

# TODAY'S SQUADS

## WEALDSTONE ROYAL BLUE/WHITE/WHITE



## ALTRINCHAM RED & WHITE STRIPES

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- 1 Ethan ROSS
- 2 Lewis BANKS
- 3 Eddy JONES
- 4 Lewis BAINES
- 5 Jake COOPER
- 6 Elliot OSBORNE
- 7 Olly CRANKSHAW
- 8 Isaac MARRIOTT
- 9 Regan LINNEY
- 10 Alex NEWBY
- 11 Justin AMALUZOR
- 14 Matty KOSYLO
- 16 James JONES
- 17 Justin DONAWA
- 18 Owen GERMAN
- 19 George WILSON
- 20 Kahrel REDDIN
- 21 Max HAYGARTH
- 22 Tom CRAWFORD
- 23 Tylor GOLDEN
- 24 Joe NUTTALL
- 25 Joel BAILEY
- 27 Louis FALLON
- 28 Remi THOMPSON
- 29 Jake BICKERSTAFF
- 30 Harvey RANDLE

**Officials** Referee: Andrew Humphries Assistants: Martin Bloor and Ross Murphy  
Fourth Official: Tommy Breen Observer: David Phillips Coach: Paul Taylor

**TODAY'S RESULT: WEALDSTONE**  **ALTRINCHAM**

**NEXT AT THE VALE v DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE** SAT DEC 21, KO 3PM  
**v BOSTON UNITED** WEDNESDAY JANUARY 1 2025, KICK-OFF 3PM

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# THE MIGHTY, MIGHTY stones

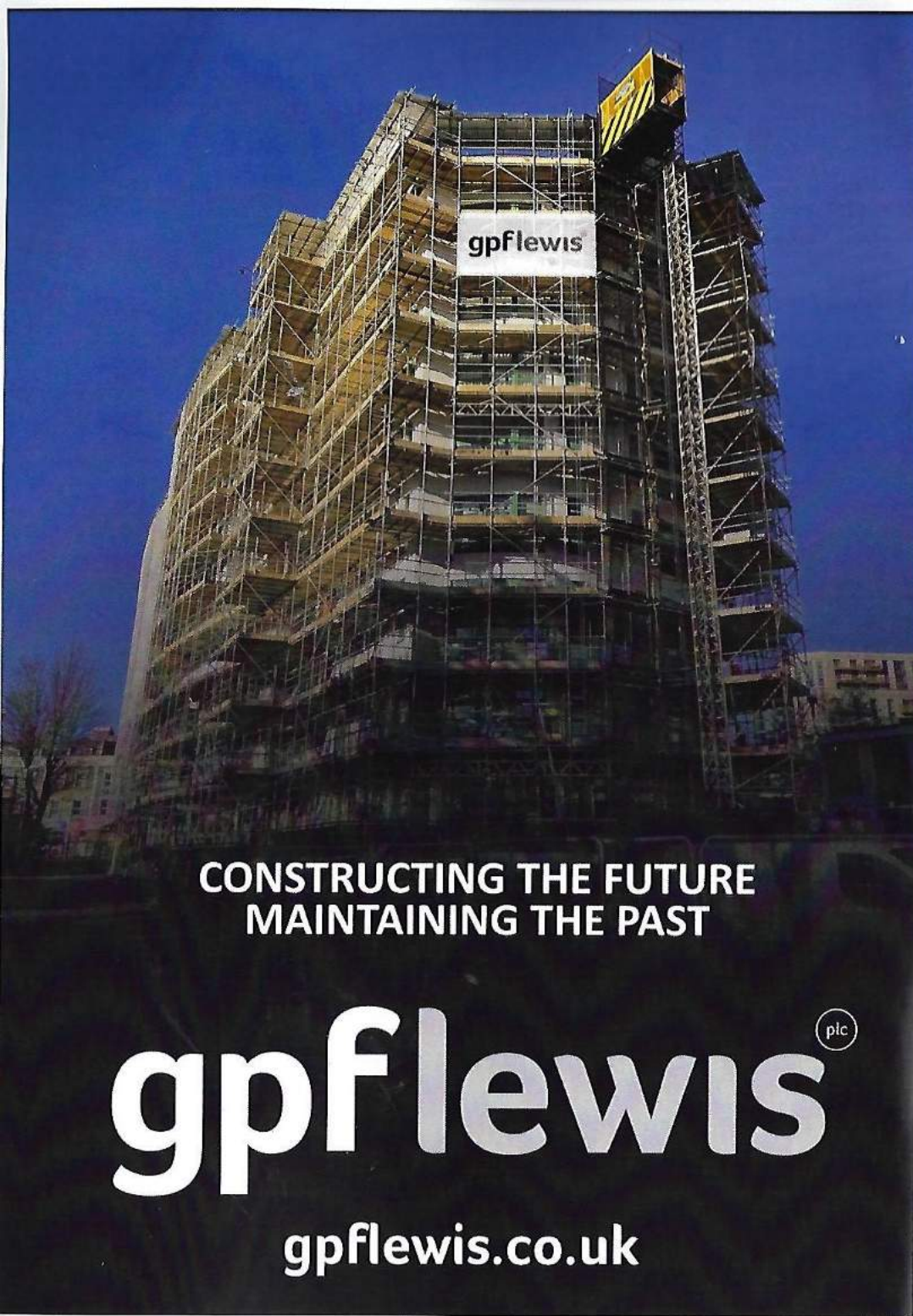
2024-25 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £3



*Man of the match: Kallum Cesay, star of the FA Cup tie v Wycombe, puts Wanderers under intense pressure here at a packed Grosvenor Vale*  
PICTURE: JON TAFFEL

**v Altrincham**

Vanarama National Lge, Tuesday  
December 10, 2024, KO 7.45pm



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GROSVENOR VALE, DECEMBER 10 2024: WEALDSTONE v ALTRINCHAM

**GOOD evening to both Stones and Alty fans for this evening's National League clash and let's hope the weather is calmer and drier than we saw on Saturday at Aldershot.**

From my own distant days playing at a local level, wind and rain were always the conditions you hated most... the unpredictability of the squalls seemed to unsettle us in the second half and it ended as a very tame exit from the FA Trophy. The conditions were redolent of the awful defeat at Biggleswade in the same competition half a dozen years ago - but as we said then, it's the same for both teams!

Altrincham sit just a point or two outside the play-offs despite having not won away since the end of September. Their strong home form is belied by defeats at Aldershot, AFC Fyde and Braintree, and two draws at Solihull Moors including an FA Cup exit on penalties - but they went through on pens against Macclesfield after a goalless draw at Altrincham three days ago.

We are out of the drop zone on goal difference, but with two games in hand on our rivals and, of course, have a five match unbeaten run in the NL to maintain. I'm sure Matt Taylor and his staff will be pleased to have the chance to put things right after Saturday and we can do our bit to replicate the brilliant atmosphere against Wycombe in our last home game.

Much more about the whole live *ITV Sport* occasion on other pages, but it couldn't have gone any better (apart from the final result) and there were many tributes flying around in the hours after the game. Not least about the match programme (see

# Written in Stone

BY TIM PARKS



tweet above) so thanks for that!

Three days later we beat Derby County Under-21s 2-0 here at the Vale in the National League Cup Group A which puts Stones in a position to finish in the top two of our eight-strong group and progress to the knockout stages. The crunch game is on January 21 here against high-flying Brighton & Hove under-21s and it would be great to see the fans turn out in force.

On Saturday we travel to Oldham, scene of some amazing Stones performances in the past - although of course top scorer Alex Reid won't be allowed to play against his parent club. At the other end of the pitch we welcome yet more new keepers Toby Steward (Portsmouth) and James Hillson to the club... this must be a record for goalkeeper turnover! Adam Hills' stats page later in this programme has all the details....

● The match sponsors today are the **Bedford Friends of Wealdstone**, in memory of John O'Connor, while **Toby Jackson** of lapels badge fame is donating the match ball. Thanks to all!



## RIP Tony Caruana, 1938-2024

IT IS always sad when someone from the Wealdstone 'fraternity' passes away, but former Stones reserve team manager and valued scout Tony Caruana was involved in some of the club's greatest moments in the 1970s and 80s. He can lay claim to having discovered Stuart Pearce in 1979 (as 2nd XI boss), and two years earlier his delighted face (left) dominated the picture of the Stones' after-match celebrations when we had beaten Reading to reach the FA Cup 3rd round. Even Chairman David Martle (far left) was forced into the periphery! Tony spent many years scouting for both this club as well as Wimbledon and Yeovil Town, thanks to his friendship with the late Brian Hall.

# WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2024/2025

GROSVENOR VALE, RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX HA4 6JQ  
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## MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Programme Editor Mark Hyde  
Production Martin Read, Tim Parks, Martin Lacey  
Printing People for Print Ltd.  
www.peopleforprint.co.uk  
wfcprogramme@gmail.com

## COMMERCIAL/ MARKETING

IT Consultant Neil Rands  
Commercial Emin Alibey, Richard Hopwood

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Media Team Nicole Cho-Yee, Libby McElhinney  
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## MAJOR HONOURS SINCE 1950 LEAGUE TITLES

1951 / 1952 Athenian League  
1973 / 1974 Southern League Division One South  
1981 / 1982 Southern League Southern Division  
1981 / 1982 Southern League Championship  
1984 / 1985 National League Premier (Gola League)  
1996 / 1997 Isthmian League Division Three  
2013 / 2014 Isthmian League Premier Division  
2019 / 2020 National League South

## NATIONAL CUPS

1965 / 1966 FA Amateur Cup  
1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

## LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

## MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

1958 / 1959 Senior Cup  
1962 / 1963 Senior Cup  
1964 / 1965 Senior Cup  
1967 / 1968 Senior Cup  
1984 / 1985 Senior Cup  
2003 / 2004 Charity Cup  
2010 / 2011 Charity Cup

## NON TITLE-WINNING PROMOTIONS

1997 / 1998 Isthmian League Division 2 (3rd)  
1998 / 1999 Isthmian League Division 1 (3rd, annulled)  
2003 / 2004 Isthmian League Premier Division

The legal name of Wealdstone Football Club is Wealdstone Football Club (2000) Ltd (Registered Number 03953962). Shares in excess of 10% are held by Peter Marsden Property Finance Ltd & Wealdstone FC Supporters Club

## 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
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  - 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 Bulla stand
- 2) No spectator ball games.
- 3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.
- 4) Vehicles parked on the Grosvenor Vale site are at the owners' risk.
- 5) Wealdstone Football Club supports the FA's campaign on pyrotechnics (e.g. flares and smoke bombs). Any misuse of such items in and around the Ground will result in those responsible being asked to leave the ground and, in line with football authority guidance, may result in a report to the Police, potential prosecution and a ban from the Club of up to three years.
- 6) No Smoking or Vaping inside the ground.

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

We have to put  
the display at  
Aldershot to  
rest and get  
back to the  
levels of the  
past 8 weeks



Another 'nearly' moment v Wycombe as Sam Ashford (right) is foiled by keeper Shamal George. Pic: Mike Renny

### Good evening as we face another testing evening under the lights at Grosvenor Vale.

Altrincham are just outside the play-off positions and have big threats going forward, but this is our first National League game since Eastleigh three weeks ago and we're keen to keep our good run going.

Since my last column we, of course, went out of the FA Cup in front of a record Vale crowd after pushing League One leaders Wycombe Wanderers all the way. In fact, it all turned on a couple of misses by Alex Reid, an excellent freekick and some inspired goalkeeping by their stopper Shamal George. I think he was their best player, which speaks volumes.

Alex is mentally strong and he'll get over it. For the chance in the first half, he was in the right place as usual, that's to his credit and you'd back him to score nine times out of ten. It was a move we've worked on in training so it was good to see it almost come off!

As a team, we were getting better and close to where I expect us to be: in the National League Cup win over Derby County seven days ago they again left everything on the pitch and there were three or four players who said, by their body language: "I'm here and I'm ready to go into the team when you need me".

So in the FA Trophy game at Aldershot I made changes because we have three games this week... but, to be honest, they didn't take those chances. You want to utilise your squad and give them opportunities - I understand that it's difficult when you're not playing regular-

ly but ultimately that's your job and you just have to do it.

In the first half our shape was good and we had the better chances to score but just didn't take them. In the second half there were areas I didn't like - not technically or tactically but in terms of not winning enough personal duels, losing too many headers and 50-50s. The two boys in midfield, Jack Wells-Morrison and Kallum Sesay were really good in terms of their energy and ability, running the furthest distances consistently, week after week (and Kallum scored a great goal) but overall, as a team, it just wasn't there.

I wouldn't be surprised if the supporters, who travelled in good numbers again, were questioning the desire a little bit. The players have to be acutely aware that to be a Wealdstone player you have to be at it for 95, 100 minutes every single game.... players make mistakes, even in the Premier League at the highest level of the game but we weren't at the level we needed to be and got exactly what we deserved, based on that second half performance.

It's not a crisis, it's a game of football but tonight it will change. Those selected to face Altrincham will have the opportunity to put Saturday's display to rest. In the last eight weeks we've been really good, really consistent in terms of levels of performance which made it all the more disappointing.

