

TODAY'S SQUADS

WEALDSTONE
ROYAL BLUE/WHITE/WHITE



GATESHEAD
WHITE/BLACK/BLACK

Archie MATTHEWS 1	1 Tiernan BROOKS
Jack COOK 2	2 Robbie TINKLER
Anthony GEORGIU 3	3 Brandon HAUNSTRUP
Deon WOODMAN 4	4 Jacob BUTTERFIELD
Alex DYER 5	5 Kenton RICHARDSON
Mason BARRETT 6	8 Regan BOOTY
Enzio BOLDEWIJN 7	10 Max SHEAF
Craig EASTMOND 8	11 Ben WORMAN
Sean ADARKWA 9	12 Kain ADOM
Max KRETZSCHMAR 10	13 Harrison BOND
Jacob ADAMS 13	14 Jean BELEHOUAN
Micah OBIERO 14	15 Liam HUMBLE
Will RANDALL 16	16 Callum TRIPP
Dom HUTCHINSON 17	18 Joe GRAYSON
Christian SCOTT 18	19 Luke HANNANT
Adrian MARIAPPA © 19	20 Fenton JOHN
Sam ASHFORD 20	22 Greg OLLEY
Kallum CESAY 21	23 Tyrelle NEWTON
Alex REID 22	24 Will MCGOWAN
Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23	26 Connor PANI
Connor McAVOY 24	34 Charlie COLKETT
Taylor CLARKE 26	38 Jamie BRAMWELL
Joshua GRANT 27	40 Harry MOSS
Declan PHILLIPS 28	45 Jovan MALCOLM
Harrison SOHNA 29	46 Dan JONES
James HILLSON 30	George SHELVEY
Luca GUNTER 31	55 Louis FLOWER
	Lewis LEECH

Match officials Referee: Kirsty Dowle Assistants: Jonathon Wilks and David Pilling
Fourth Official: Matthew Norton Observer: Brian Curson Coach: Mark Derrien

TODAY'S RESULT: WEALDSTONE GATESHEAD

NEXT AT THE VALE v EBBSFLEET UNITED SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22, 3PM
v BOSTON UNITED TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2025, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

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Roar passion! Alex Reid, back at the Vale, bellows his delight at opening the scoring v Solihull Moors last Saturday

PICTURE:
JON TAFFEL

THE MIGHTY, MIGHTY stones

2024-25 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £3



v Gateshead

Vanarama National League,
Saturday February 1, 2025, 3pm

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GATESHEAD - SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2025



Good afternoon and welcome back to Grosvenor Vale for the third time in seven days as we take on Gateshead in the

National league.

It is never an easy task to write programme notes straight after a midweek defeat so I have given myself a few hours to defrost and decompress.

On reflection and given all the emotion and turmoil surrounding Saturdays draw against Solihull I think that most supporters could see the positives, not least of which was the welcome return to goal scoring by Alex.

The Tamworth result is still a little fresh but there were positives and we created plenty of chances. That said it is always a tough ask to defend a clean sheet and ultimately attempt to get something from a game with the disadvantage of being a player down.

So we move on and I am sure our new management team have learnt a lot about our squad over their quick-fire introduction to National League football over the last two games and are keen to put those lessons to good use today.

This afternoons opponents Gateshead are currently riding high in the table so we can be sure of another tough test but one I am absolutely certain we can get a return from.

Off the pitch the Supporters Club has organised a coach for the upcoming trip to Yeovil which our seasoned traveling fans will know is the best option for this particular fixture. Full details can be found within these pages.

The supporters Club also have a fundraising SKA ig on the horizon and we would love to see some of you here for what is always an entertaining evening.

Thank you all for your continued and passionate support.

Mark

Written in Stone
BY MARK HYDE

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2019 / 2020 National League South

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2003 / 2004 Isthmian League Premier Division

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GROUND REGULATIONS

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

- The club reserves the right to eject from the ground any person who is considered to have committed any of the following acts:
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- No spectator ball games.
- The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.
- Vehicles parked on the Grosvenor Vale site are at the owners' risk.
- 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.
- No Smoking or Vaping inside the ground.

Wealdstone FC Board of Directors

IN THE WORDS OF THE NEW GAFFER: NEIL GIBSON'S VIEW

Hello and welcome to today's game with Gateshead - a very different challenge to last Tuesday's disappointing defeat to Tamworth.

We thought we could imprint the way we wanted to play against Tamworth but we didn't start the game with any urgency. We had more intensity and vigour against Solihull in our first game - my teams are known for starting well and being on the front

foot with lots of energy, and we just didn't do that.

Our end product wasn't quite there, maybe understandable as we are still working on patterns of play.

Our levels went up after some discussion at half time but disappointingly we ended up with ten men for the final 35 minutes - and were undone with a little bit of quality for the goal. They were also streetwise and managed the game well. But we had to take a chance and try to win the game at that stage... we didn't want to sit back and play for a nil-nil. It's risk and reward in this league and we needed three points rather than the one.

Our plan was to keep them penned into their own half but they sat in a mid block while trying to counter attack - and obviously that was made easier for them when we went down to ten men.

The two bookings for Max (Kretzschmar) were unfortunate and a bit harsh... as a centre forward or attacking midfielder you have to go for those balls and he actually got to the ball first and toed it past the keeper for the second yellow card. Referees talk about 'natural collisions' and that was a natural collision.

For the first yellow card it looks like Kretzsch touches the ball first - then there is a collision, much like the second yellow - but I'm not sure how can be booked for 'simulation' if he got to the ball first.

Even then we had territory and possession in the final third but were beaten by a side who are very good at what they do. The keeper kicks the ball long into Dan Creaney, they get bodies around the second balls and they slow the game down when they have the opportunity... none of these are negatives from me as they understand what you need to do to win games. Beck-Ray Onoru is one of the

'My teams are known for starting with energy and intensity and we have to get that right'



Old and the new: Lee Jones and Neil Gibson with Matt Taylor at the Solihull game Pic: Jon Taffel

best players in this league and he caused Tottenham lots of problems in their FA Cup tie.

In our analysis to try to cope with this we brought Kallum Cesay back to cope with his pace and moved Enzo a little bit inside so we could manage them on the counter attack and both did really well.

On the left side, Anthony Georgiou has real quality on his left foot and we worked ourselves into some good areas - but unfortunately the end product wasn't quite there. He was so close to providing two or three assists!

The only good thing to come out of Tuesday was is that there were no injury concerns, though with two games in four games - and playing with ten men for half an hour - the lads were feeling tired towards the end.

But we don't feel sorry for ourselves and have got to get to a point where as a group we are more aggressive on the front foot and play at a higher tempo... we wanted to start at that level but didn't, and that's the most frustrating thing for me. As soon as we got over the disappointment of losing to Tamworth our

focus turned to Gateshead, and as a group I wouldn't put it past us to flip it around and come away with the points today.

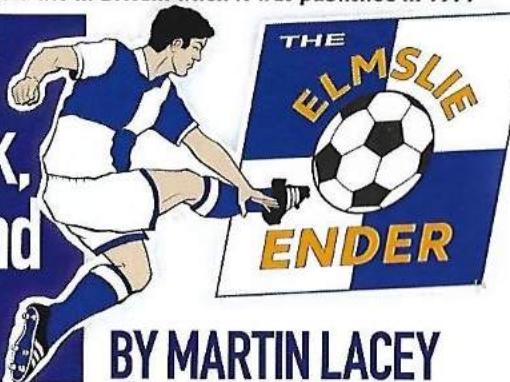
Your support will be crucial to help us do that and we'll be trying to give you something to shout about, starting the game with passion and intensity. UTS!



Neil Gibson urges his team on against Solihull Pic: Jon Taffel

©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

Train, beer, football? Well, train was stuck, beer was delayed and football ended 0-2



BY MARTIN LACEY

TRAIN, beer, football... Ah, I'm sure this was what Lou Reed was thinking of when he wrote 'Perfect Day'. Yes, I'm glad I spent it with you, my fellow Wealdstone supporters.

That said, I do confess to suffering from a degree of travel anxiety. Will I get a seat? Will the train be cancelled? Will I arrive in time for kick-off, will I arrive in time to get a couple of pints in before the bar gets so crowded I can't be bothered to queue up? Anyone who uses our creaking railway network regularly will understand these are pertinent questions. So I'm just glad I wasn't on the same train that some of you chose for your journey to AFC Fylde two weeks ago.

For those who haven't already been entertained by this tale, the entire train had to undergo an emergency evacuation of passengers onto the tracks by way of ladders after it ground to a halt near Coventry, having hit a fox on the line. Yes, you read that correctly. A 125mph, 466 ton, state of the art Avanti Hitachi 807 Class train hit a fox (average weight if fully grown 6.5kg, top speed if faced with a speeding train 25mph, thanks Wiki) and the train came off worst.

Alright, I exaggerate. It was a draw. The train hit a fox, after which neither were going anywhere in a

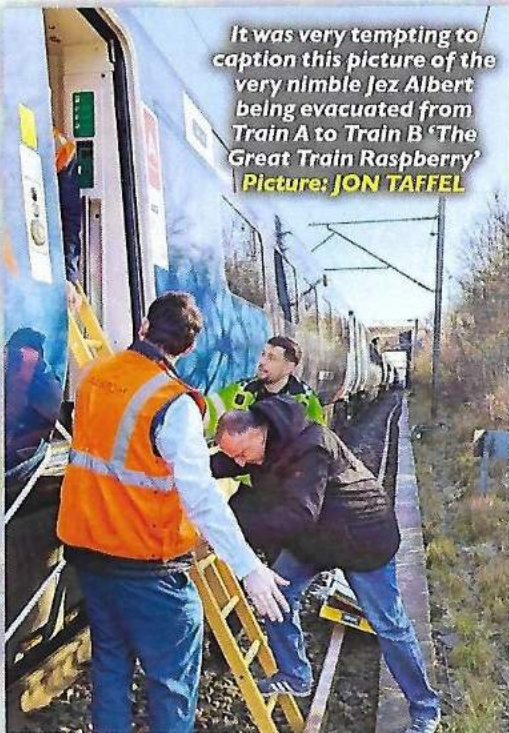


hurry after the braking system was punctured. And I'm told that, in an effort to spare their blushes, Avanti did later upgrade the victim from 'a fox' to 'a Rottweiler' - weight up to 50kg, still somewhat less than a train - though I guess after a collision at 125mph, potentially 150mph if the fox/rottweiler was running towards the train, it might have been hard to tell without DNA analysis, unless the amount of Fairy Liquid required to clean the windscreen was the giveaway.

Those of you who bother reading these occasional ramblings of mine avidly will know (of course you do) that I have a pathological aversion to leaving before the end of a match except in the most extreme of circumstances. No matter how badly we're playing or how many we're losing by my philosophy is if you don't suffer the lows, how will you appreciate the highs?

Equally I hate missing kick-off. I've paid for 90 minutes and I'm bloody well going to see 90 minutes and the rest. So had I been on that train I think I would probably have thrown in the towel, got the next available service in the opposite direction and have suffered the match on Twitter with my feet

It was very tempting to caption this picture of the very nimble Jez Albert being evacuated from Train A to Train B 'The Great Train Raspberry'
Picture: JON TAFFEL



Stones fans in the two sections furthest from the camera appear to be standing on a very slow moving escalator. It matched the slow-moving game
Picture: JON TAFFEL



up on the settee and a couple of Saturday afternoon cans out of the fridge rather than put up with the nail biting uncertainty of trying to get to Fylde by 3pm.

So much respect is due to the intrepid fans who to a man (and possibly woman, I'm not sure) opted to continue the journey come what may, especially the group who didn't think twice about shelling out over 300 quid for Ubers. They were pictured standing triumphantly outside Mill Farm having successfully arrived in time for kick-off. Maybe slightly less triumphantly when they realised the rest of the Wealdstone fans, who had waited patiently for the next train, had also arrived in time for kick off, after a seven and a half hour trip from Watford Junction to Kirkham & Wesham. It would probably have been quicker in Victorian times. By horse-drawn canal boat. Oh well, there's always Delay Repay.

It was my first trip to Fylde and I have to say what a lovely ground it is, stylish and modern without being soulless, standing space behind both goals, and about the right dimensions for a middle-sized but ambitious non-league club. If and when our new ground is progressed from pipe dream to bricks and mortar, I hope we will aspire to something like that. And that's the last nice thing I'm going to say about AFC Fylde.

