

TODAY'S SQUADS

WEALDSTONE
ROYAL BLUE/WHITE/WHITE



ROCHDALE
YELLOW/YELLOW/YELLOW

- Archie MATTHEWS 1
- Jack COOK 2
- Anthony GEORGIU 3
- Deon WOODMAN 4
- Alex DYER 5
- Mason BARRETT 6
- Enzio BOLDEWIJN 7
- Craig EASTMOND 8
- Sean ADARKWA 9
- Max KRETZSCHMAR 10
- Todd MILLER 11
- Jacob ADAMS 13
- Micah OBIERO 14
- Elliot SIMMONS 15
- Dom HUTCHINSON 17
- Christian SCOTT 18
- Adrian MARIAPPA © 19
- Sam ASHFORD 20
- Kallum CESAY 21
- Alex REID 22
- Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23
- Henry SANDAT 24
- Jack WELLS-MORRISON 25
- Elliot THORPE 26
- Declan PHILLIPS 28
- Callum McFARLANE 29
- Sam HOWES 31
- Brandon MASON 32

- 1 Luke McNICHOLAS
- 2 Kyron GORDON
- 3 Finlay ARMSTRONG
- 4 Ryan EAST
- 5 Aaron HENRY
- 6 Ethan EBANKS-LANDELL
- 7 Tarryn ALLARAKHIA
- 8 Harvey GILMOUR
- 9 Kairo MITCHELL
- 10 Devante RODNEY
- 11 Ody ALFA
- 12 Bradley KELLY
- 14 Tobi ADEBAYO-ROWLING
- 15 Leon AYINDE
- 16 Kyle FERGUSON
- 17 Courtney SENIOR
- 18 Aidan BARLOW
- 19 Jake BURGER
- 20 Dan SASSI
- 21 Connor McBRIDE
- 26 Liam HOGAN
- 30 Jili BUYABU
- 31 David ROBSON
- 32 Isaac BURGESS
- 33 Sam BECKWITH
- 40 Ian Henderson

Officials Referee: Stephen Parkinson Assistants: James Hurst and Steven Plane
Fourth Official: Damith Bandara Observer: Stephen Rubery Coach: William Jordan

TODAY'S RESULT: WEALDSTONE **ROCHDALE**

NEXT AT THE VALE v TAMWORTH **TUESDAY NOV 26, KICK-OFF 7.45PM**
v WYCOMBE WANDERERS, FA CUP SECOND ROUND: SAT NOV 30, 11.30AM

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Lapping up the praise! Goal hero Alex Reid and human dynamo Kallum Cesay are jubilant as Stones win 1-0 at Grimsby
PICTURE: SEAN TROUP

Vanarama National League, Saturday
November 16, 2024, 3pm

v Rochdale



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ROCHDALE AFC - SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER



Good Afternoon and welcome to Grosvenor Vale, for our National League fixture against Rochdale

It's fair to say that our fortunes have changed since my last set of notes for the Braintree programme and we are beginning to claw our way back up the league table.

League wins aside, the obvious talking point around the club for the last few weeks has been our fantastic FA Cup 1st round victory away at Grimsby a few weeks ago. Just as the euphoria of a long awaited win in the Worlds greatest cup competition was beginning to wear off, we of course had the nervous wait for the 2nd round draw and our next opponent.

You will all know by now that we were drawn at home to the club that at the time of writing is the highest placed team left in the competition, our near neighbours and old league opponents Wycombe Wanderers.

A tough ask and the feeling that this was as good a draw as we could have hoped for was justified when less than 48hrs later it was announced that we had been chosen for live broadcast on National TV!

The eyes of the football world will fall upon

Written in Stone

BY MARK HYDE

Wealdstone FC and Grosvenor Vale at a rather unusual time of 11.30am on Saturday the 30th November on ITV, but I know you will all want to be part of this historic occasion and for those who have fallen down the cracks between club media outputs, Tickets are now on General sale and selling very fast so please don't delay if you are planning to join us as we are expecting a sell out and our largest crowd of the modern era.

Rewinding slightly and back to the euphoric moment of the final whistle at Blundell Park, one of our supporters left behind a ruck sack. If this was you or you know who it belongs to, please track down Peter Worby who transported it safely back from Cleethorpes for you.

Enjoy today's game and stock up on club colours from the Official club shop and WFCSC Megastore ready for your TV appearance. **Mark**

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1981 / 1982 Southern League Southern Division
1981 / 1982 Southern League Championship
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2013 / 2014 Isthmian League Premier Division
2019 / 2020 National League South

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LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

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1964 / 1965 Senior Cup
1967 / 1968 Senior Cup
1984 / 1985 Senior Cup
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2010 / 2011 Charity Cup

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GROUND REGULATIONS

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

- 1) The club reserves the right to eject from the ground any person who is considered to have committed any of the following acts:
 - Entering the ground through any means other than through the turnstiles or entrances
 - Entering the field of play before, during or after a game without prior authorisation
 - Being drunk, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs • Using violence of any nature
 - Carrying items which may be considered a danger to others, including cans, bottles, or glasses containing alcoholic beverages
 - Throwing any article onto the field of play • Climbing floodlight pylons, fences, stands or any structure or building
 - Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others • Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulls stand
- 2) No spectator ball games.
- 3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.
- 4) Vehicles parked on the Grosvenor Vale site are at the owners' risk.
- 5) Wealdstone Football Club supports the FA's campaign on pyrotechnics (e.g. flares and smoke bombs). Any misuse of such items in and around the Ground will result in those responsible being asked to leave the ground and, in line with football authority guidance, may result in a report to the Police, potential prosecution and a ban from the Club of up to three years.
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LEST WE FORGET

To the memory of those representatives of Wealdstone Football Club who lost their lives in two World Wars



1914 - 1918

PERCY ANDREWS

DoB 28.04.1889 in Hendon, Middlesex. Mechanic 1st Class. S/No 225242 Royal Naval Air Service
Died 04/05/1918 aged 29 in Calais, France.

CHARLES JOHN FRANCIS BELCHAMBERS

DoB 16.09.1882 in Hendon, Middlesex. Private, S/No 207213 Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, 2nd Battalion. Died of his wounds 11/10/1917 aged 35 received at the Battle of Poelcapelle

CHARLES HENRY BIRD

DoB 18.05.1893, Harrow Middlesex. Private S/No 703 18th Battalion, Royal Australian Infantry.
Killed in Action on 31/08/1918 aged 25 in Péronne, during the assault on Mont St Quentin

HENRY (HARRY) JAMES BOWELL

DoB -.04.1878. Born in Acton, Middlesex Lance Sergeant S/No 3/10684, 7th Northants Regiment.
Died of his wounds aged 38 27/09/1915 in the Battle of Loos.

RUSSELL WILLIAM BRADBERRY

DoB -.10.1884. Lance Bombardier S/No 70878, Royal Garrison Artillery 301st Siege Battalion.
Died of Fever aged 33 in Rouen 03/12/1917.

WILLIAM HENRY COZENS

DoB -.09.1877 in Fulham, London. Private S/No G/19948 9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.
Killed in Action on 21/03/1918 aged 41 in the Battle of St Quentin at Shepherd's Copse

FREDERICK FARMBOROUGH

DoB c1881 Private S/No TF/265283, 1/9th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.
Died 12/10/1916 aged 35 though his death was not confirmed until August 1918.

GEORGE RICHARD (DICKY) GOODEGE

DoB -.1888, Private S/No TF/1651 Middlesex Regiment 9th Battalion, later attached to the 2nd Norfolk Regiment. Killed in Action aged 27 near Baghdad on 22/11/1915.

WALTER LANGTON HOWMAN

DoB -.04.1885 Private, S/No PS/2879 though deaf, recruited in the 24th then 16th Middlesex (Public Schools) Regiment. Killed in Action 19/08/1916 aged 31 in the region of High Wood on the Somme.

FRANK TINGEY MARTIN

DoB --.12.1888 in Hendon. Corporal S/No B/2070 Enlisted in 7th Rifle Brigade
Killed in Action 30/07/1915 aged 26 at Hooge, near Ypres, Belgium.

JAMES J ROBERTSON

DoB c1888 in Belfast. Private S/No 58824 (formerly S/No 2209 joined the 11th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) Died of Wounds received at Vignacourt 16/08/1918 aged 30.

1939 - 1945

KENNETH GEORGE EDWIN BALDWIN

DoB 25.02.1920 Private S/No 5956838 7th Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment
Killed in Action 28/03/1945 aged 25 during Operation Plunder, part of a coordinated set of Rhine crossings.

ROBERT WILLIAM BIDEWELL

DoB 25.09.1919 in Watford, Herts. Lance Sergeant S/No 5950925 4th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment,
Killed in Action 25/09/1944 aged 25 in Holland

CHARLES ERNEST BUNCE

DoB 13.03.1913 in St Albans, Herts. Lance Corporal S/No 5832498 1st Battalion, Cambridgeshire Regiment
Serving in Singapore, captured on 15/02/1942 died of Cholera as a Prisoner of War 25/06/1943 aged 30

WILLIAM AINSLEY BURTON

DoB 17.10.1892, A former player who survived the Great War.
A civilian killed as a result of enemy action 03/12/1940 aged 48

WILLIAM WILFRED PARR

DoB 23.04.1915 in Blackpool. Sergeant Pilot S/No 1375471 Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 233 Squadron.
Killed in a crash at Lower Treburrick Farm, St Ervan, Cornwall 08/03/1942 aged 26

ERNEST WILLIAM WALKER

DoB ----.1906 Able Seaman S/No P/JX321616 Royal Navy serving on HMS Quorn, Hunt Class Destroyer.
Killed in Action 03/08/1944 aged 38 when HMS Quorn sunk by a human torpedo

ROBERT WILSON

DoB --.01.1919 Private S/No 98369 Royal Army Service Corps.
Died of Pneumonia in Red Hill Hospital Edgware 09/01/1943 aged 24

THOMAS WILLIAM WINTERBOTTOM

DoB 09.10.1923 Acting Sub Lieutenant Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve, HMS Saker
Killed in Action 28/03/1944 aged 20

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM WHEN THE WHISTLE BLOWS.

IN THE WORDS OF THE GAFFER: MATT TAYLOR'S VIEW



'I'm as proud as anything of the players. We've been to two pro teams & run all over them'

WELCOME to the Vale for another tough match against a very good Rochdale side.

They scored a late winner to beat Sutton 2-1 last week and are sitting in a handy sixth place in the table... it will be a game between two form sides today as we picked up our seventh point out of the last nine with that 2-0 win at Aldershot last Saturday.

It was an excellent performance: The players out-worked the opposition, did the basics well and got their just rewards.

I think they are beginning to understand the importance of hard work - and when we do that we look a very good team. I am as proud as anything with them.

