

TODAY'S SQUADS

WEALDSTONE
ROYAL BLUE/WHITE/WHITE



DAGENHAM & R'DGE
RED/BLUE/BLUE

Archie MATTHEWS 1	1 Elliot JUSTHAM
Jack COOK 2	2 Luca WOODHOUSE
Anthony GEORGIUO 3	3 Frank VINCENT
Deon WOODMAN 4	4 Jake HESSENTHALER
Alex DYER 5	5 Tom EASTMAN
Mason BARRETT 6	6 Harry PHIPPS
Enzio BOLDEWIJN 7	7 Dion PEREIRA
Craig EASTMOND 8	8 Josh REES
Sean ADARKWA 9	9 Josh UMERAH
Max KRETZSCHMAR 10	10 Ryan HILL
Todd MILLER 11	11 Christian N'GUESSAN
Jacob ADAMS 13	12 Nathan HARVEY
Micah OBIERO 14	14 Reece GREGO-COX
Dominic HUTCHINSON 17	15 Romoney CRICHLow
Christian SCOTT 18	16 Shiloh REMY
Adrian MARIAPPA © 19	17 Trent RENDALL
Sam ASHFORD 20	18 Dylan STEPHENSON
Kallum CESAY 21	19 Sam LING
Alex REID 22	20 Tim AKINOLA
Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23	21 Oscar RUTHERFORD
Henry SANDAT 24	23 Conor LEWLESS
Jack WELLS-MORRISON 25	24 Junior MORIAS
Elliot THORPE 26	25 Ralph VIGRASS
Joshua GRANT 27	26 Alfie TERRY
Declan PHILLIPS 28	30 Paul KALAMBAYI
Callum McFARLANE 29	Josh STRIZOVIC
James HILLSON 30	Jack WEST ASTUTI
Toby STEWARD 31	
Brandon MASON 32	

Match officials Referee: Robert Massey-Ellis Assistants: James Hurst and Alexander Shipp Fourth Official: Tom Bowkett Observer: Phillip Knight

TODAY'S RESULT: WEALDSTONE **DAG & RED**

NEXT AT THE VALE v BOSTON UNITED **WEDNESDAY JAN 1 2025, 3PM**
v TAMWORTH **TUESDAY JANUARY 7 2025, KICK OFF 7.45PM**

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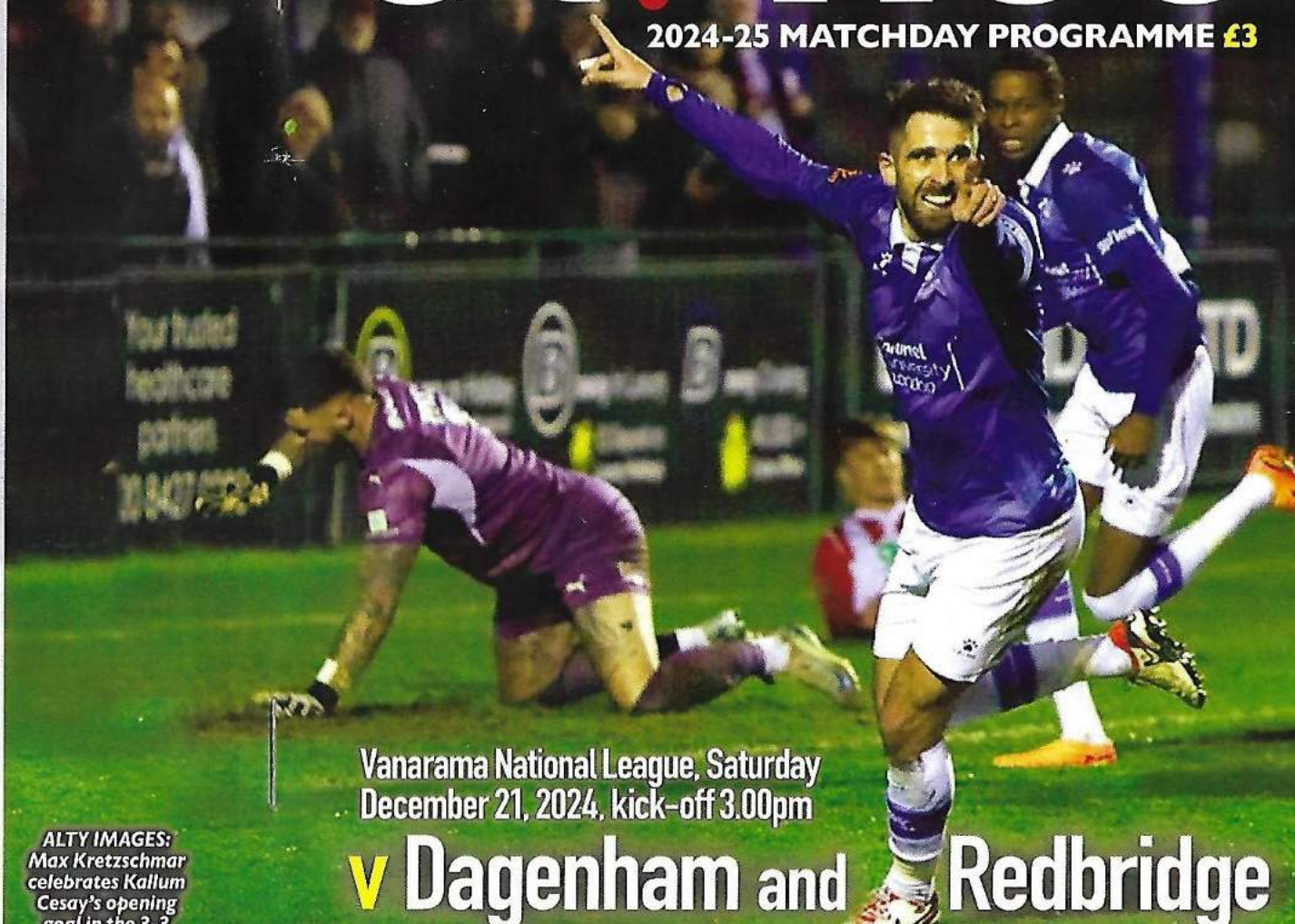


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Vanarama National League, Saturday
December 21, 2024, kick-off 3.00pm

v Dagenham and Redbridge

ALTY IMAGES:
Max Kretzschmar celebrates Kallum Cesay's opening goal in the 3-3 thriller against Altrincham here at Grosvenor Vale

PICTURE:
JON TAFFEL



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DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE - SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER



Good Afternoon and welcome to Grosvenor Vale for our final National League fixture before Christmas against Dagenham & Redbridge.

The festive season is a time for connection, togetherness and joy but for many, it can also be a time of loneliness and isolation.

We pride ourselves on being a tight knit family of supporters here at Wealdstone and understand that for many their weekly football 'fix' can be an escape from the hardship and stress of everyday life. Take a look around you this afternoon and speak to someone you wouldn't normally. It really could make a massive difference to a fellow supporter.

Continuing the theme of goodwill, our friends at Maidenhead United will be our next opponents in our regular festive fixture, which this season is away at York Road on Boxing Day (Thursday 26th). The game has been identified as a special match day

Written in Stone

BY MARK HYDE



in which Maidenhead are offering buy one get one free match tickets as part of their partnership with CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably) and December's focus on loneliness and social isolation. No one should be alone at Christmas so bring someone for free.

Lastly, on behalf of everybody connected to the club, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and look forward to welcoming you back to Grosvenor Vale again on New Year's Day as we entertain Boston United.

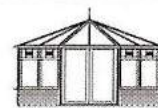
Mark

WFSC Donation to Michael Sobell Hospice

At our recent FA Cup game vs Wycombe Wanderers the supporters club had a replica FA Cup outside the Megastore where you could grab a picture with the historic trophy. We asked for a small donation and all monies went directly to Michael Sobell House, a hospice located at Mount Vernon in Northwood. We are pleased to announce that we raised an amazing £500 that was very greatly received by the charity to help with their day to day running and help provide precious memories for families. At the time we raised the money Michael Sobell House was running the 'Big Give' campaign where any donations made were doubled, so your donations become an amazing £1000.



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WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2024/2025

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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
 - Being drunk, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs • Using violence of any nature
 - Carrying items which may be considered a danger to others, including cans, bottles, or glasses containing alcoholic beverages
 - Throwing any article onto the field of play • Climbing floodlight pylons, fences, stands or any structure or building
 - Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others • Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulls stand
- 2) No spectator ball games.
- 3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.
- 4) Vehicles parked on the Grosvenor Vale site are at the owners' risk.
- 5) Wealdstone Football Club supports the FA's campaign on pyrotechnics (e.g. flares and smoke bombs). Any misuse of such items in and around the Ground will result in those responsible being asked to leave the ground and, in line with football authority guidance, may result in a report to the Police, potential prosecution and a ban from the Club of up to three years.
- 6) No Smoking or Vaping inside the ground.

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

GOOD afternoon and welcome to our last game before the festive season and I wish you all a happy Christmas.

We have three games against clubs all grouped in our vicinity over the holiday period so we'll be preparing fully for each game (today, Boxing Day at Maidenhead and at home to Boston on New Year's Day) while not overdoing things.

The skill is to push training to a limit and in our conditioning coach Wayne and the analysts I think we have the knowledge and ability to turn this squad into the fittest Stones side for a long, long time.

I think that's showed in the last few months: the minimum requirement is maximum effort and they are actually enjoying the suffering that comes with leaving everything out there on the pitch. They don't feel the pain when the results are going our way!

Last weekend the players had their annual get-together, staying over in Manchester. All very sensible, going out for dinner together and then spending Sunday together too and coming back in the evening. It's really important to build those bonds of friendship and you could see, judging by the mood at training on Tuesday, how beneficial it is.

It's a real shame that we came away with nothing from the Oldham game as it's heaped a bit of added pressure on us to get a result today... but we will be well-prepared. We have a game plan and it's up to the players to go out there today and implement it.

As for Oldham, I thought the players were excellent for large periods of the game. We started extremely well and the game plan to press them high worked. Micah had a terrific match and I was so pleased with him, and for him. It's not easy coming to replace someone like Alex Reid.

We scored two goals and looked comfortable away from home to a team that (with the players they have) will be in contention, I believe, for automatic promotion come the end of the season.

The players response to the avoidable goals we conceded either side of the half time break was very good and we had

Christmas is a crucial time for us... but we've got the players and the game plan to make it a Merry one



Alex Reid was unsure which bench to sit on at Oldham
PIC: JON TAFFEL

chances to go back in front.

I must stress though, that to be disappointed in losing 3-2 away at Oldham shows how far this team has come from the start of the season. We got the performance again, however we haven't got the result that we deserved.

And there was another hamstring injury collected at Boundary Park, with Josh Grant having to come off after an excellent first half performance. He's going to be doubtful today, along with Elliott Thorpe who has the same problems. On the flip side though, Craig Eastmond is back in training with the group and he will be an important player for us.

It's frustrating for me as many of our rivals have already begun to start freshening up their squads with new players; we are the mercy of the parent clubs of our loanees and me and

Steve (Boone) have spent the past few weeks in conversation with lots of clubs and players... there will be movement but often we're not in control of that situation. And we have to wait until January 1st before Premier League clubs are allowed to loan out their players.

Neither are we in control of the Alex Reid situation, with his loan running out on January 7th, but what I must say is that he's been a consummate professional and so important to our recent good run of

results. I believe we are still attractive to young players and we'll get the right people in!

Enjoy the game and enjoy your Christmas. UTS!



