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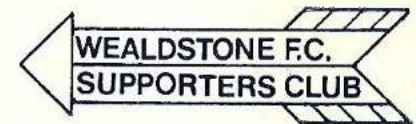
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Southern League

Affiliated to the Middlesex F.A. and London F.A.

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### Team Manager:

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### Honorary Secretary, Lower Mead Social Club:

Mr. J. HOWLAND

90 Locket Road, Wealdstone. Tel.: 01 863 4081.

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## **EDITORIAL**

We have pleasure in presenting, on behalf of the Football Club and Supporters' Club, the 1973-74 Handbook.

As we move into a new season, our third as a professional club, we look forward with confidence and hope that this will be our year for promotion to the Premier League. The major task, and our destiny, will rest in the hands of Sid Prosser and in the feet of the team that Sid has gathered together for this task.

It must be remembered that all the other teams in the Southern League South will have the same object in view. Success will only come through dedication, endeavour and united effort. The training staff, committee and supporters will all have to play their part in what will be a long and hard task.

The Club needs your support very badly at the present time. Please help by supporting one or more of our fund raising schemes.

Our grateful thanks are extended to the advertisers, to all who contributed articles, and the Harrow Observer who kindly supplied the photographs.

May this handbook be of interest to our new found friends in the Southern League, to our many old friends, and to those we meet during the season.

GOOD LUCK, GOOD FOOTBALL.

JIM BRIGDEN, COLIN POPE,  
Editors.



George Duck meets a cross from Eric Burgess and nearly scores with this flying header

## A BOLD BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

by COLIN POPE

(Public Relations Officer)

Elsewhere in this Handbook, I have written about the costs of running a semi-professional football club. I now propose to tell you the plans we have for our future, and to raise the status of Wealdstone FC to unprecedented heights.

First and foremost, of course, is the far-reaching plans for changing the Club into a Limited Company. At the time of writing (mid June) it has not finally been decided whether we shall form a Public Limited Company (for which shareholders can be unlimited) or a Private Limited Company, for which the Law states that there can be only 50 shareholders. Either way will ensure that the Club in future is geared to a professional approach in the modern age when football is also big business. In any event, being a Limited Company gives a club a certain status, and in fact we are one of the very few clubs in any Southern League division not to have taken this step.

It is imperative that our administration is second to none for the very good reason that within the next two or three seasons, big things will happen in football. Negotiations between the Southern League and the Northern Premier League to form a National League are very advanced, and it is known that the Football League is very keen on the idea. Indeed, it could well be that the new League comes into being NEXT season; if not, almost certainly the season after. And when it does, Wealdstone FC have just GOT to be ready for any opportunity which comes its way.

At present it is suggested that the National League is formed by 15 Southern League Premier Division sides, and seven from the Northern Premier. And so our elevation to the Premier Division this season becomes of vital importance. Divisions 1 and 2 would be formed on a regional basis, and entry from the Premier Division of the National League into the Football League would be assured, and the days of the 'old pals' voting act gone for ever. It is difficult to imagine, therefore, more exciting times that lie ahead. Incidentally, should the National League start next season, then there are strong moves to get the winners of Div. 1 South and North included in the 15, which is why winning the championship becomes of paramount importance. And when the time comes for our club to advance up the ladder, then we have got to be sure that we are ready for it at boardroom level.

Turning to the domestic side, but of equal importance, is the magnificent prospect of the development of Lower Mead Stadium. Throughout the close season, meeting after meeting has been held with our Legal Advisers, they in turn meeting the powerful E.M.I. Company, and out of it comes a tremendous plan to enrich Wealdstone FC with wealth not envisaged in our wildest dreams and to turn the Stadium into a thing of pride and joy.

The EMI Group will finance an office complex, with twin-deck car park at the cinema end of the ground, rising to four storeys, and the subsequent rental will make us the envy of many a League club. In fact, one can almost say that money will become no object, and that we shall be able to do anything we wish.



George Duck meets a cross from Eric Burgess and nearly scores with this flying header

Incorporated into the development will be of course new palatial dressing rooms, an administration block, and a new Lower Mead Social Club. And now for the good news. EMI's Architects have already drawn up the plans and by the time this article is being read they might well be in front of the Council for planning approval, and the starting date pencilled in. Completion would take something like 18 months. With off-street car parking at a premium in Harrow, this project has specially been incorporated into the Scheme to facilitate its approval!

We've done nothing at Lower Mead since winning the FA Amateur Cup in 1966, and what we've now done is to take the club by the scruff of the neck, given it a good shake-up, and trimmed it to a lean streamlined outfit ready to grasp the enormously exciting opportunities which lie ahead. As they say, it's all happening here!

## COLIN POPE INTERVIEWS

### SID PROSSER

MANAGER, WEALDSTONE F.C.



When I first took over at Lower Mead Stadium for the start of the 1971/72 season, the nucleus of the first team had already been signed by the outgoing manager. It is always nice if one controls one's own destiny, and so this situation was perhaps not ideal. However, the players retained quickly responded to the change—and I think this is proved by the fact that we started the season just ended in fine style, and as the records show went 12 games without defeat.

No manager could ask for more, and not without reason both I and the Management Committee believed that things were going right for us. However, it was not to be, and within the space of three weeks the team was completely decimated through injury and illness.

First striker Bill Byrne fractured a knee in the FA Cup game at Finchley, and almost immediately club captain and strong defender John Pearce had suffered a leg break in the

next stage of the competition at Hayes.

This double blow was enough to take the heart out of any team, but even more was to follow. Mickey Brown, goal scorer and idol of the crowd, was taken into Hospital overnight with an internal illness and in one fell swoop we had lost three of the most dominant men in the side.

About the same time we were plagued with problems affecting other players. John Furie, up to this time a regular first-teamer, was suddenly switched to night work, making team training impossible.

I had no alternative but to release him from his contract, for I consider it essential that all the first team squad train together.

It was about this time, too, that Dixie Hale, who had been doing magnificently in the back four, became unsettled in his work, and started making preparations for a move to South Wales.

Dixie sportingly made the long journey for matches, but this was obviously not on from a long term point of view, and so he too had to finally be released. Needless to say, morale sagged as did the playing performance because we did not have the depth in our playing staff to carry us through this disastrous period.

Now if this sounds a tale of woe, then of course it is! But rather than a fairy tale, it happens to be events which really did occur and it speaks volumes for everyone that the side responded so well that we finished the season in eighth position in the league—a reasonable enough situation when one considers our misfortunes.

### GOOD SPIRIT

Over the last few months, team spirit has been really good. The new players I brought in responded nobly, and with youngsters of the calibre, for instance, of Chris Kinnear, still only 18 years of age, who filled Dixie Hale's demanding role very well indeed, I am more than heartened that I shall be able to do a good job for Wealdstone.

Last season's troubles, of course, are now so much water under the bridge, and it is to next season that we must now look. One cannot help hoping, though, for a change in our fortunes, for Wealdstone is certainly not the luckiest club I have managed!

Six of last season's professionals have been retained, as you know: Burgess, Presland, Dyson, Alick Brown, Duck and Fairclough, and the squad has already been strengthened by newcomers Mackenzie, Watson and Godfrey.

All three created favourable impressions at the end of the season, and as Watson and Godfrey are youngsters, they have brought the average age of the side down considerably.

A point to be remembered is that before joining Wealdstone my managerial career had been with senior amateur clubs, and coming to a semi-professional outfit meant a whole new way of life for me personally.

### VITAL CONTACTS

The time I have been at Lower Mead has enabled me now to make vital professional contacts, both in the Southern and Football Leagues, and these, of course, are absolutely essential to a manager.

Any article by me would be incomplete without paying tribute to our excellent supporters. Wealdstone must have one of the most loyal followings in the Southern League and for at least one coach-load to have travelled to every single away game is indeed a proud record. As manager, I am only too conscious that we have not always given them what they wanted.