The weather conditions weren't great but they scored three goals in the rain and wind, and we didn't. I've never once in my managerial career tried to make excuses for the players; we have to take collective responsibility.

UTS - Matt



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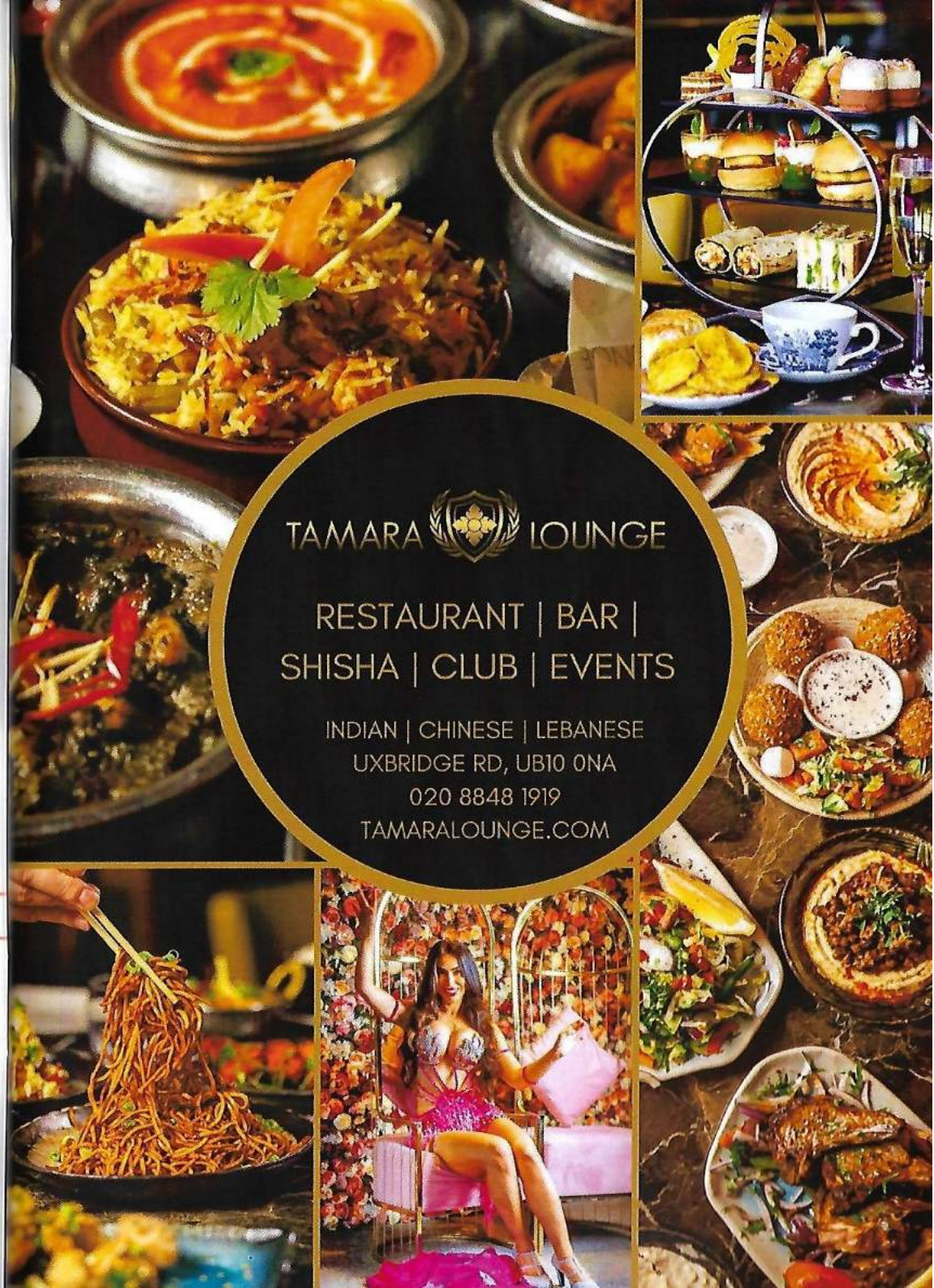


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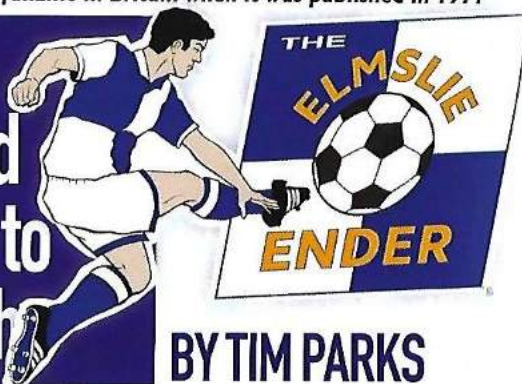
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©Elmslie Ender was among the first wave of football club magazines when it replaced 'Long Ball Down the Middle' as the Wealdstone fanzine in the mid-1980s. LBDTM's forerunner 'Wealdstone Whispers' was famously the THE very first football fanzine in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

# Stones were FA Cup winners of hearts and minds...and so close to winning it on the pitch



BY TIM PARKS

## SOMETHING shifted at Wealdstone Football Club after the Wycombe game.

Suddenly, following a non-League club was close to being fashionable. A tsunami of messages poured in from football folk and friends I'd not heard from for years.

*"Watched your FA Cup second round game with Wycombe on ITV and it was really good"*

*"Shame you couldn't get a goal because the whole occasion was terrific, much more exciting than I'd thought it would be"*

*"I was expecting the TV coverage to be a bit patronising but it was really even-handed. It was great to see Grosvenor Vale packed out... last time I was there it was probably only 10% of that crowd. I thought the atmosphere was really noisy considering that Stones didn't score"*

*"The presenters and commentator even managed to pronounce Wealdstone properly after a slow start. Though Lee Dixon insisted on saying 'Wealdstun!'"*

The coverage - the first time the Stones had been seen live on terrestrial TV since the early 1950s - made the club hugely more visible and much of the credit must go to Stuart Pearce, Wealdstone's most-loved footballing son. He was presenting the show alongside Mark Pougatch and Jobie McAnuff and was captivating. His brilliant anecdotes about his wages in non-League (though still managing to negotiate a 30%



wage CUT when he joined Coventry), the size of the Southern League shield (!) and his obvious respect for his part-time Stones team mates in the early 1980s were a real highlight.

Plus Gabriel Clarke's interview with octogenarians Charlie Townsend and Hughie Lindsay, taking them back to the day in 1966 they played at Wembley in the FA Amateur Cup Final. I'd forgotten that the England amateur side (with Hughie and Charlie midfield mainstays) then got to take on Alf Ramsey's senior side in a behind-closed-doors friendly as part of the build up to the '66 World Cup Finals... which England won of course.

Charlie couldn't have been more humble when he admitted scoring the amateurs' goal in an eventual 6-1 defeat by the soon-to-be World Champions. A shame though that ITV hadn't picked up on the fact that Hughie also played in the 1960 Olympics in Rome, when the England amateurs were knocked out by a Brazil team featuring four players (including skipper Gerson) that won the FIFA World Cup in 1964 and '70.

And there was also a relaxed interview from McAnuff with his two ex-Jamaican international team mates Adrian Mariappa and Garath McCleary. Either it was filmed in a coffee house or Mapps has got an impressive kitchen! They talked about playing against Argentina and Lionel Messi, and how McAnuff pulled rank to swap jerseys.

*I'm sure I'm not the only one who rushed home from the game to watch the whole thing all over again on ITVx playback. And wondered just how different the outcome could have been.*

It was, as Lee Dixon commented, completely against the run of play when Lubala swerved in that wonderful freekick to give Wanderers the



Stuart Pearce (left) and Jobie McAnuff rule the roost before kick-off



A drone captures the Grosvenor Vale atmosphere in the hour's build-up to the 11.30am kick-off

lead. Wycombe may have made 11 changes to the team that had won its tenth successive game against Mansfield in midweek but this was a powerful squad playing for their places. When you've got a squad of 31 League One-standard players there is no danger of complacency.

The Stones fought like tigers but so did Wycombe. The pace and intensity was relentless and it's to the credit of Matt Taylor's team that we carved out the best chances in amongst the frenetic action.

What if Alex Reid had gobbled up that early chance from Sam Ashford's perfect low cross? What if Anthony Georgiou's stinging shot had been palmed by keeper Shamal George into the path of one of our guys instead of to a desperate defender?

What if Ashford had had a nanosecond longer to react to Jack Wells-Morrison's shot and direct it past the keeper instead of into his arms? And if Reidy's deflected shot had angled away from George instead of within reach? And what if he had managed to flick that misdirected defensive header into the Holywell End net instead of seeing it smothered by the keeper again?

The Bulla would have been bouncing and it would have been intriguing to see just how many heavy-hitters Wycombe boss Matt Bloomfield might have brought onto the pitch to save the situation.

As it was, the goalscoring beast that goes by the name of Richard Kone was unleashed and he showed his awesome potential by wrapping it up at 2-0, powering away from Adrian Mariappa and brushing aside the off-balance Jack Cook on his way to almost ripping the net off the goal in front of the jubilant Wycombe fans.

**But the day, as a whole, was a resounding success.**

The record 3,500 crowd had followed advice and turned up early, meaning that the fans were evenly spread on all four sides of the ground. Nobody seemed to be complaining about sightlines as we'd feared... in fact, add a bit of temporary standing alongside the Ruislip

Windows & Doors main stand and 4,000 would have been comfortably achievable.

Programmes sold out, meaning a 'penetration' of 20% which is better than any other club in these smartphone-obsessed times. Premier League clubs sell to something like 5% of their fans.

Certainly ITV were very pleased with how things went, being very complimentary about the Stones. Said their producer Stuart Smith: "I hope we did justice to your club as they've been a joy to work with throughout the process - such a shame one of those Alex Reid chances didn't go in as I thought they played well. Those two moments of League One quality for the goals were the only difference, I thought. Good luck to Wealdstone, especially with the new stadium plans".

I had liaised with Stuart in the week leading up to the game, providing a historical perspective on the two clubs and lots of detail on Pearcey's career and that of Vinny Jones and Jermaine Beckford.

And I'd also pointed out - twice - that Wealdstone is pronounced as two words, with bit of ancient history around the famous Weald Stone thrown in for good measure. Commentator Sam Matterface had seemed to have forgotten this for the opening couple of minutes, with plenty of Wealdstuns scattered around, before apparently spotting his notes referring to the fact that *"It is pronounced Weald Stone... and there is even an ancient monument that the locals will show you if you ask nicely"*.

He probably went a bit off script there, but to his credit (if not Lee Dixon, who steadfastly stuck to the wrong pronunciation) Matterface determinedly got it right for the rest of the show. And to be fair, despite an army of eager nit-pickers this end, the production team didn't otherwise put a foot wrong.

See you next season and thanks very much, ITV Sport!



Charlie Townsend and Hughie Lindsay with Gabriel Clarke



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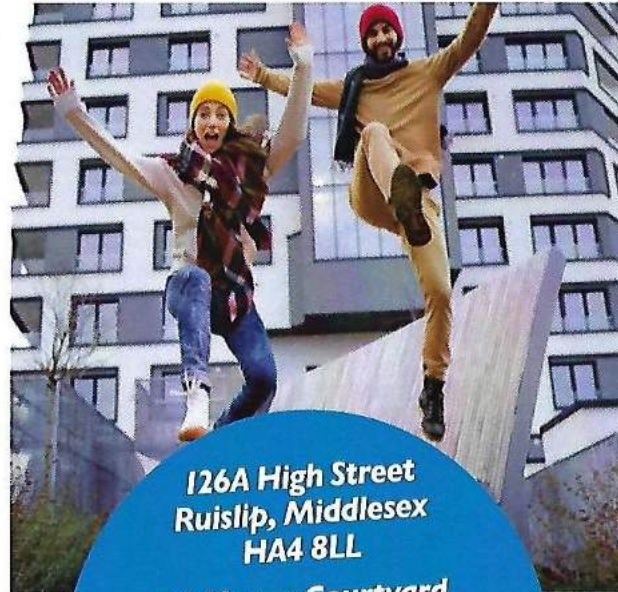


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## ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ALTRINCHAM FC: THE ROBINS

# Today's opposition in focus

**Altrincham was established by a Sunday school around 1891 as Rigby Memorial Club. They soon merged with another local team, Grapplers, to form Broadheath Football Club, and were founder members of the Manchester League in 1893.**

After playing at various grounds in Broadheath, Timperley and Altrincham, the club moved to Pollitt's Field in 1903, at which point they changed their name to Altrincham. They won the Cheshire Amateur Cup in their first season under the new name, and went on to win both the Manchester League and the Cheshire Senior Cup the following season. They won the Manchester League again in 1906-07, and moved to their current Moss Lane ground in 1910.

In 1911 the club joined Division Two of the Lancashire Combination. They finished as runners-up in their first season in the division, only missing out on the title on goal average and earning promotion to Division One. They remained in Division One until World War I. When football resumed in 1919, the club were founder members of the Cheshire County League, where they remained until World War II.

After missing out the 1945-46 season, they rejoined the Cheshire County League in 1946. They were then founder members of the Northern Premier League in 1968.