I bought my match ticket online: £18 to stand behind the goal, no concessions for old gits like me. And if that's annoying, slightly more

annoying is the realisation that for home fans the equivalent ticket is just £13. Then on the day the terrace I'd bought a ticket for wasn't open and visiting supporters were instead corralled in the seats in one corner. I don't necessarily want to criticise the decision itself as this was twenty-four hours after Storm Eeyayaddio or whatever it was called, so there may have been a safety factor.

What is less forgivable is that Wealdstone supporters paying on the day had to fork out £22 for a seat, meaning the difference between the cheapest home ticket and the cheapest away ticket was £9. I would love to hear how they justify that.

As for the match, the stats say we had eleven corners to their zero, and ten shots to their five. And still only one team looked like scoring. And only one team did. Still, like I say, the lows make the highs that much better.

They will come. So let's all raise a glass to the new management team and hope that starts today.

Waiting for Fox News, a section of the Stones fans on the 7.31 from Watford Junction. Seven and a half hours later they had all arrived
Picture: JON TAFFEL



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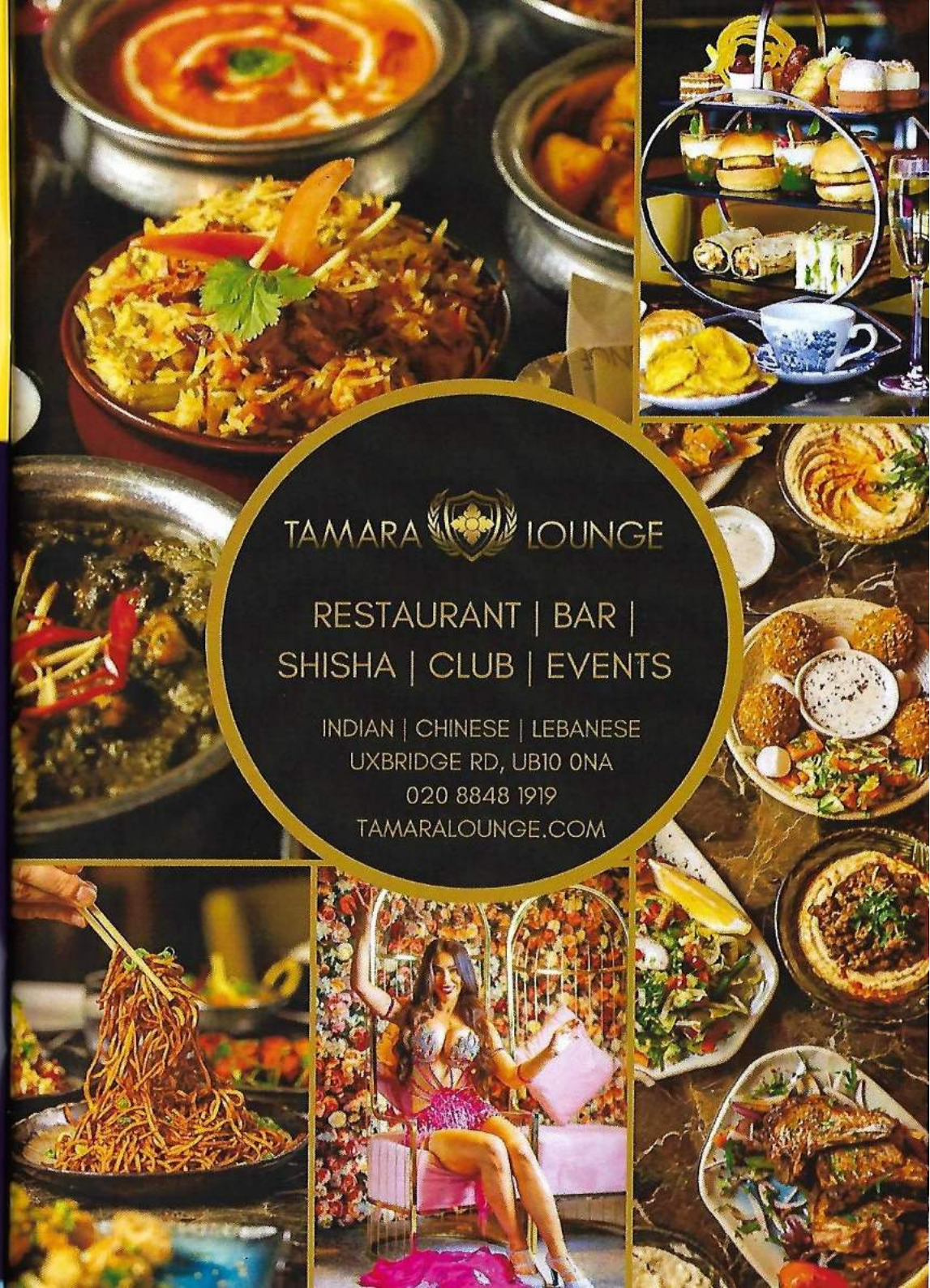
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THE No.10 VIEW: STONES' PLAYMAKER MAX KRETZSCHMAR TAKES

'In his first moments with us the new gaffer put across his footballing philosophy, not dissimilar to the values we already have. He seems a perfect candidate for the job'



HELLO and welcome back to The Vale ahead of what is a huge game against Gateshead. I hope the away fans have all travelled safely and enjoy the game...but not too much!

Many things have changed since I last penned some programme notes, not least the managerial switch after previous boss Matt Taylor departed for Solihull Moors.

I had a strong connection with the manager after working each other out in the early days. I had texted him ahead of my first day of pre-season as I was seriously ill from my honeymoon. Having not eaten for 48 hours, just got off two flights totalling fifteen hours and jetlagged, I then received a text saying "See you tomorrow".

Fast forward to the next day, in 30-degree sunshine I

came last in the running tests (for the first time in my career) and exited the session early as I rushed to the toilet to start vomiting. I was seriously in trouble to the amusement of Matt and my teammates (a story Alex Dyer still finds hilarious to this day!)

I think in this instance and Grimsby away (when this time I had food poisoning) I showed I was willing to give him everything I had and he fully respected that.

Matt Taylor gave us and myself in



Max celebrates a goal at Oldham Picture: Jon Taffel

particular, a clear direction on the pitch but his biggest strength was his desire to get to know you the person off it. He made us much fitter than we've ever been and I think this has helped me avoid injuries which I may have picked up in past-seasons. I wish Matt all the best at Solihull Moors.

There seems to be a bit of symmetry between this season and last with a departing manager leaving around the turn of the year. Stuart Maynard left us in a top half position.

This season we don't have that luxury. But I can see some similarities in both those squad atmospheres. I feel we have been playing well since October and possibly haven't got all the results we may have deserved. It is paramount therefore that we continue this good form but add bits and pieces to the jigsaw through the gaffer's new ideas and philosophy. We have had little contact time with Neil

IT TO THE M₃ A₁ X₈ ...AS PER USUAL!



Start of a new era: Manager Neil Gibson (left) and the Stones come out onto the field last Saturday Picture: Jon Taffel

Gibson since his arrival, something which I'm sure he and his staff are aware of.

This won't improve either with an incredibly busy fixture list approaching over February so it is of the utmost importance that we are concentrating everyday to understand and perform every drop of information the gaffer gives us. Neil, in his first moments with us, put across his philosophy and ideas that he lives by, really well. They are not too dissimilar to the values we already have which is why I'm sure he was the perfect candidate for the job.

We want to continue our possession based style without compromising our attacking output.

Compromises may have to be made in our half however, with conditions as they are at home and the type of opposition we play. One of the most dangerous things to do in a possession-based side is to keep the ball for the sake of it. You must always 'play with a purpose' i.e. to get into attacking areas and threaten the opposition's goal. Frustratingly, I wasn't in the

gaffer's starting line-up against Solihull Moors. It comes as no surprise to anyone who knows football that I was disappointed by this, having started the last fifteen games.

But the gaffer spoke to those of us not playing and explained that our abilities and particularly our leadership will be needed for the rest of the season. It goes without saying that we have too many experienced professionals in the building who will continue to set standards in training and matches whether they are starting or not.

I thought we were the better team and had good chances against Solihull. I thought we played the conditions well and posed a real threat with our running power in the middle and attacking third.

With Yeovil Town and Braintree Town just around the corner, today is a vital game in getting points on the board to immediate safety and possibly more later on this season.

I'm sure the positive optimism a new manager brings will show in your support.

Be loud. Be proud. As always UTS!



Stones' Academy under-23s reach NYL Cup last eight

By Cameron Mawer JANUARY proved to be a fruitful month for the Academy as the under 23s progressed into the quarter finals for the first time ever in the NYFL Cup. A mouth-watering tie against Chesterfield awaits them on Monday February 10 at Brunel (1pm).

They beat table-toppers Precision Oxford 4-2 on pens after a dramatic last minute Jeffrey Sekyere equaliser. The under 19s matched that, also reaching the National League U19s Alliance quarter finals after going to Tonbridge Angels, and winning 4-1 with a masterclass. The squad had 5 first years in the starting 11 and goals from Kevin Rabe and Constantine Udonkang sealed the victory after the scores were level. With the likes of Eastleigh, Southend, Solihull and Tamworth left in the cup, the next round will surely be a brilliant tie as the final is played at the prestigious St George's Park.

Academy results have been brilliant across the board as the National League U19s continue to challenge for the title as they currently sit in second place, nicely poised for an assault on the league.

The exciting news of Jeffrey Sekyere making his first team debut has certainly opened their eyes to a bright future.

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



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TODAY WE WELCOME FANS OF GATESHEAD TO GROSVENOR VALE

There really is no such thing as a quiet time to be a Wealdstone fan.

I'm writing these notes fresh from the stalemate against Solihull, and a few things have made themselves clear. For one, the importance and class of Alex Reid simply cannot be understated. At any level of football, it is players who know how to put the ball in the back of the net who often become the difference makers. Reid is one of them, and the battle to stay in the National League could well be decided by the goals he brings to the side.

On that note, it's looking like it will once again be a fight to secure another season in the National League. As we make our way out of the New Year and find ourselves tightly packed around the drop zone with Maidenhead and Fylde, it goes without saying that every match is becoming increasingly important. Where I find a source of optimism, is the tone being set by our new man in the dugout.

In football, it can be difficult for new managers to connect with fans. With Neil Gibson and what we've seen of him so far, there's a refreshing amount of authenticity. Ambitious with his vision, without lacking realism. Endearing himself, without simply saying what people want to hear. Above all, a quite frankly infectious level of energy.

It's this energy that is most exciting, and perhaps most important for the rest of the season. Thinking back to the conclusion of the 2023/24 campaign, every single match came down to every single player giving 100%. Survival was secured, and there can be no doubt it was due to absolutely faultless application. If it is to be a similar situation this time round, Neil has so far shown he's the man for the job.

General musings over, some announcements now that might be of interest.

Coming up next we are on the road to Yeovil Town and there are still seats available on the Supporters Club coach. Seats are an affordable £25 for Adults and £15 for U16s. The coach will depart from The Vale at 9am and return straight after the game. Hopefully with this being Neil's first away game we will see a good following so if you are planning on

WFCSC update

BY TONY BOOTH



travelling, please support the coach.

Don't forget tickets are now on sale for our next music night coming up at The Vale on Saturday 15th February. This sees the return of Big 10 for 'A Night of Ska and 2 Tone'. We last hosted them back in February 2024 for a Sold Out show so join us and skank the night away. Tickets are £16 and are available over the bar or from James Klarfeld on 0797979 5414.

All that's left now is to warmly welcome Gateshead to The Vale for a game that is sure to be another tough challenge against some formidable opposition. There's plenty of football left to be played and one thing's for sure, there's certainly no danger of a boring end to the season.

Tony

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Classic Fan in the Stand WE TURN THE

FOUR YEARS ago, during the Covid season we featured Norman Goldsmith's story of the Stones devotion... and it was

so good we thought it should reach a wider audience!

Happily, Norman is still going strong and he has posted an update

on his wise words from 2020....

"Here I am again! At 84 I have now forsaken the halfway line for a seat in the stand so have earned the

NORMAN GOLDSMITH

Today's featured supporter is a bit special: Norman Goldsmith was treated to sponsorship of the recent Halifax game to celebrate his 80th birthday by his son Peter; we knew all about Pete's allegiance to the Stones but his dad goes way, way back to the 1950s. So this is Norman's story, in his own words...

I was born on March 4 1941 which makes me 80 and a bit. Along the way I've acquired two metal knees and a new aorta.

