W. H. Peace, Mr. C. V. Elmslie, and Mr. H. C. Hird . . . A "Christmas Present" for Supporters . . . Billy Williams Joins the Club . . . Thank you, Mr. Burch . . . Election to the Athenian League.*

THE first eleven finished in fifth place in the Spartan League in the 1923-24 season, the Reserves being third in the second division of the same league. In July, 1924, the Club had the great pleasure of making a wedding present to Bill Gallagher, and in December of the same year a scheme was outlined for purchasing Lower Mead through a Building Society for a loan of £1,700 repayable in 20 years. The first team put up a rather poor show in the league competition of the 1924-25 season, winning only seven of the 26 games played, with the result that it finished in tenth position, there being only four clubs below Wealdstone. The Reserves, on the other hand, carried all before them in the second division, of which they were the champions. They won no fewer than 20 out of 26 matches and obtained 41 out of a possible 52 points. During the season the Reserves scored 86 goals in the league, conceding 35. Lyons Athletic three points behind, were the runners-up.

A photograph of the second team in its championship season shows the following players:—L. C. Kemp; C. Allen; A. Downing; W. W. Pratt; W. Wright; J. Williams; E. Randell (capt.); E. Wilson; G. Davis; R. Smith; G. Sims; A. Bryan (hon. secretary); C. V. Elmslie (hon. match secretary); and W. Gallagher (trainer). Two other regular players, J. C. Rogers (goalkeeper) and G. N. Martin (right-back), were prevented by injury from being in the photograph.

At the annual meeting on June 16th, 1925, a motion that, "as a mark of appreciation of the valuable services of Mr. C. E. Brady and Mr. W. H. Peace in the acquiring of Lower Mead, this Club do confer on these gentlemen the honour of life membership," was carried unanimously. Reference to Mr. Brady's services to the Club is made elsewhere in the Handbook. Mr. William Harry Peace served on the committee from 1913-1931, his services being especially valuable in connection with financial matters.

The first eleven made a slightly better showing in the league in the 1925-26 season, its final position being seventh. The Reserves, champions of the previous season, met with less success and they also finished in seventh place.

The following season opened with a match with the Clapton Orient "A" team, Wealdstone winning 2-0 at Lower Mead. Both Wealdstone teams enjoyed considerable success in the league in a season in which there was some particularly high scoring. The Wealdstone players gave their followers a very fine "Christmas present," for on December 25th, 1926, they inflicted a 16-2 defeat on

Hertford Town in a league fixture at Lower Mead. They had previously beaten the same club 6-1. Wealdstone scored 100 times in league matches that season, 67 goals being registered against them.

The name of Mr. Billy Williams must be familiar to all supporters of Wealdstone F.C. He was appointed trainer to the second eleven on October 11th, 1927, and he remains to care for the second team players of today and to help Bill Gallagher in his work generally. Like his senior partner, Mr. Williams enjoys great popularity and respect in the dressing room and among his colleagues in the committee room. His services have frequently been utilised by the Middlesex County Football Association.

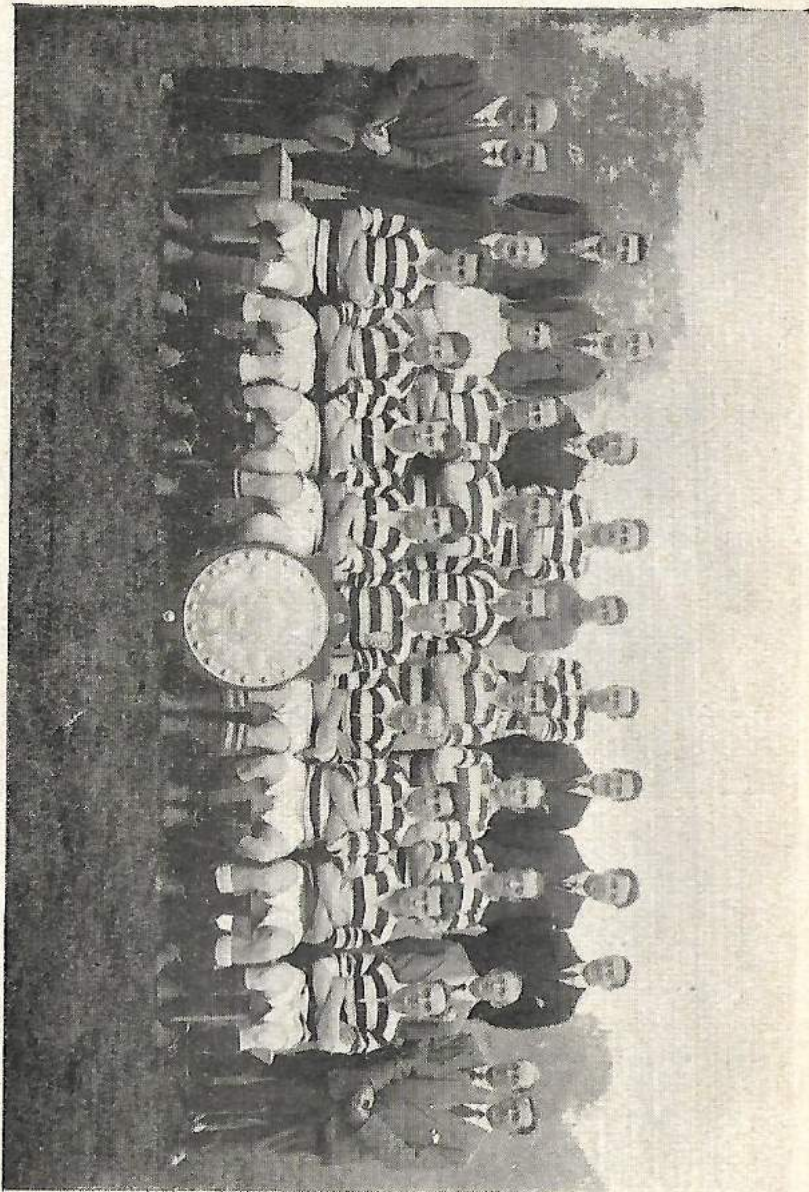
The opportunity was taken at the annual meeting of 1927 to pass a unanimous resolution conferring life membership upon Mr. Herbert Charles Hird "as a mark of appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Club over a long number of years." Mr. Hird was treasurer and chairman of the committee from 1910-14 and served on the committee when activities were resumed after the war until 1928.

It was in 1927 also when Mr. Harry Burch became associated with the Club. Mr. Burch is the proprietor of a local motor-coach hire service and on September 20th, 1927, he was engaged to take the teams to away matches. Since that time his coaches have conveyed Wealdstone players over many thousands of miles, Mr. Burch himself often having been at the wheel. We gladly record our debt of gratitude to Mr. Burch and his staff for long and loyal service.

In the 1927-28 season, as it had done frequently in the past, the Club opened its programme with a match against professional opposition, Fulham "A" coming to Lower Mead on this occasion. The home team won the match 5-4. Tottenham Hotspur F.C. also sent a team to Wealdstone during the season, the professionals winning 3-1. The first eleven again did quite well in the Spartan League, being fourth in the final table, while the Reserves held sixth place in the second division. The first four places in the senior section were as follow:—

		Goals						
		P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Botwell Mission	.. ..	28	22	2	4	106	46	46
Walthamstow Avenue	.. ..	28	21	2	5	106	48	44
Chesham United	.. ..	28	18	5	5	101	44	41
WEALDSTONE	.. ..	28	17	3	8	90	62	37

Summerstown F.C., a member of the Athenian League since the League's resumption after the 1914-18 war, was forced to withdraw after the completion of the 1927-28 season, its ground being acquired for building purposes, and at the annual general meeting of the League held on June 9th, 1928, Wealdstone F.C. was elected to fill the vacancy. Incidentally, it was at the same meeting of the Athenian League that Lieut.-Col. C. D. Crisp, O.B.E., J.P., was elected president and chairman of the League, positions he has occupied continuously ever since. The present grandstand at Lower Mead was purchased from the Summerstown club; it replaced a much smaller stand and one that was quite inadequate to cope with the steadily increasing support.



Wealdstone Football Club, 1921-22

Front Row (left to right): E. Theobald, G. Martin, A. Wilson, E. Wright, H. Miller (Capt.), A. Ivanson, G. Davenport, D. Morgan, E. Parce.  
 Centre Row: W. H. Peace, F. Perry, H. C. Hird, R. Warraby, J. Smeddon, I. Burroughs, F. Harbuid, P. Deeley, W. Gallagher, S. Drett.  
 A. J. Halsey, H. Howman, A. Twitchen.  
 Back Row: F. Cane, S. White, C. E. Brady, H. Sannels, A. Hassell, W. Burton, A. Bryan,  
 C. V. Elmstic, C. Austin.

V

*Life Membership for Mr. G. W. Pitts and Dr. Margaret Brady . . . High Scoring in First Season of Athenian League Football . . . Reserves Win the Championship . . . Mr. A. J. Halsey a Life Member . . . F.A. Cup-ties with Dulwich Hamlet . . . Two County Cups Won.*

THE Club's election to the Athenian League aroused great enthusiasm, not only among the players and officials, but with supporters, too. During the close season two more life members were elected. The services of Mr. George William Pitts over several years were recognised by this honour at a meeting in June, 1928. A schoolmaster, his first interest in Wealdstone F.C. was when his college team met the Club. He was elected to the committee in 1921. Mr. Pitts was treasurer from 1922-28, vice-chairman from 1928-29, and chairman from 1939 until he moved to Dorset in 1942. Mr. Pitts also devoted a great deal of his time and energy to the welfare of Harrow Hospital, an interest which he shared with his wife. He died in May, 1949.

The other new life member was Dr. Margaret Brady, wife of the Club's president. She was elected in July, 1928. Dr. Brady has always shared her husband's great interest in the Wealdstone Football Club, her interest being of a practical nature on many occasions. She, like her husband, has performed notable public service in Harrow and district.

Wealdstone lost its first Athenian League match—a home fixture with Enfield—3-4, but the Club enjoyed moderate success in its first year in the new company. The Athenian League consisted of 14 clubs, Wealdstone finishing up in the eighth position in the league table. Here is the final table of the 1928-29 season:—

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		Pts.
					F.	A.	
Leyton .. .. .	26	19	5	2	78	33	43
Hampstead Town .. .. .	26	16	3	7	64	39	35
Sutton United .. .. .	26	13	7	6	73	50	33
Southall .. .. .	26	12	5	9	66	47	29
Enfield .. .. .	26	11	7	8	47	51	29
Bromley .. .. .	26	11	6	9	68	63	28
Barnet .. .. .	26	12	3	11	67	55	27
WEALDSTONE .. .. .	26	11	3	12	81	63	25
Redhill .. .. .	26	9	6	11	70	59	24
Barking Town .. .. .	26	11	2	13	52	55	24
Kingstonian .. .. .	26	10	1	15	61	71	21
Uxbridge Town .. .. .	26	7	3	16	59	71	17
Windsor & Eton .. .. .	26	5	6	15	33	94	16
Cheshunt .. .. .	26	4	5	17	52	120	13

It will be noticed that Wealdstone scored more goals than any other club; that was due very largely to substantial victories over Windsor and Eton, and Cheshunt. Windsor and Eton was beaten 10-1



**Wealdstone Football Club, 1921-22**

Front Row (left to right): E. Theobald, G. Martin, A. Wilson, E. Wright, H. Miller (Capt.), A. I'Anson, G. Davenport, D. Morgan, E. Pearce.  
 Centre Row: W. H. Peace, F. Perry, H. C. Hird, R. Wartnaby, J. Smerdon, J. Burroughs, F. Harbud, P. Deeley, W. Gallagher, S. Brett,  
 A. J. Halsey, H. Howman, A. Twitchen. Back Row: F. Cane, S. White, C. E. Brady, H. Samuels, A. Haskell, W. Burton, A. Bryan,  
 C. V. Elmslie C. Austin.

at home and 5-1 away, and the even more unfortunate Cheshunt club was beaten 7-3 at Lower Mead and 9-2 on its own ground. The visitors to Lower Mead on Christmas morning, 1928, were Hampstead Town, and on Boxing Day Wealdstone played on that club's ground. Hampstead Town, of course, later changed its name to Golders Green, and yet again to its present one, Hendon. These Christmastide fixtures with Hendon have continued year by year and Hendon's appearance at Lower Mead on Christmas morning usually attracts one of the largest crowds of the season.

The Reserves made an auspicious opening in competition with Athenian League clubs, winning the championship of the reserve section in their first season. Like the senior side, the Reserves scored more goals than any other club, while only one team, Redhill Reserves, had fewer goals scored against them. The Reserves' feat in scoring 97 league goals in the season—an average of little under four goals a match—was a tribute to their consistent shooting rather than to a few overwhelming victories. Only in one match did they fail to score, and that was in an away fixture with the team that finished the season at the foot of the table, Windsor and Eton. The first three clubs, together with their league records, were:—

		Goals								
		P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.		
WEALDSTONE	.. ..	26	18	3	5	97	47	39		
Redhill	.. ..	26	18	1	7	73	43	37		
Barnet	.. ..	26	15	5	6	94	65	35		

Some indication of how interest had been aroused since the Club entered the Athenian League was shown at the annual meeting on June 11th, 1929, the attendance being almost double that recorded at the previous year's meeting.

It was at this meeting that recognition was made of the work of Mr. Arthur John Halsey, who, over a period of 17 years, had held various offices in the Club. He was made a life member and later in the year he received a presentation. Mr. Halsey served on the committee from 1912-14 and then after the war he succeeded Mr. G. E. Elmslie as secretary and treasurer, holding these positions until 1921. He continued to serve on the committee and in 1926 he was appointed match secretary. He left the committee in 1929. Mr. C. V. Elmslie, who was then holding the joint offices of secretary and treasurer, received presentations at the 1929 annual meeting "as a mark of appreciation of his work for the Club and more particularly with regard to the building operations."

The second season of Athenian League football—1929-30—was an eventful one. It contained two F.A. Cup matches with Dulwich Hamlet which will always be remembered by those who saw them. Wealdstone had beaten Walthamstow Avenue, St. Albans City, Apsley, and Chesham United in this competition, all the matches being played at Lower Mead, before being drawn to meet Dulwich Hamlet at Champion Hill in the fourth qualifying round. This match, played on November 16th, 1929, produced an avalanche of goals, each side scoring seven times. It was not surprising, therefore, that the following Wednesday's replay attracted tremendous interest. The attendance

established a record that was to remain for many years. The national Press also attached great interest to the replay. This is how the *Daily Express* reported the game:—

### SOLLY'S GREAT DAY AT WEALDSTONE

Hamlet 'keeper Carries his Side through Thrilling Replay

By "THE SPOTTER."

Wealdstone .. .. 1 Dulwich Hamlet .. .. 2

When Dulwich Hamlet and Wealdstone met in the 4th Qualifying Round of the F.A. Cup at Champion Hill on Saturday, they shared equally no fewer than 14 goals. With the memory of that extraordinary score on my mind one turned up for the replay at Lower Mead, Wealdstone, yesterday prepared for fireworks. We got them.

The Hamlet won this spirited tussle by 2 goals to 1, but in my opinion they were fortunate to do so. They crossed over a goal up, scored by F. Minstull from long range after 30 minutes. They deserved this success for they were the better team up to the interval.

But it was a different story throughout the second half. Wealdstone sailed into battle with such determination that Dulwich were almost constantly on the defence.

Justice was done when, after 20 minutes, E. H. Hannam equalised. A fine run by L. Hoskins ended in A. Solly landing himself at the Wealdstone centre-forward's feet. Solly stopped Hoskins, but the ball rolled away to Hannam, who netted.

Then it was a duel between the Wealdstone attack and the Hamlet defence, with a personal argument between Solly and Hoskins as the big attraction.

Solly rushed out many times to meet the Wealdstone man's rushes. He managed to grab the ball each time and, in addition, made numerous splendid saves from other Wealdstone forwards. Solly saved the game for the Hamlet.

Despite Wealdstone's continued pressure, however, it was Dulwich who claimed the winning goal. G. T. Copas secured the ball during a goalmouth scrimmage and had an easy task to drive it past R. V. Dunn. Wealdstone fought on to the end, but Solly, S. Knight, and W. Edgar kept them out. Wealdstone were awarded a penalty kick in the first half, but Hannam drove the ball straight at Solly, who cleared. If that kick had been successful Wealdstone and not Dulwich Hamlet might have had the pleasure of entertaining Plymouth Argyle in the fifth round.

So much for "The Spotter's" report of a classic match.

Two Middlesex County cups found a home at Lower Mead in the 1929-30 season. In the final of the Senior Cup the 'Stones met Hayward Sports on the ground of Hampstead Town. Four goals were shared, but in the replay on the same ground Wealdstone won 3-1. In the final tie of the Charity Cup the 'Stones inflicted a 3-1 defeat on Hampstead Town.

The first eleven occupied fifth position in the league, with 29 points from the 26 games. In the reserve section, however, there were only three teams lower than Wealdstone at the end of the season.

## VI

*Goals Galore! . . . Wealdstone to Notts County . . . "Wooden Spoonists" . . . Reserve Team Champions for a Second Time . . . Death of Mr. C. V. Elmslie . . . Mr. H. A. Luck Appointed Secretary.*

**W**EALDSTONE players were in great shooting form during the 1930-31 season. In the senior section of the league they scored 79 times, only Barnet, that season's champions, registering more goals. The 'Stones, with 29 points, were fifth in the table, the same position as in the previous year. No fewer than 60 of the 79 goals scored were obtained at Lower Mead.

The Reserves' results were very much better than those of the previous season and they reached third position. In doing this they scored 119 goals, which was many more than any other club.

In beating Hampstead Town 3-2 on the Finchley ground the first eleven retained the Middlesex Charity Cup, which it had won in the previous season. But Hayes F.C., which only a year or so earlier had changed its name from Botwell Mission, beat Wealdstone 4-0 in the Middlesex Senior Cup.

During the 1930-31 season Harold Smith, Wealdstone's centre-half, left Lower Mead to join the professional ranks of Notts County. In addition to sending its full league side to play a match at Lower Mead, the Nottingham club made a donation of £10 to Wealdstone's funds and also presented the Club with a set of jerseys.

Season 1931-32 found Wealdstone in sixth place in the league table, with the Reserves as runners-up to Enfield Reserves and only two points behind the leaders. In the following season, however, the senior team did not fare at all well, occupying tenth position. The Reserves had another good season and were fourth in the table.

Many of the players doing regular duty with the Club at that time will be remembered by present-day followers. The following team represented Wealdstone in a league match against Romford in the 1932-33 season:—S. Booker; A. Loveday, C. Davies; D. Short, B. Darvill, F. Russell; T. Maskell, C. Underwood, G. Beach, C. Phillips, R. J. Ryder. Beach (2) and Underwood were the scorers and Romford were beaten 3-2. During the same season Les Groves, a popular player over several seasons, left to join Hayes.

The 'Stones had so far put up a very creditable showing since entering the Athenian League, but the middle 1930's saw a big change in the Club's fortunes. In the 1933-34 season Wealdstone occupied thirteenth place in the table, but worse was to follow, for in the following year the Club footed the table, while in 1935-36 there was only one other club in a worse plight than the 'Stones.

But during this period of ill-luck in the fortunes of the first eleven, the Reserves met with considerable success in the league. They were third in the table in 1933-34, fifth the following year, and in 1935-36 they won the championship for the second time since entering the Athenian League. During the 1934-35 campaign the Reserves' tally of 90 goals in the season was better than that of any other club; in their championship season the following year a total of 68 goals sufficed to enable them to head the table and to give them a lead of four points over Redhill Reserves, the runners-up.

The Reserve team players to receive the Athenian League shield to mark their success in winning the 1935-36 championship were:—R. Groves, L. D'Arcy, T. Norton, P. Roche, H. Parker, H. Crump, J. Roche, N. Pickford, F. Masters, J. Wilson, F. Mills, and J. McCoffery.

The death of Mr. C. V. Elmslie on June 22nd, 1935, was a severe loss to the Club. He was succeeded as secretary by Mr. H. A. Luck, who has continued in that office since that time. Mr. Elmslie had also acted as treasurer; Mr. W. Rich was appointed to assume control over the Club's finances.

## VII

*Three Successful Years . . . C. E. Bunce, a Brilliant Centre-forward, a Popular Skipper, and a Great Sportsman . . . Life Membership for Mr. Ernest Bellchambers . . . Arthur Loveday, Bob Ellis, Ken Baldwin, Bert Dyke, Charlie Barker, and Other Popular Players . . . Middlesex Cups for the 'Stones . . . More Successes for the Reserves . . . Wealdstone v. The Rest.*

THERE was a great and very welcome change in the fortunes of the Club with the advent of the 1936-37 season, a revival of success which was to continue until Athenian League football was discontinued with the outbreak of war in 1939. Under the captaincy of C. E. Bunce, a brilliant centre-forward, a popular skipper, and, even more important, a great sportsman, Wealdstone was destined to enjoy a notable period in its career.

At the annual meeting in June, 1936, the award of life membership was made to Mr. Ernest George Collyer Bellchambers, who had then completed over 30 years' association with the Club. A native of Wealdstone, Mr. Bellchambers was captain of Wealdstone Reserves from 1900 to 1908 and of the first eleven from 1909 to 1911. He served on the committee from 1919 to 1920 and again from 1924 to 1936.

On the playing staff at the opening of the 1936-37 season were some of the Club's best-remembered men. In addition to Charlie Bunce there were Arthur Loveday, a great right-back and one of the coolest of players (he was selected to play for England *versus* both Scotland and Ireland during that season), Jackie Wilson, Bill Showler (now an official of the Club), Stan Friday, Bob Ellis (who played left-back for England *versus* Wales in 1939), Syd Bidewell (transferred to Chelsea in May, 1937, he made an auspicious debut in that club's league side in November of the same year, when he deputised for George Mills and scored two out of Chelsea's three goals against Huddersfield Town), Ken Potts, and others whose names are familiar to supporters of the 'Stones.

The season opened dramatically with an 8-0 league win over Uxbridge Town at Lower Mead. Then, in the fifth fixture, the Old Lyonians were beaten 9-0 in the F.A. Amateur Cup, while three weeks later there was a 7-0 victory over the C.W.S. (Silvertown) in the London Senior Cup. No cups came to Lower Mead during the season, but the Club did well in the Amateur Cup, winning seven out of the nine matches played. In the third round of that competition Wealdstone was drawn against Dulwich Hamlet. After a 1-1 draw at Lower Mead Wealdstone was well beaten in the replay at Champion Hill, the Hamlet scoring four times without reply.



A great favourite at Lower Mead and a popular player on all grounds where he played, the late C. E. Bunce is shown above in characteristic pose—smile on face and cup in hand. He played for Wealdstone from 1936 until 1940 and died in 1943 as a prisoner-of-war in Malaya at the age of 29.

Bunce is seen on the left of the action photograph below. The Wealdstone player on the ground is Jackie Wilson. Bob Balaam is seen running in on the right.