They reached the semi-finals of the FA Trophy in 1976-77, losing 2-1 to Scarborough in a second replay; the season also saw them apply for election to the Football League for the first time, but they received only 12 votes compared to the 27 received by the elected Wimbledon. The following season they went one better in the FA Trophy, reaching the Wembley final, where they beat Leatherhead 3-1. In 1978-79 they finished as runners-up in the Northern Premier League and applied for election to the Football League again. Although they finished as the top non-League



club in the ballot, they received only 13 votes to the 37 received by Halifax Town, the lowest-placed Football League club. Instead, Altrincham became founder members of the Alliance Premier League, the top level of non-League football, the winner of which would be the sole non-League nomination for future Football League election ballots.

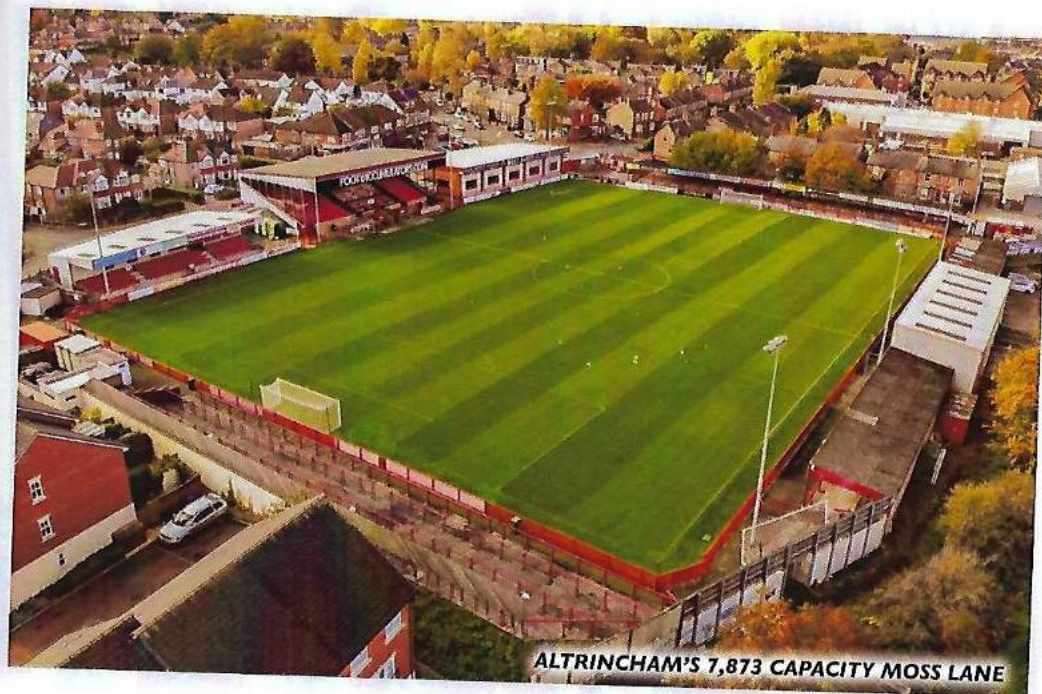
The league's inaugural season saw Altrincham crowned champions. In the subsequent elections to the Football League, the club missing out by a single vote.

Altrincham retained the APL title the following season, but again failed in the Football League elections. The next two seasons saw the club finish in mid-table, together with another FA Trophy final appearance in 1981-82, this time losing 1-0 to Enfield. This was followed by four consecutive top-five finishes between 1984 and 1987 and a second FA Trophy win in 1985, beating Runcorn 1-0 in the final. The 1985-86 season saw them record one of the biggest FA Cup giant-killings of all time when they defeated top division Birmingham City 2-1 at Birmingham's St Andrew's.

After finishing bottom of the Conference in 1996-97 the club were relegated to the Premier Division of the Northern Premier League. An eighth-place finish in 1997-98 saw them return to the Conference two seasons later as Premier Division champions. However, they lasted only a single season in the Conference as they finished second-from-bottom and were relegated back to the Northern Premier League.

A twelfth-place finish in 2003-04 saw them qualify for the newly formed Conference North. They finished fifth in the new division in its first season, qualifying for the promotion play-offs where they were promoted to the Conference National.

In 2005-06 Altrincham finished bottom of the Conference National after receiving an 18-point deduction when they were found to have fielded an ineligible player, James Robinson, for 15 matches, during which he scored six goals and Altrincham won 18 points. However, they were reprieved from relegation after Canvey Island resigned from the league and Scarborough were demoted.



ALTRINCHAM'S 7,873 CAPACITY MOSS LANE

The following season they again finished in the relegation zone, but were reprieved after Boston United were demoted. A third successive relegation reprieve occurred in 2007-08 when Halifax were liquidated.

After mid-table finishes in 2008-09 and 2009-10 and Ricky Ponting becoming a shareholder of the club in 2009, Altrincham were relegated to the Conference North at the end of the 2010-11 season. However, after finishing fourth the following season, they defeated Guiseley 2-1 in the final to earn promotion back to the Conference National. In 2015-16 the club finished in the relegation zone and were relegated to the renamed National League North. The following season they finished bottom of the National League North, leading to a second successive relegation to the Premier Division of the Northern Premier League. However, the 2017-18 season saw the club win the Northern Premier League title, earning promotion back to the National League North.

In 2019/20 They finished in sixth-place resulting in another play-off campaign. After defeating Chester 3-2 and York City 2-0, the club beat Boston United 1-0 in the final, earning promotion to the National League.

In 2020/21 Altrincham finished their first season back at National League level in 17th position. In 2021/22 the Robins improved on the previous season with a 14th place finish, two places above

**OUR RECORD V ALTRINCHAM**  
P25 W9 D4 L12 F26 A33 GD -7

**LAST SEASON**  
SAT 16TH SEP 23 (H) - D 0-0  
TUE 26TH MAR 24 (A) - L 1-4

Wwealdstone, on 55 points having won 15 drawn 10 and lost 19.

In 2022/23 Altrincham finished in 17th place 4 places below the Stones with 56 points having won 14 Drawn 14 and lost 18.

Last Season the Robins finished in 4th place on 77 points and after a walkover against ineligible Gateshead lost 3-1 away to eventual winners Bromley in the playoff Semi-Final.

Altrincham have a history of giant-killing in the FA Cup, holding the record of knocking out more Football League sides than any other club that has spent its entire history playing in non-League. They reached the third round of the FA Cup in four consecutive seasons between 1978-79 and 1981-82, holding a better record in the competition than any club playing in the Third or Fourth divisions during this period.

To date the club has recorded seventeen victories against Football League clubs:

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# Who's who for the visitors

## 1. ETHAN ROSS - Goalkeeper

Phil Parkinson strengthened his goalkeeping options after landing Ethan Ross from Stockport County in a season-long loan deal, which was turned permanent late in 2023.

## 2. LEWIS BANKS - Defence

Potteries-born, Lewis captained his home club's under-21s and under-23s. After a season at Stafford Rangers, he embarked on a highly-successful spell with Sligo Rovers in the League of Ireland Premier Division followed by spells at Arbroath, Dundee and Aberdeen.

## 3. EDDY JONES - Defence

Altrincham made a significant breakthrough on the transfer front during the 2022/23 season after Eddy Jones' hugely-successful loan was turned into a permanent move to The J. Davidson Stadium.

## 4. LEWIS BAINES - Defence

Another significant addition to the Alty ranks in the summer of 2022 after arriving from Chorley. Lewis was capped by England C against Wales C at Caernarfon towards the end of the 2021-22 campaign. Voted players' player-of-the-year at Chorley for 21-22.

## 5. JAKE COOPER - Defence

Immediately proved a steady influence alongside Toby Mullarkey in central defence when he arrived on loan from Rotherham United in February, 2022 before making his switch permanent.

## 6. ELLIOT OSBORNE - Midfield

Another player who benefitted from playing under Phil Parkinson at Nantwich Town and went on to greater things, Elliot was soon snapped up by the Alty boss when League Two side Stevenage released him in January, 2022.

## 7. OLLY CRANKSHAW - Forward

Olly signed for the Robins from Stockport County



PHIL PARKINSON

in August of 2023, after spending the first part of his career with Curzon Ashton, Wigan Athletic and Motherwell. A season-ending injury two games into his Alty career was overcome when the winger made his return against Boston United in September 2024.

## 8. ISAAC MARRIOTT - Midfield

An inspired signing from Bradford (Park Avenue) on Christmas Eve, 2021, Isaac is the sort of dynamic, energetic, hungry young player (born 11/10/99) that fills manager Phil Parkinson with confidence, heading into the new era of full-time football.

## 9. REGAN LINNEY - Forward

Altrincham significantly increased their goal threat in February 2023 after signing free-scoring striker Regan Linney from FC United of Manchester for an undisclosed fee. Preston-born, he began his career down the road at Bamber Bridge, where, after being fast-tracked through the Academy ranks, he broke into the first team at 17 years old.

## 10. ALEX NEWBY - Forward

Alex Newby joined Altrincham on a permanent deal from Colchester United in January 2024. The forward originally signed on loan at the J. Davidson Stadium in September and made an instant impact scoring within minutes of his debut against Ebbsfleet United.

## 11. JUSTIN AMALUZOR - Forward

In the summer of 2023 Altrincham pulled off a significant coup by bringing in talented winger Justin Amaluzor from Vanarama National League rivals Aldershot for an undisclosed fee. Having come through the youth system at Barnet, Justin joined Aldershot in 2022 after a season with Scottish Premier League outfit Motherwell.

## 14. MATTY KOSYLO - Forward

Throughout an eye-catching spell as FC Halifax Town's attacking mainstay, and during a less successful time at AFC Fylde, Matty's fortunes were closely monitored by Phil Parkinson, who knew all about his special brand of creativity after helping

launch his career at Nantwich Town.

## 15. JAMES JONES - Defence

James Jones clocked up well over 100 appearances in his initial spell with Alty and made such a favourable impression, it earned him a move to League Two Barrow two years ago. When he decided he wanted a fresh challenge, in the summer of 2022, Alty were delighted to win the battle to sign him and welcome him back to The J. Davidson Stadium. Highly-accomplished central defender, good in the air and comfortable bringing the ball forward.

## 17. LUCAS WEAVER - Forward

Lucas is a goalscoring winger who signed for Alty in May of 2024 after a blistering season in the NWCFCL with Colne, where he scored over 40 goals during the 2023/24 campaign. A product of Preston North End's academy, Lucas was playing in the West Lancashire League before being signed by Colne in 2022.

## 18. OWEN GERMAN - Midfield

A product of the Alty academy, Owen spent the 2023/24 season on loan with Wythenshawe Town, Warrington Rylands and Stafford Ranger before signing a new contract in the summer of 2024.

## 19. GEORGE WILSON - Midfield

Signed from Coalville Town in early 2023, George recovered from an injury to play an important role during the Robins march to the play-offs in spring 2024.

## 20. KAHREL REDDIN - Forward

Kahrel moved to The J. Davidson Stadium after an extended pre-season trial in the summer of 2024. Formerly with Stoke City and Aston Villa, the winger won the FA Youth Cup with the latter before his move to the Potteries.

## 21. MAX HAYGARTH - Midfield

Max is a former Manchester United youngster who came through the ranks at Old Trafford before spending a couple of seasons with Brentford. A spell in Northern Ireland with Linfield followed, before the attacking midfielder joined Alty in early 2024, making his debut in the 6-1 thrashing of York City in March. Max signed a new contract with the Robins in the summer.



JUSTIN AMALUZOR

## 22. TOM CRAWFORD - Midfield

Tom was a major free agent capture in the summer of 2024 for the Robins from National League rivals Hartlepool United. The central midfielder spent four years with Pools, winning promotion to the EFL during his spell in the North East. The 25-year-old's senior career began at hometown club Chester as a teenager before a move to Notts County.

## 23. TYLOR GOLDEN - Defence

Tylor signed for the Robins as a free agent following a short pre-season trial in the summer of 2024. A former Wigan Athletic prospect, the full-back spent time with Salford City before moving to FC Halifax Town.

## 24. JOE NUTTALL - Forward

Joe signed for the Robins on a season long loan from division rivals Oldham Athletic in the summer of 2024. After leaving Manchester City, Joe played for Aberdeen, Blackburn Rovers, Blackpool and Scunthorpe United before moving to Boundary Park in 2022.

## 27. LOUIE FALLON - Goalkeeper

Louie is an Altrincham FC Academy goalkeeper who's made great strides over the last couple of seasons playing for the under-19s and reserves. Performed well in pre-season before being added to the first team squad ahead of the 2024/25 campaign.

## 28. REMI THOMPSON - Forward

Remi was signed up by Alty after a successful pre-season trial in the summer of 2024. A former Manchester United youth prospect, the 22-year-old forward recently played in Ireland for Waterford.

## MANAGER. PHIL PARKINSON

Phil was appointed on 28 April 2017, the eve of the last game of the 2016-17 season in which Altrincham had been relegated to the Northern Premier League. As a player, he was a junior at Crewe Alexandra, and then at Reading, before having a year at Port Vale. He made some two hundred appearances for Nantwich as a player, where he captained the team that won the FA Vase in 2006. Phil enjoyed promotion from the NPL as champions in his first season and promotion to the National League via the play-offs in 2020.