We've had a bit of a stop-start season so far with injuries to key players - and that's still happening with Mason Barrett probably having to miss a year of football with his knee injury, and Craig Eastmond still out for a few weeks - but you can see now that our belief levels are improving. To a man at Aldershot they were excellent.. and you supporters can see just how hard they are working for each other and for them.

The front two (Sam Ashford and Alex Reid) were excellent again but you can put Sean Adarkwa, Henry Sandat and Micah Obiero into that mix. Sam worked tirelessly and Sean made a huge impression with his pressing and move-

ment.... when he came on you could see the players thinking 'Right, Sean's back' and that was great to see. We've had rotten luck with injuries but we had gone away to a big team in our league. kept a clean sheet and (for a few hours anyway) were out of the relegation zone. That's what we wanted more than anything.

Deon Woodman came straight back in after his loan at St Albans and did really well while Jack, who had to play on the left, was excellent. Adrian was brilliant. Enzo dropped back and did well as did Elliot Thorpe. back from his broken rib.

Winning games strengthens the belief they have in themselves. We've had to change a few things in the way messages are delivered but we now have the desire and ability to run over teams: We went to a professional, EFL team in Grimsby and ran all over them, then came to a pro team in Aldershot and ran all over them too. I'm extremely happy with how things are going and we've just got to continue building.

As for the Wycombe cup game: I'm pleased that our players will get national exposure and they'll never forget the occasion. The financial aspect is also good obviously for the club. Wycombe are top of League One, so has the perfect feel of the FA Cup... but to be brutally honest I'm not even thinking about that game as we have to take every match one at a time. I'm just not interested in it right now!

Up the Stones and please get behind us in full voice again today. -Matt

'When Sean came on you could see all the players thinking: Great, Sean's back'





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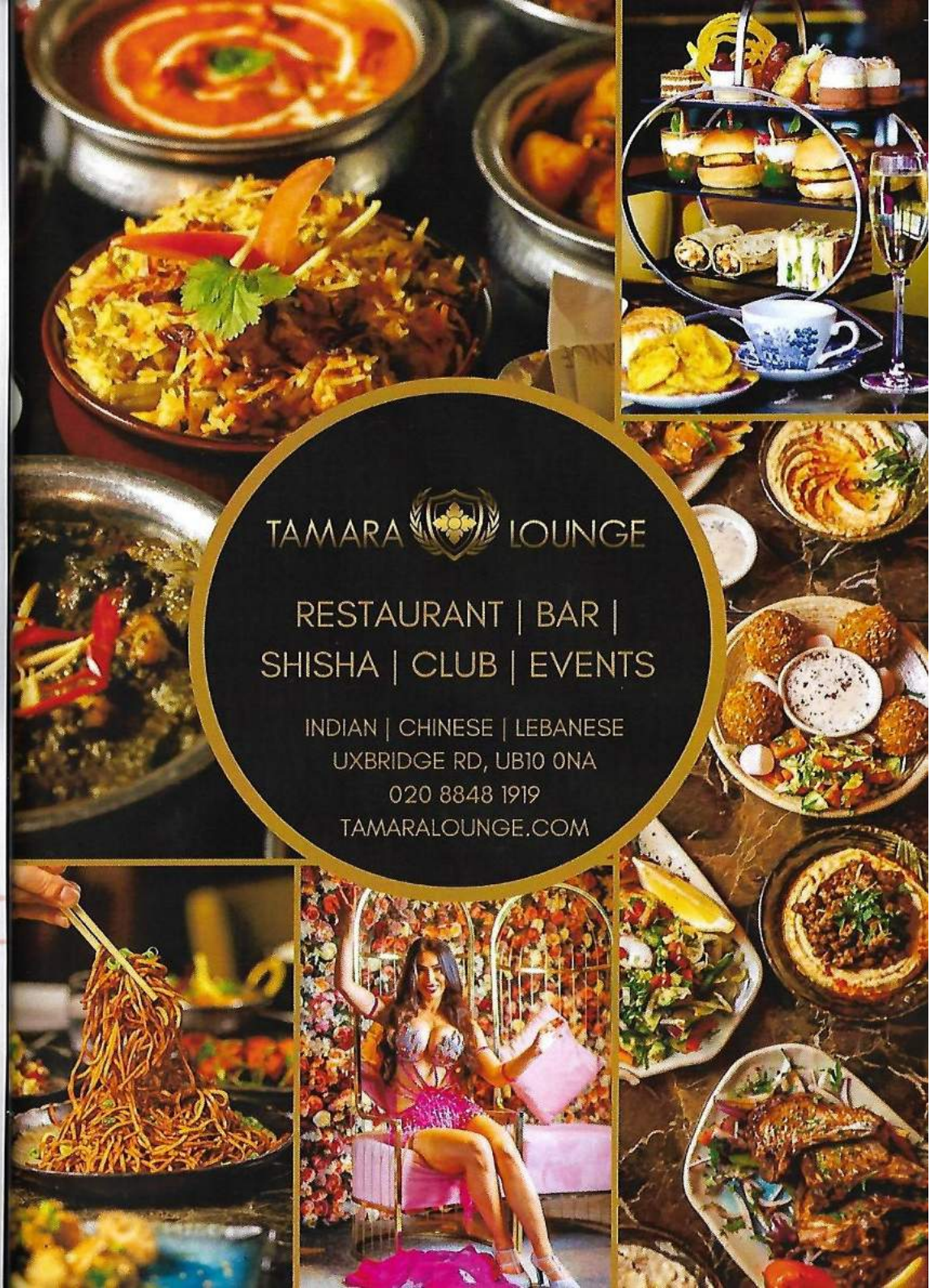


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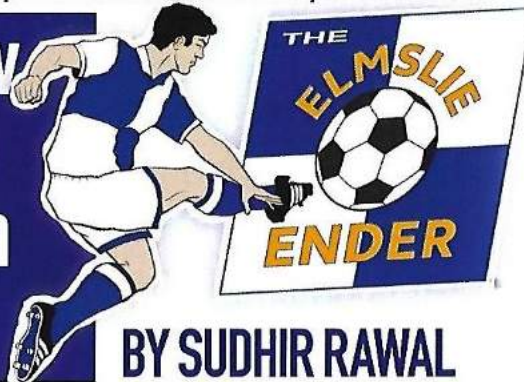
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Elmslie Ender was among the first wave of football club magazines when it replaced 'Long Ball Down the Middle' as the Wealdstone fanzine in the mid-1980s. LBDTM's forerunner 'Wealdstone Whispers' was famously the THE very first football fanzine in Britain when it was published in 1971

Three wins & a draw ...what a difference four games make in life of a Stones fan!



BY SUDHIR RAWAL

FOUR games unbeaten (excluding the National League Cup competition) and life as a Wealdstone fan suddenly seems a lot better.

But for a barmy five minutes at Ebbsfleet it would have been four wins on the spin...three of those away from home.

I can't write too much about the Braintree and Ebbsfleet games as I was away on holiday, but waiting for updates whilst sat in a Krakow bar isn't for the faint-hearted when the season (previously) hadn't gone so well. I even had my celebratory vodka shots picture ready for IG as we headed to ninety minutes v Ebbsfleet.... yet celebration turned to misery as the Kent side scored not once but twice to change what had been a confident away win into a draw.

Our FA Cup record isn't too hot as we know.

Some sixteen appearances in the last 125 years in the first round, and when the draw was made sending us to the north Lincolnshire coast and Grimsby Town, there was a collective groan. Despite them



being an EFL club, we'd only been there a couple of years ago in the NL: It's a grim place to be fair and a pig of a journey to make. No doubt this contributed to a much-smaller-than-expected away following for a FA Cup tie, officially just 168, though with complimentary tickets and other factors, 246 were counted in the away end. Still about half of what it should have been.

The first half was hard yards to be fair. Had the Mariners gone in three or four goals to the good, I am not sure we'd have had much to complain about. They missed a penalty, there was a remarkable clearance off the line by Jack Cook and a decent double save from Sam Howes just to name a few. But we withheld the storm and in the second half were bar the better side.

Grimsby were limited to one real chance, a header at the far post, but other than that they didn't trouble us. As the game moved into the final few minutes, I was bemoaning the fact that we were being deprived of a replay, possibly a live TV game

due to the scrapping of replays and likely to lose in extra time.

Ye of little faith! As we had one more attack, an excellent combination between Adarkwa, Ashford and Cesay, saw the latter storm into Grimsby's box. For me he was bundled to the ground but, as our fans howled in protest for a penalty, somehow Cesay (either intentionally or accidentally) flicked the ball into Alex Reid's path. His scuffed shot went under the keeper's body and those in the away end celebrated wildly.

We held out easily for the last few minutes. It was the first time we had beaten a FL side since 1977 - only the third time ever, having beaten Third Division Hereford United and Fourth Division Reading in the run that

took us to the third round at Loftus Road v QPR. Those of us that retired to the No 1 pub in Cleethorpes post-match had a wonderful time, with some fantastic locals. Places like Cleethorpes and Grimsby are the antithesis of suburban London, but they can show us a few things about hospitality and friendliness.

The draw for the second round has pitted us with a local derby.

Wycombe is less than 20 miles away down the M40, live on terrestrial TV but at a ridiculous kick-off time of 11.30am. Now, I know 11.30 kick offs were not unusual on Boxing Day say a decade ago, but it is a potty time to have a game of this magnitude. Spoons is about the only pub that will be open to have any sort of pre-match drink (though it's not all about drinking, obviously - Ed).

The timing and the fact that the game clashes with Watford v QPR - also live on TV - will no doubt affect the gate here at the Vale. That said, it should still be a record Vale attendance. The



Ace striker Alex Reid celebrates his penalty goal at Aldershot
Picture: Jon Taffel

Chairboys are flying in EFL 1, but the magic of the cup could still see us next at Stamford Bridge in Round 3 (Note: other Premier Division clubs are available - Ed) **Last week, we travelled to Aldershot for a "live" game on DAZN.**

As you'd expect from a town steeped in military history, the remembrance service was immaculately observed and beautifully orchestrated. The game, however, was not for the purists.

Aldershot started better but we grew into the game and ultimately deserved the win. From Jacob Adams' assured performance coming on as a substitute goalie, to the imperious Jack Cook and excellent Adrian Mariappa at the back, with a forward line that is about as good as Wealdstone have had in a long while, we were by far the better side.

I've said it on X, but if we can keep Alex Reid for the rest of the season, we will stay up, simple as that. I love his s**t*thousery, his eye for goal and non-stop running. With Ashford, Adwarka, Kretzschmar et al, we finally have goals in our team.

News of loans and ex-Stones: Hutch & Bartolo story

AS Deon Woodman and Dom Hutchinson crossed over from St Albans to Wealdstone somewhere around junction 18 of the M25 last week, it was a happier return for the 6ft 5in defender.