I've lived in Pinner since 1976 with my wife of 53 years, Pauline. We have one son, Peter, who is also an ardent Stones supporter. My early years were spent in Kensal Rise where I do, in fact remember a couple of Mr Hitler's Specials flattening two terraces of three houses each in the next street. We moved to Willesden and then, on getting married, to Carpenders Park.

My first Wealdstone game, in 1950, was as a visitor with Willesden FC for whom my dad was secretary. My first impressions were that Wealdstone were a 'big' non-league team with a good set-up in a big stadium (Lower Mead). I was impressed. Stones, however, won the game.

(Wealdstone 1 Willesden 0, Mid-dx Senior Cup 1st round, Jan 21st 1950. Goalscorer: Roberts)

My career started at the age of 16 as a lowly junior clerk at Willesden Council. Later I got their support for a four-year college course to qualify as a Public Health Inspector (now known as Environmental Health). A few years later, while at Camden Council, I was sponsored for a three-year post-graduate master's course in management studies. Wanting to utilise this, I progressed to a CEO's job at a large housing associations, followed by a couple of directorships. I later returned to environmental health and some consultancy work, eventually retiring

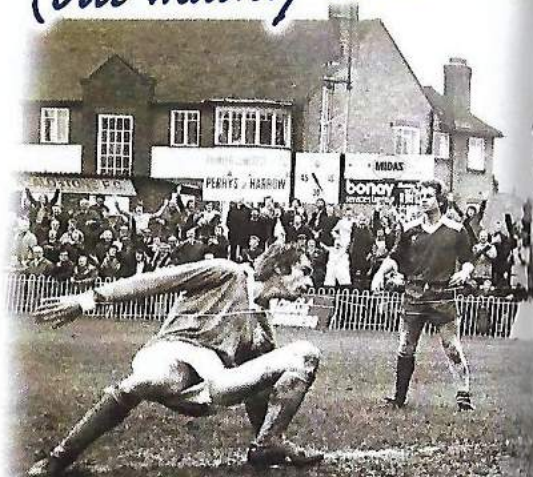


"After retiring from distraction so, with halfway line clock

at 69... since when I've helped out as a voluntary front desk officer for the Metropolitan Police. I'm currently laid off because of the pandemic.

My early years were spent playing football on Stonebridge Rec for the school side and in the park on Sunday afternoons. Boots came in one colour (brown), had hard toe caps, leather nail-in studs and high ankle supports. The ball was heavy leather with a tie-off bladder and a lace. I still remember heading that lace!

Fan in the Stand (but mainly under the High Mead clock)



Below: Norman (centre) with his wife Pauline and Nigel Johnson (No. 10) scores in front of the High Mead clock for the Stones against Woking in the FA Cup 4th Qual R

CLOCK BACK TO 2021 & LONG-TIME FAN NORMAN GOLDSMITH

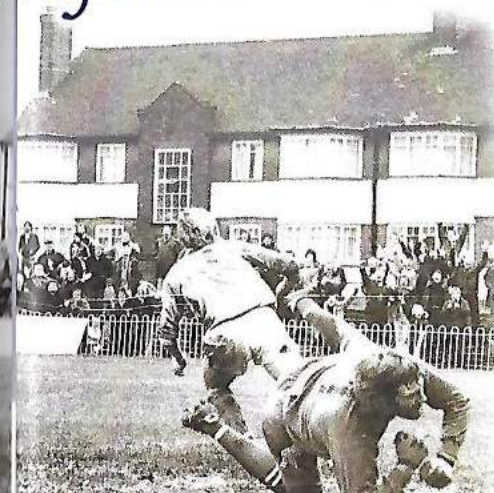
title *Fan In The Stand*. The clock, Val Shearer and the milkman, whose name I never knew, but was always there with his emptied

leather cash bag, have now been sent to the archives. In moving on in time I ask myself - do I still get the same pleasure as in the past? Of

course I do. It just varies in intensity. A loss, not quite so much, a draw better, a win, terrific. A win **Continued over page>>**

WEALDSTONE 2020-21

Stand (but mainly under the High Mead clock)



son Peter and (above) Mead clock for the tie in November 1979

a grave digger were among our team. Enjoyable times, elation at unexpected wins and tours to Belgium and Holland were the highlights, though unexpected spectator time was presented when I suffered a serious knee injury.

I still remember a football match I had to hobble to on my crutches: Wealdstone v Hendon in the Amateur Cup Final, 1966. Was this my conversion to becoming a Stones fan? After my knee recovered I went back to playing for the council team, had part of a season at Rayners Lane and also a spell at Kingsbury Town. I did also represent the London Council at both football and cricket for number of years... days off work to play sport. Sheer joy!

My Wealdstone-watching began after my retirement from playing, in my late 30s which for the mathematician, was in the late 1970s. I needed a Saturday afternoon sports fix in the winter and had a young son who also needed distraction... so we became "under the clock" fixtures on the High Mead side at Lower Mead and assisted Vale Shearer - who remembers him? - in putting the minute hand on the clock. My addition to the Wealdstone ranks was confirmed, and the club has given me a lot of pleasure over the years. The disappointments have only served to highlight the good moments.

playing I needed a Saturday afternoon my son, became a fixture under the at Lower Mead. They were great days"

So what is the best match I've ever seen? Well a group of us bought tickets for the 1968 European Cup Final at Wembley when the finalists were not yet known. Magic happened: Manchester United versus Benfica. None of us sold our tickets and... what a game. Eusebio is my top gentleman of football.

And what is my best Stones game? I've been watching the team too long to have a 'best game' but I do have favourites. Probably the best of those revolve around the double side of 1984-85 with the highlights being the league decider at Kettering, and the Trophy final at Wembley. Last season's squad would have given the Double Boys a run for their money however, with their quality and the sheer

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

Classic Fan in the Stand CONTINUED....

From previous page against Barnet off the scale! For a relatively small fee we get to see the team we love. We also, as ardent supporters get to be the greatest undiscovered players, managers, tacticians and referees in existence. Of course it's a nonsense, but it's all part of our love for the game and our club.

Who provides this pleasure? The players, the team management staff, the back-ground staff (ground, entertainment, stewards, security etc, etc, etc) and the directors with the finance to see that it all happens. We have no idea how hard they, and other directors and volunteers work to provide us with our pleasure. And ah! Do not forget the referee and assistants. I know that all of us are better referees than we get every match, but we would not have a match without them. Not only have all these erst-while people given me much to enjoy over the years but also leave me with good memories. Looking back through the years I remember Stones players I liked although not necessarily the stars. Early on Charlie Townsend, Hughie Lindsay, Viv Evans and George Duck. These players provided us with a hatful of goals and Viv with electric runs down the wing. Eddy Dillworth and Arthur Peel also come to mind. I cannot leave out Stuart Pearce and Paul Fairclough. One of the most memorable, for

other reasons, was Vinnie Jones. He always reminds me of my namesake, Norman "bites yer legs", Hunter. Additionally, who can forget the double side under Brian Hall. He had, at the time, the best centre back duo in non-league football, Bowgett and Byatt. Add the Cordice brothers, Bob Iles and

Mark Graves. Heroes and the very first team to achieve the non-league double.

Arriving at more modern times I must state my admiration, not for a player, but of Gordon Barlett. As a manager he guided us from a very lowly position to where we really should have been. Under his guid-

NORMAN GOLDSMITH CONTD

joy of the football.

Being a traditionalist, I still miss Lower Mead. Those midweek games on a quiet evening when the bantering between Denis Byatt and the fans was of top, but dubious, quality. Other memories are an evening game at Dartford with their manager Peter Taylor getting angrier and angrier; assisting in recovery of balls in the stream at Edgware; the view of the cemetery at Northwood and also at Northwood, the Beckford and Jolly goalscoring show.

My introduction to Grosvenor Vale was having a midweek chat with Leo Morris which ended with me drawing up the club's Health & Safety policy to get Hillingdon Council off his back.

Looking back, I think this is the point where I thank everyone who has put time and effort into the running of this club. Sponsors, board members, supporters, volunteers, players; countless others who give a, and many of hers, our 'Saturday Fix'.

Our best-ever side? I think that teams are of their time, as are the players. The merits of comparing players from

different eras, playing systems, training methods diets etc is impossible. For example, what are the comparative merits of Tommy Lawton and Harry Kane? (I have seen them both live). Not just that one played for the Arsenal and one for Spurs but they are 70-odd years apart, different teams and tactics and as far as money is concerned, millions of pounds apart. But they both played for England.

My best team is a squad. The double era showed the best squad and football I've ever seen - particularly 1984-85 - but other favourites of mine include Hughie Lindsay (with whom I've played cricket several times), Charlie Townsend, Viv Evans, Ray Goddard and George Duck. Of more modern vintage are Mark Graves, Jonathan North, Lee Chappell, Richard Jolly, Jermaine Beckford, Alan Massey, Glenn Little, Billy Clifford and Jerome Okimo.

Best-ever team? The two-man Bartlett & Morris management team. How many levels did we come up under them?



Flashback to Glen Little's amazing goal at Dulwich

Lower Mead 1950, when Norman made his first visit. Not a bad crowd and that looks like the 1970s High Mead clock had a fore-runner



ance he produced the goal scoring machine of Jolly and Beckford and exciting players like Alan Massey and Lee Chappell. One of the players that earned my utmost respect was our long serving keeper, Jonathan North. What he gave to the club over a lot of years is immeasurable.

I thought that the Watford move was a disaster. Playing in a cavern with no atmosphere,

smaller crowds and having to pay for ground staff suitable for a crowd of thousands. Edgware was a better move. Small and cosy and who can forget the man with the net fishing out the balls that arrived in the stream. The move to the Vale was much better. A proper, if dated, football ground. Having played both cricket and football there in the Ruislip Manor era, it still reminds

me of an upmarket village green. However, full marks to the Club's officers and staff that brought it up to the National League standard. Who was the best Wealdstone player in my time? Impossible to say. Different eras, positions played and different players all have an effect. On the basis of ability, skill and loyalty to the club, my choice is Northy. As regards memorable

games, I recall Dagenham away one season when it was absolutely pouring with rain. Was the game on or off? Dagenham's phone always engaged so we went only to find the game off so we joined the Daggers players in the bar. As my mate said, "a long way to go for a drink".

One that gave me great pleasure was last year at Barnet. We had already taken three points off them at home and Barnet were flying high. Being a half-way line man, I was sitting surrounded by Barnet supporters. They completely outplayed us and were 1-0 up at half-time. It should have been about five. Then, with a minute to go Corrie Andrews gets the ball in the left hand corner, a bit of jiggery pokery and he scores!

Thanks to all at the Stones for giving me these highs. Without the lows we would not be able fully to appreciate the good times.

UTS!

WEALDSTONE 2020-21

PETER GOLDSMITH

Fan in the Stand
I was a mascot at Lower Mead for the Trophy quarter-final in 1985... and my Robin Wainwright incident definitely WASN'T the highlight of the day!



It's a bit more that the home and away kit... I was a mascot at Lower Mead for the Trophy quarter-final in 1985... and my Robin Wainwright incident definitely WASN'T the highlight of the day!

WEALDSTONE 2021

Mascot Peter is 1.

It's a bit more that the home and away kit... I was a mascot at Lower Mead for the Trophy quarter-final in 1985... and my Robin Wainwright incident definitely WASN'T the highlight of the day!



Earlier this season, Norman's son Peter had his moment in the spotlight as he looked back to being mascot for the FA Trophy win over Frickley in '85



It's the European Cup final 1968, one of the great moments in sporting history and Norman was there: Stepany makes his save from Eusebio in the dying moments of normal time at 1-1... and the Portuguese legend applauds the Manchester Utd goalkeeper

Would you like to be a...

My best-ever Stones goal is an easy pick. Only one in the frame. Glenn Little at Dulwich Hamlet. Picked the ball up about five yards outside our area; a few effortless strides up to the centre circle; a little body shimmy, one defender beaten; a dropped shoulder, another beaten; a little sway and another defender is out of the game; and finally, a 25-yard chip over the keeper.

I've been asked to comment on the sale of Lower Mead 30 years ago and do so as an outsider. The concept of sale and relocation - sound. The relocation to Prince Edward Playing Fields also probably sound. But a couple of seasons at Vicarage Road - ego-boosting and disastrous. Where did the money go? I don't know. And why Barnet got the stadium ahead of us - another don't know, but a disaster. The upside is that a lot of people put in a lot of effort to save the club and get us to where we are now.

I am looking forward to the future. The romantics see us in the EFL. However, this is not just achieved on the playing field. The guardians of our precious club, the directors, have to find the financial wherewithal for upgrading everything, and that is far from easy. We all have a part to play in supporting OUR club. Encouraging new attendees; volunteering for odd jobs especially on match days; encouraging the supporters club by buying from the Megastore.