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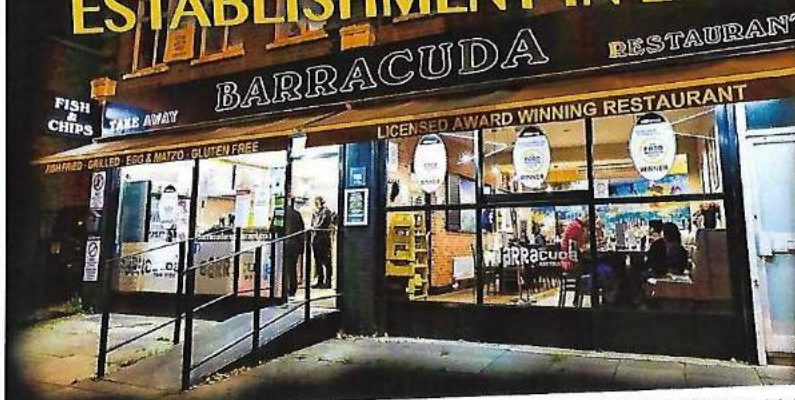
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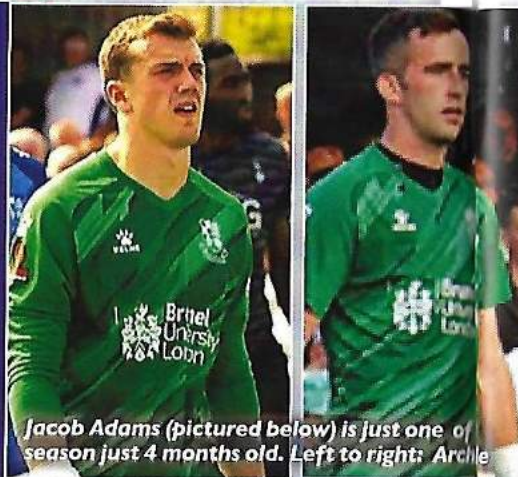
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# STAT ATTACK ADAM HILLS COUNTS

## Jeepers keepers! It's a Wealdstone glove story with a long, long cast



Jacob Adams (pictured below) is just one of season just 4 months old. Left to right: Archie



SEVEN keepers who have been named as starters or on the bench for the Stones with the Matthews, Sam Howes, Frankie Beckles, Nathan Harness, Toby Steward & James Hillson



**TOBY Steward is our No.21 but he wore No.31....**

No, this isn't a goalkeeping riddle but it is an extraordinary fact that the Stones have got through **twenty one** keepers since our return to the National League four years ago!

Steward, the young Portsmouth loanee, made his Wealdstone debut at Aldershot Town in last weekend's dreary FA Trophy defeat to enable the club to hit that unwanted figure. Granted, there have been some academy players in that list, playing in county cup games - but an average of five goalkeepers a season takes some doing.

However, such is the nature of a football club who have been reliant on the goodwill of professional academies yet at the mercy of those same club's first-teams who will quickly move for emerging and vulnerable talent. You have to feel for **Jacob Adams**. He first troubled the teamsheet on that lonely trip to Altrincham during the depths of David Noble's tenure late last March. He then sat on the bench for our painful start to the season before being thrust into the limelight when poor **Archie Matthews** dislocated his shoulder at Forest Green. Adams certainly piqued interest with his sure handling and rangy ground kicking that day and was perhaps unlucky not to retain his place, but for the return of former custodian **Sam Howes**. Howes was



**No.1 choice Jacob Adams shows off the broken hand that gave Toby Steward his chance at Aldershot last Saturday**  
Picture: Jon Taffel

originally No.11, deputising when George Wickens had to briefly return to Fulham at the tail end of the 2021/22 season. However, Howes' second-coming as the Stones No.1 was relatively short-lived and after pulling his hamstring in the win at Aldershot, Adams again got the nod (coming on in the 22nd minute like he did at Forest Green). He fought off the attentions of loan-signing Nathan Harness to hold on to the green jersey for the Rochdale game and looked to have (rightly) earned his place. That is until he broke his hand in the lead up to Saturday's return trip to Aldershot... and Stones were back to the drawing board again.

**So what about those other 20 goalkeepers? Who are they, how did they do and where are they now?**

Well let's start by saying those 21 goalkeepers span 221 games, 42 clean sheets and 378 goals conceded (1.71 goals per game). Only five of those 21 goalkeepers have played more than double digit games and therefore it's a relatively small data set. **Jacob Adams** comes out on top of both win percentage and minimum (average) goals conceded per game. Of those also in that bracket, **George Shelvey** - an apparent sacrificial lamb in the BCD season was last seen playing for Dundalk in Ireland, while **Stuart Moore** is warming the bench for Morecambe in League Two and **Will Dennis** has perhaps fared best of them all as he has recently been playing for Kilmarnock in the Scottish Premier League (SPL). The mainstays of the last five years are perhaps the most obvious to recall. **Harry Isted** found things tough in that 2020/21 season and his win percentage and goals conceded

per game is reflective of what was a ruthless first season back in the National League. His career took off post-Wealdstone and he notably starred for Barnsley as they reached the League One play-off final in 2023. However his career has stalled somewhat and he is not warming the bench at League One strugglers Burton Albion.

**George Wickens** is now flying high with League One promotion hopefuls Lincoln City, after a spell with Ross County in the SPL and he enjoyed a solid season between the sticks in the 2021/22 season. Despite a rather shaky start and the odd blunder, he became a firm favourite with Stones fans and his rise in the professional game does not come as a surprise. **Sam Howes** has racked up the most games in goal for the National League Stones (over, technically - three spells) though his stats fall slightly below his main competitors. The 2023/24 season started with the (wonderfully named) **Jed Ward** beginning the season in goal. Ward joined on the cusp of the season opener against York City after Wealdstone had seen any number of goalkeepers trial during pre-season. The Bristol Rovers loanee always looked comfortable with the ball at his feet but he had a torrid start to his career with howlers at Aldershot and then Dagenham early in his Stones tenure. To his credit, he recovered well before being recalled to Bristol Rovers and claiming the No.1 spot at The Memorial Ground. It was perhaps a surprise to see him back in the National League this season following his move to Forest Green Rovers but it will be no surprise should he venture back into the EFL, with or without Dale Vince's eco-warriors.

Finally, a nod to **Marcus Dewhurst**, who tops the ratings with the win percentage (+10 games)

despite being No.1 during the **David Noble Disaster**. Dewhurst was another fans favourite, a player who instantly 'got the club' and played his part in some epic wins. Stones fans were perhaps surprised to see him leave The Vale last summer to join league rivals Aldershot Town. It looks like Toby Steward will be backed up by ex-Arsenal youth keeper **James Hillson** on the bench as we welcome Altrincham this evening. They sit just a point outside the playoff places but it should be highlighted that Alty have failed to score in their previous four visits to The Vale.

Let's hope whoever starts in goal tonight gets a relatively quiet evening and can keep that record going.

**Five keepers a season: The glovemen who have appeared for Stones in the National League era**

Player	Starts	NL Starts	Win %	AGCP
Alfie Marigliani	2	0	0.00	2.00
Archie Matthews	9	9	11.10	1.22
Arun Khan	1	0	0.00	2.00
Dante Baptiste	2	0	50.00	2.00
George Shelvey	5	5	20.00	3.20
George Wickens	41	40	34.10	1.54
Grant Smith	1	0	0.00	2.00
Harry Isted	24	23	29.20	2.08
Jacob Adams	6	2	50.00	1.00
Jake Askew	7	7	14.30	3.00
Jed Ward	20	19	31.60	1.50
Marcus Dewhurst	31	28	38.80	1.52
Sam Howes	60	56	33.30	1.62
Sam Sargeant	1	1	0.00	1.00
Stuart Moore	9	7	33.30	2.22
Toby Steward	1	0	0.00	3.00
Will Dennis	1	1	0.00	1.00



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## CAMERON MAWER WITH AN UPDATE ON THE STONES' ACADEMY SIDES

# Stones under-23s rolling on as our young stars show their skills chasing the NYL South title



James Payne (right) celebrates his terrific goal against Chatham with Casey Yusuf Phillips and Sakhtim Chemjong

Pictures: JON TAFFEL

**It's been a pulsating start to the NYFL season for our Under-23 academy side who were only beaten once in the first eight games.**

Rolling back to October 7, the side took on Enfield Town in the group stages of the National Football Youth League Cup and claimed a dramatic 3-3 draw

with two late goals. The overhead-kick leveller from Shane Johnson was sensational! The group then travelled to Bracknell Town for a rather one-sided contest, winning 7-0 on a fast-paced 4G surface.

Next up saw the repeat of the cup fixture against

Enfield Town - this time at Brunel in the NYFL - and again both sides couldn't be separated as the game was drawn 2-2. Rushden and Diamonds, the former Football League side, were up next as the boys travelled to Northamptonshire. At half time they found themselves 3-0 down but again showed the Wealdstone fight - an incredible last 30 minutes saw the game turned on its head as we ended up 5-3 winners, London Brookshaw scoring a terrific hat trick. Then another trip to Bracknell Town (this time in the group stage of the National Youth League Cup) where the much-changed home side put up a real battle. They pegged the Stones back to 1-1 after a James Payne goal had put us ahead... and then two goals in the second half from Shane Johnson and Ben Cook earned all three points.

Most recently, a 4-1 win over Chatham (which could have been a landslide) featured a Johnson hat-trick and was followed up with a fighting 1-1 draw at fellow title challengers Kings Lynn. Then came a quick return game with the Chatham youngsters, resulting in a disappointing 2-1 defeat, this time in the League Cup group stage.

So, as it stands, the under-23s are four points off top spot in the table after eight games (see left) and are second in

their group of four in the NYFL Cup, with the top two progressing. These are exciting times for this very talented young Stones group - recognised by the fact that several of the squad have been asked to go out on loan in men's football. Midfielder Declan Phillips is a regular for Kings Langley, playmaker London Brookshaw (who played several times in pre-season for the Stones 1st XI) is playing for Bedford Sports while James Payne is turning out for his rivals Bedford. Centre back Ben Cook (no relation to Jack, as others have asked!) is turning out for Edgware & Kingsbury and agile goalkeeper Pompeyo Castillo has appeared for Amersham Town.

And it was a huge delight for everyone at the academy to first see Jamie Pottle on the bench for the first team against Fulham Under 23s in the National League Cup a month ago, and then being joined by U-23 team mates Jeffrey Sekyere and Declan Phillips (who both got minutes) in the Stones' 2-0 win over Derby County at the Vale a week ago. Neither looked out of place.

Elsewhere, our under-19s National League side are flourishing sitting second in their regional section, six points behind leaders Barnet under-19s but with a game in hand (see left).

They progressed into the third round of the National League Under-19 cup after two late goals defeated Slough Town 4-3, although slipping to defeat in their last couple of Division C games against St Albans and Dunstable Town.

Our Tactic League and ECFA sides continue to play week in week out as players continue to progress through our squads.

**- Cameron Mawer, Academy Head**

## TIM PARKS RUNS THE RULE OVER THE UNDER-23s



U-23s v Chatham. Back row (left to right): Khalid Dovie, Shane Johnson, Jeffrey Sekyere, Dan Fogarasey, Ben Cook (Captain), Federico Balestra, Jamie Pottle. Front row: Dale Welch (Academy Head), Jamie Booth, Casey Yusuf Phillips, Josh Clay, Sakhtim Chemjong, James Payne, Malachi Bailey, Matthew Gomez, Alfie Sanger (Coach)

# Football on a Monday afternoon... come and see the impressive U-23s

**IT WAS good to see the first XI ethos of fast, driving, electric football being replicated by the Under-23s when I took in my first academy game of the season against Enfield Town.**

The North Londoners are no mugs and their own academy has produced several bright stars. But after a dominant start they were rocked by a smart, composed finish from No.10 London Brookshaw as he drilled in a finish similar to Max Kretzschmar at Aldershot. The powerful Cook and Daniel Fogarasey kept Enfield at bay until two decent strikes from their left winger made it 2-1... but then a clever tactical move, with tall wide man Jeffrey Sekyere joining the muscular Shane Johnson up top, put Enfield on the back foot. It was Sekyere who rolled in the leveller



Shane Johnson heads the 3rd goal against Chatham

after Johnson had flicked the ball on. No more goals in the second half saw it end 2-2, probably the right score-line. I was next back at Brunel - and as I've said before, supporters are always welcome to come along and watch the 1.30 kick-offs - to see the 4-1 win over Chatham and it might have been 5-0 at half time as Stones peppered the Kent youngsters' goal. Eventually, Shane Johnson scored twice to add to a delightful 25 yard freekick from James Payne that beat the keeper all the way to the bottom corner.

Next U-23 game is v Tresham Academy on Monday January 13, 1.30pm.