Deon, our summer capture from QPR, had been starring on loan for the Saints in the National League South but was hastily recalled for the Aldershot game following the long-term injury to Mason Barrett. And St Albans were delighted to see winger Dom return to the club - having kick-started their run to the playoffs 18 months ago - and funnily enough, who should he bump into in his second game as Saints travelled to Weymouth last Saturday? Our ex-Gibraltar star Jaiden Bartolo, that's who! The teenage striker's own loan move (from our FA Cup opponents Wycombe Wanderers) has

earned one goal, against league leaders Weston Super Mare in a 1-1 draw last midweek. Neither Bartolo nor Hutchinson scored in another 1-1 draw in Dorset last week but Hutch DID hit the target as Saints drew in yet another 1-1 with Chelmsford last Tuesday week... his latest loan debut at Clarence Park. Jaiden, of course, scored 16 goals in six games for the Stones' under-19s (and 16 in four games for the under-23s) last season before Wanderers swooped.

Meanwhile, Elliott Simmons is dominating midfield for Bedford Town in the Southern League Central Premier Division.

● Christian Scott went out on loan last week and was man of the match for Enfield Town in their 1-1 draw with Salisbury in the National League South.



51 years ago: Teenage right-back Chris Kinnear poses at Lower Mead in front of the Elmslie End faithful as Stones win the Southern League Division One South. The ex-West Ham youngster went on to manage Dover in the Conference for many years

Picture by a young Jon Taffel



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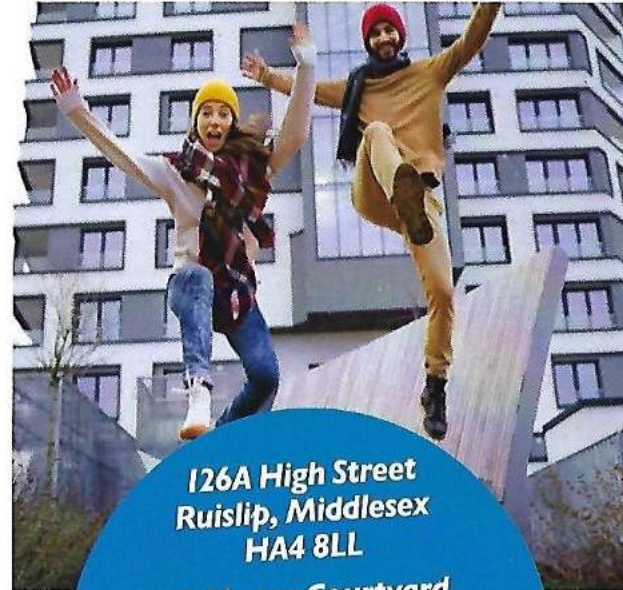
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THE No.10 VIEW: MAX KRETZSCHMAR TAKES IT TO THE M₃ A₁ X₈

HELLO and welcome back to The Vale for this clash with Rochdale.

It seems a while since writing my last column and I do feel a lot has changed. Since the 0-3 home defeat to Yeovil in the middle of October, we have gone unbeaten in the league and FA Cup which has included good wins against Braintree and Aldershot, a frustrating draw against Ebbsfleet and a memorable victory against Grimsby in the FA Cup. The latter result now allows us to play an exciting televised cup tie against the club where I came through as a youngster... Wycombe Wanderers.

I'm sure plenty reading these notes didn't see this upturn in results or performances after that defeat at home to Yeovil. We had to pick ourselves up very quickly four days later against Braintree in what was admitted in the changing room was a 'must win' game. A win on that Wednesday night followed by the results mentioned above all follow a similar pattern when it comes to the performances.

Of course the signing of Alex Reid up front has made a huge difference and has given us a focal point at the top of the pitch as well as in between the posts and six yard box. His fantastic scoring record since joining shows no sign of stopping and here's to many more!

But from a team performance point of view, these past four games have shown that there's no sub-

It's been sheer hard work (and a psychological boost) that has changed things



Max celebrates with analyst Elliot Minton after the win at Sharncliffe

stitution from the Gaffer and his staff alongside clinical execution from the players to gain these positive results.

But one cannot work without the other. Personally, I believe this change in momentum in our season has stemmed from our all-too-brief psychology session with ex Tottenham Hotspur sport psychologist Dave Burston.

I've been in all too many of these 'sessions' and the academics often delivering these talks can sometimes seem to be talking to a room full of confused footballers resembling a brick wall.

But Dave was electric, engaging and inspirational. No doubt some of the lads may not have connected to what he was saying like I and a few others did, but that's par for the course.

Early on in my career, I would classify myself as realistic bordering on pessimistic. As my career has moved on and I've been through injuries and plenty of failures along the way, I've found myself becoming more optimistic. It's funny what age does to you.

Dave told us how to think like a hunting animal. There's no worrying about what's happened, what's been and gone. It's forward, forward, forward with unshakeable positivity. So here's to more positivity today and in the exciting games that lurk around the corner! **UTSI! Max**

stitution for application and work rate. I believe we simply out-ran and out-fought our opposition in each of those matches. The running stats that our Head of Strength and Conditioning, Wayne Andrews, collects and downloads would tend to agree with me.

Now of course, you couldn't field eleven marathon runners at The Vale today and expect a result!

There has also been plenty of detailed tactical and technical prepara-



... and his clinching second goal in injury time. Pics: JON TAFFEL

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

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TODAY WE WELCOME FANS OF AFC ROCHDALE

Hello everyone. This afternoon we welcome the travelling fans of Rochdale to The Vale for yet another massively important league match.

The excitement generated by our fantastic Cup win over Grimsby when nobody outside the club gave us a cat in hell's chance made it all the more sweeter, and we now look forward to a mouth watering and historic 2nd Round clash with high flying League One side Wycombe Wanderers to be broadcast live on ITV, KO 11.30am on Saturday 30th November. A gigantic task without doubt for our boys - but bring it on!

Sadly I was too unwell to travel to Grimsby, absolutely gutted but what a tonic! And a much needed lift for the whole club. We must all savour these moments, on the pitch and the rare oxygen of national publicity off it, quite apart from the financial rewards of course.

But it's now back to the reality and priorities of the business of league survival and the battle recommences. It's relentless.

The scale of the broader challenges faced by the club are clear for all to see. The National League grows tougher and more competitively professional every season and is, let's face it, League 3 in all but name. Resources and relative budgets must keep pace if that is possible. But at Wealdstone most often that is not a realistic option because overextended budgets and untenable spending is a recipe for disaster so 'we are where we are'.

A professional approach and continuing to build a solid club base are ever important factors but the frustration is felt by all of us when we are constantly punching well above a considerable NL weight. It's often hard to accept, exacerbated by raised expectations and pressures as a consequence of the squad being remarkably competitive and obtaining points on merit since we gained promotion to Step 1 five seasons ago.

Having previously served for some years on the board myself (twice) I can understand the behind the scenes pressures and frustrations that are most often, of necessity, are never made public.

Excellent players (and a management team) that have been brought on and undoubtedly improved at 'Shop Window' Wealdstone and then transferred over recent seasons have provided some financial return but it's not easy to say whether this has stunted some progress on the pitch. Look at the likes of Jacob Mendy and Charlie Barker for example. Victims of our own success one might be forgiven to say. We are over the proverbial barrel until the club is resourced to at least the average level of its rivals.

WFCSC update BY NICK DuGARD



Despite all of these challenges and current on-pitch matters the level of professionalism continues to develop at Wealdstone with structures being laid down for future progression. This includes a big step forward with professional training facilities, the expansion of the Academy, improved stadium infrastructure at The Vale (not least the major pitch drainage works) and, most importantly, focused community engagement that will also grow future attendances

All of this of course comes at a significant cost, adding to challenges when you want funds channeled into the playing side.

We know that the board are working extremely hard on all of these very considerable challenges, including the ongoing and seemingly interminable lease negotiations with hopefully an equitable resolution very soon.

Your WFCSC committee will continue to engage positively and regularly with board members and provide support and significant donations wherever possible.

Turning to WFCSC matters, our Pre XMAS DISCO is next Saturday evening, 23 November, tickets £10 in advance from James Klarfeld today and over the bar. We have discussed the proposed 125 year event at length. Timing and logistics have been a major challenge and we have decided to postpone this to the early part of next season when a suitable date can be arranged to book in a great, inclusive, event that we believe will help maximise attendance.

As ever WFCSC will continue to work for the benefit of the club as a whole and keep working hard to provide various fan services and raise funds via our vibrant Megastore and other activities. Please continue to support our efforts on matchdays and other events for which we are most grateful! NEW HELPERS are always welcome if you feel you can get involved and contribute perhaps even an hour on match days. Please speak to any committee person on matchdays or pop into the Megastore for a chat. We can't do it all ourselves!

All the best **Nick**

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ROCHDALE AFC, THE DALE

Today's opposition in focus



Rochdale Association Football Club was founded in 1907 following a meeting at the Central Council Office in Fleece Street. The club was accepted to the Manchester League a fortnight after its formation and joined the Lancashire Combination a year later. Two previous attempts had been made to launch an Association Football Club in the town, but Rochdale AFC as we know it was officially launched in 1907.

After gaining admittance into the Lancashire Combination the club won the competition in 1911. This led to an application being lodged with The Football League. Herbert Hopkinson, probably indignant that Dale received the support of just one club, called for the powers that be to expand their numbers and create a Third Division. His proposal was considered but scuppered by countless objections. The failure to gain League Status led the club to apply for a place in the Central League. The request was granted but reversed by the FA due to objections from the Lancashire Combination who claimed Dale's attempt to progress up the ladder should have been made earlier. The fact that most of their members had successfully applied for membership of other divisions may well have been a truer reflection of their protests.

The club's next application to join the game's elite came in March 1919. The League had decided to expand following World War One and six places were available. While Rochdale gathered more votes than they had attracted on their previous effort – for the record seven clubs were in favour – they were still some way behind those chosen. There was some controversy regarding the decision as admittance did not seem to have been based on performance. All the clubs selected had poorer League records than Rochdale. This latest rebuff led some to call for the winding up of the club. The deflection of large number of players only served to heighten this argument but nevertheless

the motion was rejected.

Nine years after Herbert Hopkinson's brainchild of a Third Division, it was finally adopted in 1920. Unfortunately Southern League clubs pushed it through and as a consequence took all the places made available. The notion of allowing Northern and Midlands clubs to form an equivalent division was set to take place a year later. Dale were one of 14 clubs recommended by the Football League Management Committee for acceptance without a vote. Thankfully the

proposal was rubber stamped.