I've got a club shirt. Have you? PS a big thank you to my son Peter who sponsored the Halifax match to celebrate my 80th birthday a few weeks ago.



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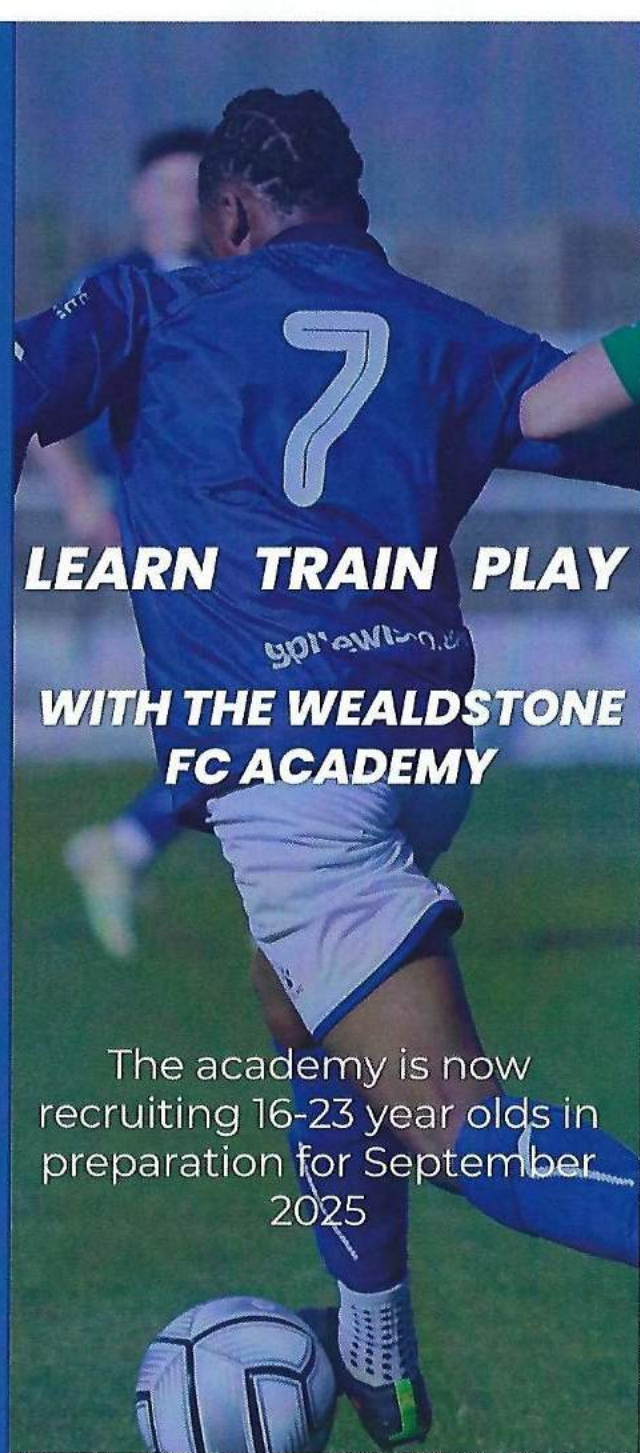
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ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GATESHEAD FC

Today's opposition in focus



The original Gateshead AFC was formed in 1930 when neighbours South Shields – members of the Football League's old Third Division North – moved to Gateshead because of financial difficulties.

The newly formed "Tynesiders" almost capitalised immediately on their good fortune when only Lincoln City's superior goal average denied them promotion to the second division in just their second season of League football. However, it was to be the FA Cup that was to provide the club with its finest hour when cup fever gripped the Tyneside town in 1953. After accounting for Liverpool in the Third Round, Gateshead progressed to the quarter-final only for their Wembley aspirations to be denied by a single Nat Lofthouse goal for eventual finalists Bolton Wanderers. A sell-out Redheugh Park crowd of 17,692 had witnessed the spectacle, but within five years the North Easterners were founder members of the newly formed Fourth Division after they missed the cut for the Third Division by just one point.

Despite an average placing of ninth in 21 Third Division North campaigns – interrupted by the Second World War – two years after the introduction of the Fourth Division came Gateshead's shock dismissal from the Football League. The club had applied for re-election only once before in a relatively successful 30-year period, but were unceremoniously cast aside in favour of the more geographically favourable Peterborough United in 1960. Gateshead had finished third-bottom with both Oldham Athletic and Hartlepool United below them, but polled only 18 votes and were unjustly voted out of the League. An unsuccessful bid to join the Scottish Football League was followed by a brief spell in the Northern Counties League and then six years in North Regional League.

In 1968, Gateshead became founder members of the Northern Premier League, but their stay in the new competition lasted only two years. Their place was, ironically, taken by another demoted Football League outfit, Bradford Park Avenue, and Gateshead were forced to replace their own reserve side in the Wearside League.

Finishing as runners-up, the Tynesiders then had two seasons in the Midland League until – in 1973, seven leagues and 43 years after its inception – Gateshead AFC ceased to exist.

A new club called Gateshead Town played the following season in the local Northern Combination League but, astonishingly, history was soon to repeat itself. South Shields, then members of the Northern Premier League, sold their Simonside headquarters and moved to a new home at Gateshead Stadium.

Renamed Gateshead United, the club soon became a force in the Northern Premier League. However, in 1977 – after only three years of operation – came the shock announcement that United were to disband. It looked like the end of senior football in the town until another phoenix, this time in the form of the current Gateshead FC, rose from the ashes in 1977. Replacing Gateshead United in the Northern Premier League for the 1977-78 season, the new club won the title in 1983 with a record 100 points and 114 goals. After two years in the Conference, the Tynesiders returned to the Northern Premier League and were crowned champions for the second time in 1986. Their second spell in the Conference lasted just one season, though they were quick to bounce back, and reclaimed their place at the top table of non-league football in 1990.

A productive period ended in 1998 when the club was relegated back to the Northern Premier League after eight consecutive seasons of Conference football.

The Heed's very existence was then threatened early in the new millennium when long-time sponsors Cameron Hall Developments pulled out. Relegation to the Northern Premier League First Division followed but, after one season, Gateshead were back in the top-tier of the NPL following the introduction of a geographically split First Division. The future for a club with a proud, if somewhat chequered, past took a turn for the better when wealthy Gateshead-born businessman, Graham Wood, took over in 2006.

Gateshead finished third in the renamed UniBond Premier Division in 2008 & seeing off Buxton in the play-off final. Back-to-back promotions were achieved when the rejuvenated Tynesiders claimed the runners-up spot in the Conference North and then overcame AFC Telford United in the Conference North play-off final.

Gateshead marked the 50th anniversary of their harsh expulsion from the Football League by again



GATESHEAD'S 11,800 CAPACITY GATESHEAD INTERNATIONAL STADIUM

becoming a full-time professional club in 2010.

The 2013 campaign, however, saw chronic pitch problems at the International Stadium, which resulted in half of the club's home games being staged away from Tyneside. The following year, however, Gateshead recorded their highest placing in English football since their Football League days and made it to Wembley for the first time in their history. The Heed finished third. Hopes of reclaiming their League status were quashed, however, as Gary Mills' side were edged out by Cambridge United.

The highlight of the 2017/18 season was undoubtedly their remarkable FA Trophy run which saw them see off National League opposition in every round en route to the semi-final.

The Tynesiders missed out on a second Wembley trip when they were beaten by Bromley over two legs but still equalled their best ever finish in the competition.

In April 2018, owners Richard and Julie Bennett confirmed their intention to sell the club after three years in charge. They agreed a deal with an overseas consortium the following month but that later collapsed. Gateshead remained up for sale until just over a week before the start of the 2018/19 National League season when Hong Kong based businessman Dr Ranjan Varghese completed his takeover of the club.

The 2021/22 season proved a historic one for Williamson's men, who defied 20/1 odds to become Vanarama National League North champions and return to the National League three years after their demotion.

The 2022/23 season begun with the club stepping into an entirely different National

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P11 W4 D3 L4 F19 A16 GD 3

LAST MEETINGS

SAT 5TH OCT 24 (A) - L 1-0
SAT 17TH FEB 24 (H) - L 2-4

League to the one they left four years prior, and survived relegation with a 14th-placed finish. Mike Williamson's side also made history in the FA Trophy. Gateshead would fall just short of another historic moment in the capital, with FC Halifax Town edging a closely fought final 1-0 in front of over 27,000 at Wembley Stadium.

In the 2023/24 season the Heed lived up to expectations and ended the season in sixth place.

The Heed's play-off hopes were controversially put to a halt less than 24 hours after a final day win over Bromley, with an inability to secure a 10-year security of tenure at Gateshead International Stadium seeing the club expelled from the National League play-offs and potential promotion to the EFL.

Gateshead still had history to write – and redemption to claim – at Wembley Stadium in the 2024 FA Trophy final however, after becoming the first team to reach consecutive finals in the competition since Grays Athletic in 2005 and 2006.

Gateshead won their first ever FA Trophy against Solihull on penalties.

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GATESHEAD THE HEED TO LOOK OUT FOR 2024-25

Who's who for the visitors



CARL MAGNAY

8. REGAN BOOTY - MIDFIELD

Booty joined the club in June 2023 following his departure from Maidstone United.

The central midfielder played a pivotal role across the 2023/24 season, appearing 44 times in all competitions as well as writing his name into Gateshead history by becoming the second-ever player to score for the club at Wembley Stadium in the 2024 Isuzu FA Trophy final.

14. JEAN BELEHOUAN - DEFENCE

Belehouan joined Gateshead on a one-year deal, with an optional extension of a further year available at the club's discretion, in August 2024. The centre-back spent seven years with Manchester United as a youngster, before joining Sheffield United in 2017 and remaining with The Blades until 2023, when he joined Tranmere Rovers for the 2023/24 season. Belehouan made eight appearances for Tranmere before departing at the end of the campaign, and joining Gateshead ahead of the second game of the 2024/25 National League season.

19. LUKE HANNANT - MIDFIELD

The midfielder returned to Gateshead International Stadium on a two-year deal in August 2023, having first appeared 45 times for The Heed during his initial spell from summer 2016 to January 2018, before then moving to the Football League with Port Vale, Cambridge United and Colchester United. Hannant made his way back to Tyneside for the 2023/24 season and made a big impact on his return, playing 50 games across all competitions and ending the campaign as the club's second top-scorer with 11 goals, as well as recording four assists, alongside lifting the Isuzu FA Trophy at Wembley Stadium.

23. TYRELLE NEWTON - MIDFIELD

Jai Newton joined on a two-year deal, with an optional extension available at the club's discretion, in August 2024. The midfielder signed on a permanent basis after appearing as a trialist throughout pre-season, scoring in The Heed's seven-goal win over Blyth Spartans and also recording an assist in the 2-0 home win over Carlisle United.

24. WILL MCGOWAN - MIDFIELD

McGowan joined on a three-year deal from Blyth Spartans in July 2024. The midfielder made 45 appearances for the Spartans in the National

League North during the 2023/24 season, scoring six goals in his second sixth-tier campaign after playing 31 times during the 2022/23 season.

The midfielder spent two years with North East neighbours South Shields

prior to his move to Northumberland, making 45 appearances for The Mariners in his first taste of senior football after spending his youth years with Sunderland and Doncaster Rovers.

29. OWEN MASON - GOALKEEPER

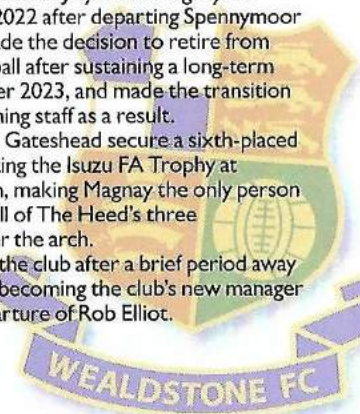
Mason joined on loan from Mansfield Town in November 2024 until January 15, 2025 - a deal which was later extended until the end of the season.

The 20-year-old appeared against Gateshead for Guiseley during a loan spell across the 2021/22 season, and went on to spend further loans with Farsley Celtic and Kettering Town in the sixth tier before joining League of Ireland First Division side Wexford for two stints in 2023 and 2024.