● NEXT SEASON there will be a Wealdstone Ladies academy team as part of the September 2025 intake... if you are interested in joining as a female academy player please email us on [academy@wealdstonefc.com](mailto:academy@wealdstonefc.com)



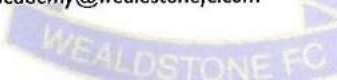
The clever London Brookshaw on the ball against Enfield

### Nat Football Youth Lge Under-23 South Div

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Proccion Oxford U23	8	7	0	1	22	5	17	21
Kings Lynn Town FC U23	8	6	1	1	25	6	19	19
Wealdstone FC U23	8	5	2	1	27	9	18	17
FCV International U23	9	5	0	4	15	17	-2	15
AFC Rushden & Diamonds	9	4	1	4	26	18	8	13
Chatham Town FC U23	8	3	1	4	15	17	-2	10
Tresham Academy U23	8	3	0	5	10	23	-13	9
First XI Vector U23	7	2	1	4	7	21	-14	7
Enfield Town FC U23	8	1	2	5	15	25	-10	5
Bracknell Town U23	9	0	2	7	12	33	-21	2

### Nat Football Youth Lge U-19 Alliance, Div C

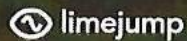
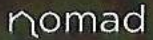
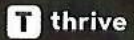
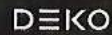
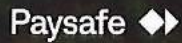
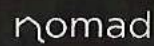
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Barnet	10	7	1	2	34	11	23	22
Wealdstone	9	5	1	3	28	21	7	16
Brentford	8	4	2	2	27	15	12	14
Enfield Town	9	4	2	3	18	21	-3	14
Hampton & Richmond Borough	9	4	1	4	24	19	5	13
Hortford Town	5	4	0	1	30	4	26	12
AFC Dunstable	7	3	2	2	19	19	0	11
Kings Langley	9	3	1	5	23	30	-7	10
Slough Town	6	3	0	3	11	15	-4	9
Hemel Hempstead Town	11	2	1	8	18	38	-20	7
St Albans City	7	2	0	5	11	33	-22	6
Kings Lynn Town	6	0	3	3	11	28	-17	3





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# FIRST TEAM RESULTS & FIXTURES 2024-2025

Month	Opposition	Comp	Score	Crowd	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers
AUGUST	10 Dagenham and Redbridge	VNL	1-2	1,523	215	16	Ashford
AUGUST	17 OLDHAM ATHLETIC	VNL	0-1	1,825	517	19	
AUGUST	20 SUTTON UNITED	VNL	0-1	1,566	310	21	
AUGUST	24 Hartlepool United	VNL	1-1	3,614	33	21	
AUGUST	26 AFC FYLDE	VNL	1-0	1,325	50	21	
AUGUST	31 Solihull Moors	VNL	1-1	948	180	20	(Own goal)
SEPTEMBER	7 YORK CITY	VNL	0-2	1,904	427	22	
SEPTEMBER	10 Woking	VNL	0-1	2,125	127	21	
SEPTEMBER	14 Forest Green Rovers	VNL	2-2	2,265	200	21	McFarlane (2)
SEPTEMBER	21 BARNET	VNL	0-3	2,590	575	22	
SEPTEMBER	24 SOUTHEND UNITED	VNL	1-1	1,947	746	23	McFarlane
SEPTEMBER	28 FC Halifax Town	VNL	2-2	1,442	97	23	Ashford (pen), Obiero
OCTOBER	5 Gateshead	VNL	0-1	1,147	95	23	
OCTOBER	12 GOSPORT BOROUGH	FAC40	4-1	1,005	178	23	Reid (3, 1 Pen), Kretzschmar
OCTOBER	19 YEovil TOWN	VNL	0-3	1,510	341	23	
OCTOBER	23 BRAINTREE TOWN	VNL	3-2	1,163	85	22	Ashford (2), Reid
OCTOBER	26 Ebbsfleet United	VNL	2-2	1,498	250	22	Ashford, Reid
NOVEMBER	2 Grimsby Town	FAC1R	1-0	3,174	268	22	Reid
NOVEMBER	5 FULHAM U21s	NLC	0-2	190	TBD	22	
NOVEMBER	9 Aldershot Town	VNL	2-0	3,156	204	21	Reid (pen), Kretzschmar
NOVEMBER	12 SOUTHAMPTON U21s	NLC	3-1	160	TBD	21	Adarkwa, Sandat, Thorpe
NOVEMBER	16 ROCHDALE	VNL	2-0	1,922	558	20	Kretzschmar, Cesay
NOVEMBER	23 Eastleigh	VNL	1-1	2,020	187	19	Ashford
NOVEMBER	30 WYCOMBE WANDERERS	FAC2R	0-2	3,534	1,035	19	
DECEMBER	3 DERBY COUNTY U21s	NLC	2-0	96	TBD	19	Sandat, Woodman
DECEMBER	7 Aldershot Town	FATR3	1-3	1,172	140	19	Cesay
DECEMBER	10 ALTRINCHAM	VNL					
DECEMBER	14 Oldham Athletic	VNL					
DECEMBER	21 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	VNL					
DECEMBER	26 Maidenhead United	VNL					
JANUARY	1 BOSTON UNITED	VNL					
JANUARY	7 TAMWORTH	VNL					
JANUARY	11 Altrincham	VNL					
JANUARY	14 Sutton United	VNL					
JANUARY	18 HARTLEPOOL UNITED	VNL					
JANUARY	21 BRIGHTON & HOVE A U21s	NLC					
JANUARY	25 AFC Fylde	VNL					
FEBRUARY	1 SOLIHULL MOORS	VNL					
FEBRUARY	8 GATESHEAD	VNL					
FEBRUARY	15 Yeovil Town	VNL					
FEBRUARY	18 Braintree Town	VNL					
FEBRUARY	22 EBBSFLEET UNITED	VNL					
MARCH	1 ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL					
MARCH	4 Tamworth	VNL					
MARCH	8 Rochdale	VNL					
MARCH	15 EASTLEIGH	VNL					
MARCH	22 WOKING	VNL					
MARCH	29 York City	VNL					
APRIL	5 FOREST GREEN ROVERS	VNL					
APRIL	12 Barnet	VNL					
APRIL	18 Boston United	VNL					
APRIL	21 MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VNL					
APRIL	26 Southend United	VNL					
MAY	5 FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL					

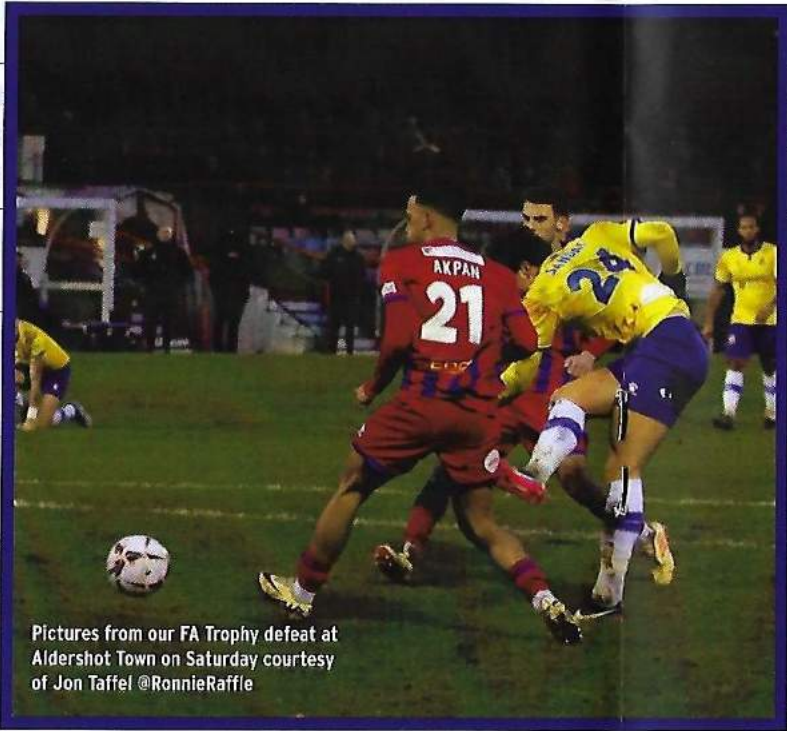
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Archie MATTHEWS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Jack COOK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Anthony GEORGIU	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Deon WOODMAN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Alex DYER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Mason BARRETT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Enzio BOLDEWIJN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Craig EASTMOND	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Sean ADARKWA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Max KRETZSCHMAR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Todd MILLER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Jacob ADAMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Micah OBIERO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Elliot SIMMONS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Luke DREHER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Dominic HUTCHINSON	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Christian SCOTT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Adrian MARIAPPA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Sam ASHFORD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Kallum CESAY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Yacou TRAORE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Alex REID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Henry SANDAT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Jack WELLS-MORRISON	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Declan PHILLIPS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Elliot THORPE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Josh GRANT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Jahmar CLARKE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Callum MCFARLANE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Jeffrey SEKYERE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
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Brandon MASON	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

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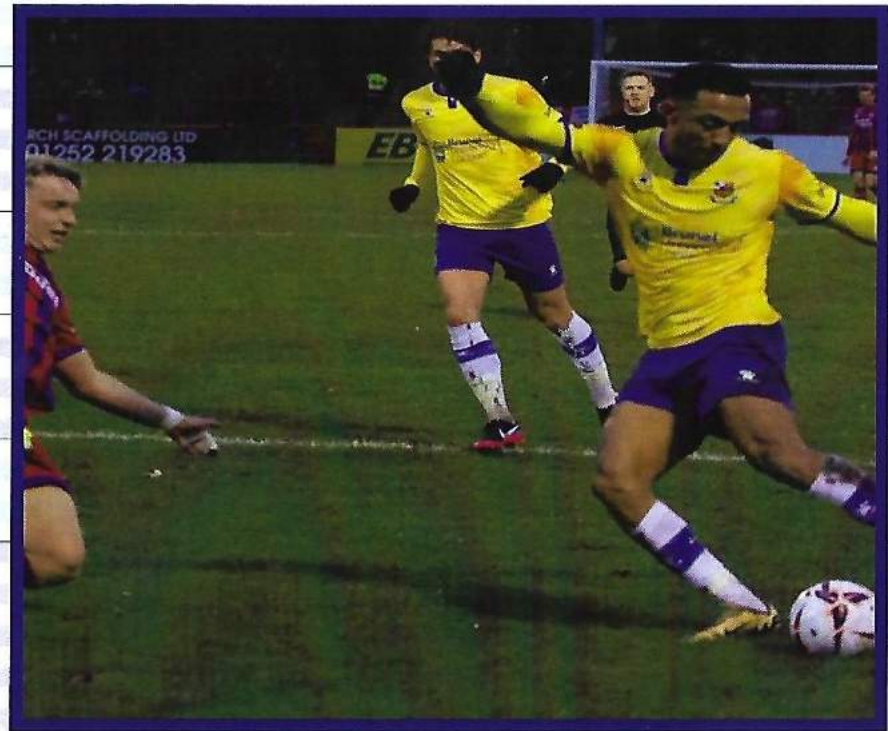
- P** Starter
- 1** 1st player off
- 2** 2nd player off
- 3** 3rd player off
- 4** 4th player off
- 5** 5th player off

**Substitute**

- 1** 1st player on
- 2** 2nd player on
- 3** 3rd player on
- 4** 4th player on
- 5** 5th player on



Pictures from our FA Trophy defeat at Aldershot Town on Saturday courtesy of Jon Taffel @RonnieRaffle



Date in Red = MIDWEEK fixture



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## FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS PROFILES TEN LEADING ALTRINCHAM MANAGERS

# MANAGING TO SUCCEED

BY LEIGH EDWARDS



### FREDDIE PYE

Flamboyant manager Freddie Pye put Altrincham on the national football map. A former wing-half with several North West clubs, most notably Hyde United, he had early managerial success with Nantile Vale and Pwllheli before a spell in charge of Stalybridge. He was appointed manager of Altrincham by Noel White and Peter Swales in April 1963 and guided them to the Cheshire League title in 1965-66 and 1966-67 as well as Cheshire Senior Cup and League Cup triumphs. Remaining in charge until February 1969, he became a director and general manager, with two spells as caretaker-boss. He ran a scrap metal business and died in March 2008.

### ROY REES

Welshman Roy Rees was manager when Altrincham took Everton to an FA Cup third round replay in 1974-75. He played for Burscough before managing Prescott Cables, then managed Skelmersdale to two Cheshire League titles and Amateur Cup final success in 1971. Appointed Altrincham's boss in January 1972, he gave the likes of Graham Heathcote and John Davison their chance, also signing several notable players. Remaining in charge at Moss Lane until March 1975, he then managed Bangor City and British Universities. He later emigrated to the United States, holding youth coaching posts, including the United States U-17 team. He died in November 2011.

### TONY SANDERS

Tony Sanders managed Altrincham to two consecutive Alliance Premier League title

triumphs. Previously assisting Roy Rees, he became manager in April 1976 and led Altrincham to two Wembley finals, including their 1978 FA Trophy final success. He also guided them to two Alliance Premier League Cup finals and established their reputation in the FA Cup with high profile games against Spurs and Liverpool as well as beating Football League sides such as York City, Rochdale, Sheffield United, Scunthorpe United and Crewe Alexandra. The club's longest single tenure manager, he remained in charge at Moss Lane until January 1984.