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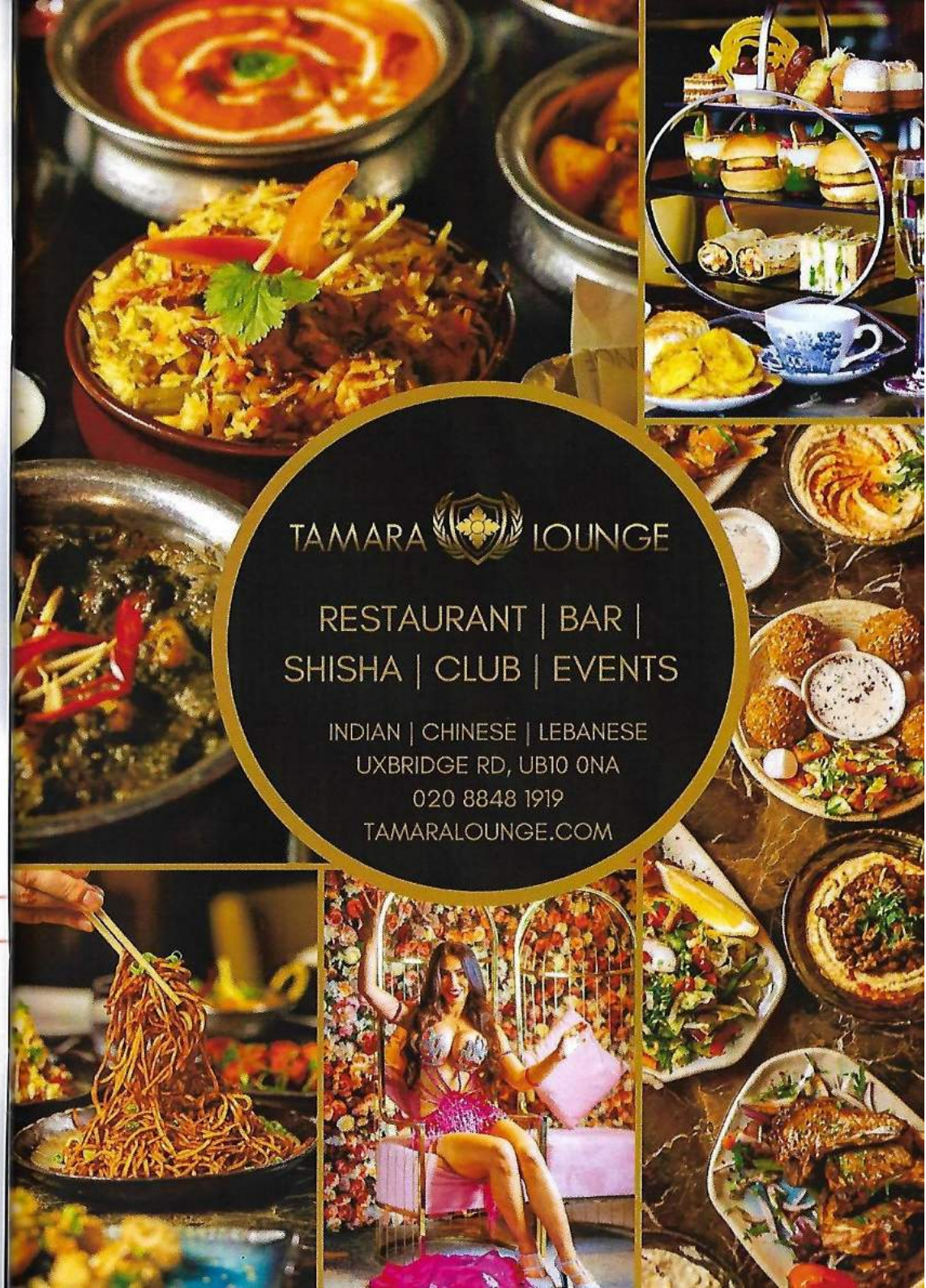


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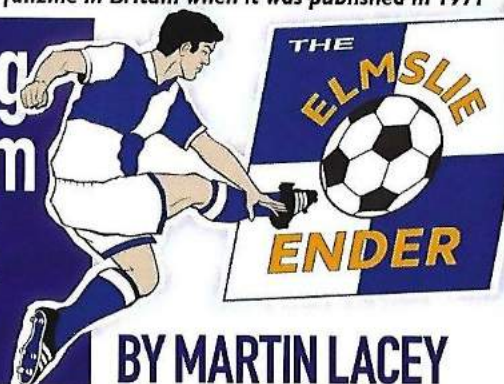
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©Elmslie Ender was among the first wave of football club magazines when it replaced 'Long Ball Down the Middle' as the Wealdstone fanzine in the mid-1980s. LBDTM's forerunner 'Wealdstone Whispers' was famously the THE very first football fanzine in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

It's bad enough going all the way to Oldham without being stuck in a distant corner...



BY MARTIN LACEY

A LOT of mention has been made this season of our apparently declining away support.

Indeed, in recent seasons I've attended midweek fixtures at the like of Halifax, Altrincham and Rochdale and, yes, been a bit lonely. But despite the odd self-deprecating chant of 'Where's our fanbase gone?' I actually thought the turnout at Oldham last week was pretty good, considering the utter nightmare of pre-Christmas travel and the inevitable pressures to do 'other things' at this time of year.

For me, Oldham is just a relatively short hop across the Pennines and that was bad enough, jammed nose-to-nose on a standing room only Trans Pennine Express full of Christmas shoppers heading for Manchester and hoping nobody around me had Covid or the latest winter vomity virus.

In the nearly five years since we got promoted we've got used to playing the kind of opponents that would once have been dream draws in the FA Cup first round. So maybe we're getting blasé. Or more to the point, is the novelty wearing off?

On the tram back to Manchester I chatted to an Oldham fan who was full of praise for our team and



supporters. As of course he could afford to be, since, for once, we'd left the three points behind. Actually this is the norm since we have been allowed to travel post pandemic: fans of the big clubs have been unfailingly friendly and magnanimous, never mind that there's a bit of condescension towards 'little' Wealdstone. This, of course, may all change if we start beating some of them more often. But the attitude of the supporters is in marked contrast to the attitude of some of the clubs they support.

When we moved to groundshare at Watford in 1991 we were optimistically and fancifully assured that there would be enough money left in the bank to build a team which would get us to the Football League and fill Vicarage Road.

My response was, if I wanted to watch League football at Vicarage Road I'd have supported Watford in the first place. The experience at Oldham reminded me of this.

We were allocated a 1,500-seat stand, and then get corralled into the most distant corner of it, with the worst view, not allowed near the front, not allowed behind the goal. The message is clear: away supporters are not welcome, and if you really must



turn up we're going to give you the worst possible experience in the hope you don't come back.

Oldham are not exactly unique in this.

Notts County were one of the most blatant offenders. I was actually threatened with ejection from the ground after suggesting, perhaps less politely than I might, that the stewards let us get to the front of our completely empty stand in order to greet our players and congratulate them on only losing 3-0. (Things didn't improve when I pointed out to the stewards that the match had finished and getting ejected wouldn't be too upsetting.)

Thank heavens for the likes of Altrincham, where we can still experience and enjoy the delights of non-league football in all its glory, staggering out of the bar two minutes before kick off and changing ends at half time. They are part of an ever dwindling band at this level. Now don't get me wrong. I don't long for the days of the Isthmian League, and the reason for that is I when I go to a match I want nothing more than to see Wealdstone win; winning is how we got to the National League and winning is what we all hope will keep us here.

Shortly before Manchester United's recent trip to Arsenal I was in the gym and overheard a conversation between a personal trainer and his pupil. The trainer was a Manchester United fan and the pupil wasn't very interested, and like 99.99% of

Manchester United fans he wasn't actually going to this match (since we were in Sheffield and the match kicked off in two hours) or probably any others.

The gist of the conversation was that he'd rather Manchester United lost than drew, because although a win would be a good result for Manchester United, a draw would be a good result for Liverpool.

Just imagine a theoretical situation where, say, come the last game of the season, a win for Wealdstone would see Barnet promoted. What do you want to happen?

Well I'm telling you now, I want Wealdstone to win. As the song goes, all I care about is Wealdstone FC. Barnet and the rest can look after themselves.

The presence of the 'BELTS' in non-league football is a double edged sword, I won't tire of people saying, when I tell them where I'm going to watch the Stones, 'But aren't Oldham Athletic a big team?' and being able to reply, 'So are Wealdstone now.'

But the reality is we're a long way from truly being able to compete with teams who attract 6,000 crowds or have well-heeled benefactors. I'd like to see the back of the Oldhams and Southends of this world.

As their fans are adamant, they don't belong here and it's just a brief interlude. Unlike Oldham and Southend, we are founder members and proud past champions of the National League. Wouldn't they love to be able to say that? **We belong here.**

Hats off to the bold 77 Stones fans at Oldham last Saturday... while (above right) there were rather more at the same game at the end of last season
Pictures: JON TAFFEL





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THE No.10 VIEW: MAX KRETZSCHMAR TAKES IT TO THE $M_3 A_1 X_8$

HELLO all and a big welcome back to The Vale.

With our exits confirmed from both the FA Cup and FA Trophy, it's full focus on the league from here on in and I'm really looking forward to seeing what we can achieve in the next half of the season. We've played all but three teams in the National League so now's a good place to take stock and kick on.

We played Dagenham & Redbridge away in our first game of the season and I think we've come a long way since then. From memory, we had an injury crisis with 4-5 first team starters missing on that opening day. But we played well and there were moments in the game which would have ensured a win that day... but Dagenham did well and took the three points.

I think we are a better team now with goals and assists coming from numerous avenues. I did wonder at times early on in the season where a goal or two was going to come from but I have no such worries now. We have been free-flowing going forward and it's certainly frustrating that we've only picked up one point in our last two games against promotion-chasing Altrincham and Oldham Athletic having scored five goals!

Therefore it's clear that some defensive issues must be addressed to complete the final piece of the jigsaw.

Defending comes down to the whole team, not just the defenders. We have always

We've found a recipe which is working and I absolutely love the energy in midfield!



Max and Kallum Cesay celebrate their goals against Rochdale
Picture: JON TAFFEL

some great games towards the back end of last season and telling him: "You should be playing in the Football League in 12-18 months if you get your head and your body right!"

Of course, I look forward to watching and playing with Kallum for many more games but I would be very proud to see him play at a higher level whenever that time comes!

Jack Wells-Morrison has been fantastic too. I think he's learnt a lot from his time here so far and has had to adapt and become a different

been a pressing team in my years here but I think we've added a great structure to our team in what we would call a 'mid block'. With a playing budget incomparable to some in this league, it is a formality that we will have to endure pressure in games this season. I think we now have a great balance in the team to win the ball high (as we did at Oldham Athletic for Micah's opening goal) and to sit off teams and be structured in our defensive formation. So to concede the goals we have in recent weeks has been frustrating.

I absolutely love the energy we have in midfield. Kallum Cesay is rightly taking the plaudits in recent weeks for his outstanding performances on and off the ball: I vividly remember him playing

type of player to start week in week out in this team. His energy and tackling has stood out but those qualities haven't compromised his undoubted technical ability on the ball. I know this loan will be brilliant for his development as a professional footballer.

Dating back to the Baintree game in mid October, we have now put together eight performances in a row (in the National League and FA Cup) ranging from the good to superb.

I think that's really impressive. We have found a recipe which is working and it's now time to continue that and churn out more positive results over the Christmas period and into 2025.

Enjoy the game as always. UTS!

Don't miss my revealing vlog >>> youtube.com/@maxtalksfootball

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**RUISLIP WINDOWS
& DOORS**

TODAY WE WELCOME FANS OF DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE TO GROSVENOR VALE

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

Well, it shows what a cup-run and national television coverage does to help a small club shop. In the weeks leading up to the game vs Wycombe (which would usually just tick by) we certainly saw a massive increase in the volume of enquiries and purchases processed through the Megastore website. We were sending parcels all over the UK to lapsed fans from days gone by, as well as a number to Europe, the US and as far away as Australia. Usually, these orders came with messages of good luck and stories of Stones memories from down the years. It was certainly a time to wear their Stones colours with pride.

On the actual day of the game, experience has taught us that, due to good viewing positions around the pitch being limited, we would never be as busy as you would expect. Imagine my surprise when we were selling all sorts of merchandise from about 9am, as soon as the shop doors opened. We were no doubt helped by the presence of a replica FA Cup outside the shop. We had lots of new faces come and see us, who left clutching their first Wealdstone scarf or teddy bear. Let's hope just a small number caught the Stones bug and will be back over the coming years.

Free Blue Santa Hats – A big thank you to one of the club sponsors, Ruislip Windows & Doors who have enabled us to give away 150 Blue Santa hats before today's game. James Klarfeld will be the Christmas elf handing these out. He can't be missed, but I believe you can find him in and around the beer garden today.

Megastore News – If you are like me, you probably have quite a bit of your Christmas shopping still to do. Today is your last opportunity for any of your Stones merchandise needs before the big day. Although we have been busy because of the cup game and the Xmas orders, we still have plenty of hats and scarves left (£12). We have an ever-increasing number of designs and colours of our baseball caps sporting either the club badge, Stones logo or the Lonsdale style Wealdstone logo on their fronts. We even have caps with detachable patches



so the logo can be changed to suit your mood. You can't go wrong at £15 each. Obviously, we still have black, navy or white polo shirts in most sizes and again with a range of logo designs on the left breast and sleeve (Ranging in price up to £25). For those more traditional fans out there will still have a few of the blue and white quartered polos available (£29.99)

Small Stocking fillers – We have various Teddy Bears sporting Wealdstone badges on their tiny T-Shirts as well as the new addition of Teds with hoodies and the Wealdstone brand (£10-12), glass coasters (£4), clocks (£15), notepads (£7), and of course mugs with I think 15 different designs to pick from (£6 each). We have also refreshed and updated our vast range of programme fridge magnets which are available (3 for £5). There is no reason not to stick your head in and have a gander.

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

We want your unwanted – We are always happy to take any of your old and unwanted items. Some we can sell in the shops, others we will sell via our other outlets such as ebay. We love old programmes, LP's, football shirts and the like.