MANAGER. CARL MAGNAY

Magnay returned to Gateshead for the third time to take his first managerial role in October 2024. The defender originally joined in January 2012, making 77 appearances and scoring four goals for The Heed - including a start at Wembley Stadium in the 2014 Conference Premier play-off final - before joining Grimsby Town in July 2014. Magnay re-joined in January 2022 after departing Spennymoor Town. Magnay made the decision to retire from professional football after sustaining a long-term injury in November 2023, and made the transition to the club's coaching staff as a result. His efforts helped Gateshead secure a sixth-placed finish as well as lifting the Isuzu FA Trophy at Wembley Stadium, making Magnay the only person to be involved in all of The Heed's three appearances under the arch.

Magnay re-joined the club after a brief period away in October 2024, becoming the club's new manager following the departure of Rob Elliot.



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FACTS TO MAKE YOU THINK.. **STAT ATTACK**



BY ADAM HILLS

JUST LIKE the home game against Hartlepool Utd two weeks before, Stones were

left to rue a host of missed chances against Solihull Moors last weekend as a 1-1 draw against a play-off hopeful felt like two points dropped.

To be honest, it's a theme that has hamstrung the entirety of the 2024-25 season - just five three-point-hauls is the primary reason why the Stones are so perilously placed. Results generally went our way last Saturday and the precious point moved us out of the bottom four, but Neil Gibson will be under no illusions that he needs some victories on the board. Here, we ask the question 'what will it take to stay up?'

These notes were written before the game against Tamworth on Tuesday night, at which point there were 19 league fixtures remaining, 10 at home and nine away. As supporters, we've often highlighted Wealdstone's good form in the 'lower-table-mini-league', where the squad has traditionally picked up many, much-needed points in our annual battle to stay in the division. That, and the home form (noting that Wealdstone are unbeaten at home since October),

What'll it take to stay up? Well, a few wins would be a good start



The joy of a draw at title chasers Forest Green Rovers

WEALDSTONE NL RESULTS SO FAR, BROKEN DOWN INTO SECTIONS...

	No. Teams	Home			Away		
		Pld	Pts	PPG	Pld	Pts	PPG
Title Challengers	3	2	0	0.00	1	1	1.00
Playoff Hopefuls	9	7	7	1.00	6	4	0.67
Mid-Table	5	2	3	1.50	3	1	0.33
Relegation Battle	7	2	6	3.00	4	4	1.00

will need to continue and with four of those home games coming against sides involved in the 'relegation battle' this is an obvious area to focus on getting those points.

The table above is hugely subjective and is of course not a scientific formula. But if you break up the table based on the 'Title Challengers' (Barnet, York City and Forest Green), the 'Playoff Hopefuls' (from Gateshead in 4th down to Hartlepool in 12th (those sides within one win of being in the playoffs)), then the 'Mid-Table(rs)' (Eastleigh in 13th to Woking in 17th) and then finally those in a 'Relegation Battle' from Braintree in 18th and down, you can

start to see where the Stones are going to get their points.

Only 7 of the remaining 19 fixtures are against teams currently occupying the top 10 positions and after today's fixture with Gateshead, Wealdstone embark on a run of six consecutive fixtures against teams 11th or below, most of them against the bottom six and an average current position of 18.83. Make no mistake, the month of February is likely to be make or break.

The positive is that the squad now looks to have some depth and quality to it, so now is the time to make the move up the table. Stuart Maynard often spoke about breaking the season down into chunks of fixtures and no doubt Neil Gibson will have quickly ear-marked that run as a huge opportunity. As we head into spring, we then face a run of consecutive fixtures against the Title Challengers before crunch Easter time fixtures against Boston and Maidenhead. It promises to be a heart-stopping but hugely exciting and pivotal few weeks.

'To continue our current form will almost certainly mean relegation'

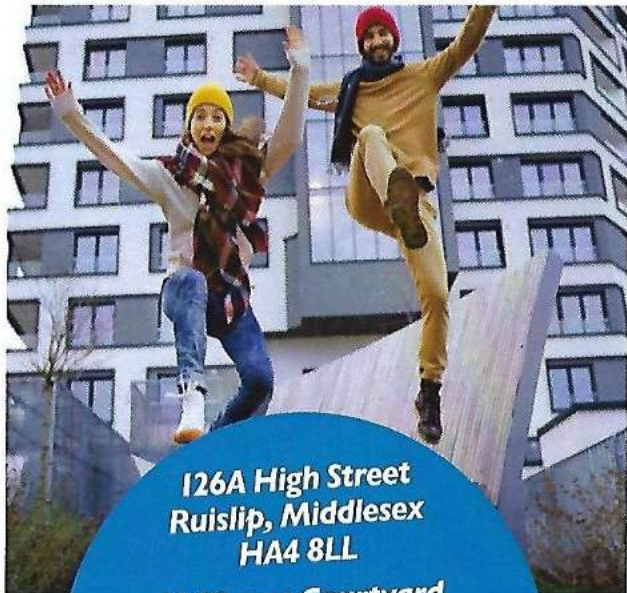
So, to answer the question posed earlier, a continuation of the 0.69 average points-per-game against teams in the top 10 (and 1.21 average against teams outside the top 10) would leave Wealdstone with around 44 points and almost certainly see the Stones relegated back to the National League South. The form will be crucial and Stones need to target a minimum of 15/16 pts from those 10 games and then target some points on the road - where just a single away victory to date is not going to be enough.

THE FINAL, CRUCIAL 18 GAMES: WHO WE FACE, BY POSITION

Oppo	Pos
GAT	4
YEO	14
BRA	18
EBB	24
BOS	23
ALD	19
TAM	15
ROC	7
EST	13
ALT	8
WOK	17
YOR	2
FGR	3
BAR	1
BOS	23
MAI	21
SOU	11
HAL	6

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FIRST TEAM RESULTS & FIXTURES 2024-2025

	Compo	Score	Crowd	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers
AUGUST	10 Dagenham and Redbridge	VNL 1-2	1,523	215	16	Ashford
	17 OLDHAM ATHLETIC	VNL 0-1	1,825	517	19	
	20 SUTTON UNITED	VNL 0-1	1,566	310	21	
	24 Hartlepool United	VNL 1-1	3,614	33	21	Obiero
	26 AFC FYLDE	VNL 1-0	1,325	50	21	Sandat
	31 Solihull Moors	VNL 1-1	948	180	20	(Own goal)
SEPTEMBER	7 YORK CITY	VNL 0-2	1,904	427	22	
	10 Woking	VNL 0-1	2,125	127	21	
	14 Forest Green Rovers	VNL 2-2	2,265	200	21	McFarlane (2)
	21 BARNET	VNL 0-3	2,590	575	22	
	24 SOUTHEAD UNITED	VNL 1-1	1,947	746	23	McFarlane
	28 FC Halifax Town	VNL 2-2	1,442	97	23	Ashford (pen), Obiero
OCTOBER	5 Gateshead	VNL 0-1	1,147	95	23	
	12 GOSPORT BOROUGH	FAC4Q 4-1	1,005	178	23	Reid (3, 1 Pen), Kretzschmar
	19 YEovil TOWN	VNL 0-3	1,510	341	23	
	23 BRAINTREE TOWN	VNL 3-2	1,163	85	22	Ashford (2), Reid
	26 Ebbsfleet United	VNL 2-2	1,498	250	22	Ashford, Reid
NOVEMBER	2 Grimsby Town	FACIR 1-0	3,174	268	22	Reid
	5 FULHAM U21s	NLC 0-2	190	TBD	22	
	9 Aldershot Town	VNL 2-0	3,156	204	21	Reid (pen), Kretzschmar,
	12 SOUTHAMPTON U21s	NLC 3-1	160	TBD	21	Adarkwa, Sandat, Thorpe
	16 ROCHDALE	VNL 2-0	1,922	558	20	Kretzschmar, Cesay
	23 Eastleigh	VNL 1-1	2,020	187	19	Ashford
	30 WYCOMBE WANDERERS	FAC2R 0-2	3,534	1,035	19	
DECEMBER	3 DERBY COUNTY U21s	NLC 2-0	96	TBD	19	Sandat, Woodman
	7 Aldershot Town	FATR3 1-3	1,172	140	19	Cesay
	10 ALTRINCHAM	VNL 3-3	1,005	45	19	Cesay, Reid (2)
	14 Oldham Athletic	VNL 2-3	5,534	77	20	Obiero, Kretzschmar
	21 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	VNL 3-0	1,404	230	18	Ashford, OG, Reid
	26 Maidenhead United	VNL 1-3	1,725	300	19	Reid
JANUARY	15 Sutton United	VNL 2-2	1,983	128	20	Grant, Cesay
	18 HARTLEPOOL UNITED	VNL 1-1	1,467	210	21	Boldewijn
	21 BRIGHTON & HOVE A U21s	NLC 0-1	116	TBD	21	
	25 AFC Fylde	VNL 0-2	1,082	120	21	
FEBRUARY	1 SOLIHULL MOORS	VNL 1-1	1,480	80	20	Reid
	4 TAMWORTH	VNL 0-1	1,013	TBD		
MARCH	8 GATESHEAD	VNL				
	15 Yeovil Town	VNL				
	19 Braintree Town	VNL				
	22 EBBSFLEET UNITED	VNL				
	25 BOSTON UNITED	VNL				
	1 ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL				
	4 Tamworth	VNL				
	8 Rochdale	VNL				
	15 EASTLEIGH	VNL				
	22 WOKING	VNL				
	29 York City	VNL				
APRIL	5 FOREST GREEN ROVERS	VNL				
	12 Barnet	VNL				
	18 Boston United	VNL				
	21 MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VNL				
	26 Southend United	VNL				
MAY	5 FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL				
TBA						

Archie MATTHEWS	Jack COOK	Anthony GEORGIJU	Deon WOODMAN	Alex DYER	Mason BARRETT	Enzio BOLDEWIJN	Craig EASTMOND	Sean ADARKWA	Max KRETZSCHMAR	Todd MILLER	Jeffrey SEKERE	Jacob ADAMS	Micha OBIERO	Luke DREHER	Will RANDALL	Dominic HUTCHINSON	Christian SCOTT	Adrian MARIAPPA	Sam ASHFORD	Kallum CESAY	Yacou TRAORE	Alex REID	Jayvon MUNDLE-SMITH	Henry SANDAT	Connor MCAVOY	Jack WELLS-MORRISON	Declan PHILLIPS	Elliot THORPE	Taylor CLARK	Josh GRANT	Jahmar CLARKE	Harrison SONHA	Callum MCFARLANE	Sam HOWES	Toby STEWARD	Luca GUNTER	Brandon MASON	Dante BAPTISTE	Wayne ANDREWS
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Date in Red = MIDWEEK fixture



Pictures from Neil Gibson's first game as manager last weekend courtesy @RonnieRaffie



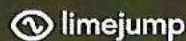
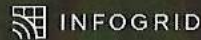
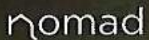
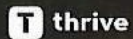
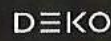
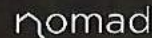
KEY

- Ⓟ Starter
- ➡ 1st player off
- 2nd player off
- 3rd player off
- ➥ 4th player off
- ➦ 5th player off
- Ⓜ Substitute
- Ⓝ 1st player on
- Ⓤ 2nd player on
- Ⓥ 3rd player on
- Ⓦ 4th player on
- Ⓧ 5th player on



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FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS PROFILES FIVE LEADING GATESHEAD MANAGERS

RAY WILKIE

Ray Wilkie managed Gateshead to the Northern Premier League title in 1982-83. A Geordie bookmaker, he played for several clubs in his native North-East, featuring in Crook Town's 1959 Amateur Cup final triumph. He managed Durham City and North Shields, then was Gateshead's manager and also briefly chairman from July 1977 until taking charge of Barrow in March 1986. Guiding them to the FA Trophy semi-finals in 1986-87, Northern Premier League Cup final in 1987-88, Northern Premier League title in 1988-89 and FA Trophy glory in 1990, he died from a brain tumour in November 1992. A stand at Holker Street is named in his memory.

TONY LEE

Tony Lee had two spells as Gateshead's manager. A former winger, he played for Stockton, Leicester City, Bradford City, Stockton again, Darlington, South Shields, Hartlepool United and Goole Town. He managed Whitby Town to the FA Trophy quarter-finals in 1983-84, then Billingham Synthonia to the Northern League Second Division title in 1986-87 and two consecutive First Division titles. Gateshead's boss from October 1990 until November 1991, he later managed Bishop Auckland, Spennymoor United, Blue Star, Gateshead again in 2006-07, Celtic Nation, Billingham Town and Bishop Auckland again. His son Graeme starred for Hartlepool.