After labouring at, or near, the foot of the league table for several seasons, the 'Stones finished in third place, being 10 points ahead of the fourth club, Sutton United, but 12 points behind Romford, the champions. The first four positions in the table in the 1936-37 season were:—

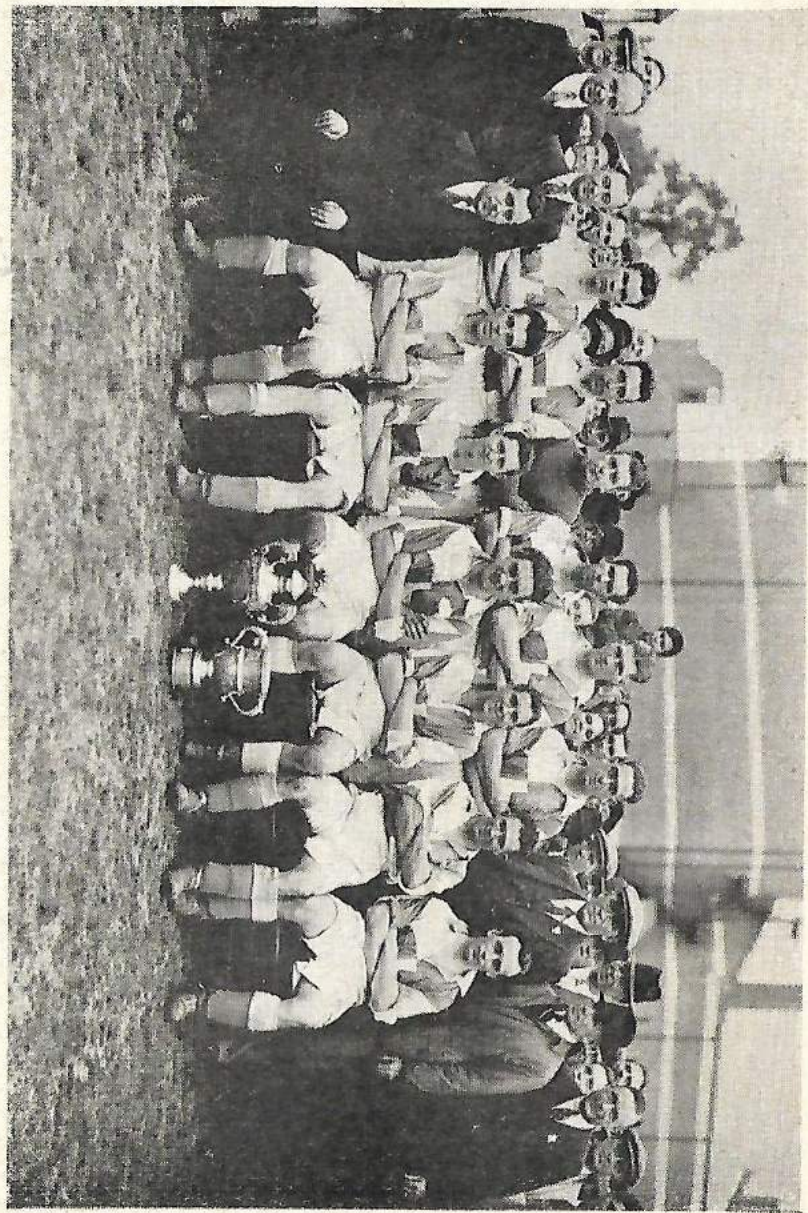
	Goals						Pts.
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	
Romford .. .. .	26	24	1	1	102	35	49
Walthamstow Avenue ..	26	17	5	4	101	45	39
WEALDSTONE .. .. .	26	17	3	6	66	44	37
Sutton United .. .. .	26	11	5	10	47	45	27

The Reserves, who had been champions in the previous year, enjoyed another very successful season, being second to Walthamstow Avenue Reserves, with 36 points, compared with the Avenue's 43.

Among the players to join the Club in the following campaign were Ken Baldwin and Bob Bidewell, the latter being a brother of Syd Bidewell, who had previously joined Chelsea. In November, 1937, Bert Dyke, who had joined Wealdstone from Wealdstone Corinthians, signed amateur forms for Arsenal. Dyke achieved success on the football field at an early age. As a schoolboy at Whitefriars School, Wealdstone, he was several times selected to play for Harrow and district representative elevens. After a spell with Wealdstone he joined St. Albans City for a short time before returning to his former club. At the outbreak of war he enlisted in the R.A.F. and in between periods of service overseas he assisted Watford and Luton Town as well as Wealdstone. He has played for his county on a number of occasions.

Reg. Lewis, who played many great games in goal for Wealdstone, also joined the Club at about this time, other newcomers being Bob Wilson, Laurie Green, Ron Nicholson, Gilbert Gaze, Frank Schofield, Tom Morris, Fred Haydon, and Charlie Barker, who like Bert Dyke, achieved success as a schoolboy footballer. Barker came from Alperton School, Ealing-road, Wembley. He was captain of the school team and played for London Boys against the South of England. After playing for Hounslow Grove and Shabnian F.C. he joined Wealdstone, playing on the left wing before developing into one of the finest left-backs the Club has had. He has a fine record as a scorer from the penalty spot. During the war Barker served with the Royal Engineers; he took part in the "D"-Day landings. In addition to assisting Wealdstone when on leave, his wartime football included experience with Norwich City.

The first eleven won both the Middlesex Senior Cup and the Middlesex Charity Cup in the 1937-38 season. The final of the former was played at Golders Green on April 23rd, 1938, Wealdstone beating Tufnell Park 3-1. In the four rounds of that competition Wealdstone scored 19 times, conceding only five. Three weeks later the 'Stones beat Golders Green 4-0 in the final of the Charity Cup, this match being played at Lower Mead. In three matches in the Charity Cup Wealdstone scored 13 goals and only once did the ball rest in the Wealdstone net.



**Wealdstone Football Club, Season 1937-38**

Front Row [left to right]: I. Rogers [Hon. Treasurer], C. Brown, H. Dyke, S. Friday, G. Bunce [Captain], J. Wilson, K. Potts. Back Row: L. Clark [March Sec], F. Thame [Asst. March Sec], J. T. Morris, W. Showler, R. Lewis, A. Loveday, D. Scott, W. Gallagher [Trainer], W. Williams [Reserve Trainer], H. A. Luck [Hon. Secretary], S. White.



**Wealdstone Football Club, Season 1937-38**

Front Row [left to right] : J. Rogers [Hon. Treasurer], C. Brown, H. Dyke, S. Friday, C. Bunce [Captain], J. Wilson, K. Potts. Back Row : L. Clark [Match Sec.], F. Thame [Asst. Match Sec. ], T. Morris, W. Showler, R. Lewis, A. Loveday, R. Ellis, D. Scott, W. Gallagher [Trainer] W. Williams [Reserve Trainer], H. A. Luck [Hon. Secretary], S. White.



It was another season of success in the league, Wealdstone finishing in fourth place. Walthamstow Avenue won the championship, Barnet and Romford being second and third respectively. In the Reserve Section of the Athenian League Wealdstone's second string was again second, Walthamstow Avenue Reserves winning the competition once more. Altogether the first eleven played 45 matches, of which 24 were won, eight drawn, and 13 lost, 115 goals being scored against 71. Charlie Bunce obtained 30 goals and Ken Potts 25. Next on the list of goalscorers came Gilbert Gaze with nine. The season's fixtures included two with Chelsea elevens and one with a side from Tottenham Hotspur, all these games being played at Lower Mead. The first match with Chelsea was won by the visitors 2-1, the second resulting in a 3-3 draw. Wealdstone won the fixture with the 'Spurs by the only goal scored. The Reserves won 18 of the 31 matches played in the 1937-38 season, six being drawn, and seven lost. They scored 105 goals and conceded 61. Tom Morris with 14 goals to his credit headed the list of scorers, Ron Nicholson scoring 10 goals, and H. Dyke and R. Balaam eight each.

In 1938-39, the last full season before the war, Wealdstone retained the Middlesex Charity Cup, but was beaten in the final of the Middlesex Senior Cup, which was won by Golders Green by four goals to nil, at Finchley on Easter Monday, 1939. In earlier rounds Wealdstone had beaten Wood Green Town 5-2 (after a 3-3 draw), Southall 3-0, and Enfield 2-1 in the semi-final. At Lower Mead on May 6th, 1939, Wealdstone beat Hayes 4-1 in the final of the Charity Cup, having previously beaten Finchley 3-2 and Enfield 4-0. Once again Dulwich Hamlet and Wealdstone clashed in a cup-tie. This was in the third round of the London Senior Cup. The Hamlet won 2-1 at Lower Mead and went on to beat Enfield in the semi-final and Erith and Belvedere in the final, this match being played on the Millwall F.C. ground.

The league fixtures included a 9-2 victory over Tooting and Mitcham United and the team was able to improve slightly on its league record of the previous season, moving up one place into third position. Walthamstow Avenue once more "topped the bill," with Romford in second place. Leading positions were as follow:—

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		Pts.
					F.	A.	
Walthamstow Avenue ..	26	19	4	3	79	28	42
Romford .. ..	26	18	1	7	81	35	37
WEALDSTONE .. ..	26	15	5	6	70	49	35
Hayes .. ..	26	14	6	6	63	36	34

Wealdstone Reserves, too, occupied third place in the final league table, Walthamstow Avenue Reserves again enjoying the distinction of being champions, with Barking Reserves in second place 10 points behind the leaders and two points ahead of Wealdstone Reserves.

Both Walthamstow Avenue and Romford were elected to membership of the Isthmian League for the 1939-40 season, and so the honour of meeting the Rest of the League XI—the privilege of the champions—fell to Wealdstone, the match being played at Lower Mead on August 25th, 1939. The representative side won 4-3. The second

fixture of the season was a home match with the Old Johnians in the F.A. Cup. For what was to be their last pre-war game Wealdstone's forwards, and, in fact, the whole team, were in irresistible form, winning 8-2. That was on September 2nd. On the previous day Adolf Hitler had sent his troops across the Polish frontier and on the following day the Prime Minister, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, voiced his nation's disapproval of Germany's action. War it was to be.

## VIII

*War . . . Famous Clubs at Lower Mead . . . A Season of Outstanding Success . . . Some Wartime Difficulties . . . Two Notable "Guest" Players.*

THE declaration of war on September 3rd, 1939, was followed by a period of inactivity for most football clubs. Fortunately, the conflagration did not develop as fiercely as had been anticipated and it was not long before football was being played again up and down the country, although the organisation of the game was along very different lines from normal. The Athenian League, in common with many other leagues, ceased to function, but other competitions, on a regional basis, were set up, and tribute must be paid to those who were responsible for their organisation and operation. Many of these early wartime competitions continued throughout the years of hostilities and they served their purpose admirably.

Wealdstone F.C. decided against entering competitive league football for the first season of the war. Instead, a most attractive programme of "friendly" fixtures was arranged. Crowds for the first few weeks of the war were very much reduced, but larger attendances were recorded before long and, in fact, Lower Mead registered some of its best-ever "gates" during the 1939-40 season. This was due to several reasons. Wealdstone's opponents were often "big names," while the Club's many victories—of the 42 games played during the season no fewer than 35 were won—did much to draw support. Another factor was the reluctance of many people to attend matches on the large professional grounds in the London area in the early war period.

Many of the season's fixtures were with professional teams, who generally sent particularly strong sides to Lower Mead, but games were arranged also with famous amateur clubs, including some Wealdstone had not met for a long time. The following is a complete record of the matches played in that first highly successful wartime season:—

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals	
					F.	A.
v. Rest of League .. ..	1	0	0	1	3	4
F.A. Cup .. ..	1	1	0	0	8	2
London Senior Cup .. ..	5	4	0	1	19	12
Middlesex Red Cross Cup ..	4	4	0	0	25	4
Friendlies .. ..	31	26	3	2	137	59
TOTAL .. ..	42	35	3	4	192	81

Among the teams beaten at Lower Mead were:—Chelsea Reserves, 2-1; Gillingham, 10-0; Fulham, 4-3; Crystal Palace, 3-2; Oxford University, 6-2; Cambridge University, 2-1; Metropolitan Police, 5-4; Dartford, 5-1; Chesham, 7-2; Wycombe Wanderers, 4-2; Woking, 5-1; Dulwich Hamlet, 3-2; Nunhead, 6-1; Briggs Sports, 5-3. An away

match with Crystal Palace was drawn (3-3), and there were victories away from home over Woking (6-2), Dulwich Hamlet (2-1), Wycombe Wanderers (4-1), and others. The usual Christmas matches were played with Golders Green, Wealdstone being successful 2-1 at Lower Mead on Christmas morning and 4-2 at Claremont-road on Boxing Day.

A notable feature of the first wartime season was the Club's success in the London Senior Cup. After beating West Norwood (6-0), Wimbledon (4-2), Bromley (7-4), and Barnet (2-1), Wealdstone qualified to meet Walthamstow Avenue in the final, which was played on the ground of West Ham United F.C. at Upton Park on April 27th, 1940. The 'Stones had a great following for the match, which resulted in one of the very few reverses of the season, the Avenue winning by five clear goals. After the game a company of about 50 of the Wealdstone officials, players, and friends dined together and Charlie Bunce told the assembled gathering that the players would show that they were not downhearted at their failure and that they would win the Middlesex Sports Red Cross Cup (which replaced the former Charity Cup competition), the final of which was due to be played on the following Saturday. Wealdstone had beaten the Polytechnic (7-0), Pinner (7-0), and Enfield (7-3) in qualifying to meet Golders Green in the final at Lower Mead. Charlie Bunce's words proved prophetic. Wealdstone won the final 4-1. The Club did not enter the Middlesex Senior Cup competition that season.

Unlike their seniors, the Reserves played in competitive football in the first season of the war. They entered the West Middlesex Combination. This emergency league contained only nine clubs; it included Edgware Town, Harrow Town, Wood Green Town, and Pinner. The League was won by Edgware Town, Wealdstone Reserves being fourth.

There are always many problems to be dealt with by the secretary and other officials of an amateur football club, and it is not surprising that many additional difficulties were forthcoming in the wartime period. Players were being called up to the Forces and it was not always easy to replace them. Service players' leave was often cancelled or postponed, thus leaving a last-minute gap in the team, and there were other features of wartime football which made the task of those at the helm so much more irksome than in normal times.

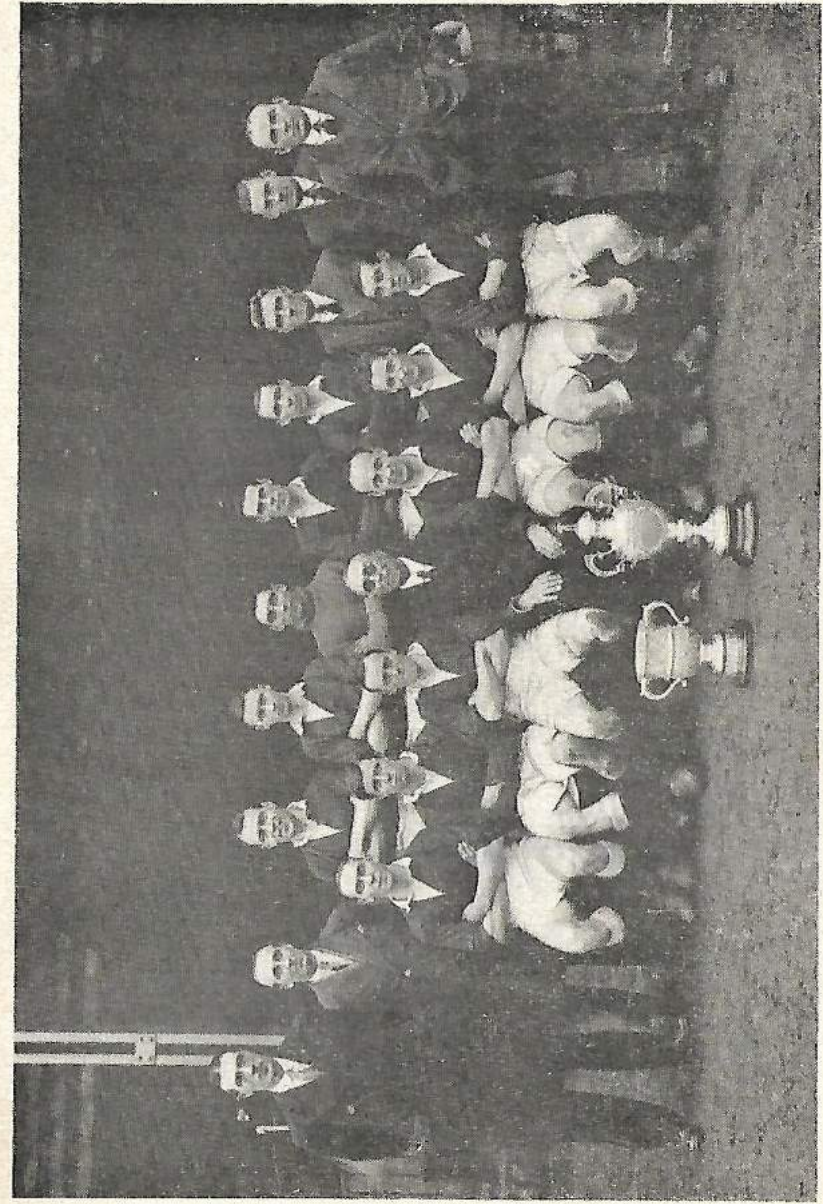
Many clubs were able—and usually only too willing—to make use of "guest" players. In later years of the war most clubs included a number of such players in their teams. Such a system was, of course, one which could not be tolerated in peacetime, but it undoubtedly did much to enable clubs to carry on in wartime. Wealdstone was happy to utilise the services of a few "outsiders" from time to time.

Among the guest players to appear at Lower Mead was W. W. Parr, the Dulwich Hamlet and England outside-right, who settled down very happily in Wealdstone's colours. He was a great favourite with his team mates and with the crowd. Bill Parr was unfortunately one of many prominent amateur footballers to die in action. He had achieved outstanding success on the field of play and his brilliance will be remembered by all who had the pleasure of seeing him. During the war Parr played also for both Arsenal and Blackpool. A native

of Blackpool, he was employed by Wembley Borough Council from 1938 until he joined the R.A.F. in 1940. He was killed in March, 1942, in his 27th year. Bill Parr made 19 appearances in Wealdstone's colours and scored 12 goals.

Another guest player to render invaluable service to the 'Stones during the war years was Frank Butterworth, of Barking F.C. He, too, was very popular and a player of outstanding ability. It is always a big asset to a club to have on hand a player capable of filling more than one position in the team, but this was especially true in wartime in view of unavoidable last-minute changes in the composition of a team. Frank Butterworth was an outstanding example of versatility on the football field. For Wealdstone he appeared as an inside forward as often as not, but it will be recalled that he made a reputation with Leeds United in later years of the war as a centre-half. He played with Walthamstow Avenue after the war, later transferring to Redhill.

Wealdstone owes a big debt of gratitude to the late Bill Parr, Frank Butterworth, and to its other guest players for their great help during the war years.



**Wealdstone Football Club, 1929-30**

Front Row (left to right): T. Maskell, E. Hannam, L. Hoskins, C. E. Brady (President), L. Clark, S. Hester, T. Turner, Back Row: C. L. Fraser (Hon. Match Secretary), A. Champion, D. Short, R. Groves, F. Poulson, H. Smith, C. Davies, F. C. Cane, R. Burrows, W. Gallagher (Trainer).



**Wealdstone Football Club, 1929-30**

Front Row (left to right): T. Maskell, E. Hannam, L. Hoskins, C. E. Brady (President), L. Clark, S. Hester, T. Turner. Back Row: C. L. Fraser (Hon. Match Secretary), A. Champion, D. Short, R. Groves, F. Poulson, H. Smith, C. Davies, F. C. Cane, R. Burrows, W. Gallagher (Trainer).

## IX

*Football's Contribution to the War Effort . . . Herts and Middlesex League . . . Third Place in the League and Three Cups . . . Len Dolding's Accomplishments . . . Jack Russell's Goalscoring Achievements . . . Loss of Ken Baldwin and Ernie Walker.*

SPORT in general and football in particular made a great contribution to the nation's war effort. Both amateur and professional clubs rendered outstanding service to the country by keeping their grounds open and thus providing one of the means of relaxation and respite from the strain of war. Comparatively few clubs had to close their gates for the duration—some grounds, of course, were requisitioned by the authorities—and the greatest credit is surely due to all who contributed to the organisation of wartime football. The secretary and other officials and staff of the Football Association, officials of the various County Associations, and league and club officials are all entitled to the utmost praise for their efforts during the war years. And, of course, in this connection, a big debt of gratitude is owed by spectators to the men who, week by week, turned out to provide their entertainment.

In the second season of the war Wealdstone F.C. was admitted to the Herts and Middlesex League, a League in which many of the senior amateur clubs were competing. Wealdstone attained third place in its first season in this competition. The final table for the 1940-41 season is given below; in addition to showing the Club's record for that year, the table will serve also as a reminder of the composition of the league at that time.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		Pts.
					F.	A.	
Hitchin Town .. .. .	20	17	1	2	82	27	35
Metropolitan Police .. .. .	20	12	4	4	72	33	28
WEALDSTONE .. .. .	20	13	2	5	82	37	28
St. Albans City .. .. .	20	10	1	9	63	58	21
Southall .. .. .	20	9	2	9	58	58	20
Enfield .. .. .	20	7	3	10	64	72	17
Slough .. .. .	20	6	4	10	49	72	16
Golders Green .. .. .	20	6	3	11	50	69	15
Barnet .. .. .	20	6	3	11	41	57	15
Finchley .. .. .	20	5	3	12	29	62	13
Tufnell Park .. .. .	20	6	0	14	27	71	12

Three cups came to Lower Mead in 1940-41. Pinner were beaten 4-2 in the final of the Middlesex Senior Cup, and in the final of the Middlesex Sports Red Cross Cup Wealdstone beat Wood Green Town 2-0 after having shared four goals with that club at the first attempt. The third cup was the Cambridge Hospital Cup, for which Wealdstone were invited to compete. Cambridge Town were beaten 3-2, and after

the match the Wealdstone party was entertained at dinner, which was followed by a dance. The journey home from Cambridge was eventful, the last part of it being made through an air raid.

Friendly matches in that season included a match with a Watford eleven, which was won by Wealdstone by four goals to one. There was also an 8-0 victory over Queens Park Rangers Reserves at Lower Mead. Altogether 39 games were played, of which 27 were won, five drawn, and seven lost, 168 goals being scored, against 70. Frank Butterworth was easily the leading scorer, with 44 goals to his credit. Other scorers included: G. Gale, 28; H. Dyke, 23; L. Dolding, 19; R. Nicholson, 18; and H. Charlton, D. Scott, and C. Barker seven each.

Nineteen friendly fixtures were played by the Reserves, of which nine were won, nine lost, and one drawn.