50/50 – Don't forget to pick up your 50/50 ticket with a chance to win a helpful bundle of cash just before Xmas. Today's tickets can be brought from several committee men and women who will be selling around the social club and inside the ground. It is only a pound so well worth a little flutter. Let's not forget our prizes have regularly been over £300 this year

ADAM

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE FC

Today's opposition in focus

Despite only being in existence for 32 years, Dagenham & Redbridge Football Club have had their fair share of highs and lows their highest being promotion to League One following a 3-2 play off final victory over Rotherham United at Wembley Stadium.



The Club came about following a series of mergers which saw Leytonstone, Ilford and Walthamstow Avenue form Redbridge Forest who in turn merged with Dagenham FC in 1992 to form the current Club. All four had proud histories as amateur clubs in the past but due to dwindling attendances, had fallen on hard times.

The first season of Dagenham & Redbridge FC saw them finish third behind Wycombe Wanderers in the GM Vauxhall Conference and reach the 1st Round proper of the FA Cup, where they were defeated 5-4 in a thrilling game against Leyton Orient.

Unfortunately after this things began to go downhill for the club especially off the pitch when a Trustee of the Club illegally removing half a million pounds which he was later convicted of. Money was now tight and the 1995/6 season saw the Daggers finish bottom of the GM Vauxhall Conference and suffer relegation to the Isthmian League.

To ensure the Club didn't continue a downward trend Ted Hardy was appointed to stabilise it, and against all odds took the team to Wembley in the FA Trophy final unfortunately losing 0-1 in extra time to Woking having played for an hour with only 10 men.

League finishes of fourth, fourth

and third meant that Ted had achieved the target of stability and on 1st March 1999 he announced his resignation.

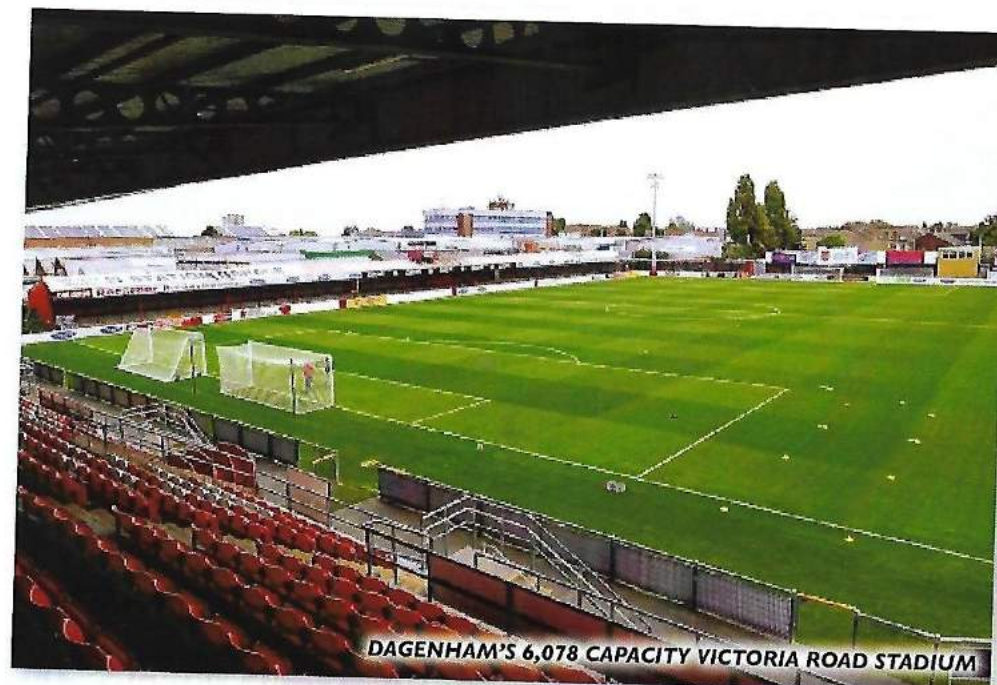
The Daggers installed Garry Hill into the hot seat and in his first season they returned to the Conference having romped to the Isthmian League title recording 20 victories and a draw from their 21 home league games and an outstanding 101 points. The success story continued into the 2000/01 season as the Club achieved third place. The 2001/2 season saw the Conference championship

turned into a two-horse race with Boston United and the Daggers heartbreakingly missing out on promotion to the Football League on goal difference. The disappointment was made even worse when the Lincolnshire side were found guilty of illegal payments to players but the points deduction was carried into the following season. The following season saw the Club miss out on promotion to the football league for the second season running again by the closest of margins.

Garry Hill departed at the end of the following season and the Club turned to John Still for a second spell in charge. At the end of October the Club were ten points behind hot favourites Oxford United and a play-off place was seen as the best they could hope for, instead they kept up the pressure on the leaders and on the last day of 2006 they took top spot in the League, a position they wouldn't relinquish. On 7th April 2007, a 2-1 home win over Aldershot Town gave them the Championship and with it a place in the Football League they had been so close to achieving in the past.

The 2009/10 season saw the Club reach the end of season play off's by virtue of a seventh place finish. In the semi-final first leg they broke all previous play-off records with a six goal rout of Morecambe

and despite losing the second leg 1-2, went through to the final at Wembley 7-2 on aggregate. 32,054 attended the final on 20th May and saw goals from Paul Benson, Danny Green give the Daggers the lead on two occasions only for the Millers to equalise on both occasions. Barbados international Jon Nurse struck the winner after 69 minutes as the Essex side continued their amazing climb through the football pyramid.



DAGENHAM'S 6,078 CAPACITY VICTORIA ROAD STADIUM

The size of the task facing the squad in League One was evident & despite all the odds the club went in to the last day of the season with fate in their own hands but with over 1,000 Daggers making the trip to London Road Peterborough ran out easy winner to condemn the Daggers to relegation.

Wayne Burnett signed a two-year contract as manager in May 2013 and in his first full season in charge led the team to a ninth place finish in League Two, playing a more attractive style of football in the process however a poor start to the 2015/16 led to his departure and the return to management of John Still.

The Daggers' 2016/17 season was an eventful season both on and off the pitch for Dagenham & Redbridge, with the Essex side almost returning to the Football League at the first time of asking only narrowly missing out in the promotion Semi-final to Forest Green Rovers. Daggers captain Scott Doe reached 300 appearances for the Club in March as well as the Daggers finishing fourth after being hit

OUR RECORD V DAGENHAM
P18 W4 D2 L11 F18 A40 GD -22

LAST MEETINGS
SAT 16TH DEC 23 (A) - W 2-0
SAT 10TH AUG 24 (A) - L 1-2



Played for Both
Current Hanwell Town boss
Chris Moore

with a number of first team injuries.

In 2019/20 The Daggers embarked on their 4th successive season in the National League, looking to build on the solid foundations that have been put in place by the club's investors, Trinity Sports Holdings. Peter Taylor departed the club after a run of poor form at the start of 2020. Daryl McMahon joined as Manager in early January, with Terry Harris and Steve Gritt his joint-Assistant Managers, and Dave Jupp arriving as Strength and Conditioning and First Team Coach.

Thanks to wins over Eastleigh, Solihull, Barnet and a massive 5-0 win away to Wealdstone, the east London side eventually finished 12th in the league. In the 2020/21 season, the Daggers also reached the second round of the FA Cup having beaten EFL side Grimsby 3-1.

In 2022/23 Dagenham finished in 10th position just 3 points ahead of Wealdstone.

Last Season the Daggers finished in 15th, 1 place above and level on points (55) with Wealdstone.

TACKLING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

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DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE THE DAGGERS TO LOOK OUT FOR 2024-25

1. ELLIOT JUSTHAM - GOALKEEPER

The Daggers captain joined us after being released by Luton at the end of the 2015/16 season. Elliot previously played for Waltham Forest, Leyton, Redbridge, Brentwood Town, East Thurrock United and Luton Town. He made his Football League debut for the Hatters at AFC Wimbledon in February 2014. He kept his place for the remainder of that season having been a regular on the bench during Town's Conference title campaign the season prior.

3. FRANK VINCENT - DEFENCE

Vincent joined the Daggers in 2023 and signed a two-year deal with the club. He joined following the expiry of his contract with Notts County, where he spent three seasons. Frank started his career in the youth ranks at Queens Park Rangers, before making his way to Barnet and then onto AFC Bournemouth. With Bournemouth, he enjoyed loan spells at Torquay United, Scunthorpe United and Walsall before joining Notts County permanently in July 2021.

7. DION PEREIRA - MIDFIELD

Dion initially joined the Daggers in January 2024 on a six-month loan from Luton Town. The winger scored three goals in his first half-season, including a memorable goal away to Hartlepool, which earned the Daggers GOTM award for April. Pereira then rejoined the Daggers on a season-long loan from Luton on June 4th 2024.

9. JOSH UMERAH - FORWARD

The 27-year-old centre forward was the second addition to Ben Strevens' squad this summer. Umerah joins the Daggers with a variety of experience in League Two and the National League. Umerah began his career at Charlton Athletic's academy and helped the under-18 side win the Professional Development League 2, finishing as top-scorer during the 2014/15 season. He made his senior debut for the Addicks as a 66th-minute substitute for Igor Vetokele in a Championship match against Hull City in January 2016. Following his first-team debut, the striker enjoyed loan spells at Kilmarnock, Wycombe Wanderers and Boreham Wood. After these loan spells, Josh led the line for Ebbsfleet, Torquay and **Wealdstone** before joining his most recent club Hartlepool in July 2022. At Hartlepool, Umerah won the League Two PFA fans' Player of the Month for January 2023.

Who's who for the visitors



24. JUNIOR MORIAS - FORWARD

The striker rejoined the Daggers on July 25th, signing a six-month loan deal from Notts County. Junior previously joined the Daggers in November 2021. Whilst with us,

Morias won the National League Player of the Month Award for April 2022 having scored six goals in six matches, including a twelve-minute hat-trick against Barnet.

21. OSCAR RUTHERFORD - DEFENCE

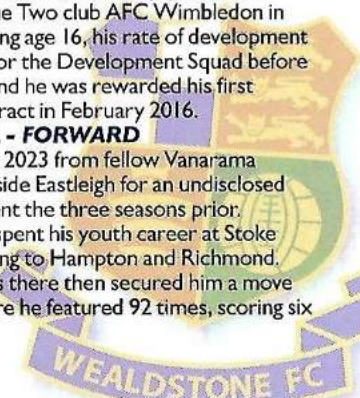
The 20-year-old right back was the first addition to Ben Strevens' squad this season, agreeing a deal until the end of the 2025/26 season. The young defender joins the Daggers with good experience in the National League with Eastleigh, making 77 appearances for the Spitfires over two seasons. Rutherford began his career at Plymouth's academy before making the move to Eastleigh's Elite Development Squad in 2022. Oscar then impressed during pre-season and earned a first-team squad number for the 2022/23 season.

30. PAUL KALAMBAYI - DEFENCE

The 24-year-old was the seventh addition to Ben Strevens' squad, agreeing a deal until the end of the 2025/26 season. PK joined the Daggers with a wealth of experience in the EFL for Wimbledon, making 117 appearances for The Dons. After spells with Dulwich Village, Evolution Sports & Health Academy and Brentford, Kalambayi joined the academy at League Two club AFC Wimbledon in 2015. Despite being age 16, his rate of development saw him feature for the Development Squad before the end of 2015 and he was rewarded his first professional contract in February 2016.

10. RYAN HILL - FORWARD

Hill joined in June 2023 from fellow Vanarama National League side Eastleigh for an undisclosed fee, where he spent the three seasons prior. The 25-year-old spent his youth career at Stoke City, before moving to Hampton and Richmond. His performances there then secured him a move to Eastleigh, where he featured 92 times, scoring six goals.

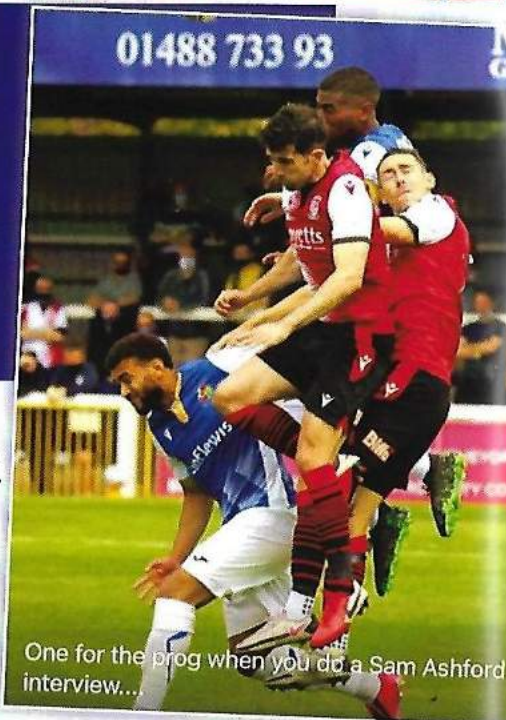


THINGS WOT WE LIKED

Back when Max & Sam were just a couple of Woking Stones wannabes

YES, TWWL is back, filling in a bit of a space in your pre-Xmas programme and what better place to start than this photo that Stones' lensman Jon Tafel discovered at the end of his Kodak roll after the Woking v Wealdstone last-game-of-the-Covid season back in May 2021. Who are those cheeky pups in the Cardinal's red and black, leaping to challenge Ashley Charles and Jerome Okimo in a game that saw us bow out with a 4-2 win?