I am frequently goodnaturedly quoted of "playing my cards close to my chest" While not given to making rash promises, I can say that I have every confidence in Wealdstone's future, and the entire playing staff will endeavour to repay our supporters loyalty with what you, and all of us want—a successful season.

## TWO OF A KIND



A few years back our playing surface was second to none. Our lush green turf still admired in December and January when most surfaces were looking a bit bare. Alas, our groundsman left and we were unable to replace him. However, cometh the hour, cometh the man and Dick Kelly, our Stadium Manager rose to the occasion and put in hours of hard work day after day to get, and keep, the pitch in playing order. Without Dick Kelly many games would just not have been played.

While Dick was busy looking after the pitch a newcomer to our ranks John Murray took on the task of looking after the dressing rooms. John, the meticulous type, has now got the dressing rooms up to his high standard and they must now be the tidiest dressing rooms in the Southern League. John has spent many hours painting and repairing and must be congratulated on a fine job.

I do not believe in the old saying about the impossible being done at once and miracles taking a little longer. You cannot do the impossible and who believes in miracles! Nevertheless, with Dick Kelly and John Murray in the side our ground should be greatly improved in the coming season.

NEDGIRB.

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## HOW FAR AWAY IS THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE?

by PHIL SUGDEN

Sports Editor, Harrow Observer

How far away is Wealdstone from the Football League? That probably sounds the silliest question posed for a long time and the answer may appear even more stupid to many. It is, quite simply, perhaps a matter of only five or six years.

Plans are in hand at the moment for the formation of a new top tier league to comprise 25 clubs, 15 from the Southern League and seven from the Northern League commencing in season 1974/75 with an ultimate aim of gaining promotion and relegation to the Football League.

There would, I hear on good authority, then be promotion from the lower divisions of the Southern League to the National League.

Working on this assumption and assuming the team Sid Prosser produces for 1973/74 does its stuff and wins promotion Wealdstone could, conceivably, gain league status within five or six years.

There are, of course, a lot of ifs and buts. First Mr. Prosser has to rebuild the side after what for him must have been a heart-breaking first season at Lower Mead.

I was not alone in believing that promotion was "on" in the early part of last season when the team had a splendid run in league and cup competitions and was playing with superb confidence.

Then came that disastrous black spell when Bill Byrne and John Pearce were tragically seriously injured and Micky Brown was carted off to hospital for an emergency operation.

No side can afford to lose a quarter of its stars and remain the same. Top clubs in the football league, who can afford to buy stars and keep them on the substitutes' bench have proved this is not possible when the crunch comes.

Sides like Wealdstone face an impossible task when adversity strikes in such appalling fashion.

Yet by the end of the season, despite lapses, there were signs that the men Prosser had drafted in, like Doherty, Kinnear, McKenzie and Watson, could help the side to regain its bouyancy.

Allowing for the fact that Mr. Prosser will almost certainly have added a few new men to his squad by the time you read this, I am already confident that next season will be a very good one and I for one, am very much looking forward to writing "Stones promoted" long before the last league match of 1973/74.

There are, of course, other facts attendant upon the subject of promotion. The club is at present in the process of forming a limited company with the idea of raising additional cash and it is no secret that money is much needed at the moment.

No club can operate successfully unless it is strong financially and I am glad to see that Wealdstone are setting about their problems in a highly businesslike manner.

Football being the democratic game it is all of us are allowed to criticise and I must admit it is a matter of considerable regret to me that Wealdstone have decided to disband the reserve side.

Economically it may be a sound move but playing-wise I believe it to be a retrograde move.

If any club's reserve side produces one good player for the first team in a season, it has justified its existence.

Through the Wealdstone reserve ranks have come such players as Paul Doherty, Alick Brown, John Beyer, Roger Livingstone and Chris Kinnear—not a bad haul.

It may well be that Wealdstone will review the situation relating to the reserve side at the end of next season. I hope this happens, or at worst the committee, or directors, as we expect them to then be, will decide to run a youth side to bring along the considerable young talent available in the area.

## SUPPORTERS CLUB PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Many Wealdstone supporters will be delighted that Terry Dyson received the Supporters' Club Player of the Year Trophy. There must be quite a few who are thinking that George Duck with his 43 goals last season must have been very close to Terry's score when the votes were counted. This is indeed true and it must have taken a bit of mind searching on the part of supporters when casting their votes.

Terry's consistent fine play throughout the season well merited the award. His constant probing, carrying and fetching, and the pin point passes that the front runners put to good use, won him the day.

Terry Dyson, who won all there was to win while with Spurs, including the Cup and League Double, is terribly bucked to have been honoured by our supporters with the Jock Law Trophy.

Congratulations Terry, keep up the good work and make the other lads put in a super performance to take the trophy from you in the 1973-74 season.

NEDGIRB.



Terry Dyson receives the Supporters Club Player of the Year Trophy from Mrs. C. Law

## BILL EMERSON HIGHLIGHTS EDGAR FRANCIS

There are many unmistakable figures on the terraces at Lower Mead, but one of the most consistent is that of Edgar Francis. Away from his duties as coach to the reserve squad, he has been able to take stock of the seniors. Somewhat thicker in the girth than in days of yore, with a fair peppering of grey at the temples—his eye remains as hawklike as it was some twenty-five years ago, when he graced the blue and white quartered shirts of the "Stones", and his assessment of both teams is concise and analytical, to the point of terseness.

Born in Merthyr some 57 years ago, Edgar had a glittering playing career. Prominent at schoolboy level, he started his representative life with Merthyr Schoolboys, and subsequent honours make impressive reading. At various times he played for London F.A., Middlesex F.A. (for whom he received no fewer than 14 calls!!), F.A. XI, Spartan League and Athenian League—to name some of them. Serving with the R.A.F. during the war, Edgar also played for the R.A.F. Northern Command XI, and finally the ultimate accolade, when he received national recognition, and became the proud possessor of a full international cap for Wales.

Hounslow, Southall and Hayes all benefitted in turn from Edgar's talents, until he settled at Lower Mead, and the older supporters will remember his consistently high standards as a left half for the "Stones".

His interpretation of the game was as unyielding as the boulders in the hills of his homeland. He viewed his soccer as a man's game—and played it as such. Fierce into the tackle, with a tenacity of purpose, he was a difficult opponent, both in possession, and when challenging. His quick reading of a situation, and swift movement in support, or to challenge were features of his game, but casting the memory back over the years, to the writer, an enduring impression is the satisfaction he took in supreme physical fitness, which enabled him to enter into the physical challenges which he loved. That fitness has stood him in good stead in later life, and he still moves swiftly in training, and kicks a long and true ball.

When his playing days terminated, Edgar retained an interest in the Club, and over the years has given yeoman service as a coach. Sometimes with the first string, at others with the reserves—it has all come alike to this son of the valleys. "It's all football, isn't it?" as he has often said. The Club recognised the value of his service over the years and bestowed upon him Life Membership.

One of the unfortunate aspects of the withdrawal of a reserve team for 1973-74 will be the break in Edgar's team responsibility. We all hope, however, that it will not sever his connection with the Club he has served over the years. So long as football is played at Lower Mead, then there is a place for Edgar Francis.



## WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

In common with every other commodity, football clubs have not escaped the trials and tribulations of rising costs, and running a semi-professional club like Wealdstone is now a very expensive business indeed. The days have long since gone when clubs could exist on the money coming through the turnstiles, which is why more and more League clubs are appointing highly-paid Commercial Managers, whose sole function is to raise sufficient money in an effort to reduce the ever-widening gap between income and expenditure.

I don't suppose many of our Supporters actually realise that to run Wealdstone FC costs something like a staggering £450 per week! It is not exactly giving away secret information to reveal that the gates bring in nothing approaching that figure, and so our very existence depends on a very substantial income from other sources.