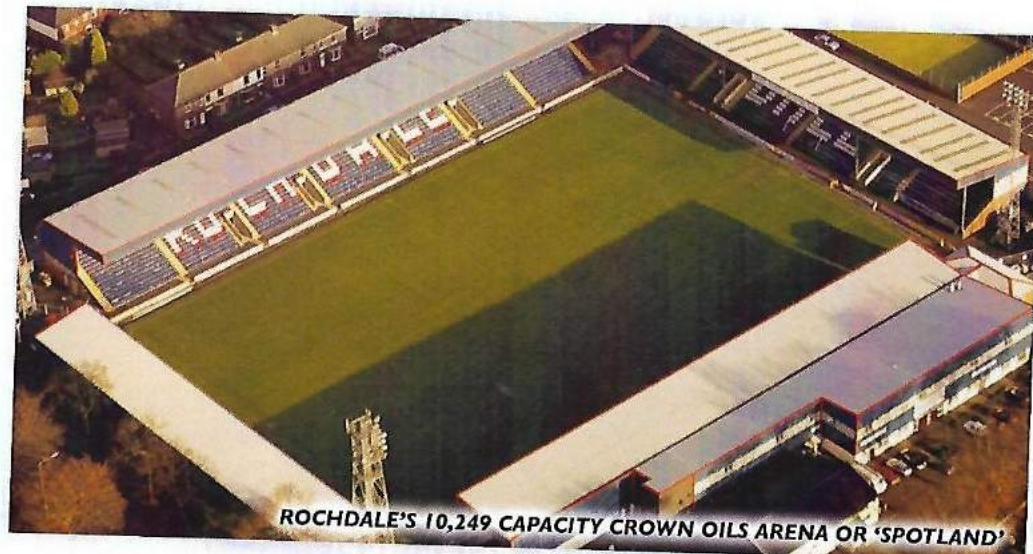
The first ever Football League opposition came in the shape of Accrington Stanley. That game took place on 27th August 1921 with the game finishing 6-3 in favour of Rochdale. It took a little longer to obtain our first away win; almost six months to be precise but it came at Lincoln City courtesy of an own goal.

Despite the good start to the season the club still finished bottom of the league and so had to reapply for membership. Survival was granted on that occasion and Dale picked-up over the next few years, actually finishing runners-up to Wolves in 1923/24.

They finished second in Division Three North again three years later but the next 30+ years saw the club become perennial strugglers in the lower reaches of the table.

The Football League decided to scrap its regional structure and create four national divisions in 1958 and Rochdale were desperate to avoid being placed in the new Fourth Division. Season 1957/58 saw Dale feature in the promotion race until a backlog of fixtures scuppered their chances of going up. However, a tenth-place finish was good enough to secure a place in the new-style Third Division. Goal average was the deciding factor on who was placed above and below the lucky line.

Dale didn't last long in the restructured Division Three and were relegated after just one season, finishing bottom of the league with just eight wins all season. The club remained in the League's bottom division for a further decade but whilst plying their trade in this division they did set a piece of Football League history.



ROCHDALE'S 10,249 CAPACITY CROWN OILS ARENA OR 'SPOTLAND'

It wasn't until the 1968/69 season that Dale fans tasted success again, but this time it was the ultimate dream as the club won promotion for the first and only time in its history. Manager Bob Stokoe had overseen a large upheaval in his playing staff prior to the season.

The team this time lasted five seasons in Division Three before relegation at the end of the 1973/74 season. Just two games were won all season and crowds dropped into three figures on more than one occasion.

Dark days followed at Spotland as Rochdale failed to even finish in the top half of the league's basement division for 14 years. Attendances were poor, as you'd imagine, and financial hardship hit home on more than one occasion. The only real highlight from this dark era was when Steve Taylor won the Adidas Golden Boot in 1986 with 25 goals in 45 matches in what was a poor Dale side.

The club was thrown into turmoil in the mid-80s when comedian Tommy Cannon (of Cannon & Ball fame), portrayed as the club's saviour initially, allegedly caused controversy and uproar in the town when the new look Board of Directors made a series of decisions deemed not in the best interests of the club. After much financial wrangling they were replaced by the previous Board of Directors who embarked on a crusade to get the good ship Rochdale back in financial safety. After much hardship Messrs Kilpatrick, Morris, Lord, Brierley, Hilton and Walkden saved the club from meltdown.

In 2007/08, the club's Centenary Year, Rochdale enjoyed arguably their best ever season to date, apart from 1968/69 but lost on a rainy day at Wembley when Stockport County won 3-2 in the

OUR RECORD V ROCHDALE
P2 W1 D0 L1 F3 A5 GD -2

LAST SEASON

SAT 11TH NOV 23 (H) - W 2-1

TUE 27TH FEB 24 (A) - L 0-3

play off final.

Twelve months later Dale again reached the play-offs, only to fall at the semi-final hurdle this time after a 2-1 aggregate defeat to Gillingham.

However, in 2009/10, over 40 years of heartache were ended for Dale fans when the team eventually clinched their second promotion from the basement division.

In 2013/14 as Dale finished in third place behind Chesterfield and Scunthorpe and made it to round four of the FA Cup for the first time in ten years, only to lose at home to Sheffield Wednesday.

Dale were tipped to struggle in League One in 2014/15, but they looked very comfortable among much bigger clubs, but ultimately finished in eighth position, which was the club's highest-ever final placing.

Subsequent campaigns saw Dale struggle in League One and after finishing outside the relegation zone on points per game during the Covid-hit 2019/20 season, they were relegated a year later, albeit by a single point.

The 2021/22 season saw Dale struggle in the lower reaches of League Two and eventual relegation to the National League.



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Who's who for the visitors

1. LUKE McNICHOLAS - Goalkeeper

Luke is a goalkeeper who is with Dale on a season-long loan from Wrexham Born in County Mayo, the 24-year-old began his career with local side Manulla, before joining Sligo Rovers, where he signed professional terms.

2. KYRON GORDON - Defence

Kyron is a right-back who joined Dale in January 2024. The 22-year-old, who can also operate at centre-back, spent the first half of last season on a short term deal with AFC Fylde. A product of the Sheffield United Academy, Gordon made ten appearances for the Bramall Lane side.

3. FINLAY ARMSTRONG - Defence

The left-back spent the second half of last season on loan at the Crown Oil Arena from Fleetwood Town and impressed Head Coach Jimmy McNulty sufficiently enough to earn himself a permanent two-year deal in the summer. A product of Burnley's academy.

4. RYAN EAST - Midfield

Ryan is a midfielder player who signed an 18-month contract with Dale in December 2023 after spending the first half of last season on loan from EFL League Two side Bradford City. The 26-year-old came through the ranks at Reading

5. AARON HENRY - Midfield

Aaron has joined Dale from Charlton Athletic until the end of the season.

Aaron has been with The Addicks since the age of ten, rising through their Academy ranks before making his first team debut in January 2020, aged just 16. He spent the second half of the 2021/22 campaign at Wealdstone. Last term saw Henry make 13 League Two appearances on loan at eventual promotion winners Crawley Town, before he rejoined Wealdstone for the second half of their National League campaign.

6. ETHAN EBANKS-LANDELL - Defence

This is his second spell with the club after playing 16 games on loan from Wolves in the second half of the 2018/19 season.



Aaron Henry

The centre-half joined Dale having spent three years with Shrewsbury Town, clocking-up over 100 appearances in League One

7. TARRYN ALLARAKHIA - Midfield

Tarryn is a winger who joined Dale in July 2024 from Wealdstone, signing a two-year deal at the Crown Oil Arena.

Tarryn who featured in a number of attacking positions for The Stones last season, also represented Tanzania at the Africa Cup of Nations in January of this year.

Tarryn was a regular for The Stones, making

76 National League appearances in two campaigns.

8. HARVEY GILMOUR - Midfield

Originally on Sheffield United's books, the 25-year-old gained his first experience of league football after moving to Tranmere in summer 2018. Harvey spent the 2020/21 season with Stockport, before joining Halifax, where he made around 80 appearances and helped The Shaymen lift the FA Trophy in 2023 with a Wembley defeat of Gateshead in the final.

9. KAIRO MITCHELL - Forward

The 27-year-old was signed from Notts County, where he had played over 40 games since moving to Meadow Lane ahead of the 2021/22 campaign. A product of Leicester City's academy, Kairo signed professional terms with The Foxes in 2016.

10. DEVANTE RODNEY - Forward

Devante is a forward who joined Dale from Walsall in June 2022 on an initial two-year contract. The 26-year-old spent his youth career in the academies at Manchester City and Sheffield Wednesday, before starting his professional career at Hartlepool United in January 2017.

11. ODY ALFA Forward

Born in Kaduna, Nigeria, he moved to England during his younger years and joined the Queens Park Rangers academy at 14. Ody progressed through the ranks at Loftus Road and spent time on loan at Spanish side Atletico Baleares, as well as non-league clubs Billericay Town, Maidenhead United, Dartford, Aldershot & Chelmsford.

12. BRAD KELLY - Goalkeeper

Brad is a goalkeeper from the club's Academy set-up who is in his third season at the Crown Oil Arena.

14. TOBI ADEBAYO-ROWLING - Defence

The 27-year-old won promotion from the National League with County in 2022/23, before making 19 appearances for them in League Two last season.

Adebayo-Rowling was part of the Brighton & Hove Albion Academy as a youngster, ahead of spells at Eastbourne Borough and Peterborough United.

15. LEON AYINDE - Forward

The winger played youth football in Cork for local side St Mary's, before joining Cork City at U15 level. He progressed through the academy at The Rebel Army and then signed for Ipswich in February 2023 at the age of 18.

16. KYLE FERGUSON - Defence

Kyle is a central defender who joined Dale on a free transfer from Harrogate Town in June 2023. The son of Rangers legend Barry Ferguson, Kyle spent time in the youth academy at Ibrox, as well as Kilmarnock and Airdrieonians.

17. COURTNEY SENIOR - Forward

The 27-year-old had been on trial with Jimmy McNulty's men, appearing as a substitute in the 5-2 friendly win over Salford City. Spells at Newport County and AFC Wimbledon followed, before Courtney signed for Barnet last summer and had loan spells at Yeovil Town and Hartlepool United.

18. AIDAN BARLOW - Midfield

Aidan is a midfielder who linked-up with Dale in July 2024 following the expiry of his contract at Eastleigh.

19. JAKE BURGER - Midfield

The 20-year-old arrived at the Crown Oil Arena from Luton Town. Burger joined The Hatters at the age of six, rising through their Academy ranks before signing his first professional contract last summer.

20. DAN SASSI - Defence

The 20-year-old returns to the club having also spent the final two months of last season on loan at the Crown Oil Arena. A product of Stoke City's academy, Dan departed The Potteries to join Burnley as a scholar in 2020.