No less than Max Kretzschmar and Sam Ashford, that's who! Max had the last laugh, returning to the Vale and scoring both goals in a 2-1 Woking win when the new season kicked off just a few months later. Sam was off playing somewhere exotic, like Crawley.



One for the prog when you do a Sam Ashford interview...

...while the Wycombe FA Cup occasion game was rich in strange, amusing and simply surreal moments...

DID you find yourselves looking back on the Wycombe game with a big old smile, notwithstanding the fact we'd lost? Being a bit of a saddo, the first thing I did when getting back home at the strange, strange time of 2.45 on a Saturday afternoon was to turn on the ITV playback of the game I'd only watched, in full, a few hours earlier... and it was brilliant!

If you've not yet seen it, the 10.30-11.30 warm up was simply magnificent so a big thumbs up to the much-maligned production team and presenters Mark Pougatch, Sam Matterface, Stuart Pearce and Jobi McAnuff.

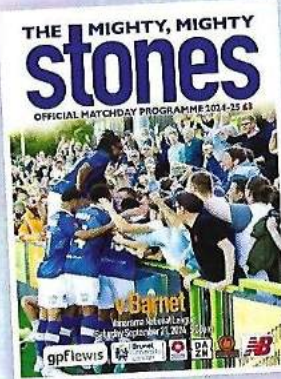
'Poogers' was not nearly as shouty as usual while Stuart seemed genuinely chuffed to step away from the big time and proudly introduce the nation to his hometown club. Jobi continued to impress as a warm and knowledgeable pundit (shock horror) and his long sit-down interview with fellow Jamaican internationals Garath McCleary (Wycombe) and our own Adrian Mariappa (below left) was genuinely funny. Especially the bit about Jobi landing Lionel Messi's shirt after a Copa America game (below) pulling rank on Mapps and McCleary. They've still not forgiven him!



I don't mind so long as you can get me Brett's trackie top

Blimey, I'm not THAT well connected

...JUST A FEW LEFT-FIELD MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF W.F.C.



This was truly jaw-dropping.. not only praise for the club, but praise for the club from a Barnet fan!



PICTURED RIGHT, a rather humbling tribute to the team here at Programme Towers from, of all people, Barnet fan Tony 'Chainsaw' Hanley. Now of course the first reaction would be to ridicule anyone using that sort of self-styled nickname, but we are suckers for a compliment and Tony was positively showering them from above in his missive.

The next reaction would be to guffaw at the irony of someone from BFC heaping praise on our production when his own club don't even offer a printed programme any more. But of course this is a cry from the heart. And we feel your pain Mr Chainsaw... as we did the Wycombe fans who hoovered up hundreds of programmes three weeks ago, delighted that we had printed a real, tangible memento of the day.

Good Morning
I just wanted to congratulate the team behind The Stones programme on your superb product. Most non-league programmes are cut-and-paste jobs containing the minimum of original product which are produced to satisfy the club sponsors and advertisers. On several occasions in recent years, I have strongly considered stopping buying programmes because the vast majority of them are so lame.

In fact, this season I bought the worst 'programme' I have ever seen (SE Dons (Forest Hill Park) if you want to know) in 56 years of going to matches (and there are many contenders).

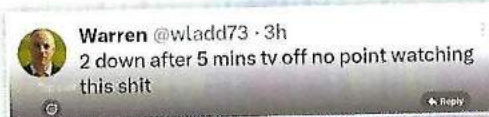
It was such a bare-faced rip-off that rather than go and throttle the seller and demand my money back I have kept it as a disgraceful example.

I have bought your product five times now and have always thoroughly enjoyed it. Highlights of the recent Barnet programme included the Forest Green match report, the article on the first match televised live, '57 years ago', the history of Wealdstone away travel, and 'best and worst away travel numbers'. In fact, the standard of all the content was first class. You combine the standard programme format with a strong flavour of a fanzine. I fully realise that compiling a programme is an unpaid, time-consuming labour of love and I commend you all the more for it.

If you haven't already won any awards and prizes, then it's about time you did!

Kind regards
Tony 'Chainsaw' Hanley
Barnet FC supporter

Cue the sound of desperate scrabbling to find the 'delete post' button



YOU'VE heard the phrase: 'That didn't age well'? Well, this little gem from Stones 'fan' Warren Ladd - a kneejerk reaction to the us falling 2-0 behind at Forest Green Rovers - was the best example I've ever seen. Warren was strangely quiet after it ended 2-2.

AND finally, here's an image from that morning against Wycombe that made me do a double-take... a Wanderers fan with 'Graham' on his back? Could it be in homage to famous ex-Stone Andy, who also played for Wycombe in the late 1980s... or was it maybe the great man himself? The hairstyle (left) makes it a distinct possibility...



FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS PROFILES EIGHT LEADING DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE MANAGERS

MANAGING TO SUCCEED BY LEIGH EDWARDS

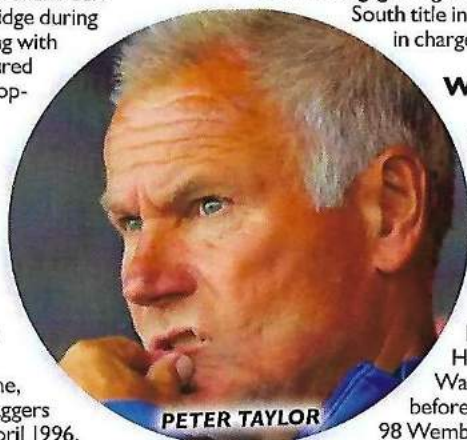


DAVE CUSACK

Dave Cusack managed Dagenham & Redbridge to the Bob Lord Trophy semi-finals in 1994-95. Initially with Sheffield Wednesday, the central defender moved to Southend United in September 1978 and skipped their 1980-81 Fourth Division title triumph. He joined Millwall in March 1983, starring in their 1984-85 promotion success and FA Cup run, then was player-boss of Doncaster Rovers, Rotherham, Boston United and Kettering. After helping Grays Athletic to win the Essex Senior Cup, he managed Dagenham & Redbridge from May 1994 until September 1995, then was manager/owner of Basildon United and worked for a fire proofing company.

GRAHAM CARR

Ex-England Youth wing-half Graham Carr managed Dagenham & Redbridge during the 1995-96 campaign. Starting with Northampton Town, he featured in their meteoric rise to the top-flight and joined York City in June 1968. He played for Bradford PA, Telford (1971 FA Trophy success), Poole, Dartford and Weymouth, then managed Tonbridge, Dartford and Nuneaton, rejoining Northampton as boss in April 1985 and plotting their 1986-87 Fourth Division title triumph. Later managing Blackpool, Maidstone, Kettering, Weymouth and Daggers from September 1995 until April 1996,



PETER TAYLOR

he then scouted for various clubs, notably Newcastle United.

TED HARDY

Ted Hardy managed Dagenham & Redbridge to the 1997 FA Trophy final. He had two spells in charge of the old Dagenham FC and also managed Bishop's Stortford, Enfield, Leytonstone and Ilford, reaching the Amateur Cup final on four occasions. After managing the Daggers' reserves during John Still's first spell as manager, he rejoined the club as manager from April 1996 until retiring in March 1999, guiding them to three top four finishes in the Isthmian League. Granted a testimonial match against West Ham in May 1999, he was made a life vice president for all the work he had done for the club under different guises over a 30 year period.

GARRY HILL

Garry Hill managed a successful era at Dagenham & Redbridge. His managerial career started at Heybridge Swifts, leading them to the Isthmian League First Division (North) title in 1995-96. He then managed St Albans City before taking charge of Dagenham & Redbridge in May 1999. Plotting the Daggers' 1999-2000 Isthmian League Premier Division title triumph and three FA Cup runs, he led them to the Conference play-off final in 2002-03. He left in April 2004, then managed Hornchurch, Weymouth, Rushden & Diamonds and Woking, guiding them to the Conference South title in 2011-12, since having a spell in charge of Ebbsfleet United.

WAYNE BURNETT

Ex-England Youth midfielder Wayne Burnett served Dagenham & Redbridge in various capacities. Initially with Leyton Orient, he joined Blackburn Rovers in August 1992 and moved to Plymouth in August 1993. He then had spells at Bolton Wanderers and Huddersfield before starring in Grimsby's 1997-98 Wembley 'double' success. Later

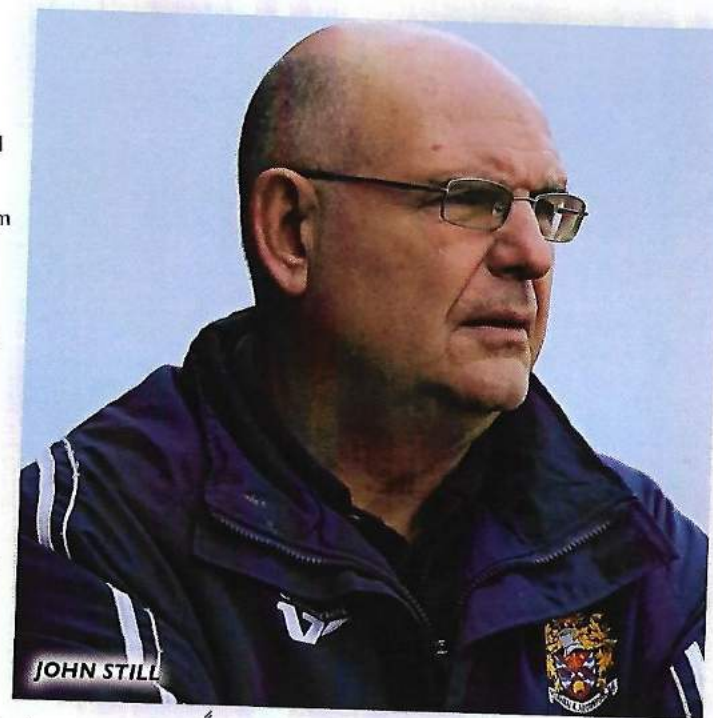
with Woking, Grays and Greenwich, he then managed Fisher, Dulwich Hamlet, Fisher again and Grays Athletic. He joined Dagenham & Redbridge in June 2009, coaching at the club's Academy and assisting John Still before managing the Daggers from May 2013 until December 2015, since managing Spurs' U-23s.

JOHN STILL

John Still plotted Dagenham & Redbridge's 2010 League Two play-off final triumph. A former defender at Orient, Dagenham, Bishop's Stortford, Ilford and Leytonstone, he managed Leytonstone/Ilford to the Isthmian League title in 1981-82. He moved via Dartford to Maidstone and won the Conference title in 1988-89, then managed Daggers from May 1992 until leaving for Peterborough in May 1994. Later Barnet's boss, he rejoined Daggers as manager in April 2004. He led them to the Conference title in 2006-07 and became Luton's boss in February 2013, since managing Daggers again from December 2015 until June 2018, Barnet and Maidstone.

PETER TAYLOR

Ex-England international winger Peter Taylor managed Dagenham & Redbridge during an uncertain period at the club. Initially with Southend, he helped win promotion in 1971-72 and joined Crystal Palace in October 1973. He starred in their 1975-76 FA Cup run and moved to Spurs in September 1976, featuring in their 1977-78 promotion success. Later with Orient, Maidstone, Exeter, Heybridge and Chelmsford, he has managed Dartford, Southend, England U-21s, Gillingham (twice), Leicester, Brighton, Hull City,



JOHN STILL

Crystal Palace, Stevenage, Wycombe, Bradford City, Bahrain, Daggers from June 2018 until December 2019 and Welling.

DARYL McMAHON

Ex-Republic of Ireland Youth midfielder Daryl McMahon managed Dagenham & Redbridge to their highest finish in five seasons in 2021-22. Starting at West Ham, he moved via Port Vale to Leyton Orient in November 2004 and starred in their 2005-06 promotion success. He then had spells at Stevenage and Cambridge United before helping Farnborough win the Southern League title in 2009-10. Later at Boreham Wood, Eastleigh, Dover, Ebbsfleet and Boreham Wood again, he rejoined Ebbsfleet as manager in April 2015, plotting promotion in 2016-17. He briefly managed Macclesfield Town, then the Daggers from January 2020 until February 2023.



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Classic Fan in the Stand WE TURN THE

TEN YEARS ago, fresh-faced Supporters Club chairman Mark Randall had his FIS featured in the programme... so now we'd like to

update it and see if his views have changed. His final question 'Where do you see the club in five years' time?' was pretty much spot-on as

we hit the play-offs in 2018 and then won outright promotion a year later. But let's see how he weighs up the last epic decade...