Len Dolding, who later joined Chelsea F.C., was playing particularly well in Wealdstone's colours at this time. Born in India, Dolding had been a much-travelled youngster by the age of seven, having made the back and forth trip five times. He was at school at Margate and he captained Cliftonville School's football and cricket teams. His football ability developed considerably during the time he spent at Lower Mead, where he had the unique distinction of winning three Middlesex Cup medals. He played for Queens Park Rangers as an amateur before taking the plunge and playing for Chelsea on a professional basis. He served in the R.A.F. during the war, gaining football honours in the Services. While with Chelsea, Len Dolding played many games in the league side and formed a particularly fine understanding with Tommy Lawton. Dolding later joined Norwich City. He is also on the M.C.C. ground staff at Lord's. He acted as twelfth man for the England team against the New Zealanders in the second Test match at Lord's in June, 1949.

The outstanding event of the 1941-42 season was the winning of the Middlesex Sports Red Cross Cup, in the final of which Wealdstone beat a strong R.A.F. (Uxbridge) team 5-2, extra time being played. This game, at Wembley Stadium on June 3rd, 1942, is the subject of a special article elsewhere in this book. The Club also retained the Middlesex Senior Cup by beating Finchley 4-1 at Lower Mead in the final on Easter Monday. This game was unfortunately marred by an accident to Harold Charlton, the Wealdstone outside-right, who was taken to hospital with a fractured leg. Charlton, a very promising youngster, came to the Club through Brookshill Rovers, a local club which for a time played as Wealdstone Reserves.

The Herts and Middlesex League had 13 member clubs in 1941-42, against 12 in the previous season. The Metropolitan Police had left the league, and Walthamstow Avenue and Leyton were welcomed as new members. Wealdstone had rather a lean season in the league, finishing with only two clubs in lower positions. The Reserves had resumed competitive football by entering the Harrow, Wembley and District League, which, due very largely to the strenuous efforts of its hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. W. H. Oram, was providing excellent facilities for local clubs. Wealdstone Reserves finished up in fifth place in the league table, 12 clubs competing.

Wealdstone and Finchley clashed again in the final of the Middlesex Senior Cup in the following season, Wealdstone winning 3-0 in a replay after the clubs had shared six goals in the first match. This was the highlight of a season in which success largely by-passed the Club. Only 11 league points were gained and it is not surprising, therefore, that Wealdstone found themselves at the foot of the table. Of 38 games played during the season, 16 were won, 20 were lost, and two drawn. Goals for totalled 96, while 127 goals were conceded. J. Russell with 19 goals headed the list of scorers, other leading scorers being L. Dolding 10, T. Morris 9, and S. Mogridge 8. The Reserves were third in the Harrow, Wembley and District League.

R. (Bob) Wilson, who played for the Reserves and afterwards for the first team from 1938 until he joined the R.A.S.C., died in hospital from pneumonia in January, 1943. He was in his 24th year and was regarded as one of the most promising of the Club's younger players.

The next season, that of 1943-44, was another in which Wealdstone failed to achieve much. In the league the Club finished up only two places from the foot of the table, while the best that can be said of the various cup competitions is that Wealdstone reached the semi-final of the League Cup, in which they were beaten 5-3 by Clapton. The complete record of matches for the season shows that 11 games were won, 20 lost, and five drawn, 93 goals being scored, against 117. Jack Russell, with 26 goals, was again the top scorer, being followed by T. Morris with 15, R. Gamble with 11, and G. Hardie with 8. The Reserves were also lowly placed in their league.

Wealdstone was dismissed from two cup competitions in the round before the final during the 1944-45 season. In the semi-final of the Middlesex Senior Cup Southall won 3-1 and in the corresponding round of the Middlesex Sports Red Cross Cup Golders Green won 3-2. In the Herts and Middlesex League the Club failed to improve upon its performance of the previous season. Altogether 42 games were played, 13 being won, 24 lost, and five drawn. Eighty-four goals were scored and 129 conceded, and once more Jack Russell, the Club's outstanding centre-forward in wartime football, scored 24 times.

The Reserves enjoyed a greater measure of success in the Harrow League, in which they secured third position. Of the 97 goals they scored during the season, H. Jennings, another useful centre-forward, scored 29.

During the season the sad news was received of the death in action of Ken Baldwin. He went to Normandy with the Liberation Army and was wounded at Falaise Gap. He returned home to recover from his wounds and was able to play five times for Wealdstone before returning to France. Baldwin's last match for the Club was a league match against Grays Athletic on February 3rd, 1945. Also during the season came the news that Ernie Walker, who served in the Royal Navy, was reported missing. Most of Walker's appearances for Wealdstone had been in the second eleven, but he also played many fine games in goal for the senior team and he was regarded as a youngster of considerable promise. Walker came from New Broughton, near Wrexham, in 1937. He played for two seasons in the Reserves. During this time he deputised for Reg. Lewis, later taking Lewis's place until November, 1940, when he joined the Navy.

## X

*Athenian League Restarts . . . Two Popular League Appointments . . . Wealdstone Successes in First Post-war Season . . . Presentation of the Wealdstone Football Club Cup . . . Cold Weather Closes Grounds . . . On the Television Screen . . . Life Membership for Mr. H. Howman, Mr. H. A. Luck, and Mr. W. Rich . . . Fine Cup Performances . . . A Great Match with Leytonstone . . . Mr. F. W. Harbud a Life Member.*

A DECISION to restart the Athenian League was taken at a meeting of the League Council on April 23rd, 1945. The various emergency competitions, such as the Herts and Middlesex League, had served their purpose admirably, but there was naturally keenness to return to the pre-war set-up, although it was obvious that the first season would have to be in the nature of a transitional period, with clubs making bold endeavours to find their feet after years of war.

Mr. W. A. (Bill) Warren was elected secretary and treasurer of the Athenian League at the April meeting, an appointment which was recognised by the member clubs as a well-deserved recognition of his years of splendid service to the League. For many years, Mr. Warren was closely associated with Bromley F.C. He made his first appearance for that club as a player in October, 1919, and his entire playing career was spent with the Kent club. He had the distinction of being a member of the first Athenian League Representative XI—that was in 1920—and he appeared in 10 subsequent League sides; he was also selected for representative games by the Football Association, the London F.A., the Kent F.A., the Civil Service, and Middlesex Wanderers. Upon terminating his playing career, Mr. Warren was a referee for two seasons before being elected secretary of Bromley F.C. in 1930, a position he held for 10 years. It was generally agreed that the League had made a wise and popular choice.

The 14 clubs in membership at the beginning of the 1939-40 season all signified their readiness to compete and the League's composition was therefore unchanged. A change of rules affecting fixtures was made; hitherto, clubs had made up their own fixture lists, but it was decided to appoint a match secretary to deal with all fixture arrangements. Mr. H. P. Lawrence, who had carried out similar duties during the war period for the Herts and Middlesex League, was elected to the office. Mr. Lawrence, an official of Hendon F.C. for many years, had tackled the onerous and difficult task of making wartime fixtures with outstanding success, and he proved to be the right man to act in a similar capacity for the Athenian League.

Wealdstone had quite a successful time in the first post-war season. The Middlesex Senior Cup was won, 18 goals being scored in the four matches of this competition, with only five goals against the Club. Rayners Lane was beaten 4-3 in the first round, Wood Green Town

7-1 in the second, and Pinner 5-1 in the semi-final. The opponents in the final were Edgware Town, who were beaten 2-0 on the Golders Green ground on Easter Monday, 1946.

There was a particularly pleasing sequel to the Club's success in the Middlesex Senior Cup: At the invitation of Mr. H. H. Harrison, a member of the committee (he is now the Club's chairman), a celebration dinner was held at "The Plough," Kenton, this function being the outcome of a sporting gesture by the host, who extended his hospitality to the players and officials of the Club with the proviso that they secured the Middlesex Senior trophy. Mr. C. E. Brady presided at the dinner, and among the guests were Mr. W. J. (Bill) Edrich, the Middlesex and England cricketer, and Mr. Harold Gittins, the well-known sports cartoonist of the London *Evening News*.

Two other trophies were won by Wealdstone during the season. Pinner were beaten 2-1 in an invitation match for the Northwood War Memorial Cup, while a new cup—the Wealdstone Football Club Cup—was played for for the first time. This trophy was presented to the Club jointly by Mr. H. H. Harrison and Mr. W. G. Leadbetter, the latter now holding office as assistant secretary. The Club had decided to perpetuate the memory of those members of the Club who gave their lives in the second world war by endowing a bed in Harrow Hospital. It was agreed that the proceeds of the annual match for the Wealdstone Football Club Cup should be utilised for this purpose. The first challengers for the Cup were old friends and rivals—Golders Green F.C.—who were beaten 4-0. Sixth position was attained in the Athenian League.

Forty-six matches were played during the season, 21 being won, 11 lost, and 14 drawn. A total of 114 goals was recorded, with 87 against. Bert Dyke was the most consistent goalscorer. He scored 18 times in 37 appearances; other leading scorers being: G. Gaze, 16 (in only 14 appearances); R. Lawrence, 13; W. E. Berthelemy, 11; J. Moore, 10. During the season, Bert Dyke and Charlie Edmonds played for Middlesex in County Championship matches, while Edmonds also played for the Athenian League v. the Isthmian League.

Charlie Edmonds attended Old Oak School, East Acton. He gained distinction as a schoolboy footballer, being selected to play for both Hammersmith and Middlesex in representative matches. Before coming to Lower Mead in 1939, Edmonds played for Wimbledon Strollers and the L.M. & S. Railway. He made his initial appearance in Wealdstone's senior eleven against Crystal Palace in 1940. He served in the Royal Air Force during the war. He has played for the County on several occasions and has also skippered the Athenian League team.

Wealdstone Reserves could muster only eight league points in the 1945-46 season and it is not surprising therefore that they were well and truly at the foot of the table. They secured a consolation prize, however, for they were the winners of the Harrow Charity Cup, a competition which had been suspended during the war.

Sutton United, winners of the Athenian League championship in the first post-war season, had another excellent season in 1946-47, finishing as runners-up to Barnet. The Hertfordshire club had brought

distinction to itself and to the Athenian League in winning the F.A. Amateur Cup by inflicting a 2-1 defeat over Bishop Auckland in the 1945-46 final.

Wealdstone was able to improve its final league position slightly in the second season of post-war football, attaining fourth place and being level on points (30) with Bromley, the Kent club being third. A period of intensely cold weather was experienced during this season, with the result that football could not be played on many grounds up and down the country for six or seven weeks. This, of course, had the effect of congesting fixtures, and the outcome was a decision to extend the season to the second week of June. The first eleven made an excellent start with its league fixtures, but indifferent form was shown in the closing matches. It was a very poor season for the Club as regards cup competitions, and even the Club's own trophy, the Wealdstone Football Club Cup, left "home," Harrow Town inflicting a 5-1 defeat. The semi-final of the Middlesex Charity Cup was reached, but Hendon won the match 3-1 in extra time.

Fourteen of the season's 37 matches were won, seven drawn, and 16 lost, 79 goals being scored and 74 conceded. Gilbert Gaze scored 24 goals, Fred Boston 11, and Bert Dyke 10. No fewer than seven Wealdstone players gained County honours during the season, Edmonds and Dyke for the seniors, and A. Hardie, G. Hardie, G. Upton, R. Stevens, and R. Jocelyn for the juniors.

The Reserves made a big advance in the league table during the season as compared with the previous year, occupying seventh place. They also reached the semi-final of the League Cup, in which they were beaten 4-2 by Finchley Reserves, and the final of the Harrow Charity Cup, which was won by Northwood United by two goals to one. The Reserves' record for the season was: P. 39; W. 17; D. 10; L. 12; F. 95; A. 75. Bob Marjoram, with 18 goals, headed the list of scorers, being followed by George Hardie with 13.

During the 1946-47 season the B.B.C. decided to televise part of an amateur football match for the first time. The fixture selected for this purpose was the Athenian League game between Barnet and Wealdstone, which was won by the Hertfordshire club by three goals to two. Wealdstone's second appearance before the television cameras came during the jubilee season, when the whole of the F.A. Cup match with Edgware Town was seen by viewers, and then, only two weeks later, the B.B.C. television cameras came to Lower Mead for the F.A. Cup-tie with Colchester United.

The honour of life membership was conferred upon Mr. Harold Howman, Mr. H. A. Luck, and Mr. W. Rich. Mr. Howman had served on the committee for 13 years, before which he was a playing member of the Club for many seasons, both before and after the first world war. Mr. Luck was first elected to the committee in 1928 and has held several offices, including the position of secretary since 1935. Mr. Rich was elected to the committee in 1929 and he, too, held various offices. Mr. Rich was in turn, first team secretary, assistant treasurer, treasurer, deputy chairman, vice-chairman, and chairman, holding the latter position from 1942 to 1946.

In the following season, that of 1947-48, the first eleven again failed to consolidate the advantage of a good start to the season, although it attained a respectable position—fifth—Barnet being champions, with Hendon in second place. The season was, however, notable for some fine cup performances. In the F.A. Amateur Cup it seemed likely that that Club stood a good chance of achieving the ambition of all senior clubs, that of reaching the final, but it was not to be. When the Club met Leytonstone at Lower Mead in the third round proper of the competition, the players were at the top of their form, but the visitors—the eventual winners of the trophy—won by the only goal scored—in the opinion of many who saw the match, much against the run of the play. In previous rounds, Wealdstone had beaten Uxbridge 3-1, Sutton United 4-3 (after a goalless draw), and Wimbledon 1-0. The attendance of 11,500 at the Leytonstone match was at that time a record for the ground.

The Club also did well in the F.A. Cup, beating Enfield 2-0, Finchley 5-4, Edgware Town 2-1, and Leavesden 3-1, before being defeated 2-0 by Bromley. Three matches were played with Walthamstow Avenue in the first round of the London Senior Cup. The first game, on the Avenue's ground, was abandoned in extra time with Wealdstone leading 1-0. The Avenue won the replay at Lower Mead, but an infringement of the rules of the competition by the visitors caused a second replay, which was won by Walthamstow 2-1. Wealdstone was beaten by Edgware Town in the semi-final of the Middlesex Senior Cup by two clear goals.

Forty-two games were played during the season and of these 18 were won, 9 drawn, and 15 lost. The Club scored 74 goals and conceded 62. Bert Dyke topped the list of scorers, with 15 to his credit. Bill Ray scored 12 and Bob Marjoram 11. Charlie Edmonds and Fred Haydon were chosen for Middlesex and London F.A. matches during the season, while Edgar Francis was selected for the Welsh trial games. Other representative honours were gained by junior players. Alex and George Hardie played for Middlesex, and Dick Marjoram, who later joined Hayes F.C., for London.

The Reserves, under the care of Dave Scott, further improved their league position, moving up into third place, while they also won the Middlesex Intermediate Cup, beating Parkhill Sports 4-0 in the final at Enfield. Doug Scott was the leading goalscorer in the second team; he obtained 18 goals, George Hardie netted 10 times, and Ron Franklin nine. The Reserves won 21 out of the 36 matches, six being drawn and nine lost. Seventy-eight goals were scored, the defence conceding 48.

One of the Club's officials of the early days, Mr. William Hedley Whitaker, died on December 2nd, 1947, at the age of 73. He was elected chairman on August 26th, 1912, a position he held until January 3rd, 1922. He was chairman of the committee which recommended the move to Lower Mead, and was made a trustee of the Club in 1925. A native of Macclesfield, Cheshire, Mr. Whitaker was keenly interested in all forms of sport. He played football for Enfield against the Brussels Racing Club in 1897 at the Belgian capital, while he was also a very keen bowler. Although his business took him abroad a good deal, Mr. Whitaker retained his interest in the Club's activities up to his death.

The services of Mr. F. W. Harbud were recognised by the award of life membership. He achieved distinction on the playing field in the period following the first world war, and in later years he has been a valued member of the committee. After a period in charge of the Reserves he was appointed secretary to the first eleven, and in 1942 he was elected treasurer. He held this latter position until December, 1948, when he also resigned from the committee. Mr. Harbud was re-elected to the committee at the 1949 annual meeting and so his valuable services are again at the disposal of the Club.



# XI

*Amateur Cup Achievements . . . 13,504 Pay to See Cup-tie v. Leytonstone . . . Fourth Place in the League . . . Champions Score 10 Goals Against Wealdstone . . . Success of "A" Team Experiment . . . Arrangement with Chelsea F.C. . . . Tribute to Mr. C. W. Elliott . . . Work on the Ground.*

THE outstanding event of the 1948-49 season was undoubtedly the Club's achievements in the F.A. Amateur Cup. The fourth round of this competition was reached for the first time in the Club's history. And it was only after a replay against Leytonstone, the holders, that the Club was denied the privilege of playing in the semi-final. Unfortunately, after putting up a splendid performance on the Leytonstone ground—the match resulted in a goalless draw—Wealdstone failed to press home the advantage of a home match and Leytonstone had a comfortable passage into the semi-final. The attendance at Lower Mead for this match was easily a ground record; no fewer than 13,504 spectators paying for admission.

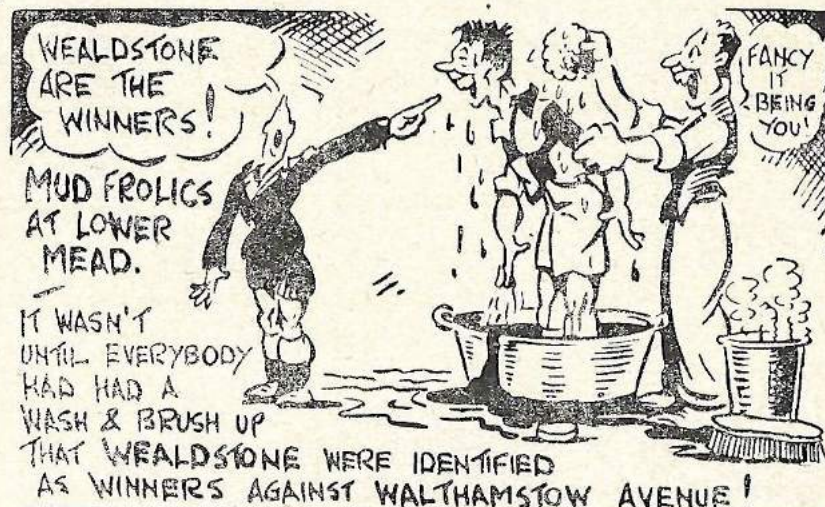
In the first round of the Amateur Cup, Wealdstone accomplished much in beating Walthamstow Avenue 2-0 at Lower Mead. The draw for the second round was Wealdstone v. Metropolitan Police and, after the first round success over the redoubtable Isthmian League side, hopes of victory ran high at Lower Mead. The Police were worthy opposition, however, and well deserved to earn a replay at Imber Court—the first match resulting in each side scoring once. The replay was another hard tussle and the 'Stones had to fight all the way for their 3-1 success.

The third round draw also promised great things: Wealdstone being drawn at home to Thameside Amateur F.C. The Kent club had played through from the earliest rounds of the competition and its achievements had been warmly praised in the national Press. Its success had been all the more creditable because the club had been compelled to play all its ties away from home, due to the fact that its own ground was not an enclosed arena and did not, therefore, comply with the requirements of the F.A. The form of Thameside Amateur at Lower Mead, however, was perhaps rather less convincing than the home team had expected and Wealdstone had no real difficulty in winning the match by two clear goals. And so the 'Stones were drawn to meet the holders in the fourth round.

The season was not attended by success in other cups. In the F.A. Cup, Willesden were beaten 4-0 in the preliminary round, following which victories were recorded over Harrow Town (2-1) and St. Albans City (5-0), before Hendon won 4-2 at Claremont-road in the third qualifying round. Wealdstone was defeated 2-1 at Ilford in the first round of the London Senior Cup, while in the Middlesex Senior Cup, after a home victory (1-0) over Finchley, the 'Stones were beaten 2-1 at Hayes. Hounslow Town achieved a 1-0 win at Lower Mead in the first round of the Middlesex Charity Cup.

## MUD FROLICS

By Gittins



Wealdstone's last opportunity to win a cup came after the season had officially closed. It took the form of an invitation to play for the Wycombe Hospital Cup from Wycombe Wanderers F.C. The invitation was gladly accepted and the 'Stones had a good following when they took the field at Loakes Park, High Wycombe. The Wanderers enjoyed a 3-2 success and the match was followed by a dinner presided over by the Deputy Mayor of the Borough.

The 1948-49 season in the league was quite successful and the Club was able to improve, if only by the narrow margin of one position, on its previous year's place in the table, which was headed by Bromley, followed by Hendon, Tooting and Mitcham United, and Wealdstone. Sutton United in the fifth place was three points behind Wealdstone. Details of the leading places in the league table are as follow:—

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		Pts.
					F.	A.	
Bromley .. .. .	26	18	5	3	88	35	41
Hendon .. .. .	26	15	7	4	55	33	37
Tooting & Mitcham .. .. .	26	15	4	7	64	42	34
WEALDSTONE .. .. .	26	12	5	9	56	54	29
Sutton United .. .. .	26	9	8	9	32	33	26

Among the outstanding performances in the league was a 7-1 home win over Barnet—the previous year's champions—early in the season. But Wealdstone fared particularly badly against Bromley, who scored seven goals without reply on their own ground, while at Lower Mead the Kent club registered a 3-0 success. Four league "doubles" were achieved, these being over Enfield, Hayes, Leyton, and Redhill. Only one friendly fixture could be fitted in during the season, but the choice of opposition on this occasion proved to be an especially happy one. Boldmere St. Michael, a Birmingham district club, came to Lower Mead with the reputation of being sturdy cup fighters. The Midlanders showed something of their prowess against the 'Stones, who won a close game 2-1.

Eddie Smith, one of several lads to join Wealdstone under an arrangement made with Chelsea F.C., scored 33 times during the season. Bert Dyke (15) came second in the list of goalscorers, while Charlie Hayes, the Royal Navy player, who came to the Club quite late in the season, was third with 10 goals to his credit. The complete record for the season showed that of the 42 matches played, 20 were won, 7 drawn, and 15 lost. The tally of goals was 84, 10 more than were conceded.

Whereas the first eleven improved slightly on its league position, the Reserves, who also finished in fourth place, fell by one place as compared with the previous season. Under Dave Scott's leadership, however, the second team provided some good football at Lower Mead in the absence of the senior eleven, emphasis being given to this factor by improved attendances at their home matches. The Reserves reached the semi-finals of the London and Middlesex Intermediate Cups; in the former they were beaten 6-2 by Leytonstone Reserves in a replay, this following a 1-1 draw. Their opponents in

the semi-final of the Middlesex Cup were Southall Reserves, who won 2-1. The Reserves played 37 matches during the season, 20 being won, 6 drawn, and 11 lost. Ninety-one goals were registered, against a deficit of 59. Ted Pratt, Ken Driver, and George Hardie scored 11 times each, Jimmy Moore coming next with 10.