Salaries of everybody, no matter what their job, go up appreciably from time to time, and the football player is no exception. And so the days when a club could get a reasonable player for a modest weekly sum have gone, and it follows as a matter of course that the Club with the better financial resources can get the best players. In fact, our manager Mr. Prosser has this last close season been after one or two players who wanted weekly wages of £30, plus the usual bonuses, and this of course is simply out of the question. Now and again, of course, a bargain deal can be done, but generally speaking, they are few and far between.

The upkeep of Lower Mead Stadium runs away with quite a bit of cash, and our electricity bill is quite staggering. And surprisingly, it is NOT the floodlights which account for this, but water heating on match days. You know how expensive your own home immersion heater is, so you can imagine the cost of heating water for 24 players, and three officials! Another hefty item is the rates and like everyone else since revaluation took place earlier this year, ours have gone up too. General administration costs, such as postages and telephones, are other costly items and we are fortunate inasmuch as many of our officials are able to absorb much of these costs out of their own pockets.

Talking about ground upkeep, and one single item will serve as a timely example. Our Dennis motor mower needs a new con. rod and various bits and pieces, and the estimate for it came to an incredible £135! In this respect, the Club is indeed fortunate to have a man like Dick Kelly as Stadium Manager. Dick's ingenuity, and engineering skill (to say nothing of the vast amount of time he puts in here) has saved us a fortune. One shudders to think of the cost involved without Dick.

Programmes is another sad point. Only on very few occasions do we even cover the cost of printing, let alone make a profit. This of course, is a vital service and not to have a decent, printed programme is un-thinkable. However, how nice it would be to even break even on it! On average only one person for every two attending a game buys a programme. If this ratio could be increased, then one headache



Paul Docherty beats the Goalkeeper in this mix-up



Paul Docherty beats the Goalkeeper in this mix-up

would be removed. We are only too aware, of course, that there are daily demands on everyone's pocket money these days, and that football can be expensive to watch. For instance, it will cost you 30 pence to watch us this season—the increase of 10p going entirely to the Government in V.A.T.!

Every manager's dream is to have a big budget for his playing staff, and Mr. Prosser is no exception, except that he would happily settle for another few pounds a week above that which he is allowed now! Right now, though, it is a case of cutting one's cloth, etc. etc. and we all long for the day when he can go after a player without first asking if we can afford him.

COLIN POPE

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## FOLLOWING THE 'STONES'

Have you ever been round a roundabout twice or down a lane barely big enough for a horse drawn cart to overtake a bicycle, if you haven't chances are you've never travelled by coach to watch Wealdstone play away from home. In a nice warm comfortable coach we set out at various times and in all sorts of weather to cheer on the lads who carry the fortunes of Wealdstone in their boots.

Usually we have our regular driver Norman, who not only knows all the best stopping places, where all the grounds are situated, either the quickest or most picturesque route (depending on what time we have) but actually likes taking us and also supports the team. The longest trip we did during the 1972/73 season was to Bideford in North Devon, about 450 miles the round trip. During the years I have been organising these trips the fares have been ridiculously cheap, they will probably have to rise a bit during the 1973/74 season due to V.A.T. but they'll still be cheap in comparison to other forms of transport.

The people who travel to the away games are a grand bunch (bit cheeky sometimes) but ever helpful and willing to put up with whatever the Gods or others throw our way, defeat is taken with a pinch of salt and the saying 'There's always next time'. One exception, the gentleman (he shall remain anonymous) who says 'Never again', funny tho' he is always the first to book for the next trip. We did have a bunch of lads up the back who sang all the usual football songs but they're now growing older and have their own hot rods in which they charge all over the country, still singing and cheering the team on to success. We also like to encourage Dads to bring the youngsters also the wife as well, she'll enjoy the ride.

Why not make an effort this season to travel with us, you'll visit places you've never been before and the countryside we travel through is well worth seeing never mind the time of year or the weather. You'll be made very welcome and meet many new friends. See you around I hope for miles of happy and comfortable travelling.

BARBARA ROBSON.

## LOWER MEAD STADIUM AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

by K. E. WILTSHIRE, Hon. Secretary

At the time of going to press the Officers of the Wealdstone Football Club are negotiating in various schemes in order to make the future secure for the Club. With the reduced gates throughout the football world one must plan to raise funds from other sources. It is with this in mind that plans are now being drawn up to build an office complex with a twin deck Car Park on part of the Clubs property. A partnership is being arranged with E.M.I., the owners of the A.B.C. Cinema, and ourselves, whereby both parties will profit by this venture. This vast plan will mean that the pitch itself will have to be turned at ninety degrees in order to fit in with the planning. A new stand with dressing rooms, administration block and clubrooms, with two bars; dancehall, etc., will be incorporated in the scheme. The main cost will be borne by E.M.I., with us providing the land. The Stadium itself will be compact, and intimate, with a maximum playing surface and high concrete terraces either ends behind the goals.

The scheme when completed will give us a considerable income each year. In order to make the Club even more secure further plans are being drawn up to make the Club a Limited Company, thereby helping us to raise capital for our various needs. Once therefore we have the security behind us we can consolidate and concentrate on building a first class team with our eyes firmly fixed on Football League status. For we firmly believe that there is a place for League Football in the Harrow and Wealdstone area. The Secretary, Chairman and P.R.O. attended the Annual General Meeting of the Southern League and gave it our support in building a National second line League to the Football League. The ultimate aim being to form the second half of the Pyramid for the one big National League that the Football Association are trying to create. Thus the Northern Premier and the Southern League will amalgamate into this National League for season 1974-75. You as the reader will therefore appreciate, I feel sure, that everything possible is being done to keep Wealdstone F.C. in the forefront. You will see that, whilst there are many obstacles to be overcome, the Club will be made secure and its future very bright.

Likewise the Lower Mead Social Club is also going ahead with plans to make its future secure. Incorporated in the new building scheme will be a new Club premises with a large ballroom with a stage that will enable us to put more of our highly successful variety show

productions on. There will be two bars to supply the needs of both the sportsman and the dancer. Its own committee rooms, cloakrooms, etc. There will be another hall that will be so designed as to give access to the public, thereby allowing us to make an income for private lettings, such as weddings, meetings, etc. This unit will have its own kitchen, bar facilities, where the occasional licence can be used, this we feel will be a great help to our Supporters Club. Also incorporated in the plans are two squash courts. Another part of this complex will hold the Patrons Club and bar, together with the offices for administering the Clubs business. At the time of going to press negotiations are going ahead with a well-known brewer for their assistance in this scheme.

Both the Officers of the Football Club and the Committee of the Lower Mead Social Club are therefore finding the officially closed season (as the Football Association call it), a very busy one indeed, but their ultimate aim is to see that the Club will not go under on account of having financial difficulties. This we are determined will never happen at Lower Mead Stadium.