21. CONNOR MCBRIDE Midfield

Connor is a winger who moved to the Crown Oil Arena from Gateshead in July 2024. The former Celtic youngster joined The Heed last summer, making over 30 appearances as they finished sixth in the National League and won the FA Trophy.



Tarryn Allarakhia

22. MATTHEW DENNIS - Forward

Matthew is a forward who has joined Dale on loan from MK Dons until January. A product of the Arsenal academy, Dennis joined The Gunners at the age of six and progressed through their ranks to become a regular at U18 and U23 levels.

24. JCOREY EDWARDS - Midfield

Corey is a second year scholar who made two first team appearances for Dale last term.

26. LIAM HOGAN - Defence

Liam is a central defender who joined Dale in September 2024, penning a deal until the end of the season after leaving neighbours Oldham Athletic. The brother of former Dale striker Scott Hogan

29. JID OKEKE - Defence

Jid is a right-sided defender who is with Dale on loan from Stockport County until the end of the season. Born in Germany, the 20-year-old began his career in the Academy of FC St Pauli before joining Oldham Athletic's Academy when he moved to England at an early age.

30. JILI BUYABU - Defence

Jili is a left-sided wing-back who has joined Dale on an initial one-month loan from Championship side Sheffield United.

31. DAVID ROBSON - Goalkeeper

David is a goalkeeper who signed a short-term deal with Dale at the start of September and went straight into the team for the game at Aldershot Town.

32. ISAAC BURGESS - Defence

Ilsaac is a second year scholar who made his debut for Dale against Gateshead in the FA Trophy in December 2023.

33. SAM BECKWITH - Defence

Sam joined Luton Town at age seven, progressing through their Academy to sign professional terms at Kenilworth Road. Shortly afterwards, he was loaned out to Maidenhead United for the 2021/22 season, joining The Magpies permanently at the end of the campaign.

40. IAN HENDERSON Forward

Ian is Rochdale's all-time record goalscorer, with 147 goals to his name before the start of the 2024/25 season. The striker had also made 434 appearances for the club by then, putting him in second place behind Gary Jones in Dale's all-time appearances list. Initially with Norwich, Henderson appeared almost 80 times in their first team



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STAT ATTACK WITH STATTO MAN HILLSY



BY ADAM HILLS

As Wealdstone's talisman Max Kretzschmar wheeled away towards the corner-flag, followed in hot-pursuit by his elated team mates following his clinching goal at The EBB Stadium last weekend (right), the relief was palpable.



It's been a slow start away from home... but not as bad as last year!

Relief in many ways. A clean sheet away from home, the first since the 2-0 win over Maidenhead on Boxing Day last season. The relief at not throwing away a lead with late goals (8 goals conceded in the final minutes of games and 8 points lost from winning positions)...and most importantly, an away win! Our first National League away win of the season and our first since that

wonderful win at Oldham Athletic on the final day of last season. So well done to the team and to Matty Taylor who have seen their fortunes take a dramatic upturn

over recent weeks. We're far from out of trouble but there's renewed confidence that if we can get the same 14-odd players fit we'll slowly pull our way out of the drop zone.

Stones home and away in the National League (since 2020)

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	PPG	GD
Home	97	37	22	38	133	153	133	1.371	-20
Away	98	21	25	52	100	180	88	0.896	-80

I'VE chronicled and waxed-lyrical about Wealdstone's excellent home form in previous editions of this article, but let's now focus to those trips on the road. Where, unfortunately, the form is not quite so good.

In fact, since our return to the National League in 2020, we have collected on average 0.473 more points per game at home than away. That maiden success at Aldershot last weekend came at the 9th time of asking this season, but don't forget that it took 11 attempts for Stuart Maynard to get his first away 'dubya' last season, that being the 2-0 win at Dag & Red just before Christmas. So, perhaps asking an obvious question...but why are points so much harder to gain away from home. The obvious answer is pre-

sumably to start with geography and the clue is in the name. The National League. With the Stones being a part-time team for practically all of their five-year tenure so far, does travel and long-distances make it more difficult?

Logic might suggest that the longest *Average Round Trip (ART)* - where long coach journeys and overnight stays are the norm - is where points are hardest to come by. Wealdstone have really struggled away from home (though the ventures up to the NW and Yorks & Humber have often proved profitable and salubrious) it's the Midlands where the Stones really struggle. We have failed to land a single victory from 13 attempts against Chesterfield, Notts County, Solihull Moors and Kidderminster.

Areas for concern: Comparing Wealdstone's record on our National League travels since 2020

Region	No. Teams	Total Miles	ART	ART Rank	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
East	3	466	155.3	8	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
North West	5	2048	409.6	2	10	4	0	6	13	25	12
Yorks & Humber	4	1620	405.0	3	9	3	1	5	10	19	10
South West	4	1082	270.5	6	9	1	6	2	8	16	9
South East	10	958	95.8	9	29	7	6	16	28	48	27
London	4	186	46.5	10	14	2	6	6	19	26	12
North East	2	1078	539.0	1	6	1	1	4	5	9	4
Wales	1	380	380.0	4	3	0	1	2	2	7	1
East Midlands	2	544	272.0	5	7	0	2	5	6	15	2
West Midlands	2	422	211.0	7	6	0	1	5	3	10	1

The Fan in the Stand ...YOUNG LOTTIE

Meet Lottie, the Supporters club secret weapon when it comes to 50-50 ticket sales... and she is trying to beat her own brilliant record of £400 for the Stones!



TODAY'S featured fan is one of the youngest to face the questions: Lottie Randall, the daughter of Supporters Club chairman and ex-WFC Board member Mark Randall. Lottie is a well-known face as she patrols the Vale on matchdays selling the popular 50-50 Raffle tickets.... 400 on one occasion!

What's your name and age? My name is Lottie Randall and I am 12 years old.

Where do you live, Lottie? I live in High Wycombe and I have lived in that area all my life.

What was your first Wealdstone game? My first game watching the Stones was on the 1st of April 2013 against Harrow Borough, and we won 2-0.

What were your first impressions that day? I liked the club because it was a family club and very friendly.



Left: Lottie folds the tickets before spinning them in the raffle barrel. A tough job but someone has to do it! Right: Lottie and her dad Mark are pictured in the away section at Grimsby a fortnight ago. Remind me how that one finished!

Who first brought you along to the Vale? My dad brought me along to watch that first game with my godfather Adam Edwards - as they have been fans of the club since they were 14.

What's the first game you remember watching? The first proper football match I remember watching on TV was the England v Italy game in the final of Euro 2020. The first match I watched live was when we played Harrow Borough back in 2013.

Do you follow any other team? I follow Tottenham Hotspur as they are a family club on my dad's side of the family.

RANDALL STEALS A MOMENT AWAY FROM HER RAFFLE DUTIES



What's the most memorable game you've EVER seen?

The most memorable game I ever watched was the 2020 Euros final, I watched it in the clubhouse at the Vale.

...And the best best Wealdstone game you've ever seen? That was very recently! It was the Grimsby match when Alex Reid scored in the 90th minute to put us through to the second round of the FA Cup. I went with my dad and we woke up at around 6:30am for the coach to leave at 8 and got there at around 12 before walking along the beachfront and around town. Then we went into the stadium: we went to the away bar and I was asked to be flag bearer! When the players came out we waved the flags and our names were announced by the commentator. Then when we got to our seats we didn't

go one minute without chanting a Wealdstone song!

What level of football do you prefer? I prefer the level of football that Wealdstone is on because it is a small community where I can go to almost every game.

How big a part of your life is the game? The game is very important to me, since I am a footballer myself. I play for my year, and the year above, in school. I play in goal and the last game I played for the team we won 3-0 giving me a clean sheet. This was for the year 8 team.

Have you bumped into anyone famous at football? I have never bumped into anyone interesting during my football life except the Wealdstone Raider.

Do you go to home and away games? Me and my dad watch Wealdstone matches with my godfather Adam when there is a far-off away game or if there is a game on a Tuesday. Sometimes if we were lucky we would be able to watch football at primary school if we behaved. We watched some of England's world cup campaign while we were on our year 6 residential.

Are your schoolfriends intrigued by your Wealdstone connection? My friends usually ask me about how the team has got on and are interested in my 50/50 selling.

Tell us about your record raffle-ticket-selling for the supporters club? I enjoy selling 50-50 and the most I have ever sold is 400. It is the club's record sales of the tickets in one day.

Who are your favourite Stones players? I liked Tarryn the best but now he's left to play for Rochdale my favourite player at the moment will have to be Cooky. Recently I have been impressed by Alex Reid and I've grown fond of his playing style.

Can you name a best-ever Stones side since you've been coming to games? I think that the best Stones side would have to be when Stuart Maynard was managing.

What about the food and drink outlets at the Vale? I like the bar's food and drink and I love matchdays because of the atmosphere and I like singing along to the chants, especially on away days.

What's your favourite away day? I've only travelled to two away games that I can remember, Hampton and Richmond and then Grimsby Town a couple of weeks ago. That was memorable!

Where do you see the club in five years? I think that if the Stones keep working hard we can place well in the league consistently and also do well in the upcoming FA Cup tie. We all got very excited when we were drawn at home to Wycombe!

Below: Coming next, an update on dad Mark Randall's Fan in the Stand from ten years ago. He looks strangely younger!



'I love Wealdstone and working at the megastore. No staff discount though I must renegotiate my contract!'

Name: Mark Randall
Where you live: High Wycombe, for the last 8 years.
Are you working? Yes, The Big Yellow Self Storage Company Ltd.
First Stones game attended (and when): Hatfield Ltd away 1994, we won 2-1 on a wet and stormy Saturday.

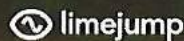
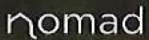
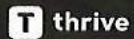
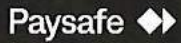
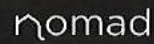
What or who persuaded you to become a Stones fan? My mate and fellow





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FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS PROFILES TEN LEADING ROCHDALE MANAGERS

MANAGING TO SUCCEED

BY LEIGH EDWARDS



JACK PEART

Jack Peart managed Rochdale to the Third Division (North) runners-up slot in 1923-24 and 1926-27. A much-travelled centre-forward, he played for Sheffield United, Stoke and Newcastle United before helping Notts County win the Second Division title in 1913-14. He later had spells with Birmingham, Derby County, Ebbw Vale, Port Vale and Norwich City prior to becoming Rochdale's player-boss in February 1923. Also plotting their 1925-26 promotion near-miss, he remained in charge of Dale until leaving in July 1930 to manage Bradford City. He managed Fulham from May 1935 until his death in September 1948.