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

Name: Mark Randall

Where you live: High Wycombe, for the last 8 years

Are you working? Yes, The Big Yellow Self Storage Company Ltd

First Stones game attended (and when): Harefield Utd away 1994, we won 2-1 on a wet and stormy Saturday.

What or who persuaded you to become a Stones fan? My mate and fellow megastore boy Adam. We were at school together and he asked me if I wanted to come along. The rest is, as they say, is history.

Do you follow any other team? Don't be silly, I've got it bad. I have a soft spot for Villa as my mate had a season ticket and we went to Villa Park quite a bit. Never seen them lose. Middlesex CCC if you are talking cross discipline.

Do you prefer lower-League football? Yes

Any disadvantages? It hurts more when you lose.

How do you fit watching football, and Wealdstone, into your family/working life? Easy. Wealdstone came along before my wife so I've got that one in the bag more or less. Work wise I don't finish midweek until 6pm so away games can be hard to get to.

How big a part of your life is the game? Not massive but Wealdstone is. It is more of a

family than anything

Mark pulls off a passable impersonation of a Megastore mannequin

Most memorable game/s you've EVER seen? All Wealdstone games, I'm afraid. Marlow away when Lee Walker jumped the fence and nicked someone's pint. Watching Attic peer over the fence at Edgware while he was banned. Don Cross giving the Northwood keeper stick while winning 2-0. The keeper then insulted Don's wife to which he replied "At least she only lets in one a night".

And most memorable Wealdstone game, and moment? Cambridge away, what a game! Winning in the quarter finals against conference national opposition is unforgettable!

What really gets your goat watching football? People leaving

early, you pay to get in so get your money's worth. If you are losing then stay and support the team.

Have you ever played the game yourself (to any level) and most memorable moments? Played at school and university, both in goal and outfield. Not a great standard and too inconsistent. On my day you would not get past me but on others I wouldn't stop anything and I do mean anything.

Any suggestions to improve your Stones -watching experience at the Vale? Now we close the megastore during the game I can actually watch some football which is great.

Favourite current Wealdstone line-up? North (Do we have another keeper?), 2 Watts (you don't

(continued over page)



CLOCK BACK BY UPDATING MARK RANDALL'S FIS FROM 2014

Are you still living in High Wycombe Mark? How many kids now? Yes, still living in High Wycombe. Still just the two kids, Fred-

die (15) who makes the odd trip to the vale but has promised to visit more once we reinstate the pick and mix! While Lottie (12) is getting

really into her football and even comes to away games. Is it harder now to get that life/Wealdstone balance? No, CONTINUED OVERPAGE>>>



notice him), 3 Hammond (can really deliver), 4 Parker (stepped up but wish he would focus on football), 5 Hamblin (very consistent), 6 Godfrey's beard (first outfield player on the teamsheet), 7 Lucian (what a signing), 8 Brown (physically strong), 9 McGleish (he's here, he's there...), 10 Wright (excellent workrate), 11 Turner (quick feet and can tear a defence apart)

Favourite all-time Stones line-up (with reasons)? 1 North (would be playing Football League if two inches taller), 2 Jerome Okimo, 3, Dominic Stirling, 4 Alan Massey, 5 Carl Martin, 6 Little (game changer), 7 Brian Jones (one of my favourite players when I first started watching), 8 O'Leary (strong, committed and could head the ball) 9 Beckford (need I explain?), 10 Jolly (scores for fun), 11 Pett (very quick feet). Most of these players have played at a higher level and shown their quality. I've stayed away from loan signings or players that were only around for a few matches.

Best-selling line in the clubshop? Hats and scarves are always good sellers.

How long have you been involved there? I've been involved since the start of the megastore. After a Supporters Club AGM Adam and I offered to help as we wanted to give

something back. We approached Dave Albert who asked us to open a shop from scratch. We have literally built our offer from scratch and we are both very proud.

Best away trips to watch football? Cambridge, Newport, Lowestoft.

Best non-League ground you've visited? Tough one really, I don't have a favourite away from home so I will say anywhere we win!

Best stadium you've EVER visited?. The old Wembley. I went as a kid with my granddad, that feeling when you see the pitch for the first time is something special.

Where do you like to stand (or sit) at the Vale? Behind the goal, swapping each half obviously.

Where did you used to stand or sit at Lower Mead? Only been

supporting 20 years so I never visited Lower Mead.

What are your expectations for the Stones for this season? Lower mid table

How does the current programme compare with others you see? It is brilliant. We are constantly getting comments from ground hoppers to that effect. We are lucky to have such a dedicated team.

Any articles or features that you'd like to see? An online version aimed at our international fans.

What has been the most readable/least readable Fan in the Stand so far? I like them all, it's good to see who our fans are.

What do you think of the bars and catering at The Vale? Any beers or food you'd like to be added? I think we have made a huge step forward this year with the Rollin Kitchen so long may it continue.

Do you buy much at the clubshop? Yes I do it helps that I work there. No staff discount though so I need to renegotiate my contract.

Finally, where do you see the club in five years' time? Conference South playoffs.



Classic Fan in the Stand CONTINUED

not really - my job role's changed from when I was a member of the board. I previously ran a retail store but now I'm an area manager so there is a bit more flexibility. **Are you still as involved with the Megastore as 10 years ago?** Not on a day-to-day basis. I spend all my match days before the game selling 50:50 tickets to our wonderful supporters, now joined by Lottie who consistently outsells me every week (probably due to the food based incentives offered which come out of my own pocket!) At half times I managed the programme shop and occasionally deputise for Adam in his absence.

What's the most memorable Stones game you've ever seen? Still Cambridge in 2012? I'm going to go for Havant and Waterlooville away during our NL South promotion season. That was the game that we could start to believe that we could be promoted after beating our nearest rivals. I enjoy watching the match highlights for that game as when our fourth goal goes in you can hear the home cameraman react with disgust! (1 minute and 42 seconds on the goals video)

Would you be sad to leave the Vale once the new stadium (fingers crossed) is up and running? Not sad but proud that along with many others I helped develop the ground to what it is today. When you watch the YouTube video that Adam Williams took of the Vale back in 2007 it is night and day to what it is now. From digging out a channel to get the brook running behind the main stand to smashing up hard core and bolting stands together. We've literally laid the foundations for others to build on.

What's your new Favourite all-time Stones line-up? I've gone for a 4-4-2 with...

1. George Wickens - easily the best keeper I've seen play for the stones (sorry Northy). **2. Charlie Barker** - Right sided centre back really but top player who wears his heart on his sleeve. **3. Jaydn Mundie Smith** - Already a fan favourite that can go into the EFL in my opinion. **4. Jack Cook** - Keeps it simple but can use space to create an overload. **5. Alan Massey** - No non-sense centre back who reads the game so well. **6. Luke O'Nien** - Defensive



Mark (left) in his current guise, handing over a whopping WFCSC cheque to director Nick Symmons

midfielder who ran through walls for us. **7. Tom Pett** - Pacey winger in his pomp, constant goal threat. **8. Glenn Little** - So much time on the ball, could pick a pass blindfolded. **9. Ross Lafayette** - proven goal scorer but intelligent. Could hold up the ball and draw a foul to give the offence and midfield time to regroup. **10. Jermaine Beckford** - top goal scorer normally in the right place at the right time, could score audacious goals. **11. Jacob Mendy** - excellent in getting up and down the pitch and a great goal threat.

Best away trip with the Stones? Other than Havant away, Cambridge was immense back when we were serious underdogs. The standard of the National League seems to get better each year so I enjoy every away game that we are competitive in. Beating Oldham and taking our first ex Premier League scalp, smashing Barnet away a couple of years ago and even losing 4-2 to Stockport County after winning 2-0 at half time (still the slowest linesman I have ever seen!).

Most impressive away ground for 'fan experience'? Not really fan experience but Notts County win it for me: old school stadium, 20,000 capacity and if it had a roof we would have lifted it with our singing. Special mention for our first away game at Chesterfield post COVID. That day, when they saw the pitch with its sprinklers and stands on all sides, we knew that we had arrived and going back was not an option.

Does the WFC programme still compare well with others you've seen? Talk about fishing for compliments! I don't think anyone comes close in non league to our programme. So make sure you buy one... well you obviously did as you are reading this. **Are there any frustrations that come from being the WFCSC chairman?** Only that I wish more people would get involved. The supporters club own 10% of the share capital which gives supporters a voice and helps protect their interests. I know that with more people we could raise more funds, buy more shares and safeguard that voice for the future.

And finally.. where will the Stones be in another 10 years time? Hopefully in this league, hopefully in our new ground and flirting with the playoffs.



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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	Obiero
AUGUST	26 AFC FYLDE	VNL	1-0	1,325	50	21	Sandat
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 SOUTHEAD 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 ROCSDALE	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	3-3	1,005	45	19	Cesay, Reid (2)
DECEMBER	14 Oldham Athletic	VNL	2-3	5,534	77	20	Obiero, Kretzschmar
DECEMBER	21 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	VNL					
DECEMBER	26 Maidenhead United	VNL					
JANUARY	1 BOSTON UNITED	VNL					
JANUARY	7 TAMWORTH	VNL					
JANUARY	11 Altrincham	VNL					
JANUARY	15 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	19 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					

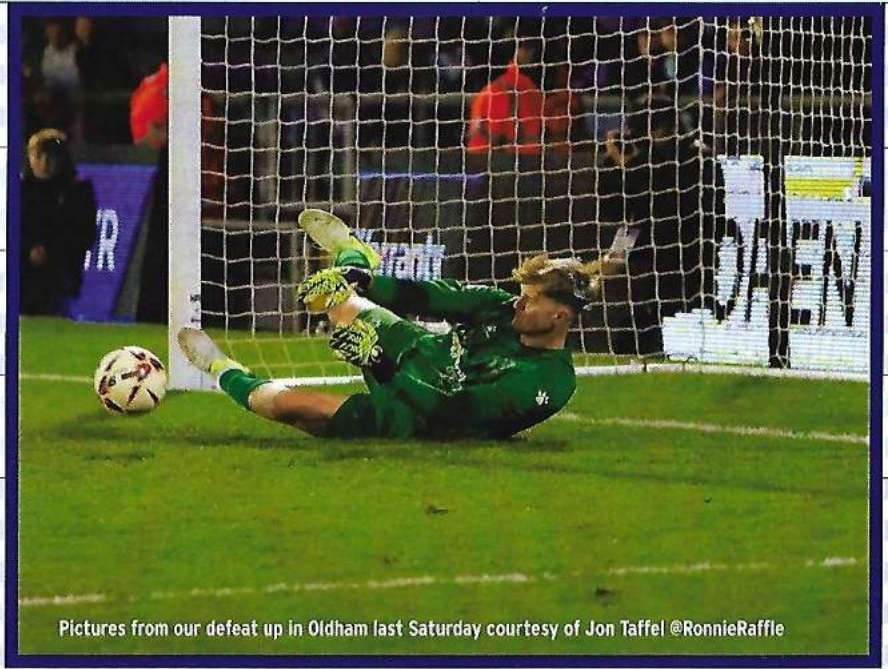
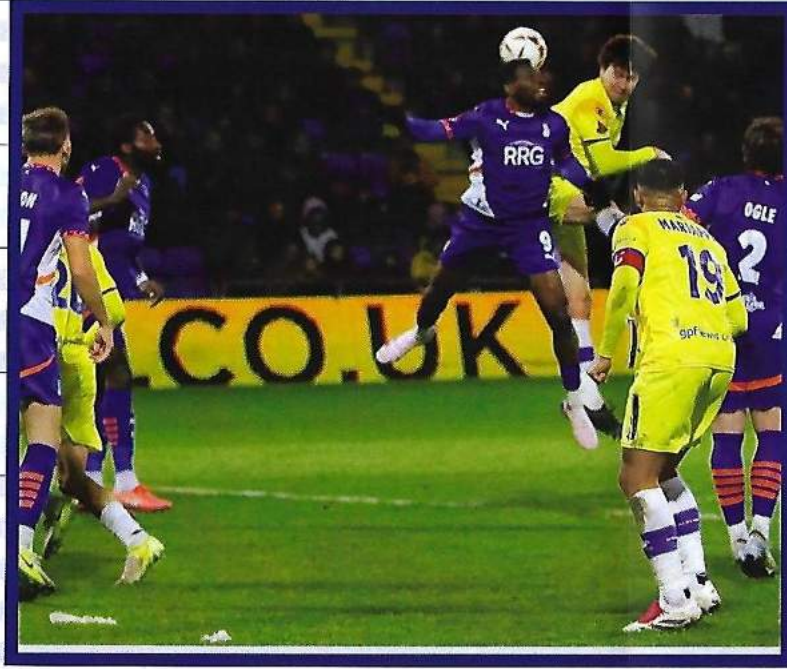
Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Archie MATTHEWS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Jack COOK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Anthony 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
Jahmani 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
Sam HOWES	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
Toby STEWARD	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
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

KEY

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

F Substitute

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



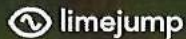
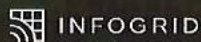
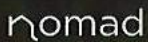
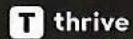
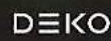
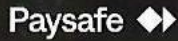
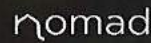
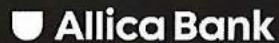
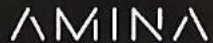
Pictures from our defeat up in Oldham last Saturday courtesy of Jon Taffel @RonnieRaffle

Date in Red = MIDWEEK fixture



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'Tis the season to be jolly MICK FISHMAI

Different days, different ways: When we faced Hendon on a Christmas morning



VERY MERRY GENTLEMEN — A section of the cheerful crowd who watched Wealdstone beat Hendon 2-0 at Lower Mead on the morning of Christmas Day. The attendance exceeded 7,000, the largest "gate" for a match at Lower Mead this season. Many telephone enquiries were received from women supporters eager to know the score during the game.