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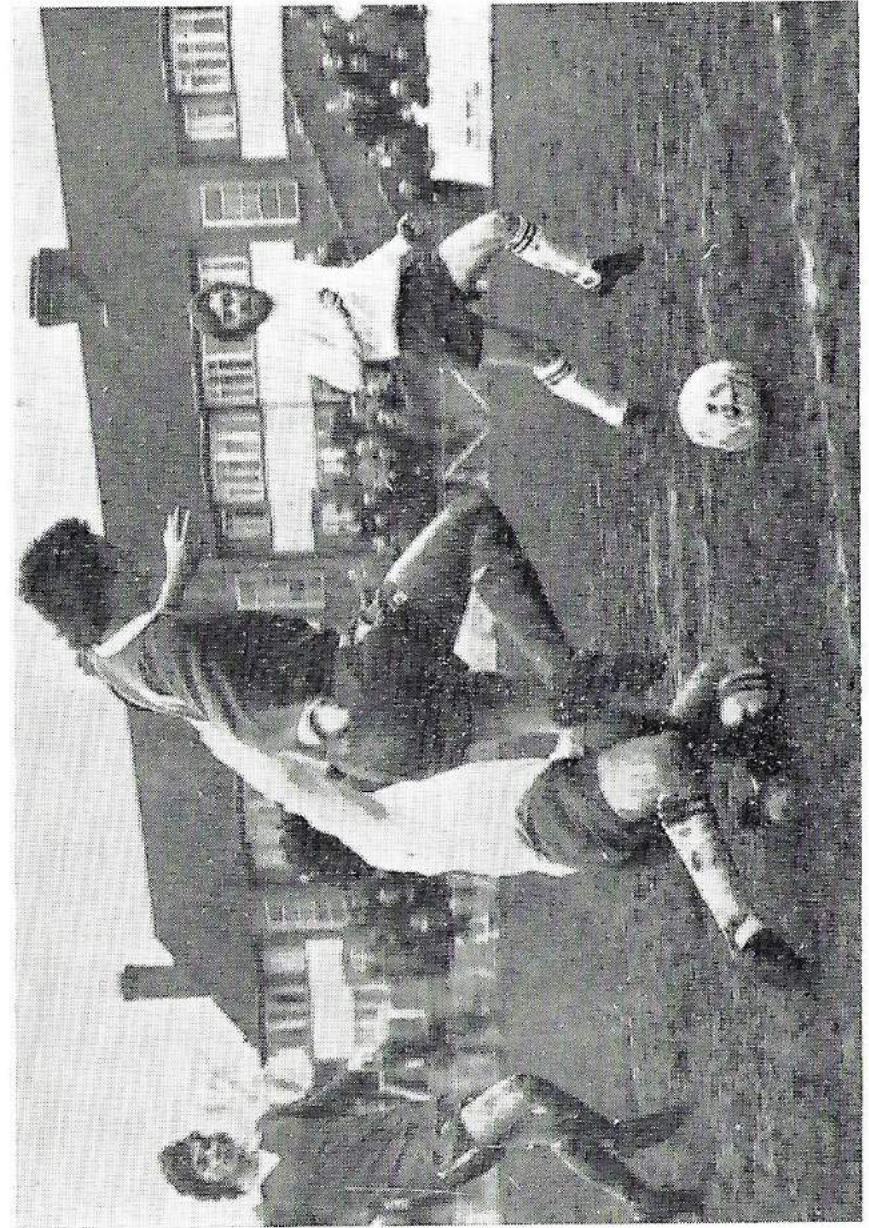
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Bill Byrne slips a Defender and goes on to score

## SO YOU COULD DO BETTER?

by CLIVE WHITE

Despite the fact that his parentage is often disputed and that people claim the referees badge should be "crossed white sticks over sunglasses", the dedicated referee turns up week in week out, whether it is at Wormwood Scrubs, Lower Mead or Highbury. Pats on the back are rare. He regularly has abuse hurled at him (amongst other things) and eventually one must ask the question "why does he do it?".

It can't be for the money. In his early years he is likely to "lose" a quite substantial sum after paying for kit, attendance at meetings, expenses at games, etc. As he rises up the ladder and receives bigger fees he still only "breaks even". The pitfalls are numerous and the honours few. The answer is simply that he loves football.

After attending at a local society (Harrow is the nearest) and receiving instruction on "The Laws of the Game", he is examined by a County F.A. and if he passes is graded as a Class 3 referee. After a period of time, during which he is watched by ex-referees and given marks by the clubs, he may, if good enough, be promoted to Class 2 and later, by the same process, to Class 1 which is the highest classification. All this, of course, takes time and the "wastage" of referees in their first few seasons is very high. During this time he will probably have become involved in the activities of his society, listened to many of the foremost people in football, managers, players, referees and administrators all talking about the game, received further advice on how to improve his game, and "had his back broadened".

He will possibly have become involved with Leagues within the Feeder/Contributory system. Very simply, this means he may be officiating on the Spartan League which "feeds" the best of its referees to, say, the Southern League, which in turn "contributes" its top referees to the Football League. You will now see that by the time a referee appears on the Southern League, let alone the Football League, he will have had many years of experience behind him. He will be an expert on the laws of the game and will have perfected the technique of positioning and "man management".

Obviously he will make mistakes and have bad games, but equally he will also make correct decisions that you will vehemently disagree with simply because of your position in the ground. Please, when next you want to shout at him, remember he has made an honest decision on what he has seen. Give him some encouragement instead because he will be really trying to referee well enough to be considered for the Football League list.

You could, of course, have a go yourself, and if I haven't put you off contact:

GORDON ISAACS, HON. SEC., HARROW REFEREES SOCIETY  
87 CHURCH LANE, N.W.9. TEL. No.: 205 5248.

AND THE BEST OF LUCK!

Editor's Note: Mr. White, a Wealdstone off-licensee, and a Class 1 referee, has just been appointed to the Football League List, and all at Wealdstone congratulates him on his success. He has been a good friend to the Club over the years and always makes himself available when the Club wishes to have a referee's opinion regarding the condition of the pitch on the eve of a match, etc. We wish him a fine career among the 'big boys'.



"You'd better hop it mate, that's my mother!"

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

The poor old referee is always the one who catches it in the neck from clubs, managers, players . . . and fans. But just how knowledgeable ARE the fans?

To test your knowledge on the laws of Soccer, we have compiled a few—just a few—of the tricky questions referees are expected to solve in a split-second during a game.

Here we go then . . . But no cheating . . . !

**No. 1:** Can a player score three consecutive goals without another man touching the ball? And if so, under what circumstances?

**No. 2:** How do you work out goal average?

**No. 3:** A forward shoots for goal and the 'keeper, confident he has the ball covered safely, comes out to gather the ball. Suddenly, a dog runs on the field and impedes the goalie . . . and, as the referee is blowing his whistle, the ball goes into the net. Is it a goal?

**No. 4:** How many occasions are there during the match when a player CANNOT be off-side?

**No. 5:** A high centre comes across goal. The centre-forward is small, but not lacking in ideas. So, as he jumps, he puts his hands on a team-mates shoulders and thereby outleaps the opposing centre-half to nod the ball in the net. The centre-forward had not fouled an opponent, and an opponent was within three yards. Should the referee allow the goal?

**No. 6:** A forward hammers the ball goalwards. But the goalkeeper leaps up and, as everyone anticipates a goal, pulls down the bar . . . leaving the ball to zoom overhead and into the crowd. What's the referee's verdict?

**No. 7:** How many articles does a referee take on to the field with him?

**No. 8:** Plenty of times the fans, incited by what they think is an unfair decision, urge the referee to "get a pair of specs!" The question is . . . even if the referee were prepared to do just that before his next match, COULD HE WEAR THEM?

**No. 9:** The goalkeeper takes a goal-kick—and the ball, blown by a sudden gust of wind, curls back past him into the net. Is it a goal?



Terry Dyson blasts one past the Goalkeeper after a pass by Johnny Haynes



Terry Dyson blasts one past the Goalkeeper after a pass by Johnny Haynes



## WHAT DO YOU KNOW?—ANSWERS

1. The three-goal trick. A centre-forward put through his own goal while helping out his own defence; from the resultant kick-off he boots the ball into his opponents' penalty area, races after the ball—and, before anyone else can play the ball, is brought down . . . scoring No. 2 from the penalty spot. Then, before his opponents can kick-off, it's half-time. Immediately the second-half begins, he kicks off and scores goal No. 3 in the way he scored the second! Improbable?—Yes. Impossible? . . . No.

2. Goal average: Divide the "goals against" into the "goals for".

3. The dog and the goalie: The dog must be ruled as interfering with play—so it's no goal. The decision is a "drop ball" at the spot where the ball was when the whistle blew.