HARRY CATTERICK

Harry Catterick managed Rochdale into the newly formed Third Division in 1957-58. He was a centre-forward with Everton before becoming Crewe Alexandra's player-boss in December 1951. Appointed Rochdale's manager in June 1953, he remained in charge at Spotland until leaving in August 1958 to manage Sheffield Wednesday. He guided them to the Second Division title in 1958-59 and League Championship runners-up in 1960-61. Rejoining Everton as manager in April 1961, he led them to two League Championship triumphs and FA Cup success, then managed Preston. He died in March 1985.

TONY COLLINS

Long-serving manager Tony Collins guided Rochdale to the 1962 League Cup final. He was an outside-left with Sheffield Wednesday, York City, Watford, Norwich City, Torquay United, Watford again and Crystal Palace before



HARRY CATTERICK

joining Rochdale in June 1959. Appointed manager in June 1960, he made several shrewd signings and plotted Dale's 1964-65 promotion near-miss, remaining in charge at Spotland until September 1967. He was Bristol City's chief scout and assistant-manager to Alan Dicks until October 1980. Later scouting for Newcastle United, Manchester United and Millwall, he died in Rochdale in February 2021.

BOB STOKOE

Bob Stokoe had two spells as Rochdale's manager. He starred at centre-half in Newcastle United's 1955 FA Cup final triumph and became Bury's player-boss in December 1961. After a spell at Charlton Athletic, he took charge of Rochdale in October 1967 and built their 1968-69 promotion team, leaving in October 1968 to manage Carlisle United. He moved via Blackpool to Sunderland and plotted their 1973 FA Cup final success and 1975-76 Second Division title triumph. After managing Bury and Blackpool again, he was in charge of Dale from November 1979 until June 1980, then managed Carlisle. He died in February 2004.

LEN RICHLEY

Len Richley guided Rochdale to promotion in 1968-69. A former Sunderland amateur, the half-back had spells with Deal Town and Crystal Palace prior to joining Tonbridge as player-secretary in July 1949. He moved to Hartlepool in June 1951 and became Holbeach United's player-boss in July 1954. Appointed manager of King's Lynn in August 1959, he led them to promotion in 1963-64, then assisted Bob Stokoe at Bury and Rochdale, succeeding him as manager at Spotland from October 1968 until resigning in February 1970. He was later Darlington's manager, then Newcastle United's chief scout and died in October 1980.

DICK CONNER

Dick Conner managed Rochdale to their highest-ever League position in 1969-70. He was a right-half with Newcastle United and South Shields, then a promotion winner with Grimsby Town in 1955-56 and Southampton in 1959-60. Later playing for Tranmere Rovers and Aldershot where he became trainer,

he joined Rochdale as Len Richley's assistant in December 1968 and succeeded him as manager in February 1970. He plotted Dale's 1970-71 FA Cup run and moved to Darlington as manager for a year in July 1973, then coached Grimsby and Rochdale. Later a licensee in Rochdale and Cleethorpes, he died in May 1999.

TERRY DOLAN

Midfielder Terry Dolan was both a player and manager at Rochdale. Initially with Bradford PA, he moved to Huddersfield Town in October 1970 and appeared in the top-flight. He joined Bradford City in August 1976 and starred in their 1976-77 promotion success, moving to Rochdale in August 1981. After assisting Thackley and Harrogate, he joined Bradford City's coaching staff in January 1985 and was manager for two years. He rejoined Rochdale as boss in March 1989, guiding them to the FA Cup fifth round for the first time in 1989-90. Leaving in January 1991 to manage Hull City, he later managed York City and Guiseley.

STEVE PARKIN

Steve Parkin had two spells as manager of Rochdale. Starting with Stoke City, the England U-21 defender was 'Player of the Year' in 1987-88 and joined West Brom in June 1989. He moved to Mansfield Town in July 1992 and became the League's youngest manager in October 1996. Taking charge of Rochdale in June 1999, he plotted a significant upturn in results and his team went on to qualify for the Third Division play-offs after he left in November 2001 to become Barnsley's boss. He rejoined Rochdale as manager from January 2004 until December 2006, then coached Hull City, since assisting Phil Parkinson at various clubs

PAUL SIMPSON

Player-manager Paul Simpson guided Rochdale to

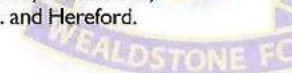


BOB STOKOE - Two spells as Rochdale manager but his moment in football history came elsewhere..

the FA Cup fifth round in 2002-03. The England U-21 winger played for Manchester City and Oxford United prior to joining Derby County in February 1992, helping win promotion in 1995-96. He had spells with Wolves and Blackpool before becoming Rochdale's player-boss in March 2002. Leaving in October 2003 to manage Carlisle United, he plotted their 2004-05 Conference play-off final triumph, then led them to the League Two title and Football League Trophy final in 2005-06. He has since managed Preston, Shrewsbury, Stockport, England U-20s and Carlisle again.

KEITH HILL

Keith Hill managed Rochdale to promotion in 2010-11 and 2013-14. Initially with Blackburn Rovers, the central defender joined Plymouth in September 1992 and helped win promotion in 1995-96. Moving to Rochdale in July 1996, he netted six goals in 176 League games prior to joining Cheltenham in June 2001. He was a promotion winner again in 2001-02, then played for Morecambe. Rejoining Rochdale as director of youth, he became their manager from December 2006 until June 2011. He managed Barnsley before returning to Dale as manager from January 2013 until March 2019, then Bolton, Tranmere and Scunthorpe. and Hereford.



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TIM PARKS  **REMEMBERS THE 1972 AUTUMNAL DAY WHEN**

Johnny Haynes: The remarkable story of how the Fulham and England legend came to finish his career at little old Wealdstone

IT IS only now, with the clarity and perspective of the intervening 52 years, that you realise how extraordinary it was that Wealdstone - then in the Southern League Division one South - managed to sign former Fulham and England skipper Johnny Haynes.

A bit like Jude Bellingham leaping at the chance to join sixth-tier Stones. A bit like Declan Rice shaking Matt Taylor's hand on a one-year deal. That's how bonkers it was.

And yet, at the time - in the wake of a plethora of old ex-pros joining

the club in our first season of semi-professional football - it barely registered on the game's Richter Scale.

We had left the amateur ranks only 18 months earlier and the tactic of replacing our promising youngsters with arthritic campaigners was quickly revealed to be a short-sighted one.

Under manager Alan Humphries (a former Fulham coach) the club stumbled into the lower reaches of the Southern League Division One (North). At first the fans were starry-eyed at seeing men

Johnny Haynes looks on as Stones striker George Duck is foiled by Dorchester keeper Whiting in that iconic game at Lower Mead 52 years ago



WE FIELDED 'THE BEST PASSER OF THE BALL IN THE WORLD'



Haynes with England in 1959

Personal information

Full name	John Norman Haynes	
Date of birth	17 October 1934	
Place of birth	Kentish Town, London, England	
Date of death	18 October 2005 (aged 71)	
Place of death	Edinburgh, Scotland	
Height	1.76 m (5 ft 9 in)	
Position(s)	Inside forward	

Senior career*

Years	Team	Apps (Gls)
1952-1970	Fulham	594 (146)
1951	→ Wimbledon (loan)	8 (4)
1961	→ Toronto City (loan)	5 (1)
1970-1971	Durban City	24 (9)
1972-1973	Wealdstone	3 (0)
Total		632 (160)

International career

1955-1957	England U23	8 (8)
1954-1962	England	56 (18)

Managerial career

1968	Fulham (caretaker)
------	--------------------

*Club domestic league appearances and goals

like former Spurs double winners Cliff Jones and Terry Dyson trotting out in our all-blue kit ... until it registered that their glory days were a decade earlier. And they were the pick of the bunch...

Fortunately, the board dispensed with Humphries and installed the highly sought-after St Albans boss Sid Prosser.

All the old lags were shown the exit door (apart from Dyson, a sprightly 38) and suddenly, with Prosser's contacts and smooth patter we had a decent side that would go on to finish halfway.

But what of Johnny Haynes, you are asking? Well, come November of that 1972-73 season we were short of midfield class with former Watford first-teamer Dixie Hale set to leave the area for a job in South Wales. Young Nigel Franklin had starred for the reserves but Prosser needed an experienced head in the central role - so who better than ex-England skipper Haynes?

The programme notes for his one and only Southern League appearance, against Dorchester Town at Lower Mead, trumpeted the capture of his signature from South African side Durban City for whom he had signed 18 months earlier.

Durban was clearly a money-spinning destination for Haynes after his release by Fulham after an astonishing 594 games. But he was good value: in his only season with Durban he led the club to the National Championship - the only major medal he ever won.

For little old Wealdstone it really was a stellar signing. Even if the red tape of obtaining international clearance (and some expensive phone calls, no doubt with our parsimoni-

ous director Harry Benjamin reversing the charges) saw the paperwork only completed at the last minute.

The 38-year-old was courted by a number of Football League clubs but 'FA rules' prevented Haynes from signing a lucrative pro deal during the winter break from South African football. He was only allowed to play at our level.

And this was when it really hit home...Haynes, the first-ever £100-a-week footballer (after his Fulham co-star Jimmy Hill had smashed the maximum wage), the man who was expected to lead England into the 1966 World Cup and the man described by Pele as "the best passer of the ball I've ever seen" was making the Stones only his fourth club in a two-decade-long career.

How humbling it was to see the man capped 55 times by England appearing at Lower Mead for that Dorchester game - and then again v Wimbledon in the Premier Midweek Floodlight League a few weeks later, a competition designed to give squad players a

game.

After Haynes' unveiling for the Dorchester clash (which we lost 3-2 after a couple of defensive lapses) the critics were quick to point out that what the team really needed was energy and youthfulness. Haynes' class was undeniable, but by the time he made his final appearance for the club in another midweek league match at Hillingdon Borough on January 4 it was being openly said in the Harrow Observer that manager Prosser was now the short-sighted one, giving game time to an elderly ex-pro (who was on his way back to Durban in a couple of weeks) when he had youngsters lining up to be given the chance.