### JOHN KING

Former England Semi-Pro international John King had three spells as Altrincham's manager. He played for Kirkby, Wigan Athletic and Northwich before moving to Altrincham in July 1977. Skipping their 1978 FA Trophy triumph and two Alliance Premier League title wins, he also starred as they reached the FA Cup third round four times. He joined South Liverpool but returned as manager in January 1984 and plotted Alty's 1985-86 FA Cup run and FA Trophy success. Briefly managing Runcorn, he rejoined Altrincham from September 1988 until August 1991, then managed Caernarvon and Alty again from February 1994 until March 1998.

### TOMMY DOCHERTY

Former Scotland international wing-half Tommy Docherty briefly managed Altrincham during the 1987-88 campaign. Initially with Celtic, he joined Preston in November 1949, helping win the Second Division title in 1950-51 and reach the FA Cup final in 1954. He moved via Arsenal to Chelsea, managing their 1965 League Cup final success. Later managing Rotherham United, QPR, Aston Villa, Oporto and Scotland, the 'Doc' guided Manchester United to FA Cup glory in 1977. He then managed Derby County, QPR again, Preston, Sydney Olympic, Wolves and Altrincham from September 1987 until February 1988. He died in December 2020.

### JEFF JOHNSON

Versatile England Semi-Pro striker Jeff Johnson played for

Altrincham in three FA Trophy finals, including the 1978 and 1986 Wembley triumphs. He impressed with Hyde United prior to joining Stockport County in September 1976, then moved to Altrincham in July 1977. Twice 'Player of the Year', he scored as Alty took Spurs to an FA Cup third round replay in 1978-79, helping reach the FA Cup third round on four occasions as well as twice win the Alliance Premier League title. He netted 46 goals in 242 Alliance Premier League games and assisted Tommy Docherty before replacing him as manager from February 1988 until September 1988.

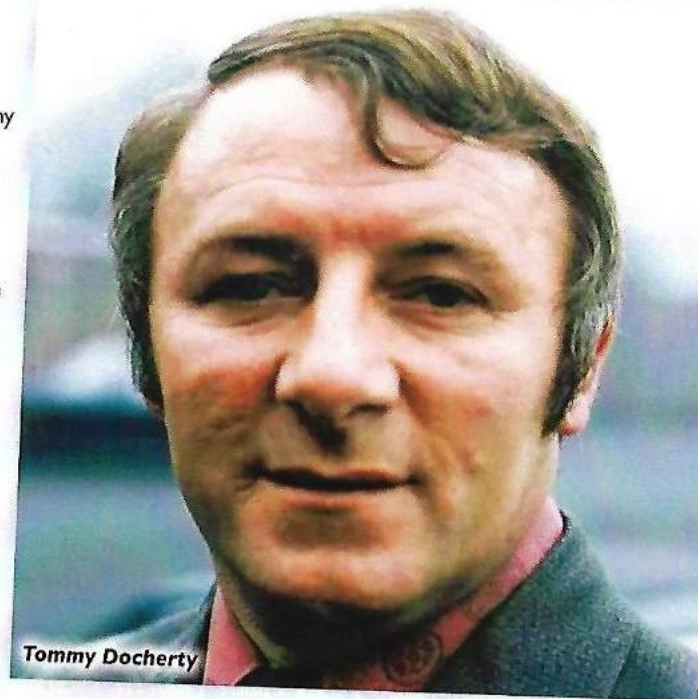
### BERNARD TAYLOR

Bernard Taylor managed Altrincham to the Northern Premier League title in 1998-99. Previously Alty's reserve team boss, he replaced John King as manager in March 1998 and plotted that year's Northern Premier League Cup final success. He also guided Altrincham to two consecutive Cheshire Senior Cup finals, including their 1999 triumph. Resigning in May 2000, following relegation, he remained at the club as stadium manager before being reappointed manager from March 2001 until October 2002. His whole family ended up serving the club. Later managing Kidsgrove Athletic for a spell, he resided in Timperley until his death in October 2018.

### GRAHAM HEATHCOTE

Long-serving midfielder Graham Heathcote gave Altrincham marvellous service in various capacities. He progressed through the ranks at Moss Lane and starred as Altrincham took Everton to an FA Cup third round replay in 1974-75. Returning from a brief spell at Northwich Victoria, he helped the Robins to win the FA Trophy in 1978 and was a Wembley finalist again in 1982. He also featured prominently as they twice won the Alliance Premier League title and reached the FA Cup third round four times. Assisting John King at Runcorn and Altrincham, he doubled up as club secretary and was manager from October 2002 until September 2010.

Tommy Docherty



### LEE SINNOTT

Former England U-21 defender Lee Sinnott managed Altrincham's 2014 Conference North play-off final triumph. Initially at Walsall, he joined Watford in September 1983 and was an FA Cup finalist in 1984. He moved to Bradford City in July 1987, then played for Crystal Palace, Bradford City again and skippered Huddersfield to promotion in 1994-95. Later with Oldham Athletic and Scarborough, he managed Farsley Celtic from the Northern Premier League to Conference National before spells in charge of Port Vale and Bradford PA. He managed Altrincham from May 2011 until March 2016, then was Gainsborough Trinity's boss.

### PHIL PARKINSON

Phil Parkinson managed Altrincham straight back to the Conference North as Northern Premier League champions in 2017-18. A young player at Crewe and Port Vale, the midfielder was a key figure as Nantwich Town won the FA Vase in 2006 and also back-to-back promotions from the North West Counties League and Northern Premier League First Division. The sports science lecturer became their manager in February 2015 and guided the Dabbers to the FA Trophy semi-finals in 2016. Appointed Altrincham's boss in April 2017, he led them to the Conference North play-offs in two consecutive seasons including their 2020 final triumph. Tranmere and Scunthorpe, and Hereford.



Graham Heathcote

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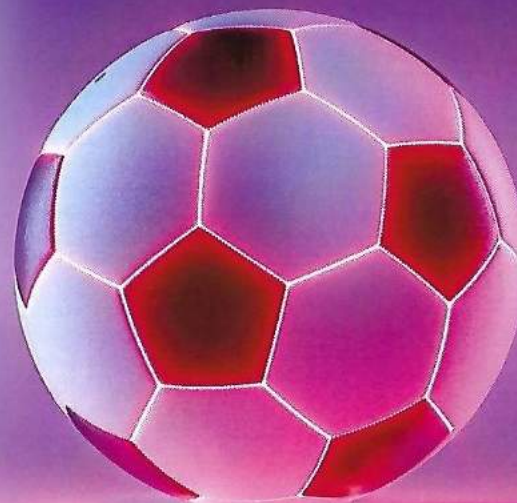
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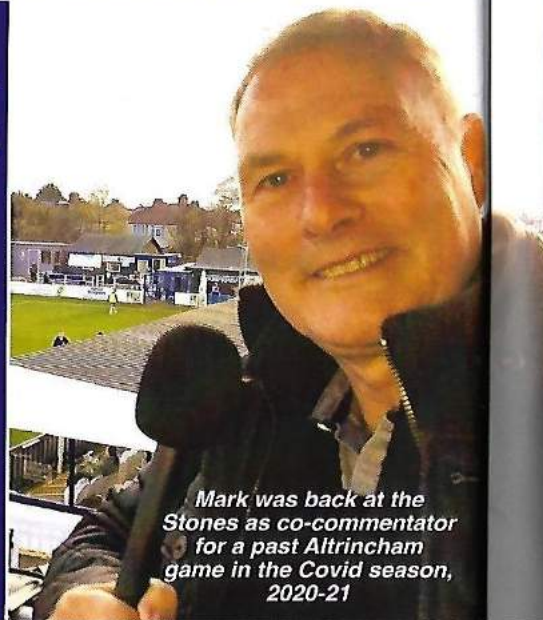


TIM PARKS



ON THE WEALDSTONE LEGENDS: TODAY HE

# Goal machine Mark Graves changed his whole style of play to fit into boss Allen Batsford's game plan.... and boy, it worked out a treat!



Mark was back at the Stones as co-commentator for a past Altrincham game in the Covid season, 2020-21

**MARK GRAVES' contribution to The Wealdstone Story has gone a little bit under the radar, in my opinion.**

Ten years before Graves's time, George Duck took the plaudits as the Stones' *Greatest Goalscorer Of All Time* and - even while Mark was still playing - Alan Cordice won the acclaim for the team's most valuable player. Indeed, the jet-heeled Alan was non-League's *Player of the Year* in 1985.

And of course, when Gravesey was sidelined with an ankle ligament injury in the Spring of 1985 (in the FA Trophy 2nd round win over Wycombe Wanderers), Andy Graham took the No.10

shirt and wrote his name into Wealdstone folklore with a spate of spectacular goals as Brian Hall's side won that unprecedented non-League double.

**Between his debut in August 1982 and that desperately unfortunate injury two and a half years later, Mark scored 87 goals in 145 games to become the most feared striker in the Conference.**

In fact he was top scorer in every one of his six seasons with the Stones, finally totting up **138 goals in 234 appearances** before leaving for Isthmian League Hayes in the summer of 1987, where he hit another 46 in 89 games. That's some sharp-shooting!

Shortly after finishing playing at the age of 28, Mark needed a replacement hip. And four years ago he had the other one replaced too! "All down to football" he says with a shrug. So is there a touch of bitterness that he was denied a chance to be a key part of the double celebrations?

"Am I bitter? No, not at all" said the now-63-

**CONTINUED >>**

SPOTLIGHTS MARK GRAVES, SUPER STRIKER OF THE 1980s

# 'Stones into battle

Soccer

by Ron Smithson

THE moment of truth has arrived for rejuvenated Wealdstone.

On Saturday the Southern League glory-boys, who swept all before them last season to win Southern League, Shield and Cup, face up to the side who've come closest to winning acceptance into the Football League in recent times, Altrincham.

The match at Moss Lane will be 'Stones first league test of the new season and should prove a useful barometer on how Allen Batsford's side is going to shape up on their return to the Alliance Premier League.

It's a tough test by any standards, but Stones know they have a chance with Altrincham clearly in a process of rebuilding.

Mid table at the end of last season half a dozen regulars have gone from the club including striker John Rogers and keeper John Connaughton.

In addition Altrincham skipper John King is not certain to line up against newly promoted 'Stones.

But 'Stones boss Allen Batsford certainly isn't under any illusion as to his side's task.

He knows what a confidence-booster a good display at Altrincham would provide - especially with an arguably even tougher crunch league encounter at mighty Dagenham just 48 hours later.

Says Allen: "Saturday is very important. I don't think there's another side in the league with as tough a start as us with five away games early on.

"But the way we look at it is that it's a new season and we've got to go with a positive attitude."

'Stones have prepared for the new season with a string of games against league clubs.

Batsford would like to

have had the games spread out a little more - 'Stones played four games in seven days last week - but he comments: "All the players have been pleased with the way the games have gone. I would like to have been able to train in between but there wasn't anything we could do about that."

Saturday's game should provide a first taste of Alliance action for Mark Graves, Batsford's signing from Plymouth.

But the 'Stones boss doesn't look likely to add further at the moment. John Peacey, ex-Barnsley, apparently did not do enough to encourage Batsford to add him to the squad especially with the return to fitness of Nigel Johnson, scorer of over 20 goals in the first half of last season before back trouble ruled him out for the rest of the campaign.

## In contention

With Johnson now back in contention, and Graves clearly a major part of Batsford's plans, the Wealdstone manager certainly doesn't look likely to experience the player shortage that sometimes affected the side last season.

In fact some of the stars of last year's success could be out in the cold with no reserve team this season.

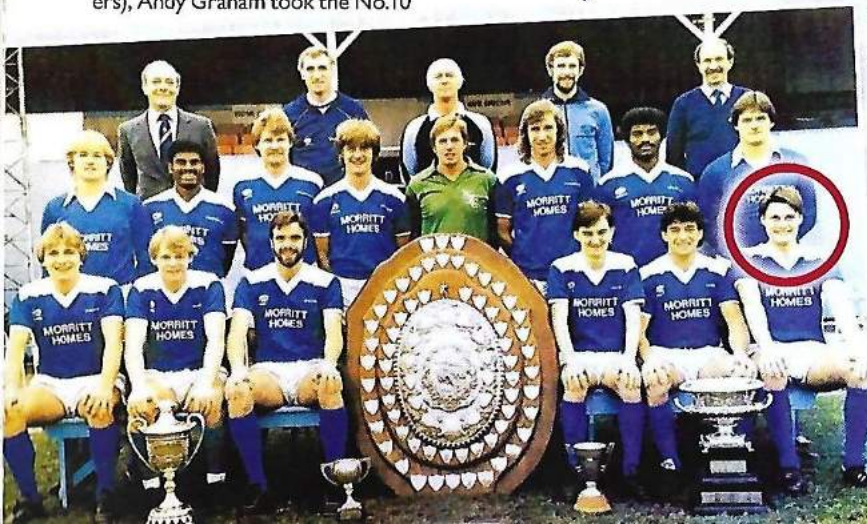
Batsford himself says "Everybody is working very very hard at the moment with competition for places very keen."