TAKE a close look at the cutting above, from the Harrow Observer, December 1951. And particularly the caption!

Emancipation clearly hadn't hit the festive football scene with pictures of an entirely male audience crammed into Lower Mead to watch the Christmas morning local derby with Hendon. While the wives, girlfriends and daughters were left at home to, presumably, prepare the Xmas lunch and tidy up

after the present-opening. Though some, clearly, weren't happy. "Many telephone enquiries were received from women supporters eager to know the score during the game".

Extraordinary!
And extraordinary to have over 7,000 inside Lower Mead for what was an Athenian League clash... although Wealdstone were the champions and Hendon our arch-rivals. The following season saw 5,000 inside the ground for the same game. 1963-64 was my first full season of supporting

TRIES TO GET IN THE MOOD FOR THE 2024 CELEBRATIONS...

the Stones and tales of these traditional home and away games against Hendon were legion. The first festive game would be played on Christmas Day morning with the return fixture on Boxing Day afternoon. Crowds for league games at Lower Mead at that time regularly topped 2,000, but the Christmas fixture would add on anything between 500 and 1,000 people to the attendance. I was told that the atmosphere around these fixtures was absolutely brilliant.

Unfortunately for me, at the end of the previous season Hendon had left the Athenian League for the more powerful Isthmian League. For regular supporters of the time, losing the festive fixture must have been hugely deflating - and make no mistake, it had been a long-running annual grudge match. The surprising Saturday morning kick-off for the FA Cup game against Wycombe two weeks ago sparked a lively conversation on the *Stonescast 85* podcast between the younger cast members who were astonished that games had been played in the a.m. before. Dozens of times in fact!

Between 1945 and 1960, Wealdstone faced Hendon on every Christmas Day morning, most often with an 11.15 am kick off, except for Christmas Day 1949 and 1955 when the games were played on 26th and 27th December. That is because Christmas Day fell on a Sunday for those years and legislation at the time didn't allow paid entry to watch participation sport on the Lord's Day. It seemed a little ironic that you could normally watch sport though on Christ's birthday!

Christmas Day 1960 also fell on a Sunday and then for some reason unbeknown to



Above: a selection of Stones and Hendon Christmas morning programmes and (below) how they lined up at Claremont Road on Xmas Day 1965

me, the festive games for the 1961/62 and 1962/63 seasons were played against Hayes.

Once we were "promoted" to the Isthmian League in 1964, Christmas rivalry with Hendon resumed. Over the subsequent seven seasons until we left the Isthmian League for the semi-professional Southern League, I had the privilege of being at four of the Christmas morning fixtures at Lower Mead. Tales of the huge crowds and the unique atmosphere had been no exaggeration. Absolutely amazing. The two that remain most powerfully in

Continued overpage >>>

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HENDON v. WEALDSTONE
Christmas Morning, 25th December, 1965, k.o. 11 a.m.
Isthmian League (Senior Section)

HENDON (Green and White)			WEALDSTONE (Blue and White)		
1 John Swannell	2 Dave Hogwood	3 Micky Cooper	4 Roy Slap	5 Geoff Hilly	6 Bobby Cantwell
7 David Hyde	8 Roy Drake	9 Laurie Churchill	10 Jimmy Quail	11 Danny Lakey	
Referee: M. J. Baystone			Linesmen: G. D. Conn (Red Flag) R. C. Down (Orange Flag)		
11 J. Wortley	10 E. Dilsworth	9 R. Childs	8 J. Cooley	7 H. Allen	
	6 G. Sedgley	5 J. Ashworth	4 C. Townsend	3 M. Doyle	
		2 B. Gaymer			
		1 WEALDSTONE			

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'Tis the season to be jolly CONTINUED..

...From previous page

my memory are the first in 1964 when that magnificent Hendon side took our very good Wealdstone side to the cleaners by 6 goals to 3. The other was the last one in 1970 when on a snow-covered pitch, the talented and elegant Alan Pentecost equalised after the diminutive ex-Stone, John Wilson, had given Hendon the lead.

Watching your club in the snow on Christmas Day! For a teenager, how could life possibly get better than that?

One of the joys of supporting Wealdstone at Lower Mead was the edginess of the crowd, but that seemed to dissipate somewhat on Christmas Day morning. The monster crowds appeared to be imbued with a sense of bonhomie that permeated the occasion. In those days, every Stones defeat left me enraged and spoiled the rest of the day and beyond, but despite not beating Hendon even once during those Isthmian years, I never went home feeling the same level of disappointment. The magic of Christmas maybe?

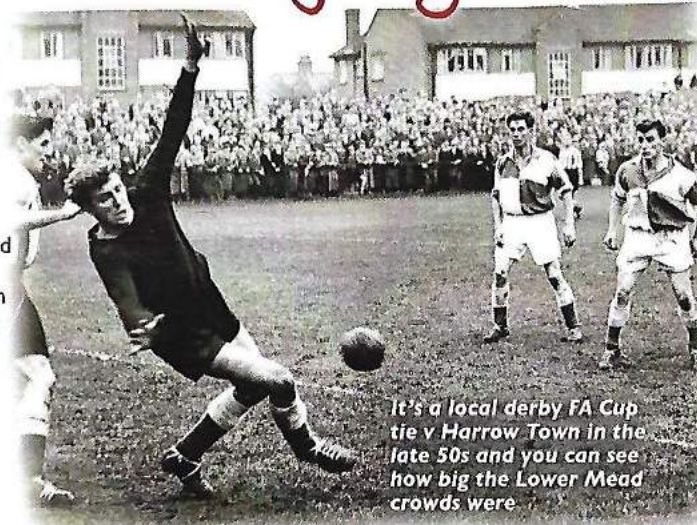
We never again played a game on Christmas Day morning. Our first season in the Southern League offered up the glamorous and tantalising festive double header against Dunstable Town. From thereon, the Christmas/New Year games have fluctuated between the temporary local rivalry with Barnet, Enfield, Harrow Borough, Northwood and - when we were at our lowest ebb, Kingsbury Town - and the absurdity of games against Dartford and Dover.

While some have brought spectators out in greater than usual numbers and provided some memorable matches (such as the two stuffings of the Borough in 2007/08 and 2008/09, 5-1 and 6-0 respectively) most have largely passed me by.

The huge attendances and special atmosphere created by the Christmas morning games of the immediate post-war period are highly unlikely ever to be recreated. The social norms of the time were different to today - as seen by the Harrow Observer cutting on the previous page.

Men and boys would leave the house for a sound morning's football, while the mums, aunts and daughters stayed home to create the Christmas lunch. Our ability to see a match, partake in a couple of celebratory Mackesons in the Social Club and then roll home in time for the turkey, all the trimmings and the plum pudding are no more.

The festivities would continue with the post-lunch



It's a local derby FA Cup tie v Harrow Town in the late 50s and you can see how big the Lower Mead crowds were

doze on the couch featuring loud noises and noxious fumes. Eventually, this would be interrupted for the turkey sandwiches (again prepared by mum), dates, nuts, chocolate oranges, tea and mince pies... and all completed with the TV offerings of *Christmas Night with The Stars*, hosted on BBC by someone like Jack Warner of *Dixon of Dock Green* fame.

Pre-recorded 15-minute vignettes of established TV sitcoms starring Eric Sykes, Dickie Henderson and Harry Worth would be rolled out with the standard introduction from dear old Jack of, "Well, let's see what Harry Worth has been up to this Christmas". The good old days. Really?

This year's festive fixtures (and the Trophy draw at Aldershot, come to think of it) hit me like a dull thud. We face Dagenham & Redbridge today and then we're away to Maidenhead United on Boxing Day. I have nothing but respect for The Shots, The Daggers and the Magpies. They are all very fine clubs. I just can't get particularly excited about fixtures against teams who have over recent seasons become regular league opposition.

The lack of a that 'special' feeling is simply missing.

However: Boston United visit the Vale on New Year's Day and that meeting **does** stir the blood. We've not faced The Pilgrims since we were relegated from the Conference in 1988 and you cannot look back on a certain day against Boston, three years prior to that, without a big daft grin on your face. And I think that game might get a mention in this programme!

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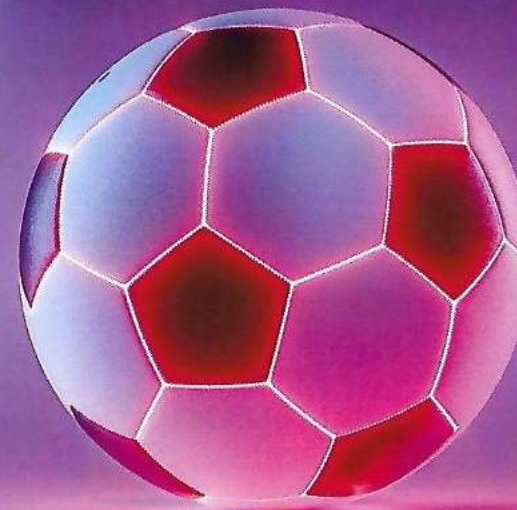
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TIM PARKS  **HOPS INTO HIS TIME MACHINE TO DELVE INTO**

Will this never END? Blimey, if only they had known this '68 Amateur Cup epic had barely started!

**SATURDAY DEC 21 1968, FA AMATEUR CUP
1ST RD REPLAY: WEALDSTONE 3 HERTFORD 3
REPLAYS? What are they?**

Any youngster, starting his/her footballing life as a player or supporter in 2024 might never see a replayed cup tie. And more's the pity.

As our game lurches towards the Americanisation of sport, where everything is settled on the day in an orgy of drama, many of us older fans will look back wistfully on days like this one 56 years ago.

Stones and Hertford had fought themselves to a standstill in this first round Amateur Cup tie, which had gone to extra time. The Athenian League visitors had held their own despite being rank outsiders to hold Isthmian League bigshots Wealdstone - who had won the trophy in 1966 and been beaten semi-finalists the previous season. But we'd end up playing Hertford as many times as the games we'd played to reach the semi-final at Fulham nine months earlier!

Yes, this game went to FOUR replays! The original meeting ended 1-1 on December 14; the replay featured here was played on Dec 21 and finished 3-3; then the teams met again at Lower Mead (we'd won the toss, as shown in the match report) on Dec 28 only for it to also end in a 1-1 deadlock; meaning a third replay at a neutral venue (Wembley FC's Vale Farm) on January 1st which of course ended in a 1-1 draw; before the teams were finally separated by a sole Dave Swain goal in the last replay at Hertford on January 4. Attendance: 1,663.

We went on to beat Cirencester and Hayes, only to lose the quarter-final 1-0 at North Shields with goalkeeper Andy Williams controversially sent off in front of a baying 5,118 crowd and little Charlie Townsend taking over the gloves. How we'd have taken a replay then!

OBSERVERSPORT

WILL THIS EVER END?

WEALDSTONE (0) 3 HERTFORD TOWN (0) 3
(after extra time)
Attendance: 1,865

AFTER 210 minutes, it's still deadlock between Wealdstone and Athenian League Division One Hertford Town in their Amateur Cup first round tie.

But even the most partial Wealdstone fan must surely agree with the comment of Hertford Town's coach Alex Masse and former Lower Mead regular Bobby Warman after this match on Saturday "Any team that leads three times ought never to be caught."

The reason was deplorably simple. After battling for 47 minutes to score, Wealdstone fell back on defence and Hertford levelled. Again they went in front on 74 minutes and nine minutes later Hertford were back there with them again. And to cap it all, Keith Searle scored the goal of the match just 12 minutes into extra time for Red Chair to level the tie with nine minutes left through sheer slack marking.

Spent force

Sadly, as Hertford stormed back each time, there seemed to be little Wealdstone resolution to halt them, teenager Colin Franks was almost a spent force in the dead, heavy going, after half-time and the whole side lacked the divine force of skipper Charlie Townsend, doomed by injury to watch from the sidelines.