Continued overpage>>>

The over-excited Harrow Observer photographer couldn't miss the chance of a line-up involving Mr Haynes before the Dorchester game... back row (left to right): Dave Cockell, Eddie Presland, John Barr, Haynes, John Beyer, Alick Brown, Sid Prosser (manager). Front row: Dixie Hale, John Connell, Eric Burgess, George Duck, Terry Dyson, Nigel Franklin



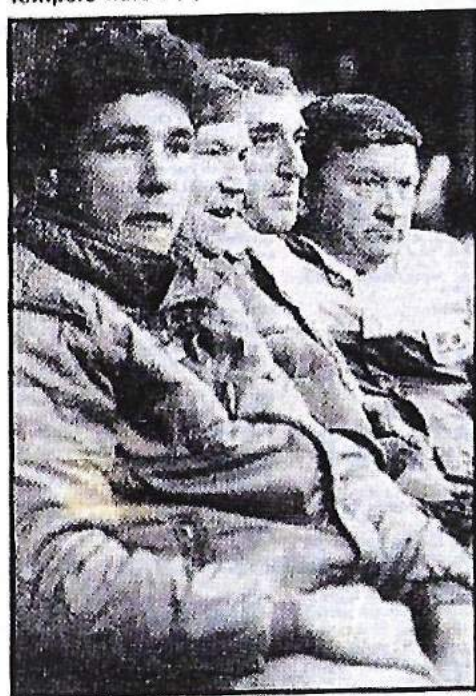


Four decades ago: Three red cards as Wealdstone 'thugs' beaten at high-flying Reading

FA CUP 1st round



FOOTBRAWL ... Wealdstone substitute Vince Jones has been grounded by a tackle from Martin Hicks ... Reading's Stuart Beavon gets involved ... and tempers flare ...



WEALDSTONE's dejected bench watch Reading score from the penalty spot. Left to right — Vince Jones, Los Reed, Brian Hall and Arnie Reed.

A Cup of madness Reading 1 Wealdstone 0

Three sent off as 'Stones bow out at Reading

A MOMENT of madness spoiled Wealdstone's defiant FA Cup stand at Elm Park on Saturday against runaway Third Division leaders Reading.

A clumsy challenge by Reading skipper Martin Hicks on substitute Vince Jones sparked a 67th minute brawl on the half-way line that involved nearly every outfield player, writes Paul Jacques.

It took Sussex referee Allan Gunn more than two minutes to restore order.

And when the dust had settled, he sent off Wealdstone's Paul Bowgett, the captain, and Derek Doyle, and Reading's Glen Burvill, also booking Stuart Beavon to add to his four other bookings for the afternoon.

The shameful free-for-all saw Wealdstone branded as "thugs".

And the accusers added fuel to the fire by reviving memories of 1976 when Wealdstone had two men sent off at Elm Park at the same stage of the competition.

Admittedly, Wealdstone had let themselves — and the Gola league — down. There can be no excuses for such disgusting behaviour on a football pitch, but it must be re-

membered that both sets of players were involved.

And Wealdstone could not be blamed for sparking off the unsavoury incident. The standard of play never sunk to the depths that some people would have us believe, and the tackle by Hicks was the first real incident of the match.

Manager Brian Hall reflected: "It was a 20 man brawl why were only three players sent off. And how the linesman isolated Doyle, don't know."

Ten minutes earlier, Wealdstone had fallen behind to a Dean Horrix penalty awarded when Steve Richardson was apparently upended by Brian Greenaway — although Greenaway is adamant that the flying Reading player took a dive.

It was heart-breaking for Wealdstone who had looked capable of taking their illustrious opponents to a replay at Lower Mead.

"We did very well for the first 45 minutes," said Hall. "And up until

the penalty was awarded we were keeping quite admirably, particularly with their set pieces.

"With the side we were forced to put out we did quite well."

The Cordice brothers and striker Mark Graves were all absent, and Hall admitted that confining Gary Donnellan to the centre of attack could have been a mistake.

His pace was sorely missed down the left while Andy Graham — substituted midway through the second half — proved ineffective as a target man up front.

It was thanks to Wealdstone keeper Bob Iles — the outstanding player of the game — that Reading were frustrated for so long.

And the winning penalty only just escaped his outstretched fingers.

It was as well for Wealdstone that Iles was in such commanding form. Their only real chances up front came from Doyle, who curled a shot just wide of the upright after 117 minutes, and Donnellan, who had the ball smothered at his feet

WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN WEALDSTONE FC HISTORY.....

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16 1985, FA CUP FIRST ROUND: READING 1 WEALDSTONE 0

IN recent years we've bemoaned the awful draws we've been handed in the FA Cup, invariably away against the highest-ranked team in the competition.

But I'm old enough to comfortably recall the most outrageous example of this misfortune: 39 years ago, when as champions of the Gola National League (but no automatic promotion to the Football League) we were handed a bye into the First Round Proper. Us fans were rightly salivating at the prospect of Brian

Hall's side breezing through a couple of straightforward ties and really making a name for ourselves in the Third Round.

"Let's play FA Cup Draw" I remember laughing over the phone with some mates - in those far-off days before social media or smartphones - on the eve of the Monday lunchtime draw. "Who's left in? Bognor Regis, Windsor & Eton, Slough... or maybe a big club at home? What about Derby County, Wolves, Brentford or Plymouth?" But of course our hopes were flattened when the live draw on Radio Two pronounced: *Reading v Wealdstone.* "Top of the Third Division against

the non-League double winners; that should be some game" said the radio pundit. And on the face of it, yes that's true. But we also knew it was the toughest draw we could have been handed.

Reading were the team everyone had been talking about since the Berkshire club's rocket-fuelled start to the season. Manchester United were top of Division One (today's Prem) with eight straight wins while down in Div Three The Royals were matching them point for point.

Then United were beaten (at Luton) and suddenly Reading were chasing down Tottenham's record-breaking 11 straight-wins-start to the season... which they smashed with victory over Bolton Wanderers at Elm Park on October 5th.

Reading were having trouble fitting everyone in at their old-fashioned stadium - the 27,000 capacity had been slashed to a maximum 6,000 by Margaret Thatcher's government following the tragedies at Heysel (hooliganism) and Bradford City's Valley Parade (fire) at the end of the previous season. Reading's compliance saw that capacity raised to 13,000 for the home game against Wolves which would have seen a League-record-leveilling 13th straight win... but the Wanderers pulled off a 2-2 draw that might

Continued over page>>>

Date	Match	Result	Score	Competition
17 Aug 1985	Reading v Blackpool	W	1-0	League Division 1
21 Aug 1985	Reading v AFC Bournemouth	W	1-3	League Cup
24 Aug 1985	Plymouth Argyle v Reading	L	0-1	League Division 1
26 Aug 1985	Reading v Bristol Rovers	W	3-2	League Division 1
31 Aug 1985	Cardiff City v Reading	W	1-3	League Division 1
03 Sep 1985	AFC Bournemouth v Reading	L	2-0	League Cup
Agg: 5-1				
07 Sep 1985	Reading v Walsall	W	2-1	League Division 1
14 Sep 1985	Rotherham United v Reading	W	1-2	League Division 1
17 Sep 1985	Brentford v Reading	W	1-2	League Division 1
21 Sep 1985	Reading v Swansea City	W	2-0	League Division 1
28 Sep 1985	Doncaster Rovers v Reading	W	0-1	League Division 1
02 Oct 1985	Reading v Chesterfield	W	4-2	League Division 1
05 Oct 1985	Reading v Bolton Wanderers	W	1-0	League Division 1
12 Oct 1985	Newport County v Reading	W	0-2	League Division 1
19 Oct 1985	Lincoln City v Reading	W	0-1	League Division 1
23 Oct 1985	Reading v Wolverhampton Wanderers	D	2-2	League Division 1
26 Oct 1985	Bury v Reading	L	3-1	League Division 1
02 Nov 1985	Reading v Wigan Athletic	W	1-0	League Division 1
06 Nov 1985	Reading v Notts County	W	3-1	League Division 1
09 Nov 1985	York City v Reading	W	0-1	League Division 1
16 Nov 1985	Reading v Wealdstone	W	1-0	FA Cup



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CONTINUED: THE STONES BOSS BRIAN HALL REACTS ANGRILY

from previous page

have raised Wealdstone hopes in the daunting task that faced us a couple of weeks later.

Brian Hall's Stones were regarded as an effective but graceless, agricultural side forged on twin-peak centre-backs Paul Bowgett and Dennis Byatt and the pace and power of the Cordice brothers, Neil and Alan up front. It was a winning machine.

But Reading were shamelessly similar with manager Ian Branfoot aping the Route One tactics of Watford, who had soared from Division Four to the top of Division One. The Royals were also brutally effective and in under-rated centre-forward Trevor Senior they possessed the top scorer in English football (31 goals that season) as they powered to promotion.

We remembered him as an awkward, gangly striker scoring for fun at Dorchester Town just a few years earlier, and his playing style saw him overlooked by all the big clubs. Nobody could understand why the 6ft 3in centre forward, who wasn't the quickest and not even very good in the air, had scored so often but he was an Andy Graham figure: blessed with an innate ability to hit the ball early, and hit the target.

His partnership with ex-Millwall striker Kevin

Bremner was key to Reading's success, while the 500 Stones fans among the 7,169 crowd (later reduced to 6,460, handily denying Stones that extra share of the gate money) teemed out of Elm Park at the end of the game utterly furious.

It was bad enough to have been missing our main strike threat in the Cordice brothers - plus top scorer Mark Graves - through injury, but astonishing that in the 67th-minute flashpoint (a late Reading tackle) the referee should have chosen to send off Bowgett and Derek Doyle with just Glen Burvill walking for Reading. The grainy video footage of the incident shows pushing and shoving between both sets of players after substitute Vinny Jones reacted angrily to Martin Hicks' clumsy challenge.

And that came after Stones trailed to a Dean Horrix penalty, awarded when Steve Richardson burst into the box and was obstructed by our winger Brian Greenaway. In those days, indirect freekicks were awarded for exactly that kind of foul... but Sussex ref Alan Gunn went for the more punitive option.

It was a brave, backs-against-the-wall performance by the depleted Stones but, amazingly, worse was to come as we drove home. The local radio station

TO SLURS OF THE READING MANAGER AND THE LOCAL MEDIA...

crackled into life with its match report on the game and live reaction from Reading manager Ian Branfoot who described Wealdstone as 'a bunch of animals'.

Even in the lead-up to the game, Branfoot had been vocal in the local and national Press about what a tough game it would be against the Stones 'robust' approach, while mentioning that we had had two players set off in a previous FA Cup clash - also at Elm Park - back in 1976. Despite it being a cleanly-fought game apart from the 67th-minute dust-up, Branfoot led the assembled post-match journalists into widespread and undeserved condemnation of the Stones.

Brian Hall's response (below, in the Harrow Observer) showed how furious he was at the Reading reaction... while one Stones fan, Jon Irvine, actually turned his car around and drove to the studio of the local radio station to demand an apology for their comments.

There is no doubt that the club's reputation suffered as a result of the accusations. And from being non-League's top dogs just six months earlier, the Stones' long, slow drop into obscurity began....

The forgotten story of ... Reading's record start to the 1985-86 season

The Royals' remarkable run of 13 consecutive wins in Division Three helped set a League record that remains to this day



Reading's Elm Park, seen here in the 1990s, played host to a record-breaking team in the 1985-86 season. Photograph: Martin Thirkettle

In August 1985, English football was in an horrific situation, persecuted by a government determined to crush its principal constituency and devastated by avoidable tragedies at Bradford and Heysel. What it needed was a start to the following season that reminded people why they bothered in the first place, and, incredibly, that was precisely what it got; Manchester United and Reading performed with a vim seen only once before and never since, Reading winning a resounding victory in the direct battle between the two.