GARY MILLS

Former England U-21 striker Gary Mills managed Gateshead to the Conference National play-off final in 2013-14 and FA Cup third round in 2014-15. The son of ex-Northampton winger Roly Mills, he played in Nottingham Forest's 1980 European Cup success, moving via Notts County to Leicester in March 1989 and captaining them to the 1992-93 First Division play-off final. Rejoining Notts County in September 1994, he featured in their 1995 Anglo-Italian Cup triumph. He became Grantham's player-boss, since managing King's Lynn, Tamworth, Notts County, Alfreton, York, Gateshead from



MANAGING TO SUCCEED BY LEIGH EDWARDS

September 2013 until April 2015, Wrexham, York and Corby.

STEVE WATSON

Former England U-21 right-back Steve Watson managed Gateshead to the FA Trophy semi-finals in 2017-18. He was Newcastle United's youngest League debutant at 16 years 223 days old against Wolves in November 1990, featuring as they were twice Premier League runners-up and FA Cup finalists in 1998. Sold to Aston Villa for £4,000,000 in October 1998, he later played for Everton, West Brom and Sheffield Wednesday. He assisted Lee Clark at Huddersfield Town and Birmingham City, then was assistant-boss at Macclesfield. Managing Gateshead from October 2017 until January 2019, he has since managed York City, Chester and Darlington.

MIKE WILLIAMSON

Mike Williamson managed Gateshead to the Conference North title in 2021-22. Starting at Torquay United, the central defender joined Southampton in November 2001 and moved to Wycombe in July 2004. He featured in their 2008-09 promotion campaign before joining Watford in January 2009.

Moving via Portsmouth to Newcastle United in January 2010, he helped clinch the Championship title. He joined Wolves in January 2016 and later played for Oxford United. Moving to Gateshead in August 2018, he was player-boss from June 2019 until October 2023, also guiding them to the 2023 FA Trophy final, since managing MK Dons and Carlisle.





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LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES SEASON 2024-2025

A = APPEARANCES AS STARTER
S = APPEARANCES AS SUBSTITUTE
G = GOALS SCORED
* = HAS SINCE LEFT CLUB

CORRECT AS AT 21ST JANUARY 2025	VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE			FA CUP			FA TROPHY			MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP			MIDDLESEX CHARITY CUP			TOTALS			STONES CAREER		
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G
Adams, Jacob	2	2		1						3					6	2		6	2		
Adarkwa, Sean		2			1					1	1	1			1	4		1	21	19	11
Addae, Joshua											1					1				1	
Agyepong, Jacob										1					1				1		
Andrews, Wayne											1					1				1	
Ashford, Sam	17	3	7	3				1		1					21	4	7	21	4	7	
Baptiste, Dante											1					1			2	1	
Barrett, Mason	9			1											10			49	16	2	
Beckles, Frankie											1					1				1	
Boldewijn, Enzo	24	2	1	3			1			2					30	2	1	30	2	1	
Cesay, Kallum	21	2	3	2	1		1	1		1	2				25	5	4	32	7	4	
Clark, Taylor	1	1								1					2	1		2	1		
Clarke, Jahmari *		2													2					2	
Cook, Jack	25			3			1								29			158	5	13	
Delyfer, Max											2					2				2	
Dreher, Luke *	2	1													2	1		2	1		
Dyer, Alex	10	6								3					13	6		230	50	35	
Eastmond, Craig	2	3		1						1					3	4		3	4		
Georgio, Anthony	17	6		2	1		1			2	2				22	9		22	9		
Grant, Josh	4	3	1	1			1			1	2				6	6	1	6	6	1	
Gunter, Luca	1														1			1			
Howes, Sam *	8			2											10			65			
Hutchinson, Dominic	5	9		1											6	9		26	17	1	
Jeffcott, Henry										1					1			1			
Kretzschmar, Max	18	2	3	2	1	1		1			1				20	5	4	71	25	20	
Mariappa, Adrian	22	3		2											24	3		24	3		
Mason, Brandon *	4	3		1						4					9	3		26	10		
Matthews, Archie	9														9			9			
McAvoy, Connor										1					1			30		2	
McFarlane, Callum	6	2	3												6	2	3	6	2	3	
Miller, Todd		3								1					1	3		1	3		
Mundle-Smith, Jaydn	13	2		2			1			1					17	2		103	16	5	
Obiero, Micah	15	6	3	1	2			1		4					20	9	3	78	22	13	
Phillips, Declan											3				3			1	4		
Reid, Alex *	10		7	3		4	1								14		11	14		11	
Sandat Henry *	6	8	1	1			1			3	2				11	8	3	11	8	3	
Scott, Christian	5	5		1	1					2					8	6		8	6		
Sekyere, Jeffrey		3								1	1				1	4		1	4		
Steward, Toby	6						1			1	1				8	1		8	1		
Thorpe, Elliot *	4	6		1			1			2		1			7	7	1	7	7	1	
Traore, Yacou *	3	4													3	4		3	4		
Wells-Morrison, Jack *	15	2	1	2	1		1			3					21	3	1	21	3	1	
Woodman, Deon	2	3						1		2		1			4	4	1	4	6	1	
Yearwood, Asher										1					1			1			

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49 years ago: the 'Terrible Trilogy' as we faced Dover three times in ten days... and lost every one

WHEN you've been following a football team for 55 years you can guarantee some wonderful highs... and hellish lows.

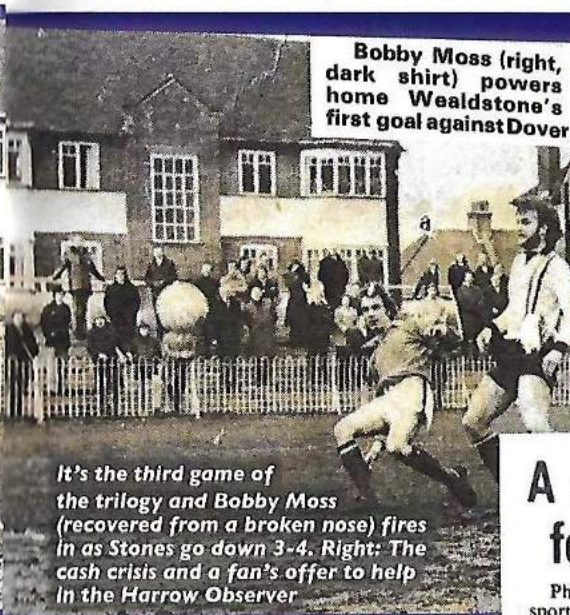
How can you be a Wealdstone fan and not have woken up 'with a silly grin on your face' (as fellow long-term addict Jon Taffel described it) after wins over Altrincham and Halifax launched the Stones into second place in the National League (albeit briefly) four and a half years ago? Or at the end of August 2022 when victory at Gateshead had us riding atop the table?

Contrast that with my own, personal all-time low. This desperate sequence of three defeats in 10 days against a Dover team - among the worst sides in the Southern League Premier Division - came back in the mid-70s.

Yes, I know we're going back a long, long way. And yes, I know that that wasn't even the same Dover team as 'Dover FC' was dissolved in 1983 (presumably for financial reasons) and quickly became the current 'Dover Athletic' in a heartbeat. Incidentally, it always puzzles me when historians insist that these 'new' clubs must be regarded as separate when they carry on playing at the same stadium, in the same league and with obviously the same fanbase, as in Dover Athletic's case.

Anyway, back to 1976. I'm sure you want to hear a tale of misery with the Stones now back in non-League's 'big time'.

This Desperate Dover Trilogy would have been



Bobby Moss (right, dark shirt) powers home Wealdstone's first goal against Dover

It's the third game of the trilogy and Bobby Moss (recovered from a broken nose) fires in as Stones go down 3-4. Right: The cash crisis and a fan's offer to help in the Harrow Observer

totally unexpected just a few months earlier as Eddie Presland's side, playing their second season of Southern Prem football after a superlative 1973-74 had brought the Southern League Div One (South) title and thousands of new fans to our old Lower Mead Stadium.

It was the birth of 'Elmslie' Mania when that stand at the top end of Lower Mead throbbed to the chants and pubescent delight of hordes of teenage fans - many of whom (including myself, obv) are still regulars today. See the illustration on the 'Elmslie Ender' column elsewhere in this programme if you need proof.

A good first season in the Southern Premier Division, finishing eighth, saw Presland re-sign the entire squad for 1975-76 and it seemed vindicated when Stones were third in the league at Xmas, after a glorious run to the 1st Round of the FA Cup had ended in a seesaw 4-3 defeat at Third Division high-flyers Aldershot.

But then the team went over a cliff. Not the white cliffs of Dover, not yet, but as supporters we were staggered by the sudden ineptitude of a Stones team that won just once in 19 games between December 20th and March 17.

So what happened? Luckily, I often have the Wealdstone goalkeeper from those dark days, John Morton, alongside me in the live stream commentary box and was able to ask him that same question - something that had puzzled me for

almost 50 years.

"Well, when you look back on it it was a combination of things but chiefly, it was the fact that we were very thin on the ground" said Morty, now in his seventies.

"We only had a squad of 14 or 15, and when Eddie Presland went to the board to ask for a couple of new players to get us back on track they said no. In fact, they told him he had to cut the budget!

"The club released my back-up keeper, Roy Mackenzie, and midfielder Vince O'Kane. It was all over the local papers so you can imagine that didn't help morale.

"And then you add in the fact that players routinely played with injuries in those days, so were often not really fit to play. I only heard about hamstring injuries, for example, since I stopped playing - in those days you had to actually break a bone to be unfit to play. In fact, in one of those three games against Dover you're talking about, John McCormick (our centre-half, ex-Palace) broke his leg and just carried on playing for a while until substituted!

"Presland saw him limping as he got on the team bus after the game and said 'Are you okay John?' and he just stamped his foot like an old racehorse and said 'Aye, I'll be right as **Continued overpage >>>**

Cash crisis

Wealdstone at danger level?

WEALDSTONE'S cash crisis, which has forced them to off-load players intended as vital cogs in a Southern League championship chase, has reduced the first team squad to near danger levels, it was admitted this week, writes Phil Sugden.

In answer to growing alarm among fans provoked by the dwindling size of the Southern League club's first team squad, now pared to 14 professionals, Wealdstone's public relations officer Colin Pope confessed that the number of players "left something to be desired."

But, he added, the club simply hadn't the money to provide adequate cover.

The explanation may be of small solace to a number of fans who have written to this paper baffled by the departures of Vincent O'Kane and 'keeper Roy Mackenzie recently.

And many blame the club's recent slump on the outbacks in playing staff.

With the departure of Mackenzie 'Stone now rely on amateur 'keeper Ray Bullen for cover and O'Kane's release to Isthmian League Kingstonsians means that Ray Fulton is the club's sole remaining left-sided midfielder.

It is known that manager Eddie Presland, desperate to improve on last season's promising showing, was poised to sign at least two players before the economy axe fell.

And latest signing Sammy McHale, who may be the last player to join Lower Mead for some time, was intended as the first of several new faces to bolster the club's championship ambitions and dream of Football League status.

Although 'Stones are only one of many Southern League clubs struggling to scrape enough money together to keep going they now have one of the smallest playing staffs in the League.

"We take the point of your correspondence," declared Mr. Pope, "and agree that the numerical strength of the squad does leave something to be desired.

Manager Eddie Presland feels the same but, alas, we are governed by available finances and regretfully the money just isn't available to provide the cover we would really like.

"Like everything else these days footballers are very expensive.

"Most clubs are in the same position of course. Many have had to prune their playing staffs," he added.

A quid a head for a player

Phil Sugden's column and his sports page story on the sad plight of Wealdstone surely made good sense to the supporters of the club and to the directors.

I would like to ask the club's spokesman, Colin Pope, just what his board are doing about things.

As Mr. Sugden has warned, Wealdstone are heading for relegation.

Surely there must be a way to avoid such an unfortunate happening?

Hundreds of supporters would, I am certain, contribute a pound each at the next home game to help Mr. Presland buy a new player.

Why not try your friends in your next programme, Mr. Pope? I'll start you off with a fiver.

BILL MATTHEWS
Bolton Road,
Harrow.

Footnote: Wealdstone P.R.O. Colin Pope said on Wednesday: "This confirms the board's view that Wealdstone have many loyal supporters and we thank Mr. Matthews for his offer.

I shall draw the board's attention to his letter at next Monday's directors' meeting.

Meanwhile Mr. Matthews, or any other supporter, can aid the club's finances by joining the club development scheme run by Mr. Mick Milcreest, who can be found in the programme hut at any home game."