4. There are seven occasions on which a player cannot be off-side. First, when he is in his own half; second, if—when the ball is last played—there are two opponents nearer to their own goal line than he is; third when the ball was last touched, or was played by, an opponent; fourth, when he receives the ball direct from a goal kick; fifth, at a corner kick; sixth, at a throw in; seventh, at a drop ball.

5. The centre-forward who jumped and used his team-mate as a "ladder". The goal should be disallowed, and the offender could be cautioned for ungentlemanly conduct, with play being restarted with an indirect free-kick.

6. When the goalie pulled the bar down . . . The referee must be the sole judge of whether or not the ball would have gone into the net, had the bar not been pulled down. If it would, it's a goal; if not, it's an indirect free-kick from the spot where the infringement took place—that is, right on the goal-line.

7. A referee takes on the field a notebook, pencil, coin for the toss, a whistle, two watches (one a stop-watch), and—the ball.

8. In junior football, a referee may be allowed to wear spectacles but no referee handling a Football League game is allowed to wear them.

9. If the ball had gone outside the penalty area before the wind blew it back, the decision is a corner—for a goal cannot be scored direct from a goal-kick. If the ball had not left the penalty area, the goal kick would have to be re-taken.

## CATERING FOR THE SPECTATORS AT A FOOTBALL MATCH

In February 1958 when the Supporters' Club was just beginning to get into serious action, it was apparent that the one small tea hut on the Wealdstone football ground was not sufficient to satisfy the wants of the crowds that continuously flocked to the ground on match days. Many of you older supporters will, no doubt, remember this little hut that was tucked away in the space that is now occupied by the turnstiles, and you will also remember the torrential rainstorm that occurred during a cup-tie with Hayes when the game was finally abandoned ten minutes from the end with Wealdstone losing 4-1. In consideration of any Hayes supporters who may read this article, I will not give the result of the replay. It was also on this day that the ladies working in the tea hut, had to be carried out because of the flooded area.

Anyway the Supporters' Club committee decided that with the permission of the parent club they would build some brick tea huts around the ground to cater for the needs of the spectators. At the same time a ladies committee was formed to organise the catering, and this committee consisted of Mrs. Verrall, Mrs. Raven and Mrs. Mylchreest and these ladies were assisted by various helpers. Since that time some of these people have passed away and others have moved away, but there is one remaining member of the original committee, Mrs. Julia Verrall, who is still carrying on. When the Football Club created a Catering Section she was appointed manageress in charge of ground catering, and apart from looking after spectators, the job also requires that the players from both sides, and the playing officials all get liquid refreshment before, during and after the match. On match days valuable assistance is given by Mrs. Law, Mrs. Smith and on many occasions by Mrs. Brigden, but unfortunately sufficient helpers are not available to maintain full service all the time, and sometimes it is not possible to open all of the huts. But in spite of this, it is noticeable that none of these ladies pack up until everybody who wants refreshments has been served. Another point that is not generally known is that this service is entirely voluntary, and nobody receives any payment, not even expenses incurred in getting to the ground.

Now let me acquaint you with a few facts about the work involved in catering for the football spectator. Before the first customer is served, it is necessary for the milk, rolls and sandwich fillings to be ordered and then everything has to be prepared ready for the

## MID-SURREY PROFESSIONAL FLOODLIGHT LEAGUE

Home		Away
3-2	Basingstoke Town	0-1
1-0	Crawley Town	5-4
1-4	Guildford City	2-3
0-0	Hillingdon Borough	0-0
3-0	Metropolitan Police	0-2
1-2	Wimbledon	0-1

## FINAL LEAGUE TABLE 1972/73

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Wimbledon .....	12	7	2	3	30	17	16
Guildford City .....	12	6	4	2	28	19	16
Basingstoke Town .....	12	6	2	4	23	25	14
Metropolitan Police .....	12	6	1	5	26	25	13
Hillingdon Borough .....	12	4	4	4	13	17	12
Wealdstone .....	12	4	2	6	15	18	10
Crawley Town .....	12	1	1	10	14	27	3

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## SOUTHERN LEAGUE CUP

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1-1	Stevenage Athletic	0-3

## F.A. CUP

Home		Away
0-0	Windsor & Eton 1st Qual. Rd.	
	Windsor & Eton Replay	3-0
	Finchley 2nd Qual. Rd.	2-0
	Hayes 3rd Qual. Rd.	1-3

## F.A. CHALLENGE TROPHY

Home		Away
1-0	Waterlooville Prem. Rd.	
	Andover 1st Qual. Rd.	4-2
	Winchester City 2nd Qual. Rd.	2-0
	Banbury Utd. 3rd Qual. Rd.	1-3

## LONDON CHALLENGE CUP

Home		Away
	Kingstonian 1st Round	3-0
	Millwall 2nd Round	2-2
3-1	Millwall Replay	
2-3	Enfield 3rd Round	

## GOAL SCORERS

G. Duck, 43 — M. Brown, 16 — W. Byrne, 12 — E. Presland, 8 —  
A. Brown, E. Burgess, J. Connell, T. Dyson, R. Hale, 5 — P. Fair-  
clough, 4 — D. Cockell, C. Kinnear, J. Smith, 2 — P. Docherty,  
N. Franklin, D. Gozney, R. Whitaker, 1. — Total: 118.

## VIVIAN EVANS WIZARD OF THE WING



Vivian Evans was born in Cardiff in 1933. It wasn't long before the Evans family left their native Wales and came to live in Kingsbury. Viv played for Kingsbury Town for a short while and joined Wealdstone in September 1954.

A natural left winger Viv can and has played in almost every position including goal, while at Wealdstone. Never afraid to have a shot at goal he has scored many goals with his lethal left foot and, despite his five feet nothing it was often Vivs head that would rise above the defence to nod the ball home. Not every shot of his went in the net. Before the Stand was put up in front of the Dominion Cinema rumour has it that a glazier stood by every Saturday when Viv was playing to replace the window that got broken from one of his blockbusters.

The writer's early recollections of Viv are of a little fellow nipping down the wing, pausing to make the final cross, then missing the ball completely. I may have been heard to say that, like the centre-forward at that time—Townsend was his name—this littleun on the wing was not going to set Lower Mead alight. I can only say that I was a better judge of flowers than footballers in those days.

Let the record book speak for Viv Evans. It was on September the 8th 1954 that Viv scored his first goal for Wealdstone playing against Harrow Town. That was the first of 18 goals in the 1954-55 season. It was one more to make 19 in 1955-56; 16 goals in 1956-57 and 21 goals between the sticks in 1957-58. 1958-59 and 59-60 both produced 14 goals and the 1960-61 season the total was 17. It was during the 1961-62 season that the Dominion Cinema sacked the glazier. Viv put no less than 43 goals past the goalie which surely must be a record from the wing. This was his best season by far. What class of opposition did Vivian face during that season? Well for a start the merchants with the backache included Goymer Barnet; Shearer Hendon; Dawson Enfield; Wiltshire Maidstone to name a few. Also hitting the headlines: Sleep, Howard, Pat Terry, Larry Topp, Quail, Agar and Hyde. No sluggards these. Playing alongside him were: Mat Farrell, Charlie Sells, Johnny Moran, Peter Parfitt, Ron King and the great Charlie Townsend. Happy days!

Twenty-eight was all that Viv could manage for the 1962-63 season and down to 20 in 1963-64. The 1964-65 season provided an anti-climax with only four goals. It was then that Vivian decided to leave Wealdstone for a couple of seasons.

Vivians many admirers will be surprised to know that the genial diminutive Viv was sent off the field during an Athenian League match against Redhill at Lower Mead. Viv clashed with Morris the Redhill

right half and it was a very dejected Viv who left the field that day. Perhaps the incident that remains in ones memory of that afternoon is of a certain halfback, known more for his cricket than football, almost sending poor Morris over the rails with a vigorous shoulder charge. Wealdstone asked for a personal hearing and the special commission found in Viv's favour. Incidentally Viv scored in that game. His shot knocked the goalie over and Viv scored from the rebound!