That they inhabited opposite ends of football's own viciously capitalist stratification was of particular resonance. Through the summer, "the big clubs" had conducted themselves with customary grace, not so much throwing their weight as hurting their mass and threatening a breakthrough that proved once again their donation of not a single intercourse for anything save their basest needs.

Above: a piece in *The Guardian* ten years ago tells the story of the autumn of 1985 when football was at a crossroads. The Heysel and Bradford disasters led to the greatest-ever drop-off in attendances across the country, with the Tory government not helping with draconian cuts in the crowds allowed to watch games. The end result was the Taylor report, all-seater stadia and arguably the rebirth of football after 1990 and Gazza's famous tears. Ian Branfoot can't take all the credit, or even some of it.

Wealdstone manager defends his players

Hall hits back

WEALDSTONE manager Brian Hall has hit back at the critics who have branded his double stars as a "bunch of animals."

The stinging accusations were made before and after Wealdstone's 1-0 FA Cup first round defeat at Reading which attracted the competition's third biggest crowd of the day.

The attendance has been corrected from 7,169 to 6,460 after it was discovered that season ticket holders had been counted twice.

Three players were sent off - Wealdstone's Paul Bowgett and Derek Doyle and Reading's Glenn Burvill - following a mass brawl in the centre circle.

"I can't believe what has been said," said Hall. "One incident has taken every headline."

"We've been branded as animals and I can't see why. Five years of hard work has gone down the drain in one 60 second incident."

The incident in question was not even sparked off by Wealdstone.

"Martin Hicks fouled Vince Jones, the players reacted and the referee failed

to control the scene," said Hall. And he added that you did not win "Then he's given us a free kick. What the Gola League and FA Trophy by is it all about?"

"I don't think we were dirty. Our I am not condoning cautions or trainer only came on the pitch once sendings off," said Hall.

"We were called animals before the game. It started after our home match with Wycombe. One of their players came off with a bleeding nose. He was back on but now they tell me he has got a broken cheek bone and we have been accused of committing premeditated and cold-blooded thuggery."

Hall admitted he was upset by the remarks made by Reading manager Ian Branfoot.

"After what he said you have got to question his qualities of management."

"He didn't complain to me when we were talking after the match."

Branfoot had fumed after the match. "One of my players said 'we have to earn our living and some of the things that were going on out there could have prevented us from doing that.'"

Hall, however, refuses to accept the discipline of his players is out of control despite six sendings off this season.



Derek Doyle prepares to receive his marching orders from referee Allan Gunn.



Brian Hall — "I am very disillusioned after what has been said."

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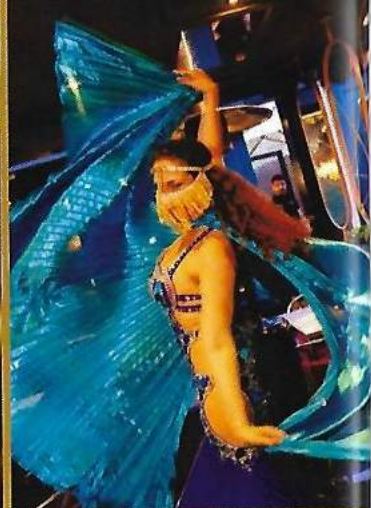
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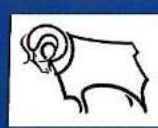
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TAMWORTH
Vanarama
National League
Tuesday
26th November
7:45pm




**WYCOMBE
WANDERERS**
FA Cup
2nd Round Proper
Saturday
30th November
11:30am




**DERBY
COUNTY U21s**
National
League Cup
Tuesday
3rd December
3:00pm

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE - TABLE AS AT 10TH NOVEMBER	ALL			HOME			AWAY			GD	Pts	STONES RESULTS									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D			L	F	A	H	A					
1 York City	17	11	5	1	33	12	9	7	1	1	20	7	8	4	4	0	13	5	21	38	0-2
2 Forest Green Rovers	17	11	4	2	33	14	6	5	1	0	13	5	11	6	3	2	20	9	19	37	2-2
3 Barnet	17	11	1	5	34	20	9	8	1	0	22	5	8	3	0	5	12	15	14	34	0-3
4 Gateshead	17	10	3	4	28	22	8	7	0	1	16	5	9	3	3	3	12	17	6	33	0-1
5 Oldham Athletic	17	8	7	2	25	17	8	4	3	1	11	6	9	4	4	1	14	11	8	31	0-1
6 Rochdale	17	9	3	5	27	16	9	5	2	2	13	7	8	4	1	3	14	9	11	30	
7 Yeovil Town	17	8	4	5	21	15	8	3	2	3	8	7	9	5	2	2	13	8	6	28	0-3
8 Halifax Town	17	7	5	5	19	16	10	4	3	3	14	12	7	3	2	2	5	4	3	26	2-2
9 Solihull Moors	17	7	4	6	26	28	9	3	3	3	15	18	8	4	1	3	11	10	-2	25	1-1
10 Altrincham	17	6	6	5	26	23	8	3	4	1	13	8	9	3	2	4	13	15	3	24	
11 Eastleigh	17	6	5	6	25	25	9	4	3	2	17	14	8	2	2	4	8	11	0	23	
12 Dagenham & Redbridge	17	5	7	5	27	18	8	4	3	1	20	8	9	1	4	4	7	10	9	22	1-2
13 Sutton United	17	6	4	7	25	26	8	2	2	4	12	13	9	4	2	3	13	13	-1	22	0-1
14 Tamworth	17	6	4	7	20	28	9	4	3	2	14	11	8	2	1	5	6	17	-8	22	
15 Southend United	17	5	6	6	20	20	9	3	2	4	11	12	8	2	4	2	9	8	+0	21	1-1
16 Hartlepool United	17	5	6	6	18	21	8	2	4	2	7	8	9	3	2	4	11	13	-3	21	1-1
17 Aldershot Town	17	4	6	7	21	27	9	3	3	3	13	13	8	1	3	4	8	14	-6	18	2-0
18 AFC Fylde	17	5	3	9	23	36	9	4	2	3	18	17	8	1	1	6	5	19	-13	18	1-0
19 Woking	17	4	5	8	18	24	8	3	2	3	9	11	9	1	3	5	9	13	-6	17	0-1
20 Braintree Town	17	4	4	9	13	20	8	3	2	3	5	4	9	1	2	6	8	16	-7	16	3-2
21 Maidenhead United	17	4	4	9	21	30	9	2	3	4	10	14	8	2	1	5	11	16	-9	16	
22 Wealdstone	17	3	6	8	16	25	8	2	1	5	5	13	9	1	5	3	11	12	-9	15	-- --
23 Boston United	17	2	5	10	16	30	10	0	3	7	7	20	7	2	2	3	9	10	-14	11	
24 Ebbsfleet United	17	1	5	11	15	37	8	1	3	4	7	12	9	0	2	7	8	25	-22	8	2-2


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EASTLEIGH
Vanarama
National League
Saturday
23rd November
3:00pm



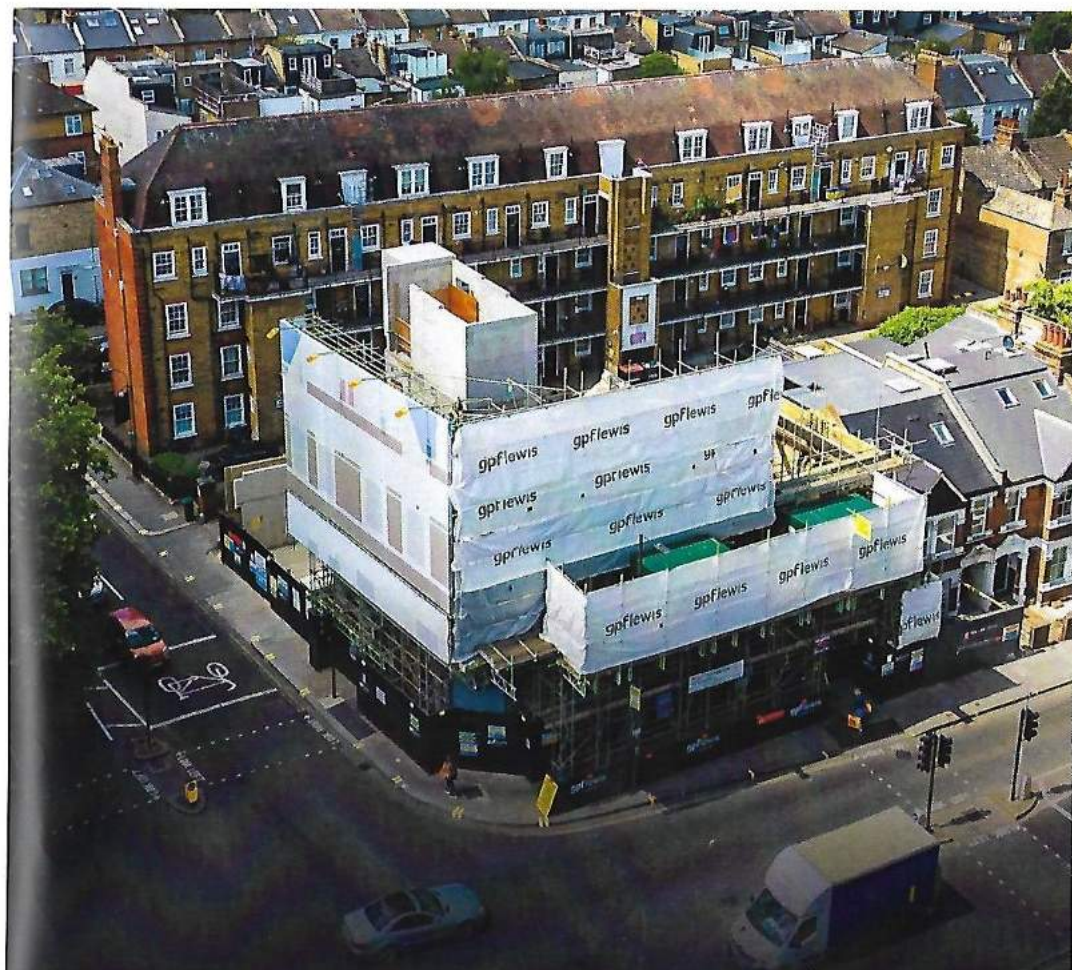
**OLDHAM
ATHLETIC**
Vanarama
National League
Saturday
14th December
3:00pm



**MAIDENHEAD
UNITED**
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National League
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26th December
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