Batsford added that he will not settle on the squad to travel to Altrincham until after Thursday's friendly against Crystal Palace at Lower Mead.



MARK Graves - expected to make his Alliance debut at Altrincham.

Above: the Harry O previews 'the Stones' first game back in the Conference in August 1982 at twice-champions Altrincham. It was one to remember for Graves! Far left: Wealdstone line up in pre-season that year with all their five Southern League trophies and one new signing: M.Graves (circled far right in the front row)



## CONTINUED: MARK GRAVES ON HOW HIS CAREER TOOK OFF AT

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

year old ex-striker when we caught up for the first time I since I'd asked him if he fancied co-commentating on the Altrincham game back in December 2020, the Covid season.

He said: "It was an extraordinary time for me, playing for Wealdstone, and I feel honoured to have been at the club at that time. It was pretty much unique to keep the same side together for four or five years and that was the key to our success - you always knew what the team was as we had such a small squad. Just the regular dozen plus people like Nigel Johnson and Paul Waites who would step in and do a job."

Stones came 3rd in the league in his first season (1982-83), fourth the next and then won the Gola League title in 1985. So what happened in the end? I asked him. Why did the team disintegrate in the mid-80s?

"That team just got old together" he said simply. "There's no magic formula... Allen Batsford was great at putting a team together, building a squad and to be honest Brian Hall wasn't so good at getting new players in. He was handed the crown jewels when he took over from Allen, and when he left a few years later he left the cupboard bare. He even took quite a few players with him to Yeovil".

Mark was clearly fond of Batsford and visited him in hospital every day during his long convalescence. "When Allen had his heart problems and was shifted

aside for Brian, it was a bit like Tony Barton getting the credit for winning the European Cup for Aston Villa when he'd only been in the job three months. Ron Saunders had built that team".

**Mark was born in Isleworth, West London but moved to Devon with his family when he was five.** The head of PE at his school in Totnes, Tony Brimacombe, was an ex-Plymouth Argyle player and he recommended that they had a look at the teenage striker - and thus Mark made his Football League debut at the age of 16.

"At the time I was the youngest player to have made their debut for Plymouth. Mike Kelly was the manager, and he was followed briefly by Malcolm Allison before he went to coach in Portugal - but then Bobby Moncur, the ex Newcastle and Scotland player, took over. What was he doing in Devon... who knows? But he was hopeless - he knew nothing about the game at that level. He certainly had no faith in me, so I was released after having played 30 games, and another dozen or so as sub.

"The trouble with being in such a remote part of the country" said Mark, "is that there is not the scouting network like in London, for example. And Argyle had pulled their reserve side out of the Football Combination because of travel costs, and stuck us in the Western League!"

But it was a stroke of luck that brought the young Gravesey to Lower Mead.

"Allen Batsford had heard that I was available, looked me up in the non-League directory and saw

## WEALDSTONE AFTER TEENAGE DISAPPOINTMENT AT PLYMOUTH

# Survivors

Wealdstone 3, Hendon 2 (act)  
**'STONES** are the sole local survivors in the FA Cup after Tuesday's nail-biting replay against Isthmian League Hendon.

But they had a lucky escape after twice coming from behind to thwart plucky Hendon, who were anything but overawed by their more illustrious Alliance neighbours.

And Wealdstone needed extra time to finally deny a Hendon side who left their indifferent Isthmian League form behind (writes Ron Smithson).

After Saturday's 1-1 draw at Claremont Road, Wealdstone manager Allen Batsford left out striker Ray Knowles and gave close season signing Mark Graves the role of target man up front.

It was Hendon, though, who drew first blood after 19 minutes, Rogers' inswinging corner being muffed by 'keeper Ray Goddard at the unguarded far post and going straight in for a gift goal.

Then 'Stones had their collective hearts in their mouths as, straight from the restart, Green was surprisingly not called offside and threatened to go all the way before being robbed by the ever reliable Stuart Pearce — a tireless warrior on Tuesday.

But Batsford's ploy of Graves as an out and out target man — at the expense of the strangely quiet Alan Cordice — paid off after 26 minutes. Pearce's corner into a hot-bed of action received a touch on and Graves was there for the finishing header to bring 'Stones level.

Yet after that, 'Stones failed to put their stamp on the game, regular territorial advan-

## 'Stones win cup thriller

tage never really having the penetration to dominate the visitors. Hendon continued to give as good as they got, and when Der Byatt felled Winston with about as much grace as a lumberjack, a penalty was inevitable result, Rogers making no mistake with the 37th minute spot kick.

So the stage was set for a grandstand finish. 'Stones made it but only just, after only occasionally producing their best football — a superb combination of one-touch football which ended with Graves' fien drive being fingertipped over the only net they gelled like true Alliance material.

With 15 minutes left, and desperation ever approaching, Batsford took off midfielder Wainwright for out and out attack in the shape of Neil Cordice.

And with eight minutes of normal time left, the gambit played off, Bowget's well flighted cross being turned home via Neil's clinical header for the vital equaliser. Extra time saw two tired sides searching for the breakthrough and indeed 'Stones looked to have settled for another replay when, with five minutes left, Graves was in the right place at the right time to nod home Stuart Pearce's corner at the far post.

'Stones face further Isthmian opposition in the third qualifying round on Saturday week when they travel to currently unbeaten Dulwich Hamlet.



A victory salute from Wealdstone's Mark Graves after he had scored the late winner against Hendon in the FA Cup on Tuesday night.

that I'd been born in West London. He assumed that I was a Londoner desperate to come back home... whereas actually I'd been living in Devon for 15 years!

"But I came up and he signed me almost immediately... I was the only addition to the team that had won every trophy in the Southern League the previous season, so no pressure then..."

**Stones had been well served up front by the mercurial Alan Cordice and Ray Knowles, who'd played in the lower divisions for Wimbledon. But Batsford was hatching a plan for a more mobile strike force.**

"The season started brilliantly. I made my Conference debut at Altrincham, Wealdstone's first game back at that level, and scored the goal as we won 1-0" said Mark.

"But the style of play was alien to me. My strengths

were my first touch, my hold-up play and my finishing, while the Wealdstone way was to play simple long diagonal balls behind the back four for Alan (Cordice) to run onto. I was like a fish out of water. We were winning but there were some games when I hardly got a touch.. it all changed for me after I was left out for Ray (Knowles) for two successive games at Tel-ford and then Hendon in the FA Cup. We drew both, and then as I was driving down for the Hendon replay with the Cordice brothers - who lived near me in Buckinghamshire - I said to Neil 'I think we'll both be starting tonight'. **CONTINUED OVER PAGE >>**

*The game that changed everything for Mark Graves: He was recalled for the FA Cup replay win over Hendon at Lower Mead, and never looked back in a blue shirt*

## Mark nets the top awards

**SHARP**-shooting striker Mark Graves is tops with Wealdstone players and supporters alike.

At the club's end-of-season presentation dance he won both the supporters club player of the year award (the Jack Law Trophy) and the players 'player of the year'.

Graves was easily Wealdstone's most successful forward this season, scoring 23 league goals, and 31 in all.

The former Plymouth and Ipswich player netted a hat-trick in 'Stones penultimate game of the season against Kettering.

"It's very flattering to receive awards and from both the supporters and the players you work with throughout the season," said a delighted Graves.



Sharp-shooting striker Mark Graves (right) receives his two Player of the Year awards from Wealdstone chairman David Morrill at the club's end of season presentation dance.

## CONTINUED: AND HOW MARK COMPARES THE MODERN-DAY

### FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

"Neil said no chance - he'd be on the bench and I'd be in the stand. But then we got in the dressing room, the team was announced and Neil said to me: 'You spoke to the gaffer! He told you the team!'"

"I hadn't of course, but Allen put faith in me and Neil and I ended up scoring twice and Neil the other as we won 3-2 after extra time... and Hendon were a decent side then, with people like Iain Dowie and Dermot Drummy.

But that night I also decided to change my whole game. There was no point me coming short for the ball, so instead I peeled off to the wing, taking a centre back with me and leaving space for Alan to run into. Then I'd make a U-turn and take up position for Alan to pull the ball back. We scored so many goals like that, it was so simple but effective".

**As Mark says, he was never dropped after that lightbulb moment.**

Allen Batsford stuck with the A.Cordice/Graves combination up front, with Robin Wainwright, Neil Cordice, John Margerrison or Nigel Johnson controlling the midfield and the mean machine (Bowgett & Byatt) and full backs Steve Perkins and Stuart Pearce providing the foundation at the back. With a few tweaks, it was a formula that held good for three years.

"Stuart was unbelievably good, both defending and coming forward. His crosses were some-

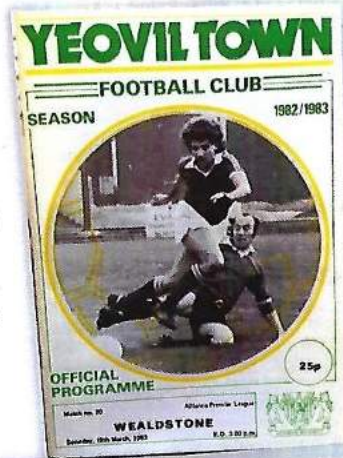
thing else and we all knew he'd have a future in the Football League. But we didn't think he'd become England captain!"

I asked Mark to compare slick, modern-day Conference football to the football of his day.

"I'd say the biggest difference these days is the mobility of the defenders. In the 1980s it was largely a case of old ex-pros moving down into non-League, and often their legs had gone. That's why Alan Cordice was such a game-changer for us. We thought we'd be sussed after that first season but they literally couldn't handle him. His pace was frightening! He was probably the one player in that team who was irreplaceable because he was so intrinsic to our style of football, our success.

**"When I look at this Wealdstone side it's so impressive. So good technically. You can play through teams whereas we would hit teams on the break. The current Stones team is built on potential while most of our side of the 1980s had already had a career elsewhere - they weren't looking to move on which is why we kept the nucleus of that side for four or five successful years."**

Gravesey believes that confidence and self-belief is the key. "We always believed that we could grind out a result in every game, even if it wasn't pretty. Wealdstone now just keep on playing their football, even when



## Graves buries Yeovil

### Yeovil 1, Wealdstone 5

MARK Graves tore the heart out of Yeovil with a hat-trick on Saturday.

Yeovil paraded new signing from Torquay Brian O'Donnell, but were powerless as 'Stones cruised to victory in a hopelessly one-sided game.

After 10 minutes Graves was given far too much room by centre half Payne and crashed home his first goal with a good volley.

Six minutes later Pearce made a fine run and Alan Cordice buried the resulting cross.

Two ahead at half-time, 'Stones took Yeovil apart in the second period. A flurry of goals around the hour broke the spirit of a poor Yeovil outfit. Graves grabbed his second when chipping the ball over the keeper and into the far corner.

Graves then completed his hat-trick before Andy Bell pulled one back for the outclassed home side.

Neil Cordice scored 'Stones fifth in the 62nd minute.

**Wealdstone:** Goddard, Perkins, Byatt, Bowgett, Pearce, Margerrison, Barwick, Cordice (A), Cordice (N), Graves, Davies (sub Johnson).

## NATIONAL LEAGUE WITH THE GOLA LEAGUE PLAYERS OF HIS DAY

# MAN OF STONE

## Bold Batsford is back

By IAN GIBB

**IT TOOK** Allan Batsford 15 glory-strewn years to reach his goal of becoming a Football League manager... and a few months of heartbreak to dump him on the scrap-heap.

But the man who once left Brian Clough and Peter Taylor flat on their backs and embarrassed Don Revie's mighty Leeds in the FA Cup has returned.

And today, Swindon will feel the chill of Batsford's plotting when they tackle his Wealdstone outfit.

He has suddenly turned the Royal Stones into one of the most powerful non-League sides looking for FA Cup fame but it's a wonder he is still in the game.

### Struggle

After piloting Isthmian League Walton to a Wembley Amateur Cup triumph and later thrashing Clough and Taylor-managed Brighton 4-0 at The Gabstone he turned his attentions to Wimbledon.

His Dons beat First Division Barnley before taking Leeds to a replay. He led the club to every conceivable non-League success before they clinched a League place.

But then came controversial chairman Ron Needles and after a struggle to oust the club in the Fourth Division, Batsford was sacked.

"I was very depressed," he says. "People thought I was finished for good, even though it was five years ago."

"We spilled a lot of blood to get Wimbledon into the League - it was very emotional to leave. And I did think of opting out of the game."

But after a spell at Southern League Reading and the Batsford manager was there when he needed aiding Wealdstone.

### Moulded

It was too late to save them dropping out of the Alliance Premier and back to the Southern League but just as they were everything and returned to the Alliance.

Batsford says "I would be lying if I said this team was as good as the Wimbledon one I managed yet we are not a bad side."

they fall behind, and that's a great tribute to the manager and the players - they don't change that ethic. You'll see in the Premier League that the successful clubs will throw on attacking players if they are drawing a game, whereas the less successful ones will try to hang onto their point. That's all down to confidence".

And so, the final question. Any regrets, Mark, in your football career? "Not really" he said. "I suppose I'd have liked to have got back into the pro game, and there were a few offers when I was topping the Conference goal charts - but they were all lower league clubs and the money was never enough to tempt me from my career in insurance.