Picking up the record book once again we not only find that Viv was a consistent scorer but also made regular appearances. From 1954 to 1964 he made 398 appearances out of a possible 431 and scored 210 goals. Some littleun!

Viv has been playing for the reserves of recent years passing on his experience and knowledge to the youngsters. A Fitter by trade, he is a family man and can be seen on a Saturday night tripping the light fantastic in the Lower Mead Club Hall. Vivian has served Wealdstone well and earned himself a niche in our Hall of Fame.

JIM BRIGDEN.

NOTE: I am grateful to Ron Moore, a stalwart Wealdstone supporter, who supplied the statistical data for the Viv Evans story.

## A. TROLLEY

HAIR STYLIST FOR GENTLEMEN

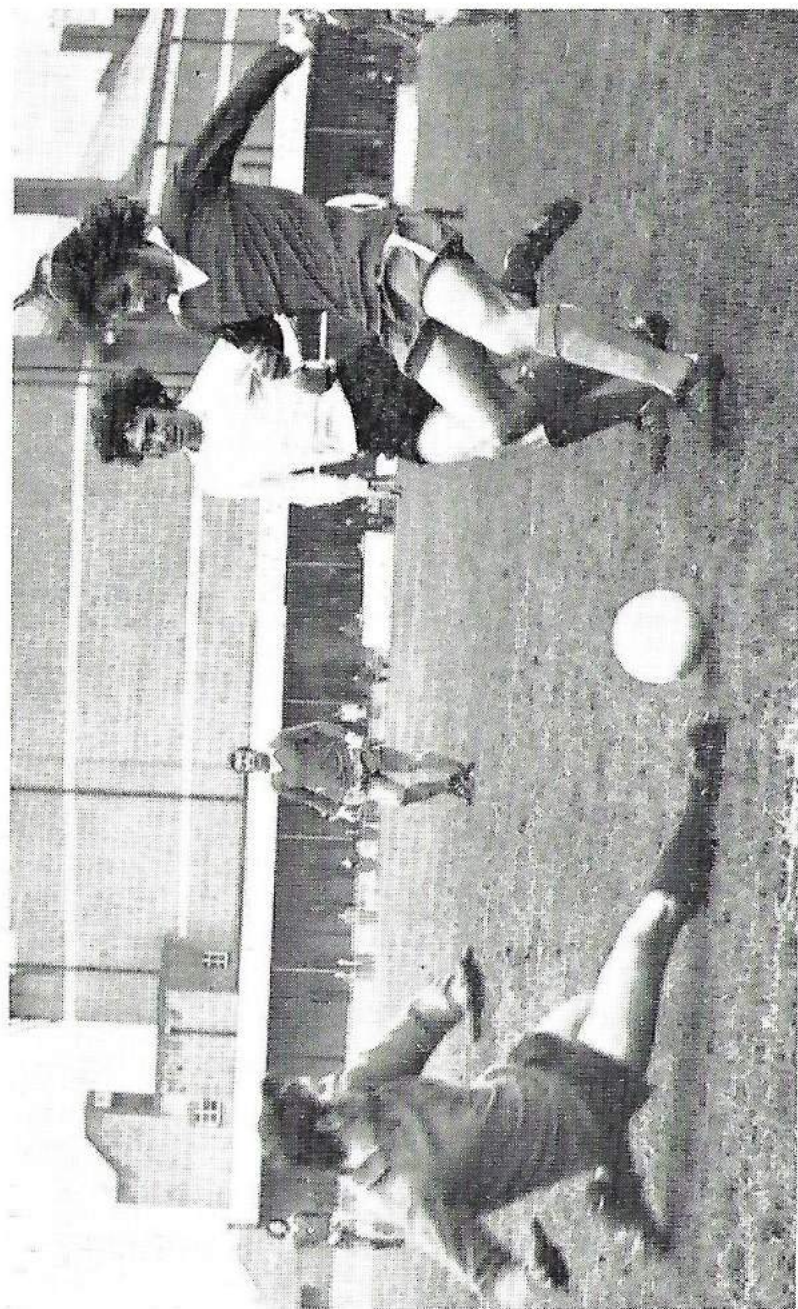
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George Duck gets the Goalkeeper going the wrong way, Johnny Haynes looks on

## 20 QUESTIONS

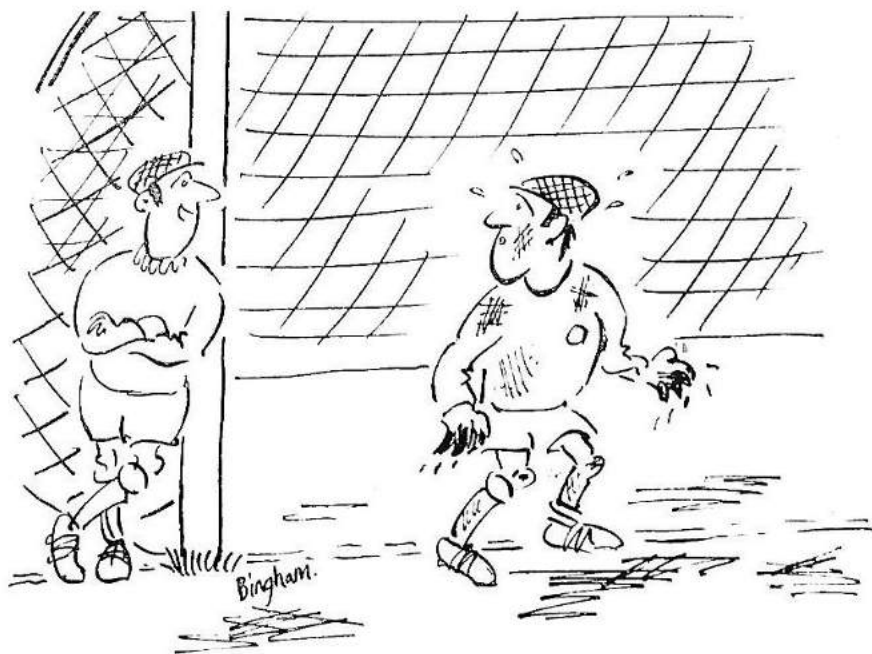
1. When was the Southern League formed?
2. In what year were referees and linesmen first used?
3. When were goal-nets invented?
4. When were they first used?
5. Has the F.A. Cup and promotion double been achieved?
6. Who are the oldest Association Football Club?
7. Who scored 7 goals from the wing?
8. Who did he play for and in what year was this achieved?
9. Who scored 10 goals on his League debut?
10. Who are the oldest Football League Club?
11. Billy Wright won 105 caps for England. How many times was he captain? 25, 50, 85, 100.
12. Who was the last player to score a hat-trick in the F.A. Cup Final?
13. How many goals did England score against Australia in 1951? 5, 17, 10, 3, 0.
14. When was the referee's whistle first used?
15. When was the first floodlight match?
16. Who was it against and in what competition?
17. Who introduced the penalty kick and in what year?
18. Who has appeared in nine Cup Finals and won them all?
19. When was the offside law changed to its present state?
20. When was numbering of players made compulsory?

## 20 ANSWERS

(1) In 1894; (2) They replaced umpires and referees in 1891; (3) In 1890; (4) 1891 in the North v. South match; (5) Yes. By West Bromwich Albion in 1931; (6) Sheffield F.C. (Formed in 1855); (7) N. Coleman (League record for wing); (8) Stoke City in 1957; (9) J. Payne (for Luton Town); (10) Notts County (Formed in 1862); (11) 85; (12) S. Mortensen (for Blackpool); (13) 17 (17-0 in Sidney); (14) 1878; (15) 1955; (16) Kidderminster v. Brierley Hill. F.A. Cup Replay; (17) The Irish F.A. 1891-92; (18) Tottenham Hotspur; (19) 1925-26; (20) 1939-40.