An "A" team, or third eleven, was run during the 1948-49 season for the first time in the Club's history, and the experiment proved a distinct success. The team competed in the First Division of the Harrow, Wembley and District League, and although it failed to achieve noteworthy success in either league or cup competitions, it was found that the advantages of operating a third team were many. The "A" team received support from the committee generally, but it was Mr. J. H. Pyers, the team secretary, who bore the brunt of the season's work. In his first season as an official of the Club he accomplished splendid results. One of the members of the "A" team was Gordon Lieven, a youngster from Chelsea F.C., who graduated from the "A" team to play in the first eleven in his first season.

The arrangement with Chelsea F.C., referred to above, came into operation at the commencement of the season. Briefly, the object of the scheme is that young players on the books of the famous West London club should graduate through the Wealdstone elevens to the higher grade of football. There is no question of Wealdstone's being a Chelsea "nursery" club in the accepted sense of that term. Wealdstone F.C. retains a full measure of independence. For example, a player recommended by Chelsea is played in any of the Wealdstone teams at the discretion of the Wealdstone committee, which also has full power to decline to play any man from Chelsea at all. The scheme has worked very well so far. As mentioned earlier, several promising lads have come to Lower Mead under the arrangement and it is hoped that the benefits of this co-operation between the two clubs will continue to accrue.

A new life member of the Club was appointed during the 1948-49 season. He was Mr. C. W. Elliott, who had served on the committee for many years. He preceded Mr. Jack Holt as ground secretary and his work in this connection was of inestimable value to the Club. Unfortunately, Mr. Elliott had to relinquish his duties because of ill-health.

A great deal of work was carried out at Lower Mead at the end of the 1948-49 season. The pitch had to be subjected to renovation, owing to drainage and other difficulties. Expert advice was sought and the whole of the centre of the field was disturbed and reseeded. The cost of this work was substantial. Much other work was undertaken at Lower Mead, including a substantial extension of the stand. All the work was planned with a long-term policy in mind.

The Club thus entered its jubilee season of 1949-50 with the stage prepared for momentous events both on and off the field.

# Goal Devalued

By  
GITTINS



## XII

*Wealdstone in the Headlines . . . Early F.A. Cup Victories . . . Drawn Against Colchester United . . . Stanley Mortensen's Views on Colchester . . . Televised Again . . . Bill Saunders's Goal Carries the Day . . . Wealdstone v. "Goalster."*

THE Club's playing activities in its jubilee season of 1949-50 can be divided into three sections. The curtain fell on the first section with the sounding of the final whistle on the ground of the Port Vale Football Club on the occasion of Wealdstone's initial appearance in the first round proper of the F.A. Cup competition, for then followed a lean period for the Club, the effect of which, on players and spectators alike, was perhaps the more pronounced because of its contrast with the earlier weeks of the season. Finally, there were the closing weeks in which, in addition to some notable performances in the league, the Club won the Middlesex Senior Charity Cup and the Wealdstone Football Club Cup.

The Club's great success in the F.A. Cup put the name of Wealdstone in the biggest type in newspaper headlines. The players set the pace with a 4-0 away win over Hendon on September 17th, and a fortnight later there was a goalless draw with Enfield away from home. The replay at Lower Mead resulted in a 2-0 victory for the 'Stones, and the following round found Wealdstone with the stiff task of facing St. Albans City on the Isthmian League club's ground. After a hectic battle, Wealdstone left Clarence Park winners by the only goal of the day.

Edgeware Town, particularly when playing on its own ground, is a difficult side to beat. This, however, was the hurdle laid for the Wealdstone players in the following round of the F.A. Cup. Their success, as in the previous round, was by the narrowest of margins—one goal to nil. By this time, of course, the 'Stones were really confident, having played five F.A. Cup-ties and thus reaching the last of the qualifying rounds. And in these games, Danny Wiltshire and his co-defenders had had the great satisfaction of returning a clean sheet.

The draw was eagerly awaited, and what a draw it was!—Wealdstone v. Colchester United, Wealdstone having been drawn at home for the first time in the competition. Of the teams in the draw for that round, Wealdstone had been paired with a side renowned for its cup-fighting qualities and one always likely to account for the very biggest of the professional clubs.

This is what Stanley Mortensen, the Blackpool and England forward, thinks of Colchester United. Writing in his book, *Football is My Game*, Mortensen, referring to his club's F.A. Cup campaign in the 1947-48 season, says: "We were lucky at the start of the competition. First we drew Leeds United at Blackpool . . . Then we drew Chester, a Northern section side, and another four-goal win put us

into the last 16. We began to think of Wembley, and on the Monday we sat with our ears glued to the wireless to hear our fate in the draw. And it was—Colchester United at home: the team everyone was talking about. This non-league club had given the knock-out blow to First Division Huddersfield Town and Second Division Bradford. In each case they had played at home on a small ground.

“Yet as time went on towards February 7th, an astonishing war of nerves was opened on us.” Stanley Mortensen continues: “Ted Fenton, the Colchester player-manager, watched us play, and was said to have evolved an ‘M Plan’—the plan to stop Matthews, Mortensen, and McIntosh. Nobody can estimate the effect of such fore-match chatter, or how many cup-ties have been won by a well-organised campaign to shake the nerves of the other fellows. It’s part of the game—one of the things the complete player has to master.

“The nerve-war was so intense,” Mortensen writes, “that even our supporters began to wonder whether this team of part-timers could pull off another surprise win. Colchester United made elaborate arrangements to bring their supporters by road, rail, and air, and, of course, we were never allowed to forget that they trained on oysters! If ever a team had a cold war waged against them, it was Blackpool. And things were not improved on the day of the match by the noisy enthusiasm of the trippers from Colchester, who, after seeing the sights of Blackpool, arrived early on the ground and let us all know what they thought about the coming duel.

“We survived it all, our manager reminding us, as we went on to the field, that our opponents were probably much more anxious and nervous than we had any cause to be. This boost-stuff can be a two-edged sword.”

And so in the 1949-50 season, Wealdstone had drawn Colchester United *and* the war of nerves in the F.A. Cup. But the effect of the nerve-war on the Wealdstone players was, apparently, very different from that on the Blackpool players two years earlier. Ted Fenton certainly spoke freely and confidently to the Press of his team’s chances of success, but, in the dressing room at Lower Mead on training nights, Charlie Barker and his colleagues were also evolving plans.

The day—November 12th—dawned dull over Lower Mead and district. Heavy rain fell just before the kick-off, and, although it had been expected that a record attendance would be registered, fewer than 10,000 spectators were present to witness the match. But the game was seen by others, for the B.B.C. television cameras were in action for the entire match; in fact, viewers joined the crowd at Lower Mead half-an-hour before the kick-off.

The wonderful efforts of the Wealdstone men to hold on to their lead—the goal being scored by Bill Saunders—will never be forgotten by those fortunate enough to see the game. Encouraged by a large following, the Colchester United players must have tried to put into effect every one of the many plans they had evolved to overcome more distinguished opposition in the past, but their efforts were foiled time and again. For several minutes on end the only Colchester man in his own half was the goalkeeper, and even he advanced several yards



Wealdstone conceded only one goal in 630 minutes F.A. Cup football during the 1949-50 season. These photographs show the defence in action during the epic match with Colchester United.

Above, Danny Wiltshire leaps gracefully to clear his lines. Fred Haydon covers up and Gordon Norman harasses the desperate Colchester forwards.

Wealdstone’s goalkeeper is shown below fielding the ball while Haydon holds off an attacker and Charlie Barker awaits the outcome of the tussle.



# 'Stonewalled'

By  
GITTINS

WEALDSTONE  
WITH A SONG  
IN THEIR  
HEARTS!

SING HI—  
SING—HO

OFF TO  
WORK WE GO!

COLCHESTER  
"GIANT"  
KILLERS OF  
1947-48



OUT-KILLED — BY LITTLE WEALDSTONE — 1-0

NO MIRRORS,  
TRAP DOORS  
OR BLACK  
MAGIC!

WEALDSTONE  
JUST GOT  
AN EARLY  
GOAL



THE  
GAME  
OF A  
1000  
THRILLS!

KEEP 'EM  
OUT  
STONES!



& HUNG ON!

SPECTATORS  
GOING THROUGH  
THE SEVEN AGES OF MAN  
IN AN AFTERNOON.



THAT LAST 15 MINUTES WITH  
COLCHESTER THROWING  
IN EVERYTHING BUT THE  
STATION CLOCK!

WILTSHIRE  
THE STONES  
GOALIE AS THE  
MAN ON THE  
FLYING  
TRAPEZE!



AS A RESULT "THE  
STONES" KEPT 'EM  
OUT ALL RIGHT.  
PERHAPS COLCHESTER  
SHOULD HAVE TRIED  
ONE OF THESE  
UNDERGROUND  
MOVEMENTS WE  
HEAR ABOUT!

HAROLD  
GITTINS

upfield! But Danny Wiltshire, Fred Haydon, Charlie Barker, and the others held out until the referee's whistle became the signal for perhaps the most enthusiastic demonstration ever seen at Lower Mead.

Although Wealdstone supporters ran on to the field from all directions without a moment's delay, it was good to see that the Colchester players were still able to be the first of so many to offer congratulations to the home side.

A jubilant supporter of the Club, who prefers to remain anonymous, sent us the verse printed below.

## WEALDSTONE v. "GOALESSTER"

Years may come and pass us by,  
But in our hearts will ever lie  
A memory of that certain day  
When Wealdstone on the field of play,  
While adding honours to their name,  
Enrolled upon the scroll of fame.

The chances of a Wealdstone win,  
To say the least, seemed very thin,  
The writers in the daily news  
Quite freely stated all their views—  
"United" for the first round proper.  
But, sad to say, they came a "cropper."

For playing in the English Cup  
The 'Stones were very soon one up,  
And though they then were much despised  
Colchester never equalised,  
A pass by Rogers, Saunders touch  
Just got the goal that meant so much.

No credit goes to just one man,  
All working to a certain plan;  
Though the play was often keen,  
Both sides kept it very clean;  
Each team special praise deserves  
Considering those cup-tie nerves.

Ten, twenty, fifty years from now  
Men will relate with wrinkled brow,  
Of Wealdstone's great and gallant stand  
By Charlie Barker and his band,  
As greybeards shake their heads they'll say,  
"You don't see things like that to-day."

### XIII

*Who Next? . . . Away to Port Vale . . . The Press on Wealdstone's Chances . . . Welcome at Hanley . . . A Great Display . . . Danny Wiltshire's Wonderful Saves . . . The Press on Wealdstone's Performance.*

IN the 48-hour period between the final whistle of the Colchester United match and publication of the draw for the first round proper of the F.A. Cup, one heard many suggestions as to the possible pairings. One got the impression that Watford or Notts County would be the most popular clubs to come out of the "hat" in company with the 'Stones. But, as those who fill in pools coupons know so well, speculation in football is liable to meet with disappointment, and those who had hoped to see the Wealdstone forwards putting the ball past Geoff Morton, Watford's young goalkeeper from Harrow, and those who had visions of seeing Tommy Lawton held in a vice-like grip by George Shailer learned, with the rest of the world, that Wealdstone's first-ever appearance in the first round of the F.A. Cup was to be on the Port Vale ground.

"Hard luck, Wealdstone," ran an *Evening Standard* headline that day. The *Standard's* comment on the Cup draw opened as follows: "Hard luck on Wealdstone, amateur 'heroes' of the last round of the F.A. Cup. For the next round—the first round proper—these conquerors of the professional side Colchester have to go north to play Third Division Port Vale. A tremendous task for them."

Mr. J. G. Orange, however, writing in the *Evening News*, felt able to give Wealdstone supporters a more reassuring message. "Wealdstone, for their grand show in beating Colchester United in the last round, have been given rather poor reward," he wrote. "They have been given a journey to Hanley to play Port Vale, who have not been beaten at home this season by any professional rivals. But Wealdstone may make a great fight of it, and in the Cup you never really know."

Few other sports writers seemed to think that Wealdstone stood the slightest chance of going forward in the competition, nor would the visitor to the Lower Mead dressing rooms at training time on the evening following the draw have gained the impression that the Wealdstone players viewed the forthcoming trip to the Potteries with supreme confidence. They did not. But Charlie Barker and his colleagues were already planning quietly to make the fullest use of the outside chance of victory which they felt was within their grasp. The fact that in nine home fixtures to date Port Vale had conceded only three goals did not deter the Wealdstone players from anticipating the match with a balanced measure of confidence.

It would obviously have been unwise for the team to have delayed the 150-mile journey to Hanley until the morning of the match, so arrangements were made for the players, including three reserves and a small party of officials, to travel to Stoke-on-Trent on the Friday

evening. And here the Club was indeed fortunate in being able to call upon the services of its vice-chairman, Mr. P. W. Lanning, who made all the necessary arrangements for travelling, accommodation, meals, etc., for the entire party—an onerous task fulfilled most successfully. Mr. Lanning left nothing to chance, nor did he overlook the smallest detail in ensuring the success of the trip.

The meeting place—the main hall at Euston—was reached in good time by those making the journey on the Friday evening, and the first news was of the best. It was conveyed by centre-forward Bill Roberts, who proudly announced the birth of a son to his wife that very afternoon. The journey was made *via* Crewe, and shortly after arrival at the North Stafford Hotel at Stoke-on-Trent, the Wealdstone party was welcomed by Mr. G. Hodgson (manager) and Mr. N. J. Jones (hon. secretary) of Port Vale F.C. This gesture was greatly appreciated, and it was, in fact, one of many courtesies bestowed upon their guests by the Port Vale officials.

An injury to Eddie Smith had made him a doubtful starter and the Port Vale club readily acceded to a request that he be allowed to have a fitness test on the ground early on the Saturday morning. This accomplished under the ever-watchful eye of team secretary Bill Showler and, of course, trainer Bill Gallagher, Smith was pronounced as being fit to take his place on the left wing.

Further thanks were due to the Port Vale secretary for making it possible for members of the Wealdstone party to split up and visit two pottery works on the Saturday morning. This proved a most interesting way of filling in the hours before the match and of keeping the players from dwelling unduly on the task ahead of them.

Following a light luncheon at the hotel at noon, the players reached the ground an hour before the kick-off and just in time to see the arrival of four coachloads of enthusiastic Wealdstone supporters, who had left Lower Mead six hours earlier. Heartened by the welcome accorded them by the Club's followers, the players went into their dressing room for a last-minute tactical talk and a "loosener-up" by Bill Gallagher.

Meanwhile, Hanley had been "invaded" by those who took advantage of the special excursion train from Harrow and Wealdstone station and, standing outside the ground, it was good to see so many familiar faces and blue and white favours.

A story in connection with the supporters' journey that morning may be of some interest. As the train was about to draw out of the station at Watford Junction, a man, wearing blue and white favours was seen to be standing on another platform. He was hailed and, seeing blue and white rosettes and scarves on some of the occupants of the train, he made an undignified, but successful, attempt to catch the train, which was already on the move. It was some time before the gentleman concerned realised that he had joined Wealdstone supporters *en route* for Hanley and not, as he had thought, followers of Watford F.C. on their journey to the Bromley F.C. ground!

Having witnessed, and, we hope, enjoyed, the Port Vale—Wealdstone tie, it was with some satisfaction that the Watford supporter heard that his club had beaten the Athenian League side by two goals to one.

Charlie Edmonds, Ron Franklin, and Bertie Hill, the three reserves, accompanied the Wealdstone officials into the stand as the team followed the home side on to the field to receive a welcome no less enthusiastic than that accorded to the Port Vale men. The official "gate" was 15,300: if the 'Stones' supporters were heavily outnumbered, they certainly succeeded in making their presence felt, and their encouragement to the players must have contributed substantially to the grand display of the visiting team.

The only goal of the match—and, incidentally, the only goal conceded by Wealdstone in 630 minutes' F.A. Cup football, of which 180 minutes were played against professional opponents and 450 minutes on opponents' territory—came after 25 minutes' play. Danny Wiltshire saved a hard shot from Hulligan, the Port Vale outside-left, but Allen, on the Vale right wing, gathering the ball, was alleged to have been pushed by a Wealdstone defender and a free kick was awarded. Allen, who took the kick, lobbed the ball into the goalmouth and centre-forward Pinchbeck scrambled the ball into the net. Wiltshire appeared to be hampered in his effort to punch the ball clear.

An unfortunate occurrence was an ankle injury to Edgar Francis just before the interval. After the change of ends Francis went on the left wing, Peter Rogers dropping back to left-half and Eddie Smith filling the inside-left berth.

Towards the end Port Vale were well on top and Wiltshire had to cope with shots from all directions and often at close quarters. Fortune aided him on occasions, but no more than he deserved, for he gave as great a display as one could wish to see. Not even from the penalty spot could Port Vale find the net.

Great as was his performance, Wiltshire would be the first to pay tribute to the gallant fight put up by his colleagues on that memorable afternoon. Although the brunt of the battle fell on the rearguard, the forwards were by no means out of the game. Their combination was of the best at times and King, the Port Vale custodian, had a number of difficult shots to deal with.

Due largely to Wealdstone's feat in beating Colchester United, the Port Vale—Wealdstone tie attracted widespread interest in the Press. Mr. Leslie Jones, who covered the tie for the *Harrow Observer and Gazette*, wrote: "Undoubted hero of the match was Wiltshire, Wealdstone's 23-year-old goalkeeper, who only earned his place in the side this season. His many thrilling saves brought him repeated cheers during the game and an ovation at the end. As the players' coach left the ground after the match, small boys gathered round it shouting: 'Leave us your goalkeeper, mister.' Wiltshire made at least two dozen memorable saves from shots fired at him from all angles in what was afterwards described as the best goalkeeping display for years.

"Wealdstone, nevertheless, were no one-man band," Mr. Jones continued. "They played some delightful football, especially in the first half, when at times they outplayed the professionals by sheer artistry. Even in the second half, disorganised by an injury which kept Francis limping on the left wing, they refused to wilt under the most sustained pressure, and left the field with heads high. To vie throughout in stamina with such strong opponents under gruelling conditions, harshened by heavy going, was a credit to all 11 players."

"Placer," in his report of the match in that evening's *Stoke-on-Trent Evening Sentinel*, wrote: "It was a keen and interesting game, with Wealdstone fighting every inch of the way, and at times strongly testing the Vale defence. The speed of the Vale's attacks were matched by the stubborn Wealdstone defenders . . . The amateurs showed any amount of zest and the Vale were finding it hard to express their better craft in a safer goals margin."

The following Monday's *Evening Sentinel* contained a further article on the match by "Placer," who wrote: "Try as they did, the Vale were unable to remove—until the final whistle did it for them—the lingering possibility that Wealdstone might snatch an equaliser. Three things stood in the way of a runaway victory for the Hanley side—the exceptional goalkeeping of Wiltshire, the great spoiling work of the Wealdstone defenders, and the shooting failures of the Vale forwards. Wiltshire, with great agility and a remarkable reach, performed some wonderful feats to thwart the Vale marksmen. The Vale's unavailing efforts to increase their score kept interest alive throughout, and, where many had expected a walkover, in the end they applauded the amateurs for their fine fight."

The national newspapers were no less sparing in their praise of Wealdstone's performance at Port Vale and particularly in their references to the contribution of Danny Wiltshire.

The Wealdstone team at Port Vale was:—D. Wiltshire; F. J. H. Haydon, C. A. Barker; G. Norman, G. Shailer, E. Francis; W. Saunders, H. Dyke, W. Roberts, P. Rogers, E. Smith.

## XIV

*Amateur Cup Hopes . . . Failures Against Sutton United,  
Salisbury, and Uxbridge Town . . . Middlesex Senior Charity  
Cup Won . . . Fifth in League Table . . . Maidstone United  
at Lower Mead . . . Fred Haydon Goes to South Africa.*

THE Club's jubilee season had received a great incentive from the team's F.A. Cup record, and the players' target—that of bringing the F.A. Amateur Cup to Lower Mead—seemed more of a possibility than ever before. But little success met the team's endeavours following their return from Port Vale. In fact, with the exception of a 2-0 victory over Edgware Town on December 17th, no win was registered after the Colchester match on November 12th until January 21st.

When the 'Stones travelled to Sutton United's ground on January 7th in the London Senior Cup there were high hopes among Wealdstone supporters, for the team had enjoyed rather the better of a drawn league match at Hayes on the previous Saturday—no mean achievement. At Sutton, however, the 'Stones went down by three clear goals and there was little to enthuse over on that performance, which preceded the first round proper of the Amateur Cup. In this competition, Wealdstone had been drawn to meet Salisbury, and, as with every cup-tie, with the one exception of the Colchester match, the 'Stones were asked to travel.

A special excursion train and a number of motor-coaches conveyed the team's followers to the West of England club's ground, and there was a crowd of 5,500 to greet the teams as they took the field.

Salisbury set a fast pace and the home players were allowed far too many liberties, with the result that they were soon enjoying a two-goal lead. Wealdstone reduced the arrears before the interval, and, following the change of ends, it seemed that Wealdstone had a fair chance not only of drawing level but of taking the lead. Salisbury came back strongly, however, and notched two more goals before the final whistle was taken as the signal for the local supporters to race over the field to congratulate their men on their very well-deserved victory.

There was a further disappointment when Wealdstone were put out of the Middlesex Senior Cup by Uxbridge Town, but some compensation for lack of success in cups came in the winning of the Middlesex Charity Cup. Enfield were beaten 1-0, Uxbridge Town 2-1 and, in the final, Finchley 3-1, this match being played at the tail-end of the season on the Hendon ground.

The season's league performances were, on the whole, quite good, but there was a period in the middle of the season when points were "thrown away." Towards the end, however, the team registered

further successes and finished in fifth position in the table. Tooting and Mitcham United carried off the championship, the final table being as follows:—

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		Pts.
					F.	A.	
Tooting & Mitcham United	26	16	7	3	51	26	39
Hayes	26	15	4	7	51	29	34
Bromley	26	12	9	5	59	39	33
Barking	26	14	5	7	51	46	33
WEALDSTONE	26	11	7	8	55	42	29
Hitchin Town	26	12	5	9	44	50	29
Hendon	26	13	2	11	54	48	28
Barnet	26	10	2	14	53	56	22
Finchley	26	8	6	12	40	49	22
Southall	26	7	8	11	36	51	22
Enfield	26	8	5	13	43	47	21
Sutton United	26	9	2	15	37	48	20
Redhill	26	6	4	16	39	56	16
Leyton	26	5	6	15	29	55	16

It will be seen from the above table that only one club, Bromley, scored more goals than Wealdstone.

Edgar Francis and Charlie Barker were both chosen for Athenian representative elevens during the season. Francis, Dyke, Norman, and Smith were selected for Middlesex.

In the Reserve Section, Wealdstone showed up well. For a considerable period Wealdstone Reserves led the field, their final position being third. G. Padina was a member of the Athenian League Reserves XI beaten by four goals to one by the Isthmian League Reserves XI on March 4th, 1950.

The "A" team had a very successful season, winning the Senior Division of the Harrow, Wembley and District League with an undefeated record. Sixteen league games were won and the remaining four were drawn.