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On this Day CONTINUED AS THE LACK-LUSTRE

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

rain for Saturday boss'... but two days later the pain was so bad he went to hospital and they found a clean break!

"But also we weren't a team of battlers. There weren't that many strong characters, apart from people like Johnny Mac, and the players that came in like Bill Kitchener and Sammy McHale were pretty awful ... so when we got into a bit of a rut we weren't able to get out of it. Eddie Presland was too nice as a manager and when he went, and Geoff Coleman and Alan Fogarty came in, of course the board had to give him a bit of money and we ended up avoiding relegation".

But back to Dover: The season ended with the Kent side fifth from bottom while the Stones were fourth from the foot (four should have gone down) until Dunstable Town imploded and had to withdraw from the league.

So, when the teams met in the *Godawful Trilogy* in early February 1976 the fans weren't expecting too much in terms of entertainment. They got even less...

John McCormick breaks leg

Injury-ravaged Wealdstone received a further body blow to their hopes of hanging on to Southern League, Premier Division life with the news that centre-half John McCormick looks set to retire after breaking his leg at Dover, writes Daragh Crosson.



John McCormick broken leg.

McCormick, who celebrated his 40th birthday over the weekend, was injured in a tackle in the 4-1 defeat at Dover on Wednesday evening and was immediately substituted.

But without realising how serious the injury was the former Crystal Palace defender walked off the field and drove himself back to his South London home.

It was not until a hospital check up that a broken bone was confirmed.

McCormick, in his third season with Wealdstone, will now spend a month in plaster and after last season's premature retirement to run a pub and comeback there seems little chance of the defender pulling on a 'Stones shirt again this time.

If McCormick does give up the gap will present a prize opportunity for Sammy McHale, signed from Guildford earlier in the season, to win a regular first team place.

Recently sitting games out on the substitute's bench, centre-back McHale could be called in to prop up a wiling defence in the relegation haunted run in to the season.

Midfielder Bobby Moss, however, hopes to be fit by Saturday, for the third clash with Dover in eleven days, despite suffering a relapse after breaking his nose at Tonbridge a fortnight ago.

Moss turned up to training as usual at the beginning of last week but had trouble breathing and after a hospital visit was operated on to clear up the damage.

Now the player expects to return to Wealdstone's dwindling ranks of fully fit players within a week.

And Bill Byrne and John Morton, who both played on Saturday despite battling against 'flu, also hope to shake off the bug in time for Saturday's game.

support the m compa Mr. hand. Mond

STONES TAKE ON DOVER THREE TIMES AND LOSE ALL THREE

Two trips to Dover, two defeats. The Harry O reflects on the Kent coast misery

Dover 4, Wealdstone 1

Wealdstone slumped to heavy lows on Wednesday evening when they crashed to defeat in this Southern League game at Dover.

The Kent side, two up at half-time, had little trouble demolishing woeful 'Stones and scored a third early in the second-half.

Adriaan Eglite, a rare success on the night, then gained a penalty which George Duck converted but shortly before the end Dover, lying second from bottom in the table, grabbed a fourth with an own goal.

To add to their troubles, 'Stones had centre-half John McCormick taken off injured, with Sammy McHale substituting, and their team coach was attacked after the game.

After Dover had taken 'Stones apart on the field their fans tried the same off it and both front headlamps on the coach were smashed.

Weapons: Morton, Kinnear, Watson, Fairclough, McCormick (Sub), McHale, Godfrey, Lewis, Fulton, Eglite, Duck, Henderson.

headlamps were smashed, extraordinary after a toothless game watched by a crowd of just 258.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 9, 1976, SOUTHERN LEAGUE CUP 4TH ROUND: DOVER 2 WEALDSTONE 1

THIS League Cup quarter-final failed to ignite the interest of the Dover public, and 40 fewer than the meagre crowd who had seen the previous week's league clash turned up for this game in the drizzly haze of The Crabble.

Personally, it was a nightmare as I missed the supporters coach and decided to catch the train down to the game, all on my own. A spur-of-the-moment decision I was bitterly

CONTINUED OVERPAGE >>>

'Stones Cup hopes are swept overboard

By Daragh Crosson

Dover 2, Wealdstone 1

WEALDSTONE'S last chance of riding the crest of a successful wave in a season saturated with failure was swept out to sea and sunk without trace at rain drenched Dover on Monday evening.

Full of possession but fatally short on punch 'Stones finally lost this Southern League Cup, quarter-final dash because they dithered at the back.

But it was up front that the Lower Mead outfit's challenge really faded in this frenzied but fumbling tie, played before a meagre audience of 218.

Thrashed 4-1 at the Crabble in the league five days earlier Wealdstone created, but squandered enough openings in the first 20 minutes to exact crushing vengeance.

With only six minutes gone Godfrey's free-kick was headed on to Duck who, with the goal at his mercy, shot straight at the prostrate Gatsby's body.

And after Morton had bravely thwarted the home side at the other end Lewis missed another chance after 19 minutes.

Duck and Eglite combined cleverly to dissect dodgy Dover's defence but as the ball arrowed through to the midfielder's feet he drove directly into the spreadeagled Gatsby's path.

But missed chances apart Wealdstone stumbled into a maze of their own making.

With Duck pushed wide Eglite acted for long periods as target man in the middle and whatever the Dutchman's talent it isn't winning the ball in the air or laying it off with consistent accuracy.

And without Bobby Moss's polish in the middle 'Stones struggled to make any real impact going forward despite a lion's share of the ball.

With Watson back in the side in midfield, leaving Fulton at left-back, young Hanson was relegated to the substitute's bench in a move that provided more bite than in Saturday's listless display against Cambridge.

But 'Stones still lacked vital vision and direction.

As sheets of rain began swirl-

ling across the field it was Dover who sneaked ahead with an opportunist goal.

From a half-cleared 43rd minute corner the ball was headed down for Breach, who found the space and time in a penalty area as packed as Piccadilly Circus in the rush hour, to take it on his chest before volleying neatly home over Morton's head.

The home side bid fiercely to wrap the tie up in the second-half and within five minutes of the restart Morton blocked one shot, Watson saved a certain goal at the expense of a corner and as the flag-kick came over Morton was forced to spring across goal to clutch a stinging drive.

But as the game wore on it became apparent that a semi-finals place was there for the taking as Dover moved sluggishly.

On the hour Watson strode round two men down the right and slung over a cross that Gatsby could only palm on to his crossbar but another chance went begging as Duck's shot on the rebound was cleared.

BLAZED WIDE

After Watson and Morton had frantically prevented Dover snatching a second, Eglite blazed wide with a 71st minute drive that should have hit the target.

Fifteen minutes from time Hanson came on for Byrne but five minutes later 'Stones were 2-0 down and out.

Morton's goal-kick was headed back into the visitors' half and an innocuous cross swept into the box.

But as Fulton moved across

to cut out the danger the ball stuck in the mud and eluded the defender's mistimed swing leaving Coxhill to score with the softest of shots past the wrong footed Morton.

With nothing to lose Wealdstone suddenly threatened Dover's lead and in a wild melee all but scored with a succession of shots before Lewis fired over.

About 80 minutes too late Wealdstone finally found the net when Kinnear's speculative long range effort bounced off Breach with three minutes left and fell for Lewis to notch with a rising drive.

In the last minute Kinnear gave Watson the chance to carve open Dover's wobbly defence with a pass that sent Lewis scampering down the right to unleash the first cross in the game to beat Gatsby.

But as a final reminder of 'Stones impotence in the box there was nobody on hand to turn it home.

Wealdstone: Morton; Kinnear, Godfrey, Fairclough, Fulton; Watson, Byrne (Sub); Hanson 75 mins; Lewis; Duck, Eglite, Henderson.



John Morton collects his 1975 player of the season trophy from Supporters Club doyens Cynthia Law and Tom Verrall

DOVER FC
Official Programme
1975-76 Season 2p



WEALDSTONE
Southern League
4 February 76, No.22

WEALDSTONE FC

Right: The Dover programme that season. A little bit amateurish but, hey, it cost 2p

On this Day CONTINUED AS THE MISERY MOVES

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

regretting as my London Bridge departure, via Chatham, split in two at the Kent town and of course I was in the wrong half of the train.

I half-heard an announcement, definitely heard the sound of a train moving off and belatedly realised I wouldn't be at Dover in time for the kick off.

Chatham Railway Station is not the most exciting place to be on a cold, misty Wednesday evening as you wait two hours for the next connection.

Finally, a quick cab dash from Dover Station to the ground saw my arrival just before half time - and I genuinely believed I had come to the wrong place and the wrong game as I approached up the steep incline to the eerily-quiet Crabble. The lights were on, but there seemed to be nobody home.

I peered through the gates. There was one team in white, and one team in red shirts and blue shorts. Then I recognised Stones full-back Chris Kinnear as he trotted over to take a throw in - yes!

I was in the right place but why were we wearing such a strange strip? And why were there so few people in the ground?

There was barely a coachload of fellow Stones fans in attendance, a legacy of our dreadful recent run and the fact that the SL Cup never attracted much interest - and they couldn't explain the bizarre red/blue combination. Even worse, they told me we had gone 1-0 down only moments before (scored by the aptly-named Breach) despite dominating the whole of the first half and missing chance after chance. And what had happened to me, they wondered?

I was too debilitated (and embarrassed) to tell the full story, and we watched on as Dover hit a decisive second goal through Coxhill. Johnny Lewis pulled one back in the 80th minute and we huffed and puffed to no avail.

It was actually a vastly-improved performance from the Stones despite the loss of McCormick, Bobby Moss from a broken nose and the suffering of flu victims John Morton and Bill Byrne.

The only good news was that there was spare

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14th Kick-off 3 p.m.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION
WEALDSTONE V. DOVER

<p>WEALDSTONE (Royal Blue & White) 3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> John Morton Chris Kinnear Ray Fulron Jim Godfrey Paul Fairclough John Watson Steve Hanson Bobby Moss Bill Byrne George Duck John Henderson Adriaan Eglite <p>Referee: Mr. L. A. Bartels (Westcliff-on-Sea)</p>	<p>POPE STAFF AGENCY LTD.</p> <p>Let our trained interviewers find the RIGHT job at the RIGHT salary</p> <p>TEMPORARIES always wanted, and our rates are the best...</p> <p>205 KENTON ROAD, KENTON 907 6071/2/3 907 9981 907 1240</p> <p>Open 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. daily. Sats. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.</p>	<p>DOVER (White and Black) 4</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> M. Gadsby T. Norton A. Keeley S. Breach P. Brooks A. Fursdon R. Wilson D. Housden P. Osbourne C. Hamshire K. Rogers D. Clay (sub.) <p>Linemen: Mr. M. L. James (Horsham) (Corise) Mr. E. J. Jenner (Crawley) (Yellow)</p>
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seat for me on the coach going back to Harrow - and a right royal send off for the fans as the police turned up mob-handed to avoid a repeat of the previous week's stone-throwing shenanigans.

With just 218 fans in the ground they surely wouldn't have been too hard to restrain?

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14 1976, SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREM: WEALDSTONE 3 DOVER 4

Well, these two teams must have been heartily sick of each other by now.

Certainly the fans were, and it was with a feeling of dread and indifference that the 836 crowd filed through the Lower Mead turnstiles on a grey afternoon. Our mood wasn't lifted by the fact that our limited squad had been further decimated by the absence today of Messrs Kinnear, McHale and Lewis (together with John McCormick) although Bobby Moss was back in the team with a nose that looked distinctly less Roman than usual - and thank

FROM KENT TO LOWER MEAD FOR THE FINAL INSTALMENT...

Wealdstone's anguish as Dover win again

By Phil Sugden
Wealdstone 3, Dover 4

THE HOTELIERS and guest house landladies of Dover are unlikely to cash in on the holidaymakers who support Wealdstone when the summer season arrives. That is a Stadium on Saturday.

After losing 4-1 at Dover in the league, 2-1 in the Southern League Cup and 4-3 at home on Saturday, 'Stones have conceded 10 goals to the Kent side while scoring five.

The Lower Mead side are now very much in the danger area, seventh from the foot of the table and only two points above Telford and Stourbridge, who are in the last four, and one above Bath and Hillingdon (who are pushing themselves out of trouble).

Moreover the bottom clubs pushed themselves into a better position on Saturday by winning points.

Hillingdon drew at Yeovil, Telford drew at home against Stourbridge, Dover, bottom but one, beat 'Stones and bottom club Cambridge City managed victory over Burton.