George Duck gets the Goalkeeper going the wrong way, Johnny Haynes looks on



"Pretty quiet at my end!"

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## LADIES FOOTBALL

by HARRY BENJAMIN

Many people in this country reading this handbook will be amazed at the growth of competitive ladies soccer both here and abroad. The last couple of years has seen what originally started as a giggle, into real competitive leagues and cups, with a governing body called the Women's Football Association, with rules and regulations the same as the mens Football Association, and in fact the W.F.A. work in liaison with the mens F.A.

Throughout the country there are 23 Leagues consisting of 286 clubs, and new clubs are applying for entry into leagues regularly.

These girls play their matches every Sunday and the majority train twice a week, some under the jurisdiction of qualified coaches, the others in makeshift halls, parks, and even houses.

I myself have seen my own team Q.P.R. in training on Wormwood Scrubs, and believe me their manager, Mr. Ramayon certainly puts the girls through their paces for 2½ hours, their training consists of P.T. exercises, tactical talks, 5-a-side games, full scale practice games, and as an example, if one of the girls isn't very good at heading the ball, then she is singled out, and for about an hour she has crosses coming over from either wing, with the girl having to try and head them into the net, and until the manager is reasonably satisfied that her headwork is improving, she will continue with the heading practice, every training session.

The W.F.A. rules are very rigid and must be strictly adhered to, and teams are not allowed to play any other team that is not registered with the W.F.A. If they do, then the club is fined and suspended. This rule is even more important concerning overseas teams, and if the W.F.A. find out that one of the teams who belong to the W.F.A. have played overseas teams without permission then they are brought over the coals.

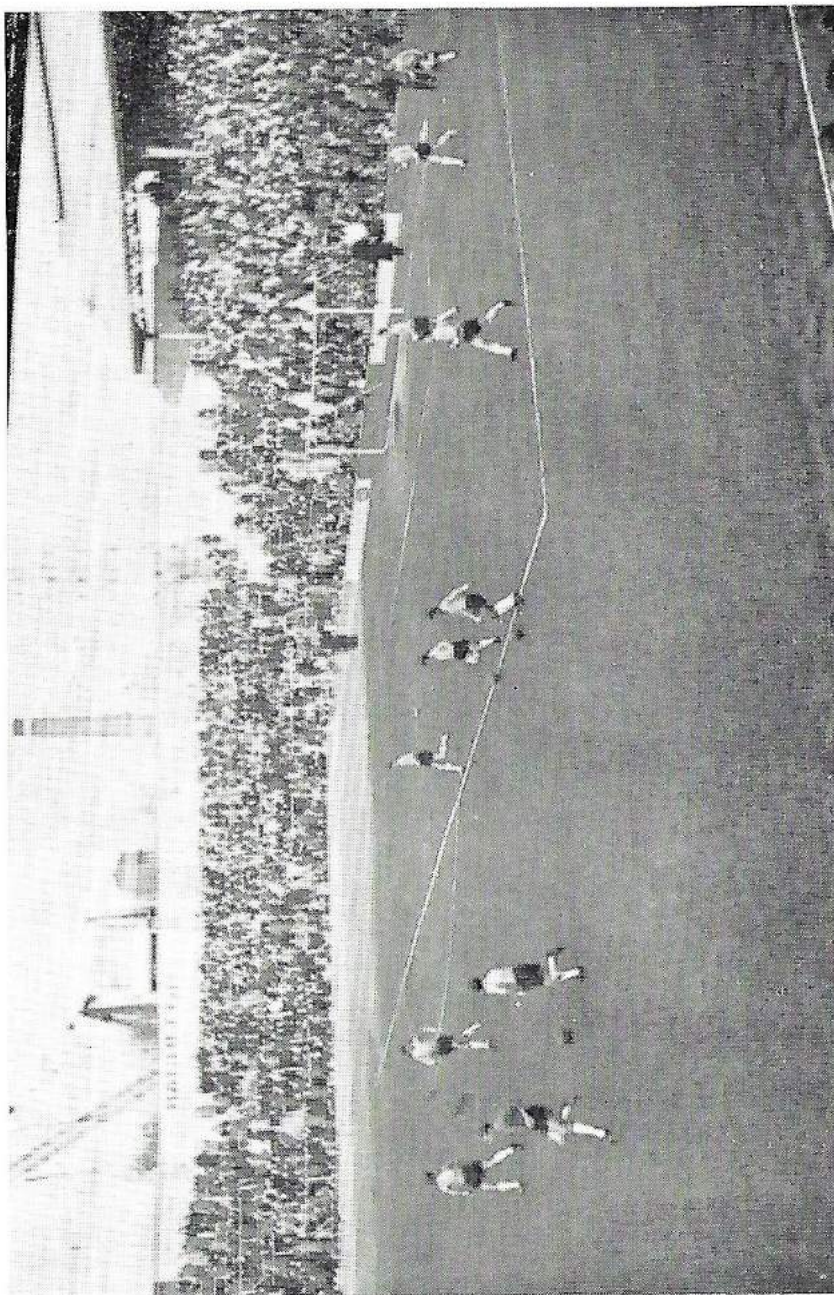
Fines and suspensions are also brought on clubs who are guilty of poaching players away from other clubs during the playing season, and like our men's amateur clubs, each player is allowed two clubs only, during the course of a season.

The girls in every team pay a weekly subscription, usually 25p for working girls, and 15p for girls still at school or college to their clubs to help for payment towards kit, pitches, referee's fees, etc., and also pay a further sum if they have to travel long distances by coach to their matches.

There is usually a tea buffet laid on at the end of every game, this being provided by the mums and dads or the committees, and all in all a pleasant but keen atmosphere exists between the clubs during the course of a league season.

Overseas tours are quite regular, and this I can safely say is coming quite popular, in fact I had the pleasure in my capacity of a sports tour operator, of sending teams to Bangkok, Singapore and even Indonesia, and it was a credit to the girls, to see them saving the fare money each week to go on these tours.

I personally think that women's football here in England has come to stay, in fact it will continue to grow and if during the course of next season, we at Wealdstone should stage a ladies match, then please come along to watch. I am sure you will go away after seeing football played at its very best.



That was the Competition Photograph

## THAT WAS THE COMPETITION —THAT WAS

On page 40 you will find a photograph taken as the Wealdstone team run on to the field for the start of the first round of the F.A. Cup. Now it was our intention to have a competition with a holiday for two in Majorca. Unfortunately we were advised just before going to press that this competition would contravene the law and so very reluctantly we have had to drop the idea. However, we have decided that you would like to have a go for the fun of it and we invite you to write in and tell us: the date, the ground, the Wealdstone team and the number of supporters you think were taken on the Supporters Club coaches that day.

Now we cannot give you any material prize but what we will do is to invite the winner(s) to be our guest at one of our home matches where we will introduce you to the team manager and to the players.