The jubilee season wound up with an invitation match for the Wealdstone Football Club Cup, the proceeds from this game going to charity. Maidstone United was the club selected to compete for the cup. Wealdstone won the match very comfortably, the score being 6-1, but the Maidstone players were perhaps unfortunate to find the home team at the peak of its form. The cup, together with miniature cups for individual players and souvenirs for the match officials, were presented by the well-known British film and stage actress, Miss Margot Grahame. This match, played on May 13th, was, incidentally, Fred Haydon's last game for the Club. He has gone to South Africa to take up a business appointment.

The full record of the first eleven, including cup matches and "friendlies," for the season was: Played 44, won 23, drawn 8, lost 13, goals for 84, goals against 58. Eddie Smith, who, together with Bertie Hill, signed professional forms for Chelsea F.C. at the close of the season, was leading scorer with 19 goals, other scorers being:—Saunders, 9; Dyke and Rogers, 8; Barker, 6 (including four penalties); Benningfield, Maloney, and Roberts, 5; Bristow, 4; Attwood, Hayes, and Hill, 3; Francis, 2; Franklin, Neville, and Norman, 1; opponent (Hendon), 1.



## Fred Haydon's Farewell



Fred Haydon, Wealdstone's popular right back for several seasons, is now in South Africa, where he has taken up a business appointment. He made his final appearance on May 13th, 1950, when he led the team in their 6-1 victory over Maidstone United.

Fred is shown above receiving the Wealdstone Football Club Cup from the hands of screen and stage star Miss Margot Grahame, who made her first visit to Lower Mead on that occasion. On the right of Haydon is Mr. H. H. Harrison, chairman of the Club, who, with Mr. W. G. Leadbetter, presented the trophy for annual competition.

In a farewell speech Haydon reminded supporters that it was when things were not going well that the players most needed their cheers and encouragement.

## A Tribute to

### *Charles Edward Brady*

President of the Club since May, 1921

THE Club has been able to consider itself fortunate in the selection of its senior officials throughout its history. This is especially true of the choice of Mr. Charles Edward Brady, O.B.E., F.R.E.S., as president. Mr. Brady has been president of the Club since May 25th, 1921, but his election as vice-president dates back as far as August 19th, 1912.

No attempt is made in this short tribute to assess the value of his services to the Club, for it is readily appreciated that any such attempt would fail to achieve its objective. Now, as in the past, his services are at the disposal of the Club, but details of so much of his work are not always known even to those in closest association with him.

Mr. Brady has been prominent in public work for many years, but his interest in the Wealdstone Football Club is such that he found time to preside at meetings of the committee from 1921 until 1939. It will be realised, therefore, that his election as president was very much more than the appointment of a mere figurehead. He played a notable part in the acquisition of Lower Mead and, in fact, the development of the Club generally owes much to his efforts.

His wife, Dr. Margaret Brady, shares her husband's interest in the Club and she has also contributed in many ways to its welfare. It is a source of great satisfaction and appreciation that their interest is maintained to this day. Both Mr. and Mrs. Brady are life members of the Club.

## *A Glance Round After 50 Years*

By the Sports Editor of the  
"Harrow Observer and Gazette"

**I**N 50 years there have been great changes in the area now known as the Harrow Urban District, the most striking and apparent being the extension of the Great Wen to submerge our pleasant villages, farmsteads, and meadows beneath a sprawl of bricks and mortar.

The process, which took place on a vast scale in the 20 years between two world wars, would have been still more acute and complete but for the foresight of the local authorities of that time in securing many acres to be preserved as open space and playing fields before they were snatched for building enterprises. With the development of housing estates there came an enormous increase in population, which today well exceeds 200,000.

Changes on the sporting side kept pace with this terrific growth, and facilities for games and pastimes—football, cricket, lawn tennis, bowls, and swimming—increased until to-day there are few, if any, towns in the country which can boast of more clubs than Harrow has.

On the football side 50 years ago there was one senior club, Harrow Athletic, playing on a field near where Welldon-crescent now stands and not far away from Lower Mead. There were a number of intermediate clubs, or semi-senior, of considerable merit playing in the Willesden and District League—Wealdstone, Pinner, Harrow Weald, the Brigade Institute (Harrow Brigade Old Boys), and Stanmore. In one season, roughly 50 years ago, Harrow Weald stood at the top of the first division; Pinner were third and Stanmore fourth. In the second division the Brigade Institute were first and Wealdstone third, positions which even in those days indicated a satisfactory standard of local play in competition with other clubs.

The passing of the years saw some casualties, but Wealdstone and Pinner have gone steadily forward, Wealdstone to reach a position ranking among the leading amateur clubs in the South. The Harrow area now also has senior amateur representatives in Harrow Town and Pinner (Spartan League), Edgware Town (Corinthian League), and the Old Lionians, who compete in Southern Amateur League football. Each club has a good following of loyal supporters.

In addition to these there are innumerable junior clubs ("junior" in league and cup terms), and during the war period, and since, many youth clubs have been formed and provided with facilities for organised competitive play.

Another conspicuous change in 50 years has been the improvements in ground amenities, especially those of the senior clubs in this district and elsewhere. Besides catering for players, these clubs have taken steps to add to the comfort and convenience of spectators and, as a result, with a growing interest in first-class amateur football, leading amateur clubs, Wealdstone among them, have accommodation

for "gates" equal in number to those of many professional clubs. Locally, all the senior clubs have been able to finance the erection of stands and dressing-rooms since the end of the first world war and are constantly improving ground amenities.

Because of their large following and substantial revenue, Wealdstone have had sufficient resources, as well as the enterprise, to carry out vast improvements at Lower Mead since the days of its opening—days when we looked across a large field with room on it for two football pitches, delightfully surrounded by high trees and bordered by Greenhill Farm and its orchard, and Nibthwaite-road. A very pleasant rural prospect.

In junior football circles the Harrow, Wembley and District League, formed in 1904, has done splendid work in providing competitive facilities for local teams. This combination and its clubs cater mainly for players, though some of the matches attract an encouraging following of supporters and onlookers. The Harrow Youth Committee League is made up of youth clubs and is rendering praiseworthy service in developing a higher standard of play among young footballers.

Much of the success of both these organisations is due to the efforts of Mr. W. H. Oram, of Harrow, who has been actively associated with the Harrow League as referee and official since its foundation, and for most of the time as honorary secretary and treasurer, and with the Youth League as honorary secretary and treasurer since it was formed. He has to his credit a term of service in football administration—as a member of the Middlesex F.A. Council, an official of local leagues and competitions, and Harrow St. Mary's Social and Athletic Club—which is probably a record for Middlesex.

Although a large acreage of open space has been reserved, there is an acute shortage of sports grounds in the Harrow Urban District, bearing in mind the large number of local football and cricket clubs, and the youth teams particularly are handicapped in the winter season. Whether the position will be eased as time goes on is a question for the civic authorities, who at the present are embarrassed enough by the need for land for housing purposes.

The senior clubs are helpful and generous in allowing the use of their enclosed grounds for representative, junior, and schoolboy games and cup finals at the season's end, Wealdstone's contribution throughout their tenure of Lower Mead being an especially commendable gesture in the interests of local football.

While wholesome rivalry exists between the local clubs of all grades, especially when they meet in cup competitions, there is a spirit of comradeship everywhere among players and officials. Enthusiastic workers devote themselves to the welfare of their clubs and in many cases this unselfish interest involves a good deal of their time and energy, especially so with those clubs competing in senior circles and cup competitions. They are constantly involved in problems affecting players, spectators, and finance, and the facts of their service should always be remembered by the less considerate of the critics.

The future of Association football in the Harrow Urban District holds high possibilities for a professional club, which a population of over 200,000, plus a reservoir of potential followers in adjacent districts, could well maintain once it became established with a good team. Lower Mead is the natural centre for such a club, with adequate ground resources and transport facilities. Already there is a substantial regular following, considerably enlarged for special attractions. With a growing public interest in football as a game to be watched as well as played, the likelihood of such a venture increases year by year.

H.E.



LESLIE COMPTON

DENIS COMPTON

## *A Word to the Youngsters*

From **DENIS COMPTON**

(Arsenal F.C. and England: Middlesex C.C.C. and England)

**H**OW many of the small boys who swarm into Lower Mead every Saturday afternoon have a secret desire and longing one day to find a place in the Wealdstone eleven? I feel sure that it's the ambition of a very large number of them. And a very commendable ambition it is, too. Maybe some of the youthful followers of the 'Stones even hope to play for Arsenal, Chelsea, Brentford, or whichever their favourite club might be.

Ambition is, of course, a very fine thing in any sphere of life—no less in sport than in any other. But I hope no aspiring youngster will get the idea that he can "dream" his way to success and fame. The path of success in football, cricket—and I'm quite sure it applies equally to any other branch of sport—is a hard one, one filled with setbacks and disappointments. Those aspiring to fame, therefore, must be possessed of more than outstanding ability; they must be able to withstand, and eventually overcome, setbacks and disappointments. In other words, they must have the right temperament. In any sport and in any grade of sport there is room only for a very limited number of players, and every man has, therefore, to prove his worth. And this is where temperament comes in. One man's ability may be every bit as great as that of another, but he may fail where the other succeeds for the simple reason that he just hasn't got the right temperament.

It has been my privilege to meet some of the world's greatest sportsmen. I can say from what so many of them have told me personally that the eminent position they hold to-day was only attained after a long period of intensive and conscientious struggle.

Most boys have one or more heroes in cricket and football. Perhaps they would be unnatural if they did not. As a lad, my own particular hero on the cricket field was the great Jack Hobbs. I well remember what a thrill it was for me to be taken to Kennington Oval and to watch the Surrey and England master batsman in action. I would study his every stroke and mannerism. And then, at the earliest opportunity after seeing my hero at the wicket, I would practice as best I could at least some of the strokes I had seen him make.

That is a point I want to make quite clear in this article. All the coaching in the world and from the finest exponents is wasted unless the pupil succeeds in applying theory to practice. If, for example, immediately after having been shown how to hold a bat or how to kick a ball, a lad proceeds to hold the bat as *he* thinks it should be held or to kick a ball as *he* thinks it should be kicked, he is not likely materially to improve his play. The early days in sport are vital days. A lad is just as impressionable in sport as he is in other ways, and it is very important, therefore, that his faults are corrected before they have become deep-rooted.

I should like to feel that any youngster who happens to read these words of mine will take advantage of the extensive coaching facilities now available at so many schools and youth clubs. If he does he has everything to gain. To attain the top rank, of course, the ability must be there. But that ability will not be developed in the right way without good coaching and without constant and genuine practice. I should like to lay stress on the word genuine in my last sentence, for practice must be taken seriously at all times. The mere act of hitting a ball about with a bat or kicking a football around does not constitute the right sort of practice. It is far better to have one's stumps spreadeagled after having attempted to make a correct stroke than to send the ball to the boundary with the aid of a wild, hit-or-miss "stroke."

To sum up, then. Watch good players in action and learn from them; enjoy the advantages of good coaching, and practice diligently.

In conclusion, I should like to extend my congratulations to the Wealdstone Football Club on attaining its jubilee. Although my home for some years was not far from Lower Mead, my opportunities of seeing the 'Stones in action have been very few, but the Club has been kind enough to invite Leslie and I to attend its annual dinners and we have very much appreciated this hospitality. I hope it may not be long before I have the pleasure once again of hearing shouts of "Up the 'Stones" echoing round the field at Lower Mead. I wish the Club continued success in the future.

## *Three Factors in the Progress of Wealdstone F.C.*

By H. A. LUCK

*(Hon. Secretary and Treasurer)*

FROM a humble beginning 50 years ago, the progress of the Wealdstone Football Club has been such that to-day its name and, perhaps, some at least of its achievements, are widely known among followers of amateur football up and down the country. Those of us who have the honour to hold office to-day well appreciate just how much the Club is indebted to those who worked for it in the early days, and we hope that the story which the Club has to tell in this, its golden jubilee year, will do justice to the endeavours of the early stalwarts.

We hope, too, that it may fairly be said that the progress of the Club, if more pronounced perhaps at certain times than others, has been continuous throughout the 50 years. In my opinion, we owe our present state of being the owners of our ground, which is acknowledged to be one of the best amateur grounds in the South, to three major factors.

The first of these was the purchase of Lower Mead soon after the 1914-18 war. We certainly owe a deep debt of gratitude to those responsible for taking this step—for their vision and their courage.

The second factor may be attributed to the luck of a cup draw. In 1937, it will be recalled, we were drawn to meet Dulwich Hamlet at Lower Mead in the third round of the F.A. Amateur Cup. With only a few minutes left for play, the Hamlet were a goal behind and Wealdstone's hopes were high—until Dulwich equalised from the penalty spot. Shortly after, at the end of 90 minutes' play, the referee brought the players off the field and, although I drew his attention to the rule stating that extra time must be played, the official would allow no further play. This game attracted a crowd of 10,000, a record which stood until the Leytonstone match of two seasons ago.

This match and the replay which followed were referred to in the Dulwich Hamlet programme notes when Wealdstone visited Champion Hill in a friendly fixture on December 9th, 1939. After mentioning that the referee had ruled that the ground at Lower Mead was unfit for extra time at the end of the first tie, the Hamlet programme went on: "There was a lot of discussion about the replay and the ground on which it should be played. This resulted in a Football Association Commission deciding that as Dulwich had completed the full time and had no voice about extra time, the replay should be at Dulwich. And what a game—and what a huge crowd! Shortly after the game started, a violent storm arose and in very quick time the crowd on the mounds were soaked. This left such a vivid impression in the minds of the committee that it was decided to erect a covered stand on the long mound at the earliest possible opportunity."

We, too, have vivid impressions of that match, in which some of Martindale's goal kicks were blown back over the goal line for a corner, such was the strength of the gale. The storm interrupted the game for 20 minutes in the first half, the teams having to leave the field for the cover of the dressing rooms. We felt that our exit from the Amateur Cup that day was due to the freak weather at least as much as to the efforts of the opposition.

Those two matches with Dulwich Hamlet, together with the receipts from other cup-ties, brought us sufficient money to carry out the levelling and draining of the playing pitch at Lower Mead. Nine main drains were put down under a 6-in. bed of ash, and this work resulted in the ground being in a playable condition throughout the season. The periods when thick mud made good football impossible had passed and we had a ground and accommodation of which we were proud. Since that time we have progressed further, permanent concrete terracing and an extension to the stand being the outstanding work on the ground in recent years.

The third factor in the development of the Club which I feel must be mentioned is that of personal service. The names of many past and present Club officials spring to mind, and reference is made elsewhere in this Handbook to the work of many of them. Of the honorary servants of the Club at the present time, there is one who has given freely of his time and ability on the Club's behalf for the past 20 years. I refer, of course, to Mr. Jack Rogers. Hon. Press Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, and Deputy Chairman are offices which he has filled with distinction during his long association with Wealdstone F.C., and we are grateful that he continues to serve the interests of the Club to-day.

Another name I would mention is that of Mr. Phil Carden, whose voice has become so well known to regular visitors to Lower Mead and who has done yeoman work for the Club during the past 10 years. In addition to making loud-speaker announcements at our matches, he has understudied several of the officers at various times with success, and his work in connection with the production of this Handbook has been considerable, he having written the story of the Club from start to finish and edited the entire production.

During the 50 years of our existence we have experienced successful and less successful seasons. We are still awaiting the time when we shall bring the Amateur Cup to Wealdstone, and we hope that that happy day will not be long delayed.

## Golden Jubilee Celebrations

PLANS for celebrating the Club's golden jubilee season were considered well in advance, and it was decided that the event should be commemorated in a variety of ways. The responsibility for making the detailed arrangements was delegated to a small, but very active, sub-committee under the chairmanship of Mr. P. W. Lanning, the Club's vice-chairman. Those elected to serve with him were Mr. F. W. Harbud, Mr. A. J. Spanner, Mr. D. Wiltshire, and Mr. W. Wiltshire. So ambitious were their plans and so extensive did their work become that three other members—Mr. E. J. Bryant, Mr. P. E. Carden, and Mr. A. Dallenger—were later co-opted to serve on the jubilee sub-committee.

In Mr. Percy Lanning the Club found the right man for such a heavy undertaking. Although he received a full measure of support from his colleagues, it was on his shoulders that the main burden fell. He it was who did the bulk of the secretarial work and he it was who was largely responsible for implementing the decisions of the jubilee sub-committee.

Meetings of this sub-committee were held once and sometimes more than once in a week over a period of many months. Many avenues were explored to ensure that the completion of 50 years by the Wealdstone Football Club should be commemorated in a fitting and adequate manner. That some of the schemes put forward did not come to fruition was in no way due to lack of endeavour on the part of Mr. Lanning and his colleagues. Their road was indeed a hard one, but it was pursued with the utmost energy and enthusiasm.

The first event in connection with the Club's golden jubilee was a sportsmen's service held at St. John's Church, Station-road, on the afternoon of Sunday, April 30th. Officials and players, together with a large number of supporters of the Club, and representatives from many local football, cricket, and other sporting organisations, the Middlesex County Football Association, and a number of Athenian League clubs met at St. John's Church for the service, which was conducted by the vicar, the Rev. J. de Blank, M.A., H.C.F., who was assisted by the Rev. W. E. Beveridge, M.A., H.C.F., and the Rev. D. D. Deasy, B.A.

The Club was honoured on that occasion also by the attendance of Lt.-Col. W. J. K. Crawforth, who was then chairman of Harrow Urban District Council, and Mrs. Crawforth, and Mr. O. G. Collins, then vice-chairman of the Council. Dignity was added by the presence of a strong contingent from the Kingsbury and Kenton (Hardy) Unit of the Sea Cadet Corps.

During the singing of the opening hymn the colour party of the Hardy Unit, together with P. Blake, a member of the Club's "A" team, carrying the Club's flag, proceeded to the entrance to the Sanctuary, where the colours were received.

In his address, Mr. de Blank spoke of the place of religion in sport and also referred to the standing of the Wealdstone Football Club in the life of the community. The Lessons were read by Mr. W. G. Leadbetter, hon. assistant secretary, and Mr. A. Dallenger, hon. assistant match secretary.

The second event arranged in celebration of the Club's jubilee was a great disappointment, for the boxing tournament, promoted by the Wealdstone Amateur Boxing Club and due to be held at Lower Mead on Saturday, May 6th, had to be cancelled at the last minute owing to inclement weather. Officials of both clubs had worked tirelessly on the previous evening and again on the morning of the proposed event in erecting the ring, placing more than 2,000 chairs in position, and generally completing the arrangements for the tournament, but heavy rain dictated the decision to cancel the programme an hour before it was due to commence.

Wealdstone A.B.C. had drawn up an excellent programme. Many of the boxers had to travel hundreds of miles to reach Lower Mead. Supporters were present from Birmingham, Warrington, Oldham, and other parts of England, and some even came from Wales and Scotland. Officials of the Boxing Club and members of Wealdstone F.C.'s jubilee sub-committee had met many times and had done all they could to ensure the success of the tournament.

The neighbourly act of the Wealdstone Amateur Boxing Club in promoting the tournament as part of the Football Club's celebrations was warmly appreciated, and Mr. W. H. Elliott (president), Mr. T. T. Kiff (chairman), Mr. W. Jones (hon. secretary), Mr. A. B. Cooke (hon. treasurer), and Capt. Pelham B. Swann (hon. competition secretary), together with the other officials of Wealdstone A.B.C., are heartily thanked for their efforts in connection with the tournament.

Perhaps the biggest venture undertaken by the jubilee sub-committee was the all-star midnight matinée. Held at the Granada, Station-road, Harrow, on the night of Friday, May 26th, the show was outstanding. The bill, which included some of the biggest names in variety, was drawn up by Owen Walters, whose orchestra is heard frequently on the air in such programmes as "Music in the Air," "Your Song Parade," "Music While You Work," and other features. The production was by Eric Arden, the well-known B.B.C. producer.

Every artiste was a broadcasting celebrity. The bill included Richard Murdoch and Kenneth Horne from "Much Binding in the Marsh," Peter Cavanagh, the brilliant impressionist, Helen Clare, the singing star of many B.B.C. programmes, Joyce Golding, the popular comedienne from "Variety Bandbox" and other broadcast programmes, Arnie Kitson and his xylophone, who so often figures in both "Variety Bandbox" and "Music Hall," and Jean Metcalfe, the well-known B.B.C. announcer from "Family Favourites" and many other programmes. The show was supported by Owen Walters and his orchestra.

The Club was privileged to have as patrons of the show, Mr. Leslie Henson and Mr. Ian Harvey, M.P., and support was forthcoming from many individuals and also from a number of local business houses. Mr. George Bond, manager of the Granada, was a tower of



Charlie Barker "Kicks off"

Charlie Barker is here seen placing the first coin in position at the starting point of the Mile of Shillings Fund, held in connection with the Club's jubilee. Other players in the photograph are, left to right: C. Thomas, J. Wiltshire, W. Saunders, G. Shailer, W. Roberts, E. Smith, H. Dyke, G. Norman, and F. Haydon. Mr. H. H. Harrison is seen on the right.



**Charlie Barker "Kicks off"**

Charlie Barker is here seen placing the first coin in position at the starting point of the Mile of Shillings Fund, held in connection with the Club's jubilee. Other players in the photograph are, left to right:- C. Thomas, D. Wiltshire, W. Saunders, G. Shailer, W. Roberts, E. Smith, H. Dyke, G. Norman, and F. Haydon. Mr. H. H. Harrison is seen on the right.

strength in enabling the Club to put on such a fine show. His services were made readily available to the organisers in the weeks preceding the event and his advice on many questions was of inestimable value. We gratefully record our thanks also to Mr. Bond's staff at the theatre.

Other jubilee celebrations in hand at the time this Handbook went to press were a dinner at the Gayton Rooms in June and a dance at the Kodak Hall in September. The generous co-operation of the management of Kodak, Limited, in allowing the dance to be held at their magnificent premises was a gesture greatly appreciated.

## *Some Personal Reminiscences*

By **THE PRESIDENT**

**P**RACTICALLY the whole of the playing staff of the Wealdstone Football Club volunteered for service at the outbreak of war in 1914, and when the Club resuscitated itself directly after the cessation of hostilities it had lost in the war about one-third of its players

The team played on an undulating field at the end of Belmont-road, Wealdstone, a site which has long since been covered with houses. Someone living near the ground let the players have the use of buckets of water after the matches. Of those intimately connected with the Club at that time, only three are left similarly to-day—Bill Gallagher, Frank Harbud, and myself. Immediately after the war I had the honour to be appointed chairman of the Club. Had I foreseen the anxieties, risks, expense, and trouble I might have hesitated.

Tom Bradberry was the moving spirit of the Club in its early days. Some of its prominent players were the two Theobalds, Miller Durham, Harbud, Kirby, and Gallagher. Jabez Barnes, a Y.M.C.A. man and a strict Sabbatarian, took an interest in the Club. He gave them acid drops at half-times, together with a cheery word. On his initiative, and with his help, we bought (I like the word "bought") the field of which Lower Mead is a part. Most of the purchase money remained on mortgage and £300 was advanced on War Loan for the balance. Ultimately, I took this over, as Mr. Barnes would not permit any work of any kind on the ground on Sundays.