Star of the game was Williams but this time it was Hertford's skipper Reg. At Wealdstone's Andy, who had one of his worst games yet in the home goal.

The early running was made by Franks whose freekick in the first minute was so neatly headed in by Scott John Hutchinson was wide and then headed over in the next minute as Hertford seemed terribly shaky.

They looked anything but on six minutes, as Dave Bremer had to head away a John Draper freekick and the first of a series of Williams v Williams ended with the balance of the argument on Hertford's side.

Micky Doyle and Dave Swain showed a bit of sparkle before Pett hit narrowly wide for Hertford from a Brian Somers chance.

UNDERWOOD CALL MEANS IT'S HOME AGAIN

WEALDSTONE had their victory on Saturday but it was after the match.

And they can thank the presence of Isthmian League fixture secretary Ingram Whittingham for it. For the rules of the Football Association Amateur Cup state that a second replay must take place on or before Thursday, which in this case would have been Boxing Day.

With the letting slip on his, Mr. Whittingham agreed that a midweek replay would wreck all sorts of other fixtures and a telephone call to an F.A. official at home elicited permission for the clubs to play on Saturday AND toss for choice of ground.

In true amateur fashion the referee was called upon to officiate, but Mr. Martin would have no truck with the first coin produced, a double-headed effort.

A second coin passed his inspection, and Drew Underwood called correctly to earn a second match at Lower Mead tomorrow. In the midst of general relief, Enfield got into the act by asking Wealdstone if they could replay their Leatherhead match at the ground on Monday night, but the request was turned down - the soaked pitch could hardly be expected to stand up to three matches in six days.

The lead lasted nine minutes as Barry Pett creered through the middle after evading Franks, a sorry figure on the ground with his head in his hands, and his past pooc Williams' dive towards him, to earn extra time.

Goal number five was a classic and should have been a tonic to a side that had struggled Lindsay on for Bremer, Swain's left thigh bandaged and Montague definitely hurt.

And it was Montague who made it, crashing through to send a low, clever ball, through the Hertford defence to the edge of the penalty area where Searle, charging along, smacked it joyously in.

But it was all in vain when nine minutes from the extra time end, a wallop by Callum after Bromley had headed out to him found Williams transfixed on his line.

Will, indeed, it ever end, like even Peyton Place has to? There's one good sign. Townsend is available and fit for tomorrow.

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

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 21
2013, RYMAN LEAGUE
PREM: WEALDSTONE 2
MAIDSTONE UNITED 1**

THE LAST time we played a game at Grosvenor Vale on December 21 it was an absolute corker!

Both teams were going hell-for-leather for the Ryman title with a little bit of 'history' between them: the Wealdstone and the Plastic Stones had met three times already that season. The opening game of 2013-14, played in searing heat on the Gallagher Stadium's 3G pitch in front of a 2,000+ crowd, was a cat-and-mouse thriller that ended 1-1. Then the sides were drawn to meet in the FA Trophy at the Vale - and that too ended in a draw as United controversially equalised late on in a terrific game.

The Tuesday night replay could also have gone either way, with the usually-reliable Scott McGleish missing a couple of chances to kill the game before Maidstone stole victory in the

last minute.

So this pre-Christmas clash was eagerly awaited. And again, with the action flowing from end to end, the Stones might have been several goals to the good but for the acrobatics of keeper Lee Worgan... and then United went ahead as Zac Attwood flashed a 20-yarder past the helpless Jonathan North.

The Bulla was full to bursting as the second half kicked off - and soon it was bellowing as Luke Pigden slalomed his way past three tackles in the box, like a potman

plucking empties in a pub - before being felled by a fourth. Sean Cronin rammed the penalty past Worgan and then it was just a case of wondering when the incessant pressure would pay off.

And it did in an extraordinary manner. Tom Pett wafted in a deep cross from the right and the crowd sighed in despair as it seemed a wasted ball... until it drifted into the net at the far post past the despairing keeper. The three points put us top of the league, a position we never relinquished. Happy days!



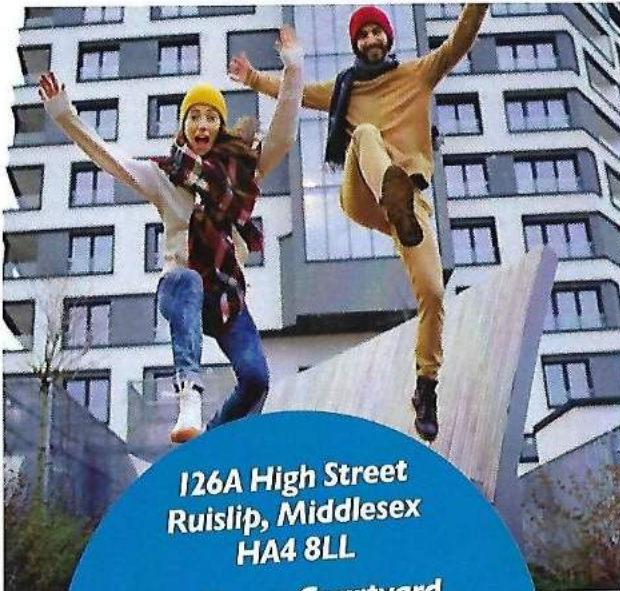
Left: Bulla stand erupts as Tom Pett (above) sees his deep cross end up in the Maidstone net for the winning goal. Pics: STEVE FOSTER



The teams come out for the titanic clash at the Vale in December 2013... a game billed as a title decider and it pretty much was

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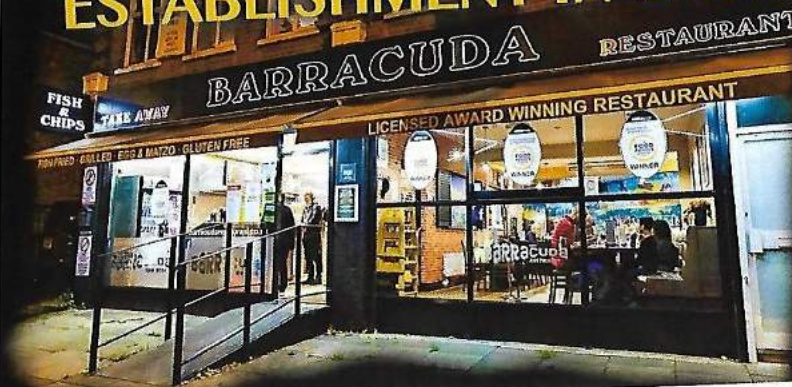
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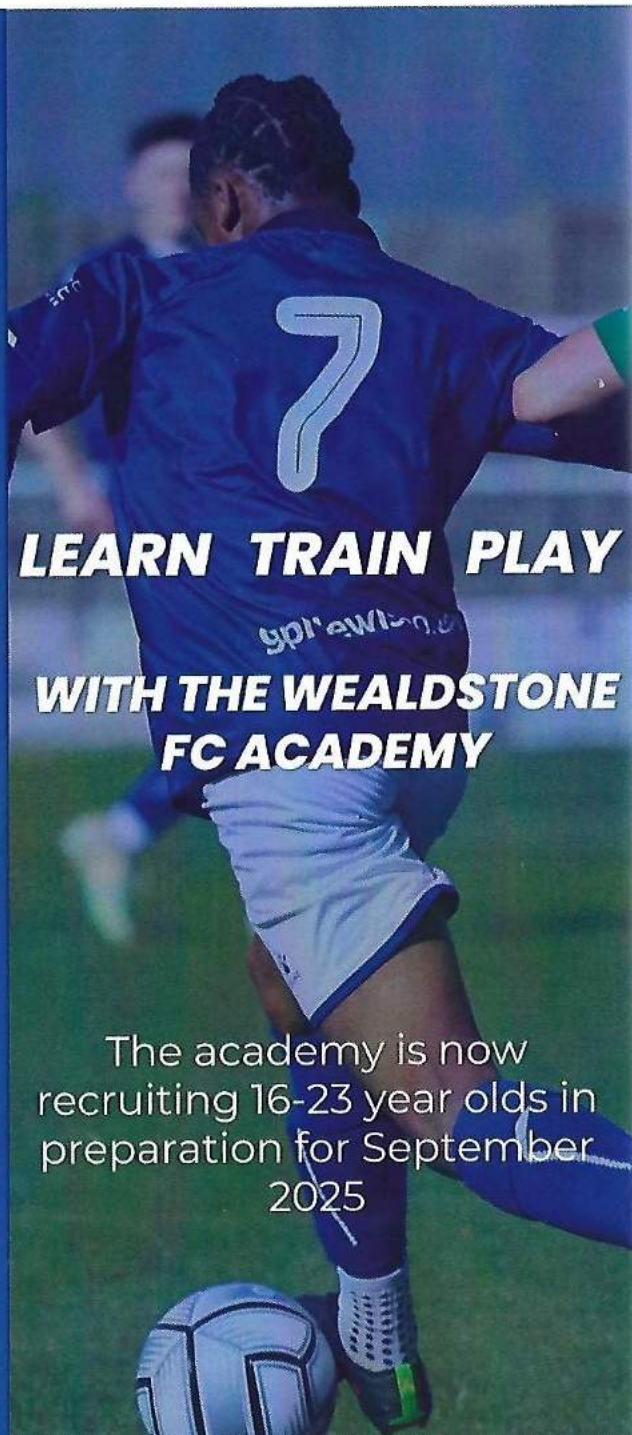
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We've met before **TIM PARKS LOOKS BACK ON**

ONE CUP TIE THAT SUMMED UP STONES' RECORD AGAINST D & R

Trophy agony Stones

Moore sees red as last-gasp goal denies Stones an upset

By John Comfort

Dagenham and Redbridge 1 Wealdstone 1
AN equaliser three minutes into injury time cruelly denied Wealdstone an FA Trophy upset on Tuesday night in a dramatic finish to an incident-packed game that the visitors finished with only ten men after having skipper Fergus Moore sent off.

Wealdstone, who were without suspended leading goalscorer Brian Jones, seemed set for a notable victory over their Premier Division opponents when they took the lead with a superbly taken goal by Stuart Kent with just four minutes to go.

A minute later the final whistle went but despite the disappointment of being denied in the dying moments, Stones boss Gordon Bartlett had no complaints about the outcome.

"It was a fair enough result" he said. And he was right, for both sides had a full quota of scoring chances. Wealdstone's best in the first half came when Ken won a loose ball, broke for goal and squared it for Dell whose fierce rising drive was turned out on upright and away for a corner by the diving Gothard.

In the second half Kent put Mick Swaysland clear but Gothard blocked his low shot with his legs. At the other end, Imber made a series of fine saves throughout, his best coming in the second period when he somehow turned away a point blank range header from Shipp.

But then came that dramatic finish and Stones now face their rivals again in a replay at the White Lion on Monday with a home tie against Barton the prize for the winners. **Wealdstone:** Imber, Dell, Swaysland, Moore, Waugh, Dicker, Walton, Jones, Holmes. **Other subs:** Benning, Yaku, Homer.

Disorganised in defence for the free kick that ensued, Wealdstone failed to pick up Danny Shipp at the far post from Gary Howard's cross and when he headed the ball back into the goalmouth, the unmarked Paul Cobb drilled it low past Noel Imber to give Dagenham a last-gasp equaliser.

Substitute Steve Bircham's perfect pass sent the striker clear of the home defence and although evading the challenge of advancing keeper Paul Gothard took him wide of goal on the right, he cleverly cut back past a covering defender and curled a great left foot shot with precision into the far corner of the net.

Stones and their supporters were not surprisingly ecstatic and two minutes later the contest should have been wrapped up when Dagenham skipper Gary Blackford, under pressure from Paul McKay, handled a Steve Dell cross and referee Harvey awarded the visitors a penalty.

Sadly, Bircham's spot kick lacked the impetus to beat Gothard, who dived correctly to save and the home side survived to dramatically get out of jail as the game drifted into added time.



Sent off - Stones skipper Fergus Moore.

The worst

Let's have a repeat of last Christmas please.... and not haunted by Ghosts of Dagenham and Redbridge past

TUES OCT 27 1998, FA TROPHY SECOND ROUND: DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE 1 WEALDSTONE 1. REPLAY: WEALDSTONE 0 DAG & REDBRIDGE 5
MAYBE it seems a bit strange to choose to remember this desperately unlucky Trophy defeat to red-hot favourites D & R a quarter of a century ago.

But, personally, it sums up our atrocious record against the East Londoners: when they were just plain old Dagenham, our head v head was halfway decent. I've bored you before with tales of the wonderful 2-0 FA Cup win over the all-conquering Daggers of the 1970s at Lower Mead, with George Duck blasting a memorable clinching goal, and another 3-0 win at Victoria Road in the FA Cup final qualifying round in 1986. We also managed to overcome them with some regularity in the early days of the Conference.