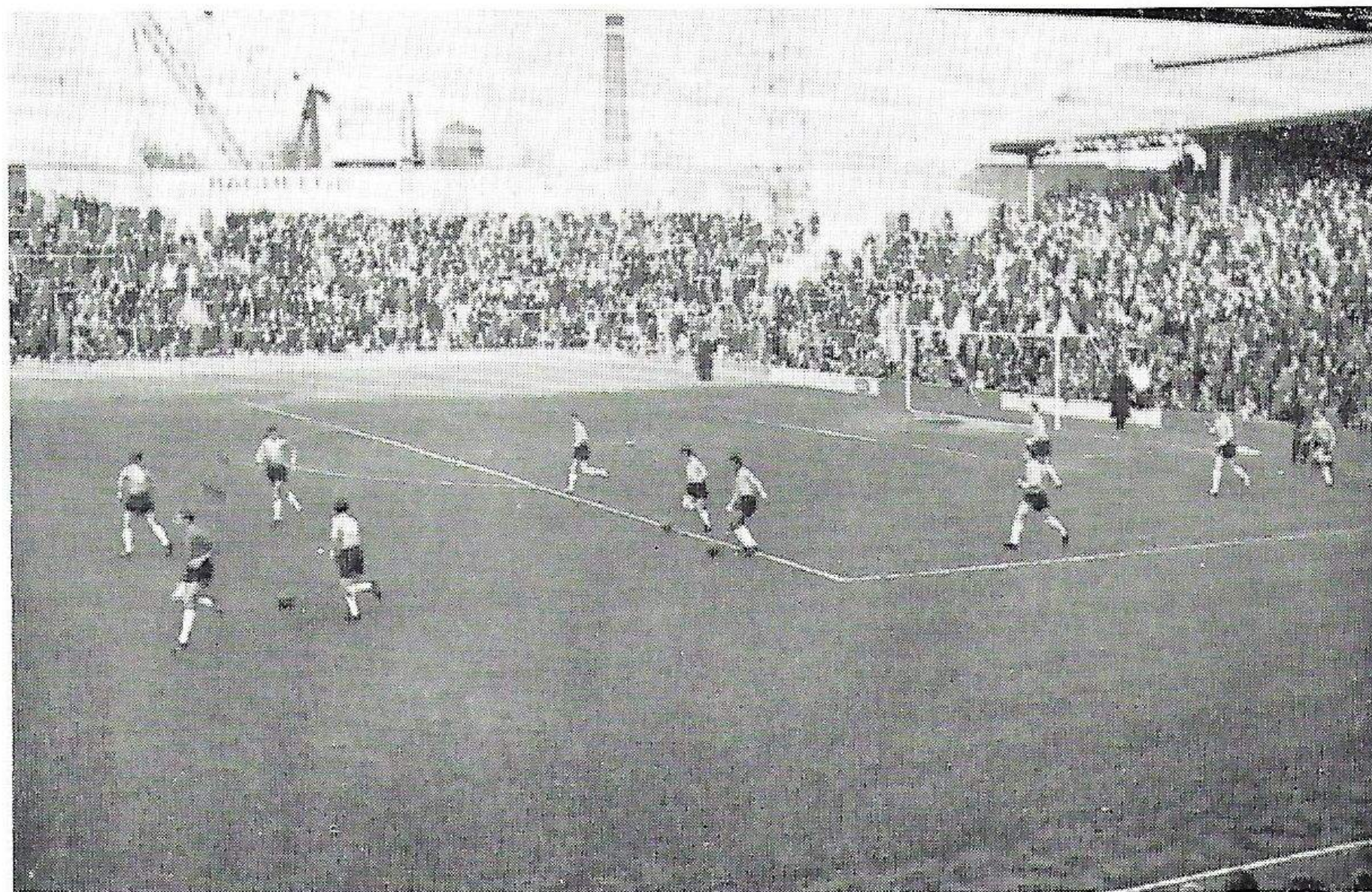
Send your entries to:- Jim Brigden, Wealdstone F.C., Lower Mead, Harrow. Names of the winner(s) will be published in the Wealdstone programme in December.

## HARRY BOY BLOWS THE GAFF

Now why did they have to scrub this competition. Aint it flipping well orlight? Done me out of me trip to Megorka they ave. I mean to say any fool could do it and I had all the answers didn't I. Had it all set up to take this bird wiv me as well. Don't think I don't know all the answers mate. I twigged it didn't I when they let out it was at the Den. Lions I thought, so where did they play, simple it must have been Longleate. The date? Easy mate, the 31st September, can't fool Harry you know.

The team: Tom in goal, Dick and Harry, Smith C, Smith D and Smithy; Black, White, Minstels, Brown and Hovis. Now for the catch in it. How many supporters? well they were short of coaches at the time and all the coach—Vin Burgess—could carry was me. Dead easy went it.

Now try my competition on page 99 or page 66 if your an Aussie. Look carefully see if you can see A. the ball; B the goalie or C the photograph. All I can see right now is two geezers wiv white coats. Ah well, ta ta, look after this guide dog for me—it's the Refs!



That was the Competition Photograph





Bill Byrne scores despite being harassed  
by the Defence

## HOLIDAY FROM A HANDBOOK

A couple of days after I got back from my holiday in the Arabian Gulf I agreed to meet Colin Pope at his place to discuss the 1973-74 Handbook. I settled myself in one of Colin's spacious armchairs, helped myself to the sherry, and spread out the details of the handbook that we had to go over.

By the way before we start how did your holiday in Qatar go? I had been in the house a good five minutes and I was beginning to think that Colin would never ask me. Marvellous says I, couldn't have been better. A very good flight both ways by VC 10 stopping at Beriut on the way out and getting back in just under seven hours direct from Doha.

When you consider that Doha was only a fishing village some fifteen year back they have made tremendous strides in a short while. They have the longest runway in the world (their words, not mine) dual carriage ways in and out of Doha, and also have grass in between the carriageways. Remarkable when you think that the temperature while I was there in April was around 100 Fahrenheit in the shade. This meant that the grass not only on the roads but in their palace gardens had to be watered every day.

It takes about five minutes in the car (air conditioned) to get out of town and into the desert. Camels abound, we saw 85 in one trip of 50 miles to a place called Umm Bab where the oil wells are. The flames from the gas being burnt off can be seen for miles at night. The trip to Umm Bab was fun. The last ten miles is like a switchback and you get shaken out of your seat despite your seatbelt.

The coastal waters are shallow and crystal clear. Ideal for snorkel work. I was amused by the way that everyone sat in the sea with the water up to their armpits chatting away. With the temperature over 100 in the shade this was obviously the sensible thing to do.

No cinemas in Qatar, no pubs—you need a liquor licence to drink at home—and just a couple of hotels. How did we amuse ourselves? Very good question Colin. The U.K. people entertained one another to dinner and to parties in the evening. Forty or more gathering together with someone from the Embassy and business associates usually, well into the early hours. The food was very good, mostly English. The only thing that seemed to be missing was milk. This apparently is unobtainable for obvious reasons.

Friday in Saudi Arabia is their Sunday. We had the unique experience over the Easter of having Good Friday on a Sunday! The local market is called the Souk and this I found no different from other markets the world over. The fish market I found particularly clean and the variety and size of the fish amazed me. One of my souvenirs from the trip was a Saw-fish Snout about four feet long, with sixty teeth.

The Arab people that I met were extremely nice and so polite. Very smart in their white headdress and their long white Kaftans or dish-dash as my grandson called them. Their wives, and they can have four, are never seen. They keep their womenfolk well in the background. Saudi Arabian women still wear black from head to foot and the face completely covered by an enlarged version of a carnival mask.

One of the sights that shook me, they stood out after seeing the Sheik's palaces and other grand buildings, were the shanty towns around Doha. They are made of paper, cardboard, sticks, tins and what have you and here the Coolies who work on the roads live. Most are illegal immigrants and are obviously tolerated while so much building and construction work is going on.

There is a football stadium at Doha. It is about the size of Wealdstone's Lower Mead and I was just too late to see the Brazilian side Santos, complete with Pele, play the local side. The only other football pitches were cleared sites of desert ground where the locals played in the late afternoon. Although the teams playing at the Doha Stadium play in normal football gear the local dress was long flowing Kaftans and some of them played in their bare feet!

I am glad you have got around to football Jim, mused Colin. As it is now almost eleven o'clock, I think we had better call it a day. I hope we get time for another meeting or there won't be any handbook for 1973-74.

JIM BRIGDEN.

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