We erected a temporary building at the east end of the ground for dressing accommodation. We got a local builder to put up a wooden building on the north side, which looked like an elongated cowshed. The Club agreed to pay him interest on the purchase price and to give him the "stand" takings until our indebtedness was discharged. Opportunity arising, we got a building society to advance a considerable sum of money on the security of the ground and buildings, and we then paid the builder. This eased the situation at the time, but we had some difficulty in meeting current expenses. We held "fairs" on the ground and we also launched a "Save Lower Mead" appeal.

On one occasion there was an incident which I doubt if dear old Jabez Barnes would have allowed me to call providential. We were desperately hard up to meet current expenses. Whilst at the ground one day, one of our members came along and said he "wanted a bob" from me. I gave it him and asked him what it was for. He told me I had drawn a horse in some race (I think it was the Cambridgeshire). I asked him the name of the horse. It was "Charlie's Mount." I had never "drawn" a horse in a sweepstake before, so I decided to put 10s. on it. Although the price was 100 to 1 against it, I was only able to get 40 to 1—not being acquainted with the book-making world. "Charlie's Mount" came first! I got back my stake and £20. Of course, the Club thought it ought to have the money. So it got it. A little windfall of £20 also coming to me at that time secured the Club sufficient to reduce its current debts by £40.



Then a well-known and much-esteemed club, known as Summers-town F.C., had to wind up, as the lease of its ground expired and it could not get another one. We bought their grandstand at a reduced figure. We had it removed and set up on our ground at a cost of some £200. It is there today and was extended last season. Dressing rooms, match officials' accommodation, baths, etc., have also been added and improved.

The committee considered matters, and it came to the conclusion that it would be well to get the debt transferred, if possible at a lower rate of interest. I obtained an introduction to the principal manager of Lloyds Bank in Lombard-street. He was very businesslike, but very kindly disposed, and the bank advanced us a large sum of money on the security of the ground and buildings, and on a personal guarantee by myself. The manager frankly stated that in the event of default the bank would not seize the ground, which if they did would lose them most of their Wealdstone customers, but would come upon me. He explained to me the doctrine of subrogation. The occasion did not arise.

At first the ground was undrained and it sloped down to what is now the main entrance to the ground and the car park. In wet weather the ground had little "lakes" over it and was thoroughly sodden. The "mole" system of drainage relieved matters. But before and after this, dear old W. W. Heard (known affectionately as Billy Heard) helped us all he could and insisted on representative matches being played on our ground. Mr. Heard's successor as honorary secretary of the Middlesex County Football Association, Mr. George R. Hawes, is no less considerate, but he has not, so far as we are concerned, such a difficult job.

At the end of about 18 years, there was an offer for the northern part of our ground. This portion was absolutely useless to the Club and to anyone else as it stood. We sold it for sufficient to discharge our debt to the bank and all outstanding debts. We had the whole ground dug up and levelled—6ft. in depth transferred from one half to the other, and we surmounted the troubles naturally arising from this hurried between-the-season's work.

Improvements have been, are being, and will be made to the ground and buildings. Today we have a fine chairman, good honorary officers, and an active committee. So far as our finances are concerned, we owe nothing to anybody.

For well over a quarter of a century I have had the honour and pleasure of being president of a Club which I greatly esteem. My grateful thanks to everyone who has helped the Club in season and out of season—including my wife.

## Lower Mead of the Future

By JACK HOLT

*The writer of this article is the member of the committee responsible for the upkeep of the ground, a position for which he has special qualifications. Mr. Holt divulges here something of the Club's plans for making Lower Mead one of the finest amateur football grounds in the country.*

THOSE of our supporters and friends who have been interested enough in the Wealdstone Football Club to buy a copy of this Jubilee Handbook will, I am sure, be keen enough to want to know something of the Club's plans for the future of what is already a first-class football ground. In that belief, therefore, and not over-looking the fact that this is largely a volume of reminiscences of highlights of the past 50 years, I have endeavoured to convey a broad outline of the committee's plan of development at Lower Mead.

A very comprehensive scheme has been evolved. The scheme has inevitably to be divided into two sections. First comes our plan for the early future, and I want to stress that the ground improvements envisaged under this section have been so arranged that they will comprise a part of the complete development scheme. It will be readily appreciated that there are several factors which make it impossible for us to go straight ahead with the scheme in its entirety—building restrictions and lack of adequate financial resources being among them. Nevertheless, we feel that we shall be able to make steady progress towards our ultimate ambition. Much depends, of course, on our ability to provide attractive and successful football in order that we may ensure continued support.

Some of the ground improvements have already been carried out. The extensive concrete terracing has proved its worth. In addition to enhancing greatly the comfort of spectators, it has enabled us to pack another 2,000 people into the ground, conclusive evidence of this being forthcoming on the occasion of our fourth-round Amateur Cup-tie with Leytonstone in the 1948-49 season, when 13,504 paid for admission. Work on other parts of the terraces is to be carried out as soon as possible. The stand has been extended to accommodate another 170 people. New railings now enclose the playing field; in addition to bettering the appearance of the ground, the railings will, it is hoped, deter youngsters from going on to the playing field at the conclusion of matches, a practice which in the past has caused no small amount of damage to the turf.

Improved accommodation has also been provided for referees and linesmen. Recent improvements also include an extension to the stand which has given us an additional room for the use of visiting club's officials on match days. More space under the stand has been allotted to our popular and capable trainer, Bill Gallagher, who now takes great pride in the sanctum in which he keeps so many "magic" bottles, together with the various lamps for the treatment of players which he manipulates with such skill.

Many of you will remember that following our 2-0 success over Walthamstow Avenue in the Amateur Cup in the 1948-49 season, Harold Gittins's cartoon on the match in the *Evening News* was highly

complimentary to Bert Dyke, but that it also implied that our playing pitch at Lower Mead was in bad shape. We accepted the hint. During the close season the field was thoroughly scarified, new material introduced into the soil to obtain porosity, and the bed remade and reseeded. This operation was both drastic and costly. Further expense has since been incurred on the field, but we are now confident that ground conditions will be much improved in this and subsequent seasons.

And now for a few words about what must be regarded as the most impressive part of our plan for the reasonably early future. This is the erection of a large and, we hope, very handsome building at Lower Mead. The plans of the proposed structure have been approved by Middlesex County Council and Harrow Urban District Council, but the authority of the Ministry of Education to go ahead with the scheme has not yet been obtained. Consequently, it may be rather longer than we had anticipated before our plans come to fruition.

Our present premises are quite inadequate if we are to achieve our desire to make Lower Mead a social centre—with the accent on youth. The new building will be used to a large extent to enable youngsters of the district to come along, not only to improve their football skill, but also—and no less important—their general fitness. They will receive first-class coaching from a qualified instructor, and they will also enjoy the facilities of a gymnasium. Naturally, we hope that the amenities to be made available will benefit the playing strength of the Wealdstone Football Club in due course.

It is intended that the new building will also afford opportunity for relaxation and recreation—dances, whist drives, and concerts—and there will also be facilities for billiards, snooker, and table tennis. Another feature will be a pleasant lounge where members can settle down to enjoy refreshment and a chat.

This is indeed a bold experiment and one which will demand your full support if it is to be achieved. I can assure you, however, that the committee is confident that members and supporters generally will agree that the proposed social centre constitutes a very real need of the community and that it will prove to be a very appropriate way in which to commemorate the Club's golden jubilee.

In conclusion, I should like to add a word or two about our even more distant programme of development. The main part of this calls for a reinforced concrete and brickwork structure abutting the car park for almost its full length and comprising a stand to accommodate five or six times as many people as can be seated in our existing stand. It is planned to have larger dressing rooms, together with ample accommodation for training rooms and offices, thus leaving the new hall which I have described above to be used solely for recreational activities.

The full scheme may appear to be very ambitious and one that is likely to prove very difficult to accomplish. It is both of these things. But with the necessary support and encouragement we believe that our plans will be realised.

## A SPECTATOR TELLS OF

### *When Wealdstone Played at Wembley*

"TRAVEL IN COMFORT" would not be a very apt slogan if applied to the rush-hour train service between Harrow and Baker Street, for, although the authorities seem to run as many trains as can be accommodated on the tracks available, "standing room only" is all too often the order of the day. But when I reached Baker Street station on my homeward journey on the evening of Wednesday, June 3rd, 1942, it seemed to me that "all Harrow" hoped to travel down by the same train. It was the evening when the final of the Middlesex Senior Red Cross Cup was to be played at Wembley Stadium—the first time a County Cup match had ever been played on the famous Wembley turf, and, I believe, the first amateur football match to be staged there. The finalists were the R.A.F. (Uxbridge) and Wealdstone, and when the train in which I had been very much wedged in left Wembley Park station there were seats available for all comers.

There was more of the big-match atmosphere to be found on the walk to the Stadium. "Pirate" programmes were prominent, and were being bought by the unwary, and there were the usual shouts of "Wear your colours." In the Stadium itself there was the Central Band of the Royal Air Force playing on the field in front of the Royal Box. In fact, the stage seemed set for an International match or, perhaps, a "real" cup final. There was one outstanding difference, however—there were fewer than 100,000 people present! Nevertheless, I was one of several thousands.

The match had received a good advance Press and most of the writers seemed to expect the redoubtable R.A.F. team—in previous rounds of the cup the R.A.F. had scored 13 goals and had conceded only two—to win comfortably. Wealdstone, too, had scored 13 goals, but their defence had conceded eight, and it was generally thought that the "big names" in the R.A.F. eleven would score freely, particularly as their players were experienced in playing before comparatively large crowds. And so I was not alone among Wealdstone supporters in feeling that I should be quite satisfied so long as "our" men gave their opponents "a run for their money." In fact, I must admit to feeling not a little despondent when I saw the names of the R.A.F. players in the programme. They had Cpl. Clack (Brentford) in goal, and Cpl. Forder (Crystal Palace) and L.A.C. Dale (Portsmouth) as the backs. The half-back line, too, looked impressive—Cpl. McGregor (Manchester City), Sgt. Vause (Rochdale), and L.A.C. Johnson (Newcastle United). There was a formidable appearance about the forward line, which was led by Sgt. Clements (Casuals and Corinthians), an amateur international with a reputation for sharp shooting. His inside partners were Cpl. Harris (Swansea Town), a son of the former Newcastle United player, and Cpl. Mullinger (Aston Villa). L.A.C. Gibson (Watford) was on the right wing, while the



C. A. BARKER

Although the captain of a football team has fewer and less onerous responsibilities than those of his counterpart on the cricket field, he must, nevertheless, be more than just a good player. His duties do not stop with the spinning of the coin.

Wealdstone's jubilee season skipper, Charlie Barker, takes his job seriously. His long experience in the game serves him well in carrying out his captaincy duties. He can be relied upon to rally his players at a crucial point in a match and, in fact, his enthusiasm has often "turned the tide" in his team's favour.

"Captain" Barker is also known to Wealdstone followers by another title—that of "Penalty King." His kicking of a dead ball is second to none and only very rarely has he failed to take full advantage of a penalty award.

outside-left was an old friend of Wealdstone's—Lester Finch (Barnet and England), one of the best-known and most popular players of his time, who was then a flight-sergeant.

Mick Doherty was in goal for Wealdstone and the backs covering him were Charlie Barker and Tom Kay. Reg Stanton, George Upchurch, and Brian Leeming were the halves, and the forward line, reading from the left, was: Len Dolding, Bobby Wilson, Jack Russell, Flt.-Sgt. Tom Morris, and Jimmie Moore.

The teams received a great reception as, lead by their chief officials, they emerged from the dressing rooms. The match is still no doubt fresh in the memories of those Wealdstone supporters who were at Wembley Stadium on that June evening—and I am sure that every follower of the Club who was able to be there was among the crowd—and I do not intend, therefore, to make more than just a few observations about the play.

Clements put the R.A.F. eleven in the lead after 25 minutes' play, Doherty, who had previously made some daring and brilliant saves, being beaten by what might be truly described as an "unstoppable" shot. Russell equalised for Wealdstone after 20 minutes' play in the second half; this goal encouraged the 'Stones to even greater efforts, but it was the R.A.F. who scored the next goal, Clements breaking through the Wealdstone defence to score with another fine shot.

Were Wealdstone downhearted? For the answer to that question I quote from the *Harrow Observer* representative's report of the match. "Then came the thrill of the game," he wrote. "Straight from the line-up, Wealdstone attacked vigorously. A R.A.F. defender, trying to clear, obligingly tapped the ball past Clack to bring the scores level again." There was no further scoring and extra time was played. During this period, it may be recorded, the professional side fell away badly, almost every man appearing to be fired out. Wealdstone, on the other hand, found renewed energy and scored three times without reply. Tom Morris netted twice, the other goal coming from Jack Russell. It was a splendid finale to a great game, and the Wealdstone men were acclaimed as they went up to receive the cup and medals from the hands of Capt. (now Sir) Leslie Bowker, O.B.E., M.C.

Mr. (now Sir) Arthur J. Elvin, who placed the Stadium at the disposal of the Middlesex Football Association for the match, entertained the players and officials of both teams after the game. As a spectator at the match, I had already had my entertainment.

#### THE ROAD TO WEMBLEY

WEALDSTONE		R.A.F. (UXBRIDGE)	
v. Napier Athletic (H) ..	4 3	v. Harrow Town (A) ..	6 1
v. Finchley (A) ..	4 3	v. Golders Green (A) ..	3 1
v. Southall (H) ..	5 2	v. Wood Green (H) ..	4 0



## *Wealdstone's Most Popular Player*

**C. E. BUNCE**  
(1936-1940)

IT is almost certain that the name of Charles E. Bunce would top the list of any popularity poll of Wealdstone F.C. players. In addition to possessing great ability on the field, he had a very fine personality and he was in every sense a true sportsman. Bunce, who was born at St. Albans, played for St. Albans City from 1931-36 and for Wealdstone from 1936-40. It was during the time that Bunce captained the team and led the forward line that the 'Stones enjoyed their most successful period.

In his first season with the Club, that of 1936-37, Wealdstone attained third position in the Athenian League. This feat was the more remarkable because in the previous year the 'Stones were thirteenth, while in the 1934-35 season they footed the table and in 1933-34 they were again thirteenth. The team had been strengthened in other positions, but Bunce's achievements at centre-forward did much to enable the Club to maintain its grand form in the following season, fourth place in the league being attained.

The Charity Cup stayed at Lower Mead in the last full season before the outbreak of war in 1939, and Bunce and his men made great efforts to keep their hold on the Senior Cup, being beaten in the final. His third season was also another very successful one for the Club in the Athenian League, Wealdstone finishing in third place.

During four seasons with Wealdstone, Bunce scored no fewer than 174 goals. His goalscoring achievements would undoubtedly have been more impressive but for the fact that he was particularly unselfish in his play; he "made" far more goals than he scored. The forward line lost much of its power when he was unable to take his usual place in the side. The following comment is taken from the columns of the *Harrow Observer* dated September 9th, 1937. "The value of C. E. Bunce, Wealdstone's centre-forward, was appreciated in the match against Barking at Lower Mead on Saturday, when his absence, through injury, had a noticeable effect on the attack, which lost much of its sting. After the interval an attempt was made to remedy this by a reorganisation of the forward line which led to an improvement, but to no immediate results. There are not many centre-forwards of Bunce's calibre in amateur football and Wealdstone are fortunate to possess his services."

Charlie Bunce was taken prisoner in Malaya. He died in his 30th year in June, 1943, while still in captivity.



## *Twenty-one Years' Service*

### **MR. H. A. LUCK'S RECORD**

IT is indeed a happy coincidence that the jubilee year of the Wealdstone Football Club should also mark the twenty-first anniversary of the election of Mr. H. A. Luck to the committee of the Club. His interest in the welfare of the Club began long before his election to the committee in June, 1928. As an official, however, he was at once able to make his interest of practical value to the Club, and in the ensuing years the Club has reaped the benefit of his ability and untiring energy. Any eminence in the realms of amateur football to which Wealdstone F.C. may lay claim is due in no small measure to Mr. Luck's work.

His first official appointment with the Club was that of programme steward, and then, in 1933, he was entrusted with the position of first team honorary secretary. Mr. Luck was closely identified, with Mr. W. Rich and the late Mr. C. V. Elmslie, in the sale of the land on which now stand the Dominion Cinema, the road known as High Mead, and other property on land formerly owned by the Club. In October, 1934, he became honorary assistant secretary, a position which he held until his election as honorary secretary in June, 1935.

Mr. Luck has served the Club as secretary, and, at times, as honorary treasurer also, since that time, during which the Club has enjoyed its happiest fortunes, both on and off the field. His duties were particularly onerous during the 1939-45 war years and it was largely because of his efforts that the Club was able to keep going at a time when many other amateur clubs were compelled to close down. In February, 1947, the committee expressed its appreciation of Mr. Luck's work by electing him a life member of the Club, a distinction made hitherto to only eight persons.

*(Continued on page 87.)*

## *In the Dressing Room*

By W. F. SHOWLER

*Mr. Showler will be remembered by many as being one of the finest right-halves the Club has had. He is now doing equally good work as an official of the Club, being in charge of the first team. In this article he tells something of his task.*

THE hour is 2.57 p.m. and kick-off is timed for 3 o'clock. In each goalmouth 11 players are having their preliminary ball practice, while the spectators impatiently await the appearance of the referee. Somewhere in the vicinity of the dressing rooms two team secretaries, in common with hundreds of their kind throughout the country at this time, breathe sighs of relief, happy in the knowledge that they each have a complete team on the field of play and with three minutes to spare. Lucky chaps, these two secretaries!

What of their less fortunate brothers, some of whom are anxiously watching a couple of reserves hurriedly changing to rush on to the field in place of two of the selected team who have failed to put in an appearance? Pity the poor team secretary, too, who is confronted by his goalkeeper with the news that he has omitted to pack his football boots—size 10 and there is not another pair larger than size 8 anywhere in the club! These are just two of dozens of snags which can and do arise in those vital minutes before the start of a game.

I write in this strain because, having now had some experience in the position, I feel that the team secretary's primary job is to ensure that the team as selected by the selection committee is on the field of play in good time, happy, contented, and prepared to give of its best for the full 90 minutes of play.

There are many points to be considered in order to achieve this happy state. Firstly, strict attention to details regarding times, travelling arrangements, etc. This is particularly important when members of the team are living a considerable distance from the locality of the ground or are away from home on National Service. Personal contact and a knowledge of the characteristics of each individual player are most essential.

Having played senior amateur football for some 15 seasons, I have personally had a first-rate opportunity to study the various types of men who normally comprise a football team. These are many and varied. One man is easily disheartened when the ball is not running well for him and needs words of encouragement. Another only requires to be told that his immediate opponent is having a good game and is immediately stung to extra effort. Still another type is the man who knows when he is up against apparently superior opposition and can be relied upon to work out his own salvation. This latter type is usually the man who causes the team secretary the least worry. He invariably arrives at the ground in ample time. His playing kit, which

he had methodically packed the previous evening, is neat and correct—boots clean and perfectly studded, ankle bandages neatly rolled, a spare pair of laces in case of accident—in fact, everything in apple-pie order.

Contrast him with the real headache; the player who arrives 10 minutes before the kick-off time, boots caked with the previous Saturday's mud, two studs missing, and a broken lace. Within two minutes of his arrival, the dressing room is in a state of turmoil with perhaps three people rushing about endeavouring to get one player on the field (in presentable order) at the same time as his team-mates. Not that one is a better player than the other, but how much easier would be the mind of the team secretary with 11 of the first type. I feel that no such amateur team exists!

It may appear to the reader that the position of the team secretary carries with it a burden of worry and trouble. That is so, up to a point, but in effect the team secretary is the liaison between the club committee, the trainer, and the players. Without the confidence and co-operation of the committee his work can be most difficult or even impossible.

I am happy to say in my particular case that every reasonable request in connection with the comfort or welfare of Wealdstone players, either as a team or individually, which comes before the Club committee, receives prompt and sympathetic attention. Furthermore, I am fortunate in working with a trainer who is devoted to his job and goes to endless trouble to ensure the fitness of the players.

These conditions certainly make the work of the team secretary easier, but however much help and co-operation are forthcoming, nothing can prevent illness or injury which may deplete an otherwise good team. To be successful, therefore, a team secretary must have a large helping of good luck.

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### **21 Years' Service**—Continued from page 85.

A further token of the esteem in which Mr. Luck is held by his colleagues was made at the Club's annual dinner in 1949, when he was presented by Mr. W. G. Leadbetter, hon. assistant secretary, on behalf of the committee, with a silver cigarette case. Mrs. Luck, who was the recipient of a presentation at the same function, has also helped the Club in a variety of ways over a period of many years, while mention must be made also of Mr. and Mrs. Luck's daughters, Rosemary and Diana, and their son, Peter, all of whom have rendered services to the Club. Mr. Luck's father, the late Mr. W. P. Luck, shared his son's interest in Wealdstone F.C. and in his recent death the Club lost a loyal and valued supporter.

The officers, committee, and players of the Wealdstone Football Club offer their heartiest congratulations to Mr. Luck on attaining his coming-of-age as a servant of the Club and extend their best wishes to him for the future.

## *Social Activities at Lower Mead*

By ERIC BRYANT

(Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Lower Mead Social Club)

IT is imperative that a club of the size and nature of the Wealdstone Football Club should have a live social section, and it is the function of the Lower Mead Social Club to cater for these requirements. A great handicap in the past has been an acute shortage of accommodation, but those associated with me on the social side at Lower Mead have derived immense satisfaction from the plans to erect a building which will be far bigger than our existing accommodation and which will also be fully equipped to meet our needs.

The plans for the new building are outlined by our ground secretary, Mr. Jack Holt, in an article in this Handbook, and I feel sure that members and followers of the Club will be keenly interested in them. It should be possible with the new building to hold a variety of social events at Lower Mead and to cultivate the "club atmosphere" through the provision of amenities in pleasant and comfortable surroundings.

In this contribution to the Football Club's Jubilee Handbook I should like to pay tribute to those who continue to foster social activities at Lower Mead despite space shortage and other great difficulties. The work of our genial "hosts," Mr. Dan Wiltshire and Mr. Bill Wiltshire, together with their respective wives, is, I know, appreciated by many members. Another very ardent worker is Mr. Albert Dallenger, the efficient M.C. at our popular Thursday and Sunday evening whist drives. We are indebted to others who give freely of their time and services in the interests of Club members.

One of the most important functions of the Lower Mead Social Club is the provision of coaches to take supporters to first team matches away from home. Advantage of this service has been taken by thousands of Wealdstone F.C. followers in the past, and it will be our endeavour to continue to arrange this convenient form of transport in the future. We always try to accept every booking, but there have been times when our task has been made the more onerous through some supporters delaying their booking until the end of the week. Some, in fact, expect to find seats available for them without having made reservations. In this connection I should like to emphasise the desirability of booking coach seats early in the week, as it is not always possible for us to hire coaches at the last minute.