But as soon as Dagenham merged with Redbridge Forest in the early 90s our ship was sunk. Until we beat them at Grosvenor Vale in February 2023 (with that surprise early goal from Ashley Charles) we'd chalked up no wins in 11 meetings in competitive games. We'd been knocked out of the FA Cup by the reformed side three times and, then KO'd in the FA Trophy in 1998-99 in this pair of matches that somehow summed up our ineptitude (and sheer bad luck) when facing the East Londoners.

I was working when the clubs met at Victoria Road for this FA Trophy clash 25 years ago but was heartened by reports on the club's email list

reflect on a series of 'if onlys,' not to mention the quality finishing of the visitors. Mick Swaysland had the best chance to stamp Wealdstone's first half superiority with a goal but put a free header wide and it was totally undeserved when Paul Cobb gave Dagenham the lead four minutes into the second half after Mark Janney had broken free on the right. Fergus Moore headed wide from a Brian Jones cross with the goal at his mercy as Stones pressed strongly for the equaliser - and it proved a crucial miss, as Daggers took full advantage of that let off.

Wealdstone 0 Dagenham and Redbridge 5

IN a list of great all time football injustices, this reverse, which ended Wealdstone's interest in the FA Trophy on Monday night, would gain a considerably high placing. **writes John Comfort.**

The final scoreline of this first round replay was farcical and did absolutely nothing to reflect a particularly outstanding performance by Stones in a game in which they were unquestionably the better side for most of the game. However, as in the first clash at Victoria Road, Stones were again left to

Left: Brian 'Jonah' Jones was back for the replay but it all went wrong for Gordon Bartlett's Ryman Div One side against the D & R high-flyers



(the rather basic form of social media which operated 25 years ago). It sounded like our mid-table Ryman League Div One side should have beaten our Premier Division opponents, but for a missed penalty when we were 1-0 up, the sending-off of the talismanic Fergus Moore and an injury-time Dag & Red equaliser. But I was there at the White Lion Ground (where we shared with Edgware Town) for the replay the following Monday. All the talk was of how we'd

bested Dagenham in the original Trophy tie

(which was rained off at half time) and then again in the 1-1 draw that previous Tuesday.

Our electric striker Brian Jones was also returning from suspension for the replay. What could go wrong? Well, everything as it turned out.

In front of a 500+ White Lion crowd, very good for those days, the Stones fans were out in force and were baying in dismay as Mickey

reflect on a series of 'if onlys,' not to mention the quality finishing of the visitors.

Mick Swaysland had the best chance to stamp Wealdstone's first half superiority with a goal but put a free header wide and it was totally undeserved when Paul Cobb gave Dagenham the lead four minutes into the second half after Mark Janney had broken free on the right.

Fergus Moore headed wide from a Brian Jones cross with the goal at his mercy as Stones pressed strongly for the equaliser - and it proved a crucial miss, as Daggers took full advantage of that let off.

Lee Goodwin headed in a Paul Cobb corner to make it 2-0, and Danny Shipp notched a hat-trick of goals in the last 15 minutes to complete the ludicrous appearance of the final scoreline.

Stones' only consolation on a night of inequity was that they had the best player on the park in the shape of Paul Lamb, who was immaculate in the home defence.

Wealdstone: Imber, Lamb, Sterling, Moore (Kent), Waugh, Dicker, Walton, Jones, Swaysland, Bircham, Holmes. Other subs: Benning, Dell, Yaku, Homer. **● Wealdstone's transfer listed keeper, Noel Imber, is on trial this week on trial with Lincoln City.**

Swaysland and then the abrasive Moore both missed presentable chances. Of course the inevitable happened. In Paul Cobb and Danny Shipp, Dag & Red possessed two of the best strikers outside the League and the pair struck in deadly fashion in the second half. John Comfort's report (above) rightly singles out Paul Lamb for an imperious display at the back but even he couldn't contain the rampant visitors.

Wealdstone: Noel Imber, Lamb, Moore, Waugh, Dicker, Chris Walton, Jones, Swaysland, Bircham, Holmes. Subs: Kent, Benning, Yaku, Horner

The best

BUT let's cheer ourselves up by remembering the welcome 2-0 win at Victoria Road almost exactly a year ago!

Stones had yet to claim max points on the road in the National League all season - and in fact hadn't even picked up a point away from the Vale since August - but a pair of second-half goals from Sean Adarkwa (putting on a show) and Tarryn Allarkhia sent the 173 Stones fans home happy with a big dollop of pre-Christmas cheer. Sean's close range finish went in off his knee but no-one cared... and even

fewer when the unstoppable Allarkhia delivered the clincher in injury time! (pictured left).



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

FC HALIFAX TOWN (May 5, National League)

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

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- **Kenneth Spektor**



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**20-24 Hallowell Road, Northwood HA6 1DW
(entrance in the lane between numbers 14 and 16)**

VERSION²N

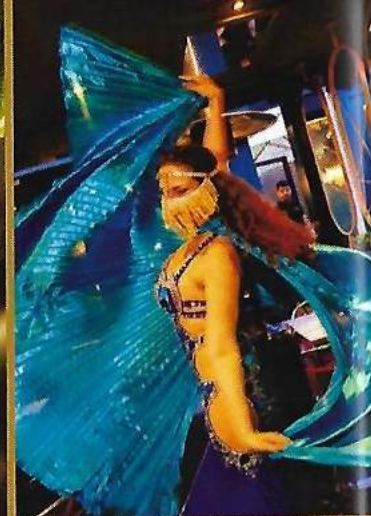
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SUPPORT your favourite player by donating their kit for every game of the new season!
 It costs **£165** to sponsor a player's home or away kit, or **£250** to get a shirt signed by your chosen player at the end of the season. You'll also get a mention 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 borne and bred

Matt Taylor Ronnie Moore	Paul Hughes Pete Worby	Wayne Andrews Jon Taffel	Brett Aherne TTC
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SUPPORT THE STONES HERE AT HOME AND ACROSS ENGLAND


Coming up here at The Vale >



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




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




HARTLEPOOL UNITED
Vanarama National League
Saturday 18th January 3:00pm

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE - TABLE, AS AT 15TH 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 Barnet	22	15	2	5	46	25	11	10	1	0	28	6	11	5	1	5	18	19	21	47	0-3
2 York City	22	13	6	3	44	20	11	9	1	1	30	9	11	4	5	2	14	11	24	45	0-2
3 Forest Green Rovers	21	13	6	2	39	17	9	7	2	0	17	6	12	6	4	2	22	11	22	45	2-2
4 Gateshead	22	12	5	5	41	27	11	8	1	2	22	8	11	4	4	3	19	19	14	41	0-1
5 Oldham Athletic	20	11	7	2	36	19	11	7	3	1	22	8	9	4	4	1	14	11	17	40	0-1
6 Altrincham	22	9	7	6	36	28	11	6	4	1	19	8	11	3	3	5	17	20	8	34	3-3
7 Yeovil Town	22	10	4	8	27	23	11	4	2	5	12	11	11	6	2	3	15	12	4	34	0-3
8 Halifax Town	22	9	7	6	25	22	12	4	4	4	14	14	10	5	3	2	11	8	3	34	2-2
9 Rochdale	20	10	3	7	28	19	9	5	2	13	7	11	5	1	5	15	12	9	33	2-0	
10 Solihull Moors	22	9	5	8	38	35	11	4	3	4	20	23	11	5	2	4	18	12	3	32	1-1
11 Sutton United	22	9	5	8	29	27	11	5	2	4	16	13	11	4	3	4	13	14	2	32	0-1
12 Hartlepool United	22	7	9	6	24	24	11	3	6	2	9	8	11	4	3	4	15	16	0	30	1-1
13 Eastleigh	21	7	8	6	29	28	10	4	4	2	18	15	11	3	4	4	11	13	+1	29	1-1
14 Dagenham & Redbridge	21	7	7	7	35	26	11	6	3	2	27	14	10	1	4	5	8	12	+9	28	1-2
15 Southend United	22	6	9	7	24	24	11	3	4	4	13	14	11	3	5	3	11	10	+0	27	1-1
16 Tamworth	20	7	5	8	23	34	11	5	4	2	17	13	9	2	1	6	6	21	-11	26	
17 Aldershot Town	22	5	7	10	31	39	11	4	3	4	18	18	11	1	4	6	13	21	-8	22	2-0
18 AFC Fylde	22	6	4	12	27	43	11	5	3	3	22	19	11	1	1	9	5	24	-16	22	1-0
19 Woking	22	5	6	11	19	32	11	4	3	4	10	13	11	1	3	7	9	19	-13	21	0-1
20 Wealdstone	21	4	8	9	24	32	10	3	2	5	10	16	11	1	6	4	14	16	-8	20	-- --
21 Braintree Town	22	5	5	12	19	31	11	4	3	4	9	9	11	1	2	8	10	22	-12	20	3-2
22 Maidenhead United	22	5	5	12	27	44	11	2	4	5	11	20	11	3	1	7	16	24	-17	20	
23 Boston United	22	3	6	13	19	37	11	1	3	7	10	21	11	2	3	6	9	16	-18	15	
24 Ebbsfleet United	22	1	6	15	16	50	11	1	4	6	7	19	11	0	2	9	9	31	-34	9	2-2


Follow the Stones on the road >



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



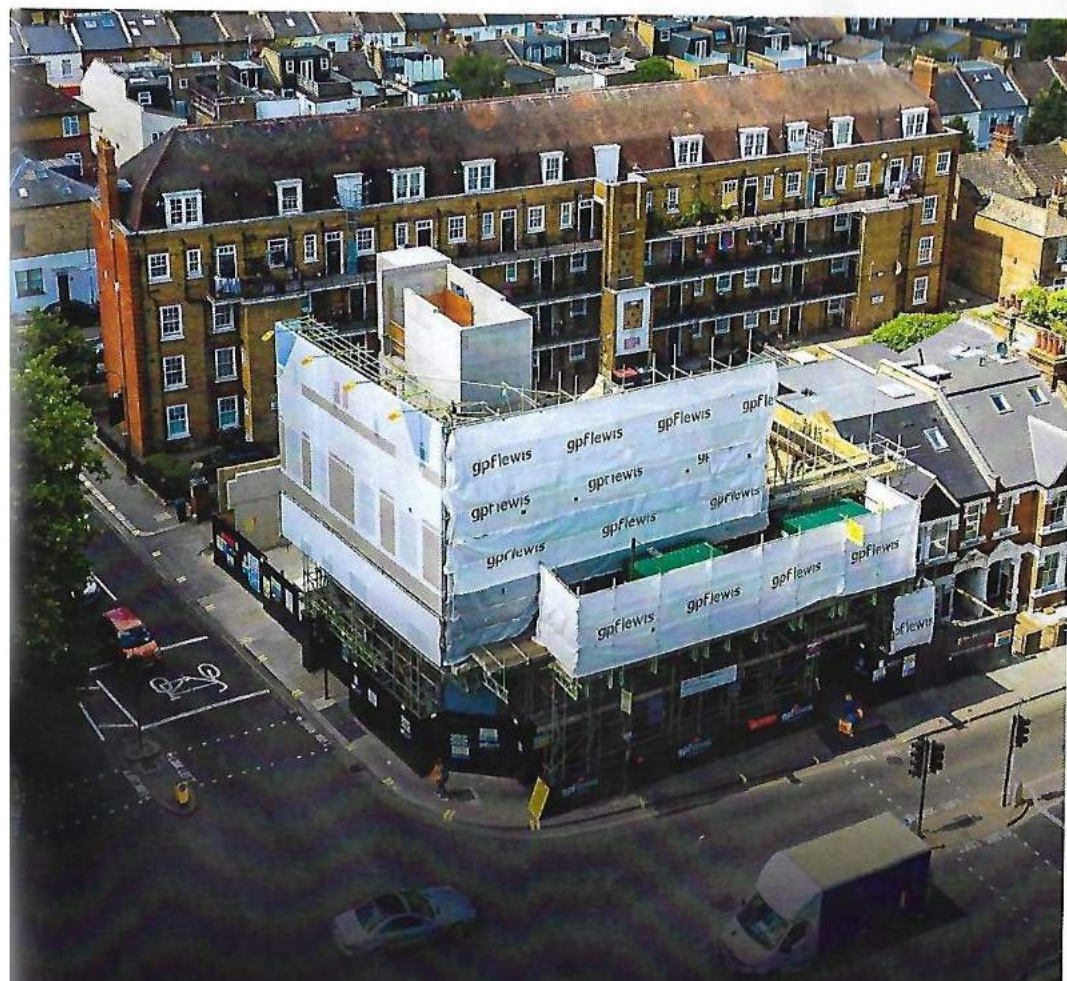
ALTRINCHAM
Vanarama National League
Saturday 11th January 3:00pm



SUTTON UNITED
Vanarama National League
Wednesday 15th January 7:45pm



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