To make matters worse Wealdstone have the toughest away programme of the lot which must send shivers down the back of Wealdstone's directors and management.

One must feel some sympathy for Lower Mead manager Eddie Presland. Two years ago he was cheered from the field after his club had won promotion. Saturday he heard sections of the 836 crowd calling for his departure.

Although he may be criticised for not obtaining new players at the start of the season it must be recorded that he has been forced to work on a shoe-string. No money is available, we are told, attendances are declining, and one suspects that team morale is not all it might be.

His team has now won only three points from the possible last 24.

MUCH NEEDED

When the attack contrives to score goals, the defence gives them away, and vice-versa. The

midfield men appear to know not what is going on, whether they should support the front runners or give much needed aid to the back.

Young children, however naive and perhaps unmeaningly cruel, often hit the nail on the head. Certainly one small lad did after Saturday's encounter when he asked his father on retiring from the stand: "Do you think they'll ever win again, Dad?" That about summed it all up.

It must be said that Wealdstone have had more than their share of injuries and illnesses. Kinnear, McHale and Lewis were ruled out of action and coach Terry Dyson was pressed into service, wearing the number two shirt but playing in midfield.

Terry acquitted himself more than well by comparison with others and scored a fine goal, but one ponders when a 41-year-old has to be called up.

It would be stupid to suggest that this error-riddled match was a classic - except that it was a classic between two very poor teams.

So many passes went astray, so many basic rules were forgotten and so many players failed to use their heads that catastrophe was written all over the affair from the first minute.

Perhaps it could all be summed up by the fact that Willie Watson headed powerfully past his own goalkeeper, John Morton, to seal matters. Watson, could, I suspect, have made a clearance a far more simple affair.

The ever dangerous Osbourne put Dover ahead after 14 minutes with a firm header after a wonderful cross by Brooks and after a sluggish Byrne had missed a good chance and Eglite had shot wide when well placed, Byrne restored confidence by heading on Watson's clever pass for the hard-working Bobby Moss to hit low past goalkeeper Gadsby.

SLIPPED

So it was 1-1 at half-time and promising, but then Osbourne struck again and although Moss produced his second after good work by Eglite and the help of a defender, substitute Clay made it 2-3 when Watson slipped when he should have cleared.

'Stones still managed to get back and Dyson levelled matters with a tremendous effort after good work by Henderson and Duck.

Then, sadly, Watson made his fatal error and two more points, so badly needed, were lost.

Wealdstone: Morton; Dyson, Fulton, Godfrey, Fairclough; Watson, Eglite, Moss; Byrne, Duck, Henderson. Sub: Han-son (S).

goodness as he rattled in two goals to keep us in the game after the dangerous Osbourne had twice shot Dover ahead.

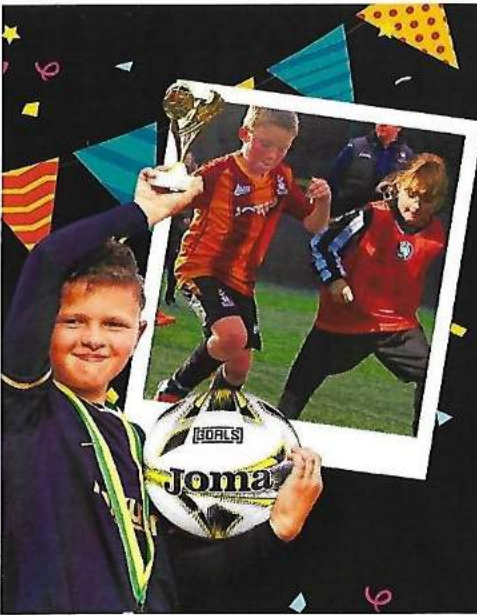
The crowd were now rather enjoying the spectacle of two teams unable to get even the basics right - passes were misplaced by the dozen and haphazard defending kept you guessing as to what would happen next. What did happen was another Dover goal as the usually reliable Willie Watson slipped in the muddy goalmouth, allowing the visitors' substitute D. Clay to steer the ball past the exposed Morton.

Stones were fielding their 41-year-old assistant manager Terry Dyson, the ex Spurs double-

winning winger who had officially retired two years earlier. He was bizarrely wearing the No.2 shirt but we didn't give a hoot when he struck a sensational equaliser from the edge of the box with ten minutes remaining... the sort of goal he'd struck on a regular basis as Tottenham won the League and FA Cup double 15 years earlier.

We were now peering through our fingers, hoping that the next skid in this car crash of a game would seal the points. But sadly (but not surprisingly) it ended in shocking disappointment as Watson met a diagonal cross with a powerful header past his own goalkeeper... the fitting end to a crazy, crazy match.





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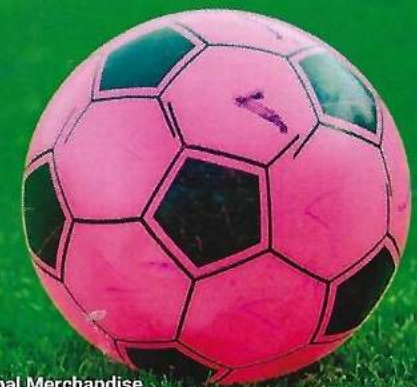
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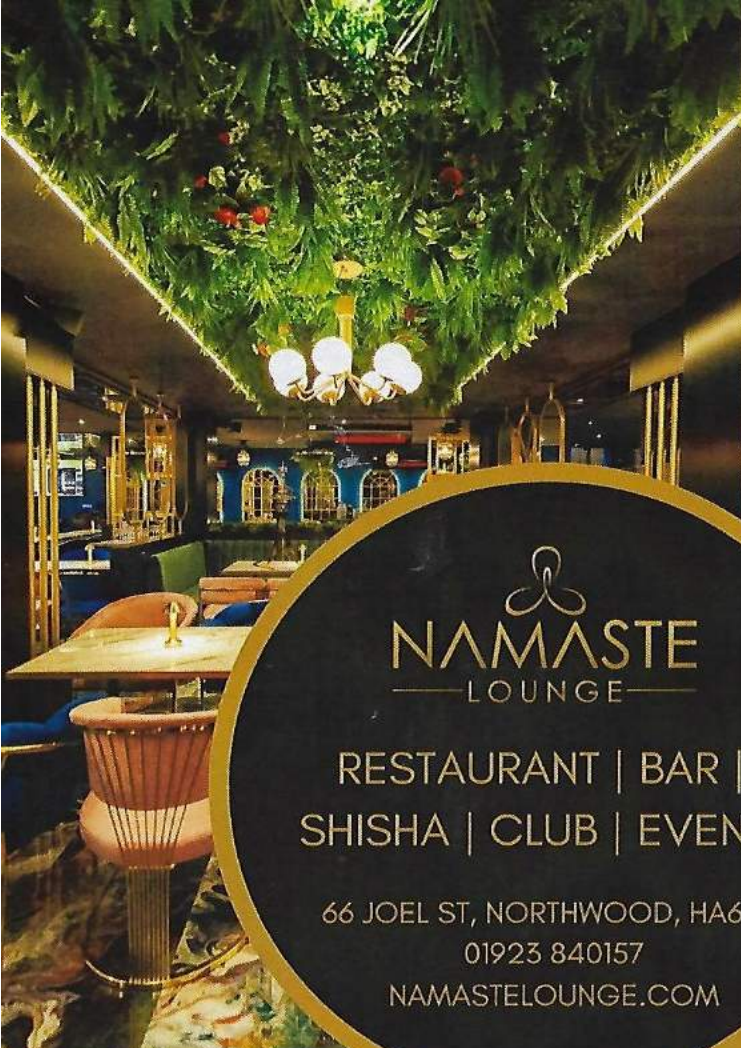
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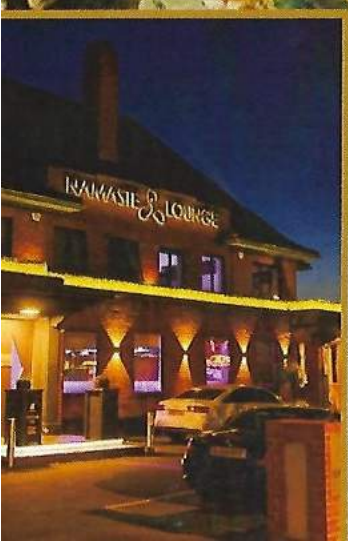


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SUPPORT THE STONES HERE AT HOME AND ACROSS ENGLAND


Coming up
here at
The Vale >



EBBSFLEET UNITED
Vanarama National League
Saturday
22nd February
3:00pm



BOSTON UNITED
Vanarama National League
Tuesday
25th February
7:45pm




ALDERSHOT TOWN
Vanarama National League
Saturday
1st March
3:00pm

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE - TABLE AS AT 4TH FEBRUARY	ALL			HOME					AWAY					STONES RESULTS								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	H	A
1 Barnet	30	19	6	5	60	30	15	12	3	0	37	10	15	7	3	5	23	20	30	63	0-3	
2 Forest Green Rovers	29	16	11	2	48	22	14	9	5	0	22	9	15	7	6	2	26	13	26	59	2-2	
3 York City	28	17	6	5	54	26	15	12	1	2	37	12	13	5	5	3	17	14	28	57	0-2	
4 Oldham Athletic	28	14	9	5	46	30	13	7	3	3	23	13	15	7	6	2	23	17	16	51	0-1 2-3	
5 Gateshead	28	14	7	7	51	36	14	9	2	3	28	15	14	5	5	4	23	21	15	49	0-1	
6 Halifax Town	28	12	9	7	34	26	14	5	4	5	17	16	14	7	5	2	17	10	8	45	2-2	
7 Rochdale	25	13	3	9	38	22	12	7	2	3	20	8	13	6	1	6	18	14	16	42	2-0	
8 Altrincham	27	11	9	7	44	32	14	7	6	1	24	9	13	4	3	6	20	23	12	42	3-3	
9 Solihull Moors	29	12	6	11	46	41	15	6	3	6	26	27	14	6	3	5	20	14	5	42	1-1 1-1	
10 Sutton United	28	11	8	9	39	36	15	6	4	5	21	18	13	5	4	4	18	18	3	41	0-1 2-2	
11 Southend United	28	10	9	9	33	30	14	5	4	5	19	17	14	5	5	4	14	13	3	39	1-1	
12 Hartlepool United	29	9	12	8	34	35	14	5	7	2	14	11	15	4	5	6	20	24	-1	39	1-1 1-1	
13 Eastleigh	28	9	11	8	37	36	14	5	6	3	23	20	14	4	5	5	14	16	+1	38	1-1	
14 Yeovil Town	29	10	8	11	33	35	14	4	5	5	15	14	15	6	3	6	18	21	-2	38	0-3	
15 Tamworth	28	10	7	11	32	44	14	6	5	3	21	15	14	4	2	8	11	29	-12	37	0-1	
16 Dagenham & Redbridge	28	8	8	12	41	40	14	6	3	5	29	22	14	2	5	7	12	18	+1	32	3-0 1-2	
17 Woking	28	7	10	11	29	39	14	6	4	4	16	16	14	1	6	7	13	23	-10	31	0-1	
18 Braintree Town	29	8	7	14	28	39	15	5	4	6	11	13	14	3	3	8	17	26	-11	31	3-2	
19 Aldershot Town	28	6	12	10	42	48	14	4	6	4	24	24	14	2	6	6	18	24	-6	30	2-0	
20 Fylde	29	8	4	17	35	59	14	6	3	5	26	24	15	2	1	12	9	35	-24	28	1-0 0-2	
21 Wealdstone	28	5	11	12	32	42	14	4	4	6	15	19	14	1	7	6	17	23	-10	26	-- --	
22 Maidenhead United	28	7	5	16	35	57	13	4	4	5	18	22	15	3	1	11	17	35	-22	26	1-3	
23 Boston United	26	4	7	15	24	44	14	2	4	8	15	25	12	2	3	7	9	19	-20	19		
24 Ebbsfleet United	30	1	9	20	21	67	15	1	5	9	9	27	15	0	4	11	12	40	-46	12	2-2	


Follow the
Stones on
the road >




osmo
Wealdstone FC's first team travel is sponsored by Osmo, specialists in the supply of wood finishes



YEOVIL TOWN
Vanarama National League
Saturday
15th February
3:00pm



BRAINTREE TOWN
Vanarama National League
Tuesday
19th February
7:45pm



TAMWORTH
Vanarama National League
Tuesday
4th March
7:45pm



CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE
MAINTAINING THE PAST

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