It is always a pleasure to travel to away games in the company of our supporters and the writer gets quite a "kick" from exchanging friendly greetings with both old and new acquaintances on these journeys. The hours spent in arranging these trips are always well rewarded by the pleasure of travelling in good company.

Membership of the Lower Mead Social Club is in line with that of the Football Club's membership, for all members of the latter are automatically entitled to membership of the Social Club. Owing to congestion in the pavilion on match days it has not been possible for Social Club members to introduce friends into the club room without restriction, but it is always possible for a member to bring in a friend who may, for example, be his guest at home for the week-end. In other words, a friend of a member who has travelled a distance will be welcomed at Lower Mead, while members' ladies may be introduced at any time.

The Lower Mead Social Club has its own officials, all of whom are appointed by the Football Club committee, and they are eager to inaugurate a full programme of social activities when the amenities of the new building are available.



## *“Regular Training is the Thing”*

Says **BILL GALLAGHER**

THE importance of training in football cannot be over-estimated. Success is unlikely to come to any club unless its training department is in capable hands and unless its players co-operate fully with the trainer. The Wealdstone Football Club has been particularly fortunate in its training organisation, this department having been the responsibility of Mr. Bill Gallagher for nearly 30 years. His principal assistant for much of that time has been Mr. Billy Williams, and it has indeed proved a happy and successful partnership. Mr. Gallagher's long service in an honorary capacity is to be officially recognised at the opening of the 1950-51 season by the playing of a benefit match for the senior trainer.

Bill Gallagher's interest in football is tremendous. He played in senior-grade football in Ireland at the early age of 16. When he came to the Wealdstone district his services were much sought after and, in fact, he received a number of tempting offers to turn professional. But Bill preferred to retain his amateur status. He joined Wealdstone at the end of 1910-11 season and during his career as a player he turned out in several positions, playing as a back, centre-half, and centre-forward, and in one game he performed capably in goal. He averaged two goals a match as a centre-forward and it was he who scored Wealdstone's last goal on the old Belmont-road ground before the Club moved to its present headquarters at Lower Mead. That was also his last goal before hanging up his boots and turning his attention to new duties as trainer.

During the first world war Bill Gallagher served in the Royal Army Medical Corps. His training and experience in wartime paved the way for a long and conspicuous career as Wealdstone F.C. trainer. He is very reticent about his service in the R.A.M.C., in which his activities resulted in the award of the Military Medal.

He took a number of examinations after the war which enhanced his qualifications to become the Club's trainer, an appointment he assumed in 1923 after having won no fewer than 16 medals as a player. After a few seasons in charge of the reserve team he was appointed to the first eleven, which meant, of course, that he was responsible for the Club's training generally. In later years he received several invitations to join other clubs, but he has remained loyal to Wealdstone. During his career as a trainer he has acted in that capacity at many representative games, his services having been placed at the disposal of the Middlesex County Football Association, the Athenian League, and the Herts-Middlesex League.

Tribute to his skill has been forthcoming from many quarters. His work has frequently received the commendation of local medical practitioners. Players from clubs over a wide area have been glad to avail themselves of his attention, and he can claim never to have refused to assist any man who has sought his treatment and advice. He, in turn, has had the benefit of advice from trainers of several London professional clubs and Bill is a welcome visitor at these grounds.

Bill Gallagher is a great believer in regular training. He believes, too, that a young player must indulge wholeheartedly in exercises and other body-building processes if he is to develop and equip himself to withstand the hard knocks and the demand for speed of present-day football. While he appreciates the value of ball practice, he holds the view that physical training is of primary importance. At the same time, all the training in the world will not make a footballer unless he has "got it there," says Bill.

In his long career with Wealdstone F.C. he has had many interesting and amusing experiences, and he has a wealth of entertaining stories at his command. The Wealdstone men travelled to an away fixture in a laundry van on one occasion long before the days of luxury coaches. "I was sitting in front with the driver," says Bill. "Suddenly, the driver remarked: 'The boys are very quiet, I wonder what they're up to?' He stopped the van and we went to the back of it to find that every man was overcome by exhaust fumes." Bill then tells how after roadside first-aid the players recovered and continued their journey and, incidentally, won their match.

Another of his stories also concerns a journey to an away match. "It was on one of the coldest days I can remember and the journey was being made in an open lorry. When we got to Lewisham, where the game was to be played against Woolwich Polytechnic, the men were numb with the intense cold. Our opponents were at the bottom of the league table at the time, whereas we were near the top, and before the kick-off their officials pleaded with us to let them down lightly. There was no need for them to do that," says Bill, "for the effects of the cold on our men were such that the best we could do was to come away with a 6-1 defeat."

On another particularly cold day Wealdstone were due to meet Bromley in an Athenian League fixture on the Kent club's ground. The Bromley team headed the table and Wealdstone were struggling to keep away from the foot of the table and were not expected to put

up great resistance. "To alleviate the effects of the cold I decided to give our men a nip of ship's rum," says Bill. He relates that the 'Stones were three goals up in the first 20 minutes of the game. The effects of the rum seemed to wear off, however, and Bromley equalised in the second half. "In the closing minutes, however, Hoskins got the ball and headed for goal. The goalkeeper came out, but Hoskins eluded him and netted to give Wealdstone a very unexpected victory."

Mr. Gallagher pays tribute to the assistance he has received from his friend and assistant trainer, Mr. Billy Williams, whose appointment dates from October, 1927. And now, since the Club decided to run a third eleven, they have been joined by a third trainer, Mr. Ernest Pitt, who is doing great work with the juniors.

## Athenian League Record

WEALDSTONE F.C. was admitted to membership of the Athenian League in 1928. The highest position attained in the senior section of the League so far is third (in 1936-37 and again in 1938-39). The championship of the reserve section came to Lower Mead in 1928-29 and for a second time in 1935-36. The position of runners-up in the reserve section was achieved in 1931-32, 1936-37, and 1937-38.

The Club's record in the Athenian League is listed below.

SEASON	FIRST TEAM	RESERVES
1928-29	.. Eighth	Champions
1929-30	.. Fifth	Eleventh
1930-31	.. Fifth	Third
1931-32	.. Sixth	Runners-up
1932-33	.. Tenth	Fourth
1933-44	.. Thirteenth	Third
1934-35	.. Fourteenth	Fifth
1935-36	.. Thirteenth	Champions
1936-37	.. Third	Runners-up
1937-38	.. Fourth	Runners-up
1938-39	.. Third	Third
1939-45	..	No Competition
1945-46	.. Sixth	Fourteenth
1946-47	.. Fourth	Seventh
1947-48	.. Fifth	Third
1948-49	.. Fourth	Fourth
1949-50	.. Fifth	Third

Membership of the Athenian League in the past has been restricted to 14 clubs, but the League has now been enlarged to 16 clubs, Cambridge Town and Walton and Hershams having been admitted to membership for the 1950-51 season. Walton and Hershams were last season's runners-up in the Corinthian League and Cambridge Town achieved the same honour in the Spartan League.



## Golders Green 11, Wealdstone 23

NO, the above score is not the result of a Rugby match, nor should it be taken as an indication that the 'Stones have ever enjoyed such phenomenal success on the soccer field against Golders Green (since renamed Hendon F. C.). The figures merely indicate the number of goal kicks awarded to the respective teams during the course of the match in the Herts and Middlesex League played at Hendon on May 26th, 1945. Statistics of this sort do not necessarily mean very much, but they are not without interest perhaps. Here, then, is a statistical record of that match, the figures in the parentheses relating to the first half of the game:

	For	For
	GOLDERS GREEN	WEALDSTONE
Goal kicks .. ..	11 (5)	23 (11)
Corners .. ..	15 (4)	2 (1)
Offside decisions .. ..	4 (1)	3 (3)
Throw-ins .. ..	51 (28)	32 (14)
Fouls .. ..	11 (4)	1 (0)
Corners .. ..	15 (4)	2 (1)

But from this seemingly comprehensive wealth of statistical data have been omitted the most important figures of all—the result. The score was Golders Green 1, Wealdstone 2. Stan Heathcote notched both our goals from the outside-right position (one in each half), and a goal by Laurie Topp, the International right-half, enabled Golders Green to be on level terms at the interval.

Wealdstone's line-up that day was:—W. Hewlett; T. Kay, G. Upton; W. Twigg, C. Edmonds, G. Parrish; S. Heathcote, G. Garrigan, E. Jones, H. Dyke, C. Barker.

## The Club's Colours

DURING the course of 50 years the Club has had five sets of official colours. At times—particularly in wartime when it was not possible to obtain shirts to specified requirements—other colours were worn, but the recognised Club colours have been as follow:—

1900-04	Black and white stripes.
1905-19	Green shirts with white sleeves and collars.
1920-28	Black and white hoops.
1929-35	Royal Blue.
1936 to date	Royal blue and white quarters.

A blue and white tie is available to members and supporters, as also is a badge, the design of which is the work of Mr. J. C. A. Breen, a member of the committee. The circular badge has the wording "Wealdstone Football Club Founded 1900" on the outside, and in the centre is a shield, the four quarters of which show the Club colours, the Football Association crest, the Middlesex County Football Association crest, and a football on a green background.

## An Absent Friend

### THE LATE Mr. G. T. DUFFELL

THE death on Saturday, April 8th, 1950, of Mr. George Thomas Duffell was keenly felt by all closely associated with the Wealdstone Football Club. For several seasons George Duffell had worked hard for the Club as a member of its committee. Of cheerful personality, he was popular with officials, players, and supporters alike, and his death at the early age of 46 left a gap that will not be easily filled.

George Duffell was well known in Harrow and district. He completed 25 years' service with the Metropolitan Police in the Harrow area before ill-health led to his being posted to the Law Courts. He was confined to his bed for a long period before his death, but he retained his interest in the activities of the Club during that time, and it was always a great joy to him to receive copies of minutes of committee meetings, programmes, and visits from his colleagues on the the committee at Lower Mead.

On more than one occasion, when wartime difficulties created last-minute withdrawals from the first eleven, George Duffell changed into football attire and saved the team from the indignity of playing short of numbers. Such acts were typical of the man. He also took an interest in the sporting activities of the police, representing his sub-division at both football and cricket and playing a big part in the organisation of indoor police sports.

Mr. Duffell was particularly adept in the art of crowd "packing." He and Mr. A. J. ("Tiny") Tucker did the Club—and the crowd—fine service on occasions when attendances taxed the accommodation at Lower Mead. George Duffell was also a regular contributor to discussions at committee meetings and in this respect also is his absence keenly felt.

His colleagues mourn the loss of a real friend and a true sportsman.



*Some  
Well-known  
Personalities*

A. P'ANSON



F. W. HARBUD



E. THEOBALD

H. DEELEY



Reference to the grand work done for the Club by the late Mr. C. V. Elmslie is made elsewhere in this book. Seen with him in this group are some of the players well known to followers of the Club in the period after the first world war.



## Who's Who at Lower Mead

### PEN PICTURES OF THE PLAYERS

THE playing personnel of the Wealdstone Football Club, in common with all senior amateur clubs, changes to some extent season by season, but quite a number of our senior men have been with the Club for several years and have become firm favourites at Lower Mead. Details of their playing careers have been included in the main body of this Handbook, but it is felt that readers will appreciate brief references to all the senior players in the service of the Club during its jubilee season.

#### BARKER, CHARLES ALBERT.

Born at Hammersmith on January 9, 1915, Barker played for South London Schools and in various junior football before joining Wealdstone in 1938. He soon established himself as first choice for the left-back position, although he is almost equally at home on the left wing, in which position he has committed himself with distinction on a number of occasions. Barker is a sure shot from the penalty spot. During his career he has received many representative honours, but perhaps none gave him more personal satisfaction than when he and his club-mate, Fred Haydon, were selected to play for The Rest v. England in the 1948-49 season. Other representative honours include an F.A. XI and the Athenian League. He served with the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1945 and assisted Norwich City in wartime football. Barker, who is married and has a daughter, succeeded Charlie Edmonds as team captain in 1949-50.

#### BENNINGFIELD, ALAN HENRY.

An outside left of whom great things are expected, Benningfield was born in London on January 16, 1928. He is a product of local football, having played with Harrow St. Mary's and Rayners Lane. During his service as a radar mechanic in the R.A.F. (1947-9) he played for Chippenham F.C. and was selected for the Wiltshire County F.A. XI. Benningfield has also played for the Harrow Local Youth Committee Football League XI. He joined Wealdstone during the 1949-50 season, playing a number of times for the senior eleven. Benningfield, who is single, also plays cricket.

#### DYKE, HERBERT.

One of the Club's best known and most popular players, Dyke was born at Hemel Hempstead in 1920. He joined Wealdstone in 1937 after having played for Harrow Schools' XI. He attracted the attention of Arsenal F.C. and, being too young at the time to sign a professional form, he was given a staff job at Highbury. Most of his appearances for Wealdstone have been at inside forward, but he can give a good account of himself in other positions and has, in fact, scored many goals when leading the attack. Dyke served in the R.A.F. from 1942 to 1946 and his wartime football activities included a number of appearances with Luton Town. He has frequently been selected for representative matches by the F.A., the London F.A., the Middlesex F.A., and the Athenian League. Bert Dyke is married and has two children. He is particularly keen on table tennis.

#### EDMONDS, CHARLES ALFRED PETER.

Edmonds, who played for Wimbledon before joining Wealdstone in 1939, was born at Westminster on May 1, 1920. As a youngster he was included in Hammersmith, London, and Middlesex Boys' teams. Since joining Wealdstone Edmonds has been chosen for London F.A., Middlesex F.A., and Athenian League teams, and has also played for Middlesex Wanderers. He is a sound defensive centre-half and makes good use of his head. He served in the R.A.F. for six years, joining up in 1940. Mrs. Edmonds rarely misses a match.

## Pen Pictures of the Players—continued

### HILL, BERTIE.

Born at Paddington in 1930, Hill joined Wealdstone from Chelsea Youth in season 1948-49. Before coming to Lower Mead he toured Holland with London Youth, captained Chelsea Juniors in their first season, and also toured Denmark with them. Hill, a right-half, played most of his football while with Wealdstone in the Reserves, but an injury to Gordon Norman gave Hill his chance and this he took very successfully. Together with Eddie Smith, Hill was signed on a professional form by Chelsea F.C. at the end of season 1949-50. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1948, serving for two years. Bertie Hill, who is single, plays cricket and basketball.

### MARJORAM, THOMAS HERBERT.

Marjoram's opportunities to prove his worth in the first eleven have been few enough, but he has filled Haydon's place with distinction from time to time. His chief claims to "fame", however, are that he is captain of the Reserves and one of the most popular men in the Club. He was born at Alton on August 17, 1922, and joined Wealdstone in March, 1947. Tom Marjoram, who is one of three brothers to have played for the Club, has played for Middlesex Juniors v. Essex, Dorset, and Kent. An all-round sportsman—he plays tennis and is a good swimmer—Tom is also an enthusiastic motor cyclist. He served with the Royal Signals for six years. He is single.

### NORMAN, GORDON DOUGLAS.

Born at Ilford on October 14, 1930, Gordon Norman is another of Wealdstone's players who is on the books of Chelsea F.C. He is also another player to have distinguished himself in schoolboy football. He was a member of the winning side at Hampden Park, Glasgow, in May, 1946, when London Schoolboys beat Glasgow Schoolboys. He played for Essex Youth in season 1946-47 and was captain of that side in the two following seasons. In January, 1950, he played for Middlesex Seniors against Kent. Before coming

to Wealdstone he played for Old Bealomians Youth, Ilford F.C. in the Isthmian League, and Chelsea Youth. Success has also come to Gordon Norman on the cricket field, having played for London Schools v. Eton College. He also plays tennis and is a useful half-miler. Table-tennis is yet another of his activities. He is expected to develop into a first-class right-half.

### FRANCIS, EDGAR THOMAS.

Wealdstone's most experienced player, Francis, who has played for Wales, is the only international in the side. He was born at Merthyr on August 13, 1916, and played for Hounslow, Southall, and Hayes before joining Wealdstone in 1947-48. Many representative honours have come his way during a long and distinguished career. In addition to playing for his country, Francis has played for Merthyr Boys, an F.A. XI, London F.A., Middlesex F.A. (no fewer than 14 times), Athenian League, Spartan League, and the R.A.F. Northern Command. He served in the R.A.F. from 1940 to 1946. He has played many fine games for the 'Stones at left-half in the comparatively short time he has served the Club. Edgar is almost as difficult to beat on the dartboard as he is on the football field. He was married at the tail-end of the 1949-50 season.

### FRANKLIN, RONALD STANLEY.

One of the most versatile players at Lower Mead, "Ginger" Franklin can give a very good account of himself in several positions. Most of his appearances in the Club colours have been in the Reserves, although he turned out many times for the senior eleven and is a most useful man to have at hand in view of his ability to fill more than one position. He was born at Brickett Wood (Herts) on September 9, 1922, and came to live in Harrow at an early age. He captained the Harrow Schools XI and played for London Transport and St. Albans City before settling down with Wealdstone. Middlesex Juniors have called

## Pen Pictures of the Players—continued

on his services several times. During the war he joined the R.A.S.C., serving with them from 1942 to 1947. He played with Billington (Chelsea) and Parsons (West Ham United) and other well-known professionals in Army teams. He is single.

### HAYDON, FREDERICK JOHN HENRY.

Born in Wealdstone in 1919, Fred Haydon made his mark in schoolboy football and was chosen for Hertfordshire Boys. He is another Wealdstone player to whom representative honours have come in good measure. The highlight of his career was undoubtedly when he and Charlie Barker were the full-backs for The Rest v. England in the 1948-49 season. He has also played for an F.A. XI, London F.A., Middlesex F.A., and the Athenian League. Fred Haydon, who joined Wealdstone in 1938, played his last game for the Club on May 13, 1950, he and his family having since gone to South Africa. His services to Wealdstone F.C. were recognised at the Club's Golden Jubilee Dinner on June 7 last, one of the highlights of that event, being a presentation to Haydon. Young Terry Haydon is almost as well known as his father at Lower Mead and on other grounds, for he acted as the team's mascot on many occasions. Fred Haydon served with the Middlesex Regiment from 1940 to 1946. He is a keen and accomplished cricketer.

### PADINA, GABRIEL.

"Paddy," as he is affectionately known to all at Lower Mead, was born in Spain on February 15, 1929. He lived in Spain for the first seven years of his life and was evacuated from Gibraltar at the outbreak of war in 1939. He lived in London from 1940 to 1944 before going to Northern Ireland. He signed for Ballymena United (Irish League) at the age of 16. Padina played for Ballymoney (Irish Intermediate League) 1945-46, and then signed for Portadown (Irish League) in 1947, playing for that club's reserves.

He returned to London and joined Wealdstone at the start of the 1948-49 season. In addition to playing for the Reserves as an inside forward and on the wing. "Paddy" has also turned out several times for the first eleven. Woodwork is his hobby, while he also plays lawn and table tennis. He is unmarried.

### ROBERTS, WILLIAM ALFRED.

This utility forward was born in London on September 1, 1923, and joined Wealdstone from Harrow Town in August, 1949. Like several other Wealdstone players, Bill Roberts is an all-round sportsman, playing both cricket and golf. He is married and has a young son.

### ROGERS, PETER ALFRED RICHARD.

Born at Southall in January, 1928, Rogers played for Southall Boys and Southall F.C. before attracting the attention of Chelsea F.C. He is a clever inside forward with a promising future. He joined Wealdstone in 1948-49 and is still on the books of Chelsea, for whose Reserves he has played. Rogers, who is single, also plays tennis. He served in the R.A.O.C. from 1946 to 1948.

### SAUNDERS, WILLIAM.

Another forward who is equally at home in more than one position, Bill Saunders, who was born at Chorlev Wood on April 2, 1918, was with St. Albans City and Sutton United before coming to Lower Mead at the start of the 1949-50 season. In addition to being capped for Herts County, he has played for an F.A. XI and both Athenian and Isthmian Leagues teams. He is a keen athlete and won the L.C.C. Hospitals Cup for 220 yards. He is also keen on swimming. Bill Saunders, who served in the R.A.M.C. from 1942 to 1947, is married and is the father of two girls.

*Pen Pictures of the Players—continued*

SMITH, EDWARD WILLIAM  
ALFRED.

Born at St. Marylebone (London) on March 23, 1929, Eddie Smith came to Wealdstone under the arrangement with Chelsea, for whom he signed as a professional, along with Bertie Hill, at the end of the 1949-50 season. In the two seasons he spent at Lower Mead he usually played at centre-forward, although he was sometimes seen on the wing and also at inside forward. He has also played for Queens Park Rangers Juniors (and two games for the first team), Canterbury City, Southall, and Hayes. Many representative honours have come his way:— London Combination XI, London Youth XI, Middlesex F.A., Athenian League, Army, Western Command, and R.E.M.E. Eddie Smith is single and is keen on cricket.

WILTSHIRE, DANIEL.

This tall goalkeeper has given many great displays for the 'Stones, but probably none better than in the first round proper of the F.A. Cup, 1949-50, when his team lost by the only goal of the match at Port Vale. He was born at Kings Cross on July 11, 1924, and joined Wealdstone from Hendon in the 1948-49 season. It was not long before he displaced Rowe, the English international goalkeeper, in the first eleven. The highlight of his career to date came when he played for The Rest v. England, 1949-50. Danny Wiltshire has played for Harrow Boys, Wembley Boys, Middlesex F.A. Boys and also for Middlesex Juniors. He served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946. He is married and is an enthusiastic table-tennis player.

### *A Lone Worker*

**A** LONE worker is to be seen at Lower Mead, morning and afternoon, in season and out of season. He is the Club's groundsman. His is no easy task at any time, and his efforts attain greater significance perhaps during the close season than when the ground is in use, for it is then, and only then, that extensive work can be carried out on the field.

In this work the Club has the benefit of professional advice from time to time, but it is the groundsman who is largely responsible for carrying out the operations suggested by the experts. During the season, of course, much of his time is absorbed in tidying up the ground after matches and generally preparing for following fixtures.

Mr. Harry Simpson retired from the position of groundsman at the close of the 1949-50 season. He had put in several years' loyal and faithful service to the Club. He was a tireless worker—like his predecessor, Mr. Fred Biswell—and to him must go much of the credit for the splendid condition of the ground. Mr. Simpson has now retired to his native county of Lancashire and the Club wishes him good health and happiness in the future.

Mr. Simpson's successor as groundsman is Mr. Jim Nottingham, who acted in a part-time capacity for some time before Mr. Simpson's retirement. Mr. Nottingham, in the few months he has held the position, has done well and the ground should be in good hands while he is at the helm.



A. CHAMPION



A. W. LOVEDAY



R. GROVES

H. SMITH

L. R. HOSKINS



Pictured here are  
some well-known players  
of the 1930 period.