THINKING... of those FA Cup glory days—that's Allan Batsford



*Above: Stones boss Allen Batsford is interviewed in the News of the World before the FA Cup 1st Round game at Swindon Town in November 1982, which the Fourth Division team won 2-0.*

*Opposite page: Report of the fabulously satisfying 5-1 win at Yeovil in March 1983 when Mark Graves scored a hat-trick and the Cordice brothers silenced a baying home crowd. Incidentally, Gravesey's five goals in a 6-0 friendly win over Wimbledon in September '83 is a club record*

"Although my job DID stop me from getting a cap or two for the England non-League side for the summer tournament in Italy around 1983 or '84. Alan Cordice was selected so it would have been interesting to see if we could reproduce our club form for the national side - but I couldn't get the time off work.

"Actually, there was one other missed opportunity around that time when Spurs were looking for a non-League striker, and Bill Nicholson (the ex manager who became the club's chief scout) came down to Lower Mead for a few games.

"In the end they signed David Leworthy from Fareham and he went on to play half a dozen games in Division One. That could have been my big, big moment!"



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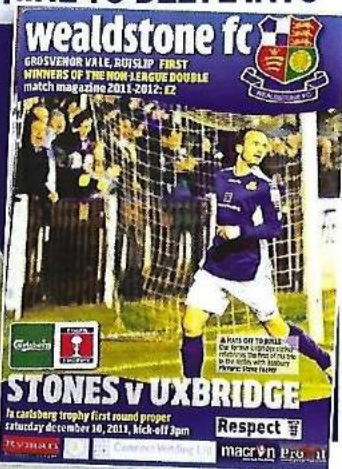
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# On this day 13 years ago we handed out a defeat almost as heavy as Uxbridge's Wayne Carter!



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 2011, FA TROPHY 1ST ROUND PROPER: WEALDSTONE 5 UXBRIDGE 0**

**UNLUCKY for some! Thirteen years ago we were in the thick of a wonderful Wealdstone winter.**

That 2011-12 season had several similarities to the current campaign, the Stones starting slowly in the Ryman Prem but after three successive league defeats things slowly picked up into October - and the beginnings of an FA Trophy run when Tooting & Mitcham, then Margate (after a replay) and then Banbury (also after a replay) were removed from the competition.

Watford youngsters Britt Assombalonga and Connor Smith joined on loan and suddenly our rather one-paced midfield and attack (although featuring the prolific Richard Jolly) had an injection of power and pace. Sounds familiar?

By the time local rivals Uxbridge came visiting on December 10 for the big Trophy First Round Proper tie we were a potent mix. Enfield Town had been thrashed 6-0 on their own ground in the Mid-

sex Cup in midweek and even the doom-mongers weren't too concerned about in-form Uxbridge's chances.

The men from Honeycroft had KO'd Conference North side Histon in the previous round with ex-Stones Danny Julienne, Wayne Carter and James Duncan all prominent - but when Carter (circled above) trotted down the tunnel my own personal worries disappeared. Our fans were quick to salute their ex-favourite with extended chants of 'one Wayne Carter, there's only two Wayne Carters, three Wayne Carters, there's only four Wayne Carters, five Wayne Carters... well, you get the drift.

To be fair, he actually got around the pitch pretty well for a big man. But once the Stones midfield started purring there was only one winner. We had the class and guile of Alex Dyer, and the ball winning skills of Chris O'Leary to augment the tal-



**The explosive Britt Assombalonga (centre) celebrates his second goal of the day with Jollis (left) and The Mass**

ented Smith, and when the '18 stone tank' (as skipper Wes described Alan Massey in his programme blog that afternoon) decided to impose himself on the Uxbridge right back the Vale Tea Bar End (as it was in pre-Bulla days) started to really enjoy themselves. The Mass was unstoppable, crossing beautifully for Jolls to bullet one header over the bar - and then repeated the trick with another perfect cross that Jolly again met with his head to put us 1-0 up.

Jolly went round keeper Liam Stone for a 2-0 lead at the break, but the second half was all about the emergence of the 19-year-old Assombalonga. Uxbridge's pedestrian defenders were wilting by this stage and Britt's power and athleticism was just too much. He knocked one in from close range and then crashed home from the edge of the box for 4-0.

Jolls was so fired up in response that he even curled in a delicious 20-yarder of his own for 5-0!

I think this afternoon heard the first murmurs of the 'Assombalonga Song' (Andy Williams' 'Can't Take My Eyes off You') which blossomed into a full-blooded roar by the time he was thrashing in his 11th goal for

## WHAT HAPPENED ON DECEMBER 10 IN WEALDSTONE HISTORY

**Things are beginning to look a little bit brighter every time I come to write the next captains blog and this Christmas week is no different.**

There is a positive vibe about the football club and although we still sit in a relatively poor position in the league table a positive outlook on the remainder of the season becomes more evident with every match.

Two weeks ago we entertained Uxbridge in the FA Trophy and we knew that this match was the catalyst for our

season and a huge test of character after the FA Cup showing against Beaconsfield a few months prior. We knew, like Beaconsfield, Uxbridge would come at us all guns blazing and they certainly did that. They put everything into the first 20 minutes and pressed us hard all over the pitch hoping that the Wealdstone of early season would creep into our game, but it didn't. We matched their work rate and defended well against everything they could muster including a barrage of set pieces but to be honest, with all their huff and puff they didn't have a guile to go with it and open us

up. After the initial sparring order was restored as we began to get hold of the ball and put it into effective rather than dangerous areas. This gave us a chance to get the likes of Dyer and Co on the ball further up the field and create the chances we needed.

However the first goal wasn't created by one of our more technically gifted players, it was instead created by our 18 stone tank of a left back wearing a pair of 1980's Adidas World Cups, Alan Massey!

He whipped in a cross that Becks

**Skipper Wes Parker used his Captain's Blog in the programme to dissect the Uxbridge game (above and below), mercilessly poking fun at Alan Massey's crosses.. 13 years later both the Mass and Alex Dyer are still turning out!**

Alan Massey, Wes Parker, Sean Cronin; Alex Dyer, Peter Dean, Chris O'Leary, Connor Smith; Britt Assombalonga, Richard Jolly. Subs: David Hicks, Scott Fitzgerald, Kourtney Brooks, Scott McCubbin, Nikki Ahamed.

**WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?**

Well, we managed to extend the Britt & Connor loan deals for another month in which time we climbed steadily towards the play-offs, while beating Barrow (incidentally the Stones' first-ever win over a full-time pro side since beating Reading at Lower Mead in 1977) and setting up a trip to Conference South table-toppers Dartford in Round Three.

Assombalonga had been recalled by The Horns but the momentum - with Deano forging a fine partnership with Jolly - saw us draw with Dartford and then win the replay. And then that Quarter-Final at Cambridge United! We famously won that one 2-1, but were edged out 3-1 over two legs of the semi-final by Newport County.

Northy's broken leg in March threatened to derail our play-off dreams (replaced by Ashlee Jones) but we forced our way into the reckoning... only to lose 2-1 at Lowestoft in the play-off semi-final, ending with nine men. Nevertheless, a memorable season...



**SHOOT FOOTBALL ANNUAL: TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL WING BACK PLAY**

▲ Tip No.1: Puff out your cheeks. This will always confuse a defender who won't know if you're trying to blow the ball out of play or if you're just doing a Geoff Hurst impersonation. Tip No.2: Wear a pair of really unfashionable boots. They'll be too busy laughing to even give chase. Or they might think you actually ARE Geoff Hurst. Historical footnote: G. Hurst once scored a hat-trick almost as famous as R. Jolly's



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BALL DONORS: Darrell Parsons

**FOREST GREEN ROVERS** (April 5, National League)

MATCH SPONSORS: Graham Clark and Mike Pullin

BALL DONORS: Help Stones put the ball in the net – donate this one!

**MAIDENHEAD UNITED** (April 21, National League)

MATCH SPONSORS: Contact [abbeyhandler@wealdstonefc.com](mailto:abbeyhandler@wealdstonefc.com)

BALL DONORS: Help Stones put the ball in the net – donate this one!

**FC HALIFAX TOWN** (May 5, National League)

MATCH SPONSORS: Contact [abbeyhandler@wealdstonefc.com](mailto:abbeyhandler@wealdstonefc.com)

BALL DONORS: Peter and Steve Drew, Ron Moore and David Edwards, in memory of fans no longer with us.

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# WHO'S SPONSORED WHO (ON AND OFF THE PITCH) THIS SEASON

**SUPPORT your favourite player by donating their kit for every game of the new season!**  
 It costs **£165** to sponsor a player's home or away kit, or **£250** to get a shirt signed by your chosen player at the end of the season. You'll also get a mention below, a mention on the club website – and a mention on any player interviews we publish on X and YouTube.  
**Call Peter Worby on 07967 698370 or John Young on 07874 846785 for more details.**

## Kit donors

**Michael Owen**  
 In memory of our dad  
 Bernie Ingram, Wealdstone  
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Matt Taylor Ronnie Moore	Paul Hughes Pete Worby	Wayne Andrews Jon Taffel	Brett Aherne TTC
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Jack Cook Raj	Anthony Georgiou Forum Charlie	Deon Woodman "In Memory of our Dad Bernie Ingram, Wealdstone borne and bred"	Alex Dyer IC Property
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SUPPORT THE STONES HERE AT HOME AND ACROSS ENGLAND


Coming up here at The Vale >



**DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE**  
Vanarama National League  
Saturday 21st December 3:00pm



**BOSTON UNITED**  
Vanarama National League  
Wednesday 1st January 3:00pm



**TAMWORTH**  
Vanarama National League  
Wednesday 7th January 7:45pm


VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE - TABLE, AS AT 9TH DECEMBER	ALL					HOME					AWAY					GD	Pts	STONES RESULTS			
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F			A	H	A	
1 York City	21	13	5	3	43	19	11	9	1	1	30	9	10	4	4	2	13	10	24	44	0-2
2 Barnet	21	14	2	5	42	24	10	9	1	0	24	5	11	5	1	5	18	19	18	44	0-3
3 Forest Green Rovers	20	12	6	2	38	17	8	6	2	0	16	6	12	6	4	2	22	11	21	42	2-2
4 Gateshead	21	11	5	5	37	27	10	7	1	2	18	8	11	4	4	3	19	19	10	38	0-1
5 Oldham Athletic	19	10	7	2	33	17	10	6	3	1	19	6	9	4	4	1	14	11	16	37	0-1
6 Rochdale	19	10	3	6	28	18	9	5	2	2	13	7	10	5	1	4	15	11	10	33	2-0
7 Sutton United	20	9	4	7	29	26	11	5	2	4	16	13	9	4	2	3	13	13	3	31	0-1
8 Yeovil Town	21	9	4	8	24	22	10	3	2	5	9	10	11	6	2	3	15	12	2	31	0-3
9 Altrincham	20	8	6	6	32	25	10	5	4	1	18	8	10	3	2	5	14	17	7	30	
10 Halifax Town	20	8	6	6	21	19	11	4	3	4	14	14	9	4	3	2	7	5	2	30	2-2
11 Hartlepool United	21	7	8	6	24	24	11	3	6	2	9	8	10	4	2	4	15	16	0	29	1-1
12 Solihull Moors	20	8	4	8	35	33	10	3	3	4	18	22	10	5	1	4	17	11	2	28	1-1
13 Eastleigh	20	7	7	6	27	26	10	4	4	2	18	15	10	3	3	4	9	11	+1	28	1-1
14 Southend United	21	6	8	7	24	24	10	3	3	4	13	14	11	3	5	3	11	10	+0	26	1-1
15 Dagenham & Redbridge	20	6	7	7	34	26	10	5	3	2	26	14	10	1	4	5	8	12	+8	25	1-2
16 Tamworth	19	7	4	8	22	33	10	5	3	2	16	12	9	2	1	6	6	21	-11	25	
17 Aldershot Town	20	5	7	8	27	33	10	4	3	3	15	14	10	1	4	5	12	19	-6	22	2-0
18 Woking	21	5	6	10	19	28	11	4	3	4	10	13	10	1	3	6	9	15	-9	21	0-1
19 Braintree Town	21	5	5	11	18	28	11	4	3	4	9	9	10	1	2	7	9	19	-10	20	3-2
20 Wealdstone	19	4	7	8	19	26	9	3	1	5	7	13	10	1	6	3	12	13	-7	19	-- --
21 Maidenhead United	21	5	4	12	26	43	10	2	3	5	10	19	11	3	1	7	16	24	-17	19	
22 AFC Fylde	20	5	3	12	23	41	9	4	2	3	18	17	11	1	1	9	5	24	-18	18	1-0
23 Boston United	21	3	6	12	19	36	11	1	3	7	10	21	10	2	3	5	9	15	-17	15	
24 Ebbsfleet United	20	1	6	13	15	44	11	1	4	6	7	19	9	0	2	7	8	25	-29	9	2-2




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Follow the Stones on the road >



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



**MAIDENHEAD UNITED**  
Vanarama National League  
Boxing Day, Thursday 26th December 3:00pm



**ALTRINCHAM**  
Vanarama National League  
Saturday 11th January 3:00pm



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