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# Seasons

1950/51 — 1951/52

## WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB OFFICIALS

1952 - 53

**President:** C. E. Brady, O.B.E., F.R.E.S.

**Chairman:** H. H. Harrison

**Vice-chairman:** P. W. Lanning

**Deputy Chairman:** J. Rogers

**Hon. Secretary:** H. A. Luck

**Hon. Treasurer:** W. G. Leadbetter

**Hon. Press Secretary:** P. W. Lanning

**Hon. Ground Secretary:** J. Holt

**First Team Hon. Secretary:** F. W. Harbud

**Hon. Assistant Secretary:** P. E. Carden

**Hon. Assistant Treasurers:**

R. A. Lemmings and H. J. H. Finney

**Reserve Team Hon. Secretary:** L. McDonald

**Strollers XI Hon. Secretary:** J. H. Pyers

### Committee:

E. J. Bryant, H. Grainger, A. R. P. Herman, A. McDonald, E. H. Norton,

W. F. Showler, A. J. Spanner, F. J. Straw, A. J. Tucker, D. Wiltshire,

W. Wiltshire, H. Wright.

## The Skipper



Captain of the Wealdstone team which won the Athenian League Championship in 1951-52 was Gordon Norman, who is shown here making one of the long throws for which he is renowned. Many goals resulted from his carefully placed throws from the touchline.

1950 - 1952

*Encouraged by a continued demand for copies of this Handbook, which was first published two years ago to commemorate the Club's golden jubilee, we have pleasure in presenting a second edition in which the story of the Club has been brought up to date to coincide with the opening of the 1952-53 season when the Athenian League Championship flag flies proudly over the grandstand at Lower Mead.*

### ***Athenian League Championship for Wealdstone***

**I**N the two seasons that have elapsed since this Handbook was first published, the outstanding event for the Club was, of course, the winning of the Athenian League Championship in the 1951-52 season. Never before had Wealdstone enjoyed the distinction of winning the Athenian championship and never before had a championship side obtained as many as the 50 points which was our harvest from the 30 games played. In this connection, it must be remembered, of course, that the league was enlarged two years ago from 14 to 16 clubs. With the departure of Barking and Bromley to the Isthmian League, the number of clubs in the Athenian competition is now again 14. Until the honour came to Lower Mead, no Middlesex club had carried off the Athenian League championship since Southall did so in the 1926-27 season.

The winning of the league title was all the more gratifying insofar as it was achieved after a season in which there was indeed little enough over which to enthuse. The 1950-51 period was disappointing in both league and cup competitions. Apart from reaching the final of the Middlesex Charity Cup, the Club's performances were only very moderate.

#### **SURREY CLUB'S SUCCESS**

In the league, Wealdstone finished in ninth place, which compared with fifth place in the previous season's campaign. Walton and Hersham, together with Cambridge City, had entered the competition, thus increasing the strength of the league to 16 clubs. The Surrey club, runners-up in the Corinthian League in the previous season, did extremely well to achieve similar eminence in their first season with the Athenians. Walton and Hersham finished four points behind the champions, Bromley, who secured 49 points from their 30 matches. Wealdstone's points total was 27, 11 games being won, five drawn, and 14 lost. The 52 goals scored was equalled by the number of goals conceded.

One of the biggest surprises in the season's league results was surely Wealdstone's win on the Hendon ground on Boxing Day. With a side much weakened (or so one would have thought) by changes enforced by injuries suffered by players when Hendon won 3-1 at Lower Mead on Christmas Day, the 'Stones won 5-2.

## CUP DISAPPOINTMENTS

One of the biggest disappointments of the 1950-51 season was our early dismissal from the F.A. Cup. In the preliminary round Wealdstone won 3-1 on the Hertford Town ground, and when St. Albans City came to Lower Mead in the first qualifying round the thoughts of many in the ground that afternoon naturally enough went back to the previous season's F.A. Cup campaign, for St. Albans were one of the hurdles which the 'Stones cleared in battling their way through to the first round proper for the first time in the Club's history. On this occasion, however, the visitors had little trouble in avenging that defeat, winning the match 5-1.

In the F.A. Amateur Cup the 'Stones were confronted by the formidable task of playing at Leytonstone in the first round proper; the home side won 3-2 after a hard-fought game. Nor did Wealdstone make headway in the London Senior Cup, in which Cheshunt scored two goals without reply at Lower Mead following a 1-1 draw on their own ground in the first round, while it was at the same stage of the Middlesex Senior Cup that Hayes won 3-2 at Lower Mead. The best effort was reserved for the Middlesex Charity Cup. Drawn away to Edgware Town in the first round, Wealdstone drew 1-1 and enjoyed a 3-1 success in the replay. Hendon, who visited Lower Mead in the semi-final, lost 3-1. The final was played at Hayes against Finchley, who won by the odd goal in five.

## FESTIVAL MATCHES

Several interesting friendly matches were played during the season, including two in connection with the Festival of Britain celebrations. In these, Wealdstone lost 2-4 to the Watford first team and won 4-1 against R.A.F. (London), both games being at Lower Mead.

The long service as trainer to the Club of Mr. Bill Gallagher was recognised by the playing of a benefit match and the opening of a subscription list. The match, against a Chelsea XI, was won by the 'Stones by four goals to one. Mr. Gallagher's well-deserved benefit yielded a total of £141.

An interesting development of the 1950-51 season was appointment by the Club of a trainer-coach. Selected for this new post was Mr. George W. Milton, who took up his duties in October, 1950. The fact that Mr. Milton continues to serve the Club is a tribute to the work he has accomplished in getting—and keeping—the players physically fit and in guiding them in their tactics on the field.

## SEASON'S PLAYING RECORD

The first team's complete record for the season was:—Played 47, won 18, drawn 7, lost 22, goals for 92, goals against 91. Austen ("Bunny") Bristow, with 20 goals, was easily the leading scorer, next in the list being Ted Hornsby with 11 and Tommy Garden with nine.

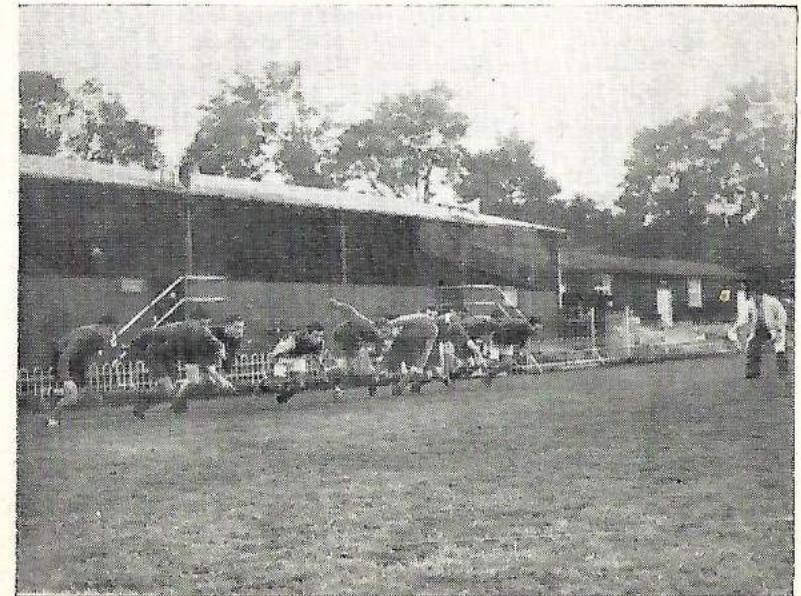
For the Reserves the season was, as for the first team, one of only moderate success. They finished seventh in the league—four places lower than in the previous season. The final of the Athenian League

Reserve Challenge Cup was reached, but in this the 'Stones lost 0-1 to Tooting and Mitcham United Reserves. The Reserves also did well in the Middlesex Intermediate Cup, in which they were defeated by Yiewsley Reserves 4-2 in the semi-final. Of the Reserves' goal-scorers, Geoff Tomlins, who got 20 goals, had a lead of no fewer than 12 over his nearest rival.

Midway through the season, Mr. Leslie McDonald was appointed as reserve team secretary. He carried out his duties efficiently and also quickly gained the respect and confidence of the men in his charge. Leslie brought to office the benefit of recent playing experience—he was, of course, the first team's goalkeeper—and he continues to work hard in the interests of the Club.

The "A" team again competed in the Premier Division of the Harrow, Wembley and District League, but the season was an unsatisfactory one. The weather interfered with fixtures and Wealdstone "A", along with other clubs in the league, had not completed the full programme when the season ended.

The work of running a senior amateur football club is both heavy and varied, calling for adaptability from those entrusted with its operation. The several positions held by Mr. Jack Rogers in the Club during the past twenty years have proved him to be well qualified to hold office. At present deputy chairman, his previous appointments have included those of Treasurer and Press Secretary, and his long and distinguished service to the Club was recognised by his election as a life member. Mr. Rogers continues to play an important part in the administration of the Club.



Training in progress at Lower Mead



## A Season of Outstanding Success

THERE was indeed little enough in the 1950-51 season to suggest that Wealdstone would carry off the championship of the Athenian League in the following season, which, however, opened brightly. No fewer than 15 goals were scored in the first four league fixtures, including a 6-0 win in a home fixture with Hitchin Town. In fact, apart from Bromley's 2-1 success at Lower Mead on September 8, it was not until Redhill won by a single goal at Lower Mead three months later—a match that was literally “given away”—that the 'Stones suffered a further league defeat.

But a week after the Redhill match Southall enjoyed a 2-1 success on their ground, and although at that stage perhaps no one had regarded Wealdstone as potential champions, this further defeat was certainly a setback. The next two league matches—the traditional Christmas fixtures with Hendon—were both drawn, and following a 3-1 win at Hayes, only one point resulted from the visit to Tooting and Mitcham United's ground. But that fixture, played on January 12, proved to be the turning point and the last occasion on which Wealdstone were to concede a point in the league. The 'Stones went on to win their last 13 matches—and the championship.

### CLOSE MATCHES

Although results towards the close of the season were highly gratifying, it should not be assumed that Wealdstone “ran away” with the championship. The 'Stones, in fact, had to fight neck and neck with Hendon, and the issue was not settled until the very last match in which Hayes provided the opposition at Lower Mead. When Gordon Norman led his men on to the field Wealdstone needed one point to make certain of the coveted trophy, Hendon being level on points but with a slightly—very slightly—inferior goal average. Alternatively, Wealdstone could have lost that match 1-0—but by no other margin—and still finished as champions.

If the atmosphere on the ground that afternoon was tense at the start, it was not long before the home team settled down to play as well as they had done in any match during the season. Henrik Mikrut scored after only five minutes' play, and further goals came from Henrik Wegrzyk, Frank Bennett, and Phil White to give the 'Stones a 4-0 lead at the interval. Bennett completed his hat-trick soon after the resumption and only then, with six goals to their credit, did Wealdstone relax their all-out effort. Hayes scored twice before the close, but no one worried very much about that!

### CONGRATULATIONS!

The scene that followed the referee's final whistle was one which will live long in the memories of those waiting for the moment to hail the new champions. Let it be recorded that the first handshakes came from the Hayes players, who naturally reserved their warmest reception for Ron Gadsden, their former skipper. After that officials of the Club and hundreds of supporters showered their congratulations on Gordon Norman, Wealdstone's young captain, and every member of the team. It was many minutes before the players could form a group to face the camera, after which Norman went to the microphone to say a few words to the jubilant crowd.

Although the players were, of course, the centre of the demonstration, Bill Gallagher, Billy Williams, George Milton, Frank Harbud, the team secretary, and other officials all received many expressions of appreciation. In the pavilion that evening, Mr. H. H. Harrison, Chairman of the Club, presented each player with a combined tea and coffee pot as a token of his appreciation, while there was a further gift for each player from an anonymous supporter. On the following Monday evening the team and officials were the guests of the Granada Cinema and they received a warm reception when interviewed on the stage by the manager, Mr. George Bond.

### HARROW COUNCIL'S GESTURE

Many were the messages of congratulation that reached the Club on winning the Athenian League championship. Hendon, the runners-up, lost no time in letting Wealdstone know that there were no ill feelings—only disappointment—at Claremont Road, and Mr. C. R. J. Calderwood, Chairman of the Harrow Urban District Council, telephoned immediately after the result of the match with Hayes was known.

At the Council's Annual General Meeting on May 23, a resolution of congratulation and appreciation of the Club's success was passed unanimously, and a copy of the resolution engrossed on vellum will be presented to the Club at a meeting of the Council on November 7.

The Championship Cup and the flag were presented to Gordon Norman at the Annual Dinner of the Athenian League at the Connaught Rooms on May 24. The presentation was made by Lieut.-Col. C. D. Crisp, O.B.E., President of the Athenian League, who also presented a plaque to each player. The toast of “Our League” on that happy occasion was proposed by Mr. H. A. Luck.

### CUP SUCCESSES

If the 1951-52 season will be best remembered in Club circles for the winning of the league championship, the season also brought out in good measure the team's cup-fighting qualities. Good progress was made in the F.A. Cup, in which the Club entered the first qualifying round by inflicting a 2-1 defeat over Southall. There followed three more home successes in this competition—Uxbridge (2-1), Hayes (2-0) and Slough Town (5-0)—before the 'Stones were set the hard task of meeting Tonbridge, the Kent League club, on their own ground. Although Tonbridge won the match by two clear goals, they were made to fight all the way for victory.

Many hopes were expressed that this would be “our year” for the F.A. Amateur Cup, and not without justification, for the 'Stones were at the peak of their form when called upon to play at home against the Corinthians-Casuals in the fourth qualifying round of the competition, this being the round in which Wealdstone came into the cup. With the exception of the Tonbridge match on the previous Saturday, Wealdstone had enjoyed a notable run of successes, but although they held most of the territorial advantage during the game, the visitors scored the only goal—in the nature of a freak goal—and so the road to Wembley was promptly blocked. Mr. Harold Gittins's cartoon on this match which appeared in the *Evening News* is reproduced overleaf.

## AT Highbury

In the London Senior Cup, however, the 'Stones reached the final for the second time in the Club's history. The first round brought a convincing win at Bromley, where Wealdstone scored three times without reply. This encouraging start was followed by a 1-0 win at Dagenham and success by a similar margin in a home tie with Southall before being drawn to meet Hounslow Town in the semi-final. The 'Stones had a great following on the Queen's Park Rangers' ground for this match, which they won 2-1, thus qualifying to meet Finchley in the final.

Arsenal Stadium was the ground selected for the London Senior Cup final, which came right at the tail end of the season. Once again, Wealdstone did not lack enthusiastic support, but the team failed to reproduce its best form and Finchley won the cup by a single goal. Neither side was at full strength; in Wealdstone's case Ron Gadsden and Frank Bennett were absent as they had, the previous Sunday, flown to Hong Kong as members of the Athenian League touring party. Incidentally, Tommy McGhee, who played in the final at Highbury, was also selected to go to Hong Kong, but his duties in the Royal Navy precluded his acceptance of the invitation.

Edgware Town visited Lower Mead in the first round of the Middlesex Senior Cup, the home side winning 4-1, but at Hayes in the second round the 'Stones lost 3-5. The final of the Middlesex Charity Cup was reached, but owing to congestion of fixtures the final, in which Wealdstone meet Southall, was held in abeyance until the following season. In the first round Wealdstone defeated Hounslow Town by three goals to nil at Lower Mead, while Enfield lost 2-0 on the same ground in the semi-final. An interesting feature of the season's fixtures was the visit of the renowned Pegasus XI to Lower Mead on January 5. This keenly contested friendly match against the previous season's Amateur Cup winners was won by Wealdstone 3-1.

## AN IMPRESSIVE RECORD

The first team's record for the 1951-52 season was certainly impressive. Thirty-five of the 46 matches played were won, four drawn and seven lost. Goals for totalled 114 and 43 were conceded. Mikrut and Wegrzyk, both of whom settled down well in their first season with the Club, each scored 27 times, Phil White being next in the list of goal scorers with 17. Both Wiltshire and Wegrzyk had the distinction of playing in every first team match during the season.

Charlie Barker, who left the Club during the season to go to Enfield and who rendered outstanding service to Wealdstone over many years, was one of four senior players to be selected to play for the Middlesex F.A. during the season, the others being Jimmy Wastell, Frank Bennett, and Phil White. Another player to leave the Club was Alan Benningfield. Before he signed on for Hendon, Benningfield played for the London F.A. Danny Wiltshire also gained further representative honours during the season, being chosen to play for the Civil Service. A player to show consistent good form was Charlie Edmonds, who has been a tower of strength in the centre-half position for several seasons. Hard working on the field, Edmonds also trains hard, setting a fine example to his team mates—particularly the younger players—on Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout the season. Roy Ferris, Ted Ward, Johnny Wall, Bill Roberts, and Fred Cross, although not regular members of the senior eleven, did well when called upon.



The Reserves made a stern challenge for league honours, but they had to be content with runners-up position, the Reserve Section of the Athenian League being won by Bromley Reserves, who obtained 45 points, two more than Wealdstone. The second team also reached the semi-final of the League Cup, in which Bromley Reserves scored a 4-0 success at Lower Mead. During the season the Reserves were frequently called upon to augment the first team's resources—often at short notice—while several of our Reserves were selected for various representative matches.

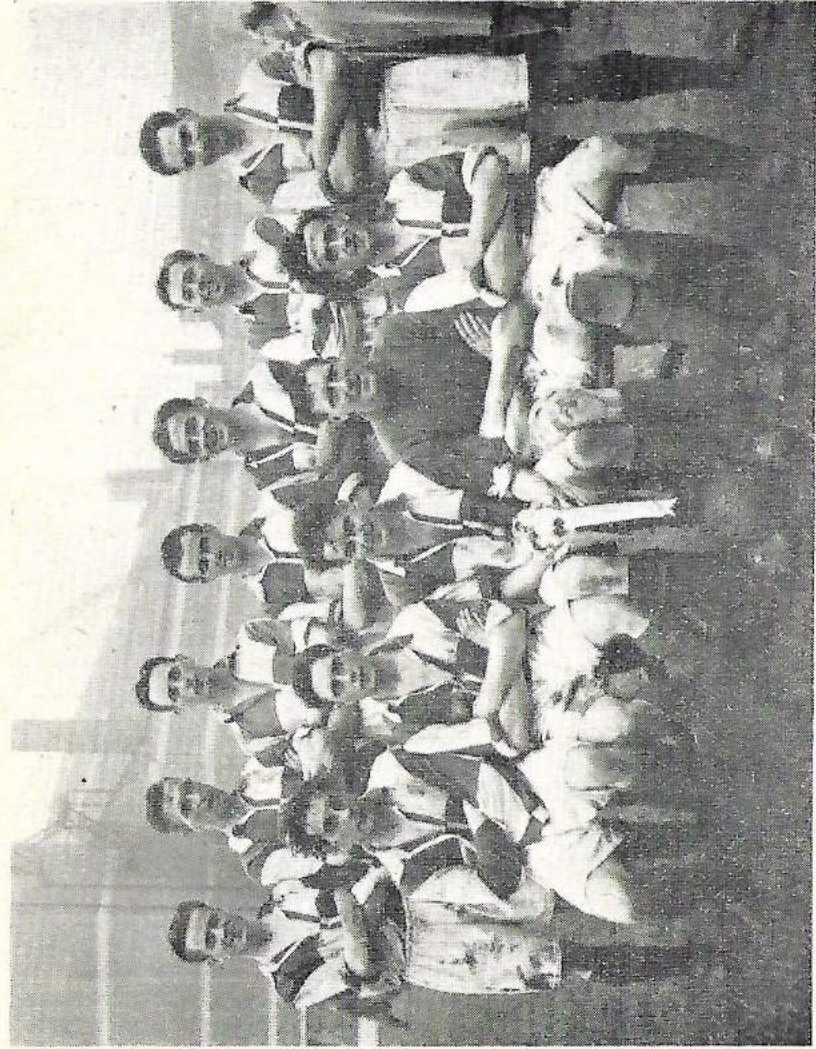
The "A" Team's fixtures in the Premier Division of the Harrow, Wembley and District League were, as in the previous year, subjected to interference through grounds being unfit for play, and the season was again an unsatisfactory one.

For more than 42 years Mr. Bill Gallagher has served the Club faithfully and the decision to make him a life member is a further indication of the value attached to his work by the Committee. Life membership has also been conferred upon Mr. E. H. Norton, whose work for the Club extends over the past 20 years. After playing for the 'Stones Ted Norton joined the committee, later holding office as Hon. Secretary to the Reserves before being placed in charge of the first eleven. His enthusiasm for its affairs is reflected in the untiring energy with which he continues to carry out his duties as an official of the Club.



This photograph shows players loosening up at the beginning of the season. Diligent training is, of course, essential throughout the season if a man is to produce an extra turn of speed when called for and to maintain his effort through a hard game. Training activities are carefully supervised at Lower Mead by a qualified staff.

## The Champions



This photograph was taken after Wealdstone had won their last league match of the 1951-52 season and so brought the Athenian League Championship to Lower Mead for the first time. The group shows (left to right): Seated: P. C. J. White, J. Westrell, G. D. Norman (Captain); D. Wilshire, J. Wall; Standing: F. A. Bennett, R. F. Gadsden, E. T. Ward, H. Wegrzyk, H. Mikrut, T. McGhee, C. A. P. Edmonds.

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## *Monday Night at Eight*

IT is evident from the number and type of questions put to Club officials from time to time that many of our supporters are keenly interested in all aspects of the Club's activities, and as the main purpose in publishing this Handbook is to endeavour to establish more intimate relations between members and supporters on the one hand and officials and players on the other, it is hoped that these notes will make some contribution to that end.

The pavilion at Lower Mead is the scene every Monday night at 8 of the meeting of the full committee. It is at these meetings that the work of running the Club is consolidated. In view of the large amount of work that has to be accomplished, experience has shown it to be practicable for much of the work to be dealt with by sub-committees. The Finance Sub-committee, for example, meets periodically to discuss the business side of the Club's activities and to make its recommendations for presentation to the full committee. While these recommendations are usually adopted, it cannot be too strongly stated that virtually every item of expenditure has to be passed by the main committee before it is undertaken.

Then there is the Ground Sub-committee, which, as its name implies, is responsible to the main committee for the upkeep, including repairs and renovations, of Lower Mead. The Social Club activities are similarly dealt with by a sub-committee, while there is also, of course, the very important work of the Selection Committee, which meets prior to the general assembly, if the full committee meeting may be so called, on Monday evenings. The Selection Committee meets under the chairmanship of Mr. Jack Rogers, the Club's deputy chairman, the other members being Mr. H. A. Luck, secretary of the Club, and the three team secretaries, Mr. F. W. Harbud, Mr. L. McDonald, and Mr. J. H. Pyers. Although these five gentlemen are empowered to select the teams, Mr. H. H. Harrison, chairman of the Club, attends their meetings in an *ex officio* capacity, as also does Mr. George Milton, the trainer-coach.

When the main committee meets, therefore, it deals with the reports and recommendations of the various sub-committees in addition, of course, to deliberating on the many matters arising from correspondence and other items of business. Every member of the general committee has the right to raise any matter which he feels should be discussed by his colleagues. If the busiest time for the Club's officials is during the playing season, the close season also calls for constant attention to Club matters, so that the weekly meetings are continued almost without a break throughout the year.