

HOW THE SQUADS LINE UP

WOKING

Red/White/Red

Will JAASKELAINEN	22	
Oliver WEBBER	28	
Dan MOSS	2	
Jacob JONES	3	
Chinwike OKOLI	4	
Timi ODUSINA	5	
Jamie ANDREWS	6	
Harry BEAUTYMAN	7	
Dale GORMAN	8	
Aiden O'BRIEN	9	
Lewis WALKER	10	
Dennon LEWIS	11	
Inih EFFIONG	12	
Tariq HINDS	14	
Adam CHIKSEN	15	
Tinji AKINOLA	16	
Jokubas MAZIONIS	19	
Junior MORIAS	20	
Ben WYNTER	21	
Jermaine ANDERSON	23	
Rohan INCE	24	
Dion KELLY-EVANS	27	
Oliver WEBBER	28	
Frank VINCENT	30	

WEALDSTONE

Royal Blue/White/White

1..... Archie MATTHEWS.....	1	
2..... Jack COOK.....	2	
3..... Anthony GEORGIU.....	3	
4..... Deon WOODMAN.....	4	
5..... Alex DYER.....	5	
6..... Mason BARRETT.....	6	
7..... Enzo BOLDEWIJN.....	7	
8..... Craig EASTMOND.....	8	
9..... Sean ADARKWA.....	9	
10..... Max KRETZSCHMAR.....	10	
11..... Mustapha CARAYOL.....	11	
12..... Jeffrey SEKYERE.....	12	
13..... Jacob ADAMS.....	13	
14..... Micah OBIERO.....	14	
15 Will RANDALL-HURRAN.....	15	
17..... Dom HUTCHINSON.....	17	
18..... Christian SCOTT.....	18	
19..... Adrian MARIAPPA ©.....	19	
20..... Sam ASHFORD.....	20	
21..... Kallum CESAY.....	21	
22..... Alex REID.....	22	
23..... Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH.....	23	
24..... Connor McAVOY.....	24	
27..... Joshua GRANT.....	27	
28..... Declan PHILLIPS.....	28	
29..... Harrison SOHNA.....	29	
30..... James HILLSON.....	30	
31..... Luca GUNTER.....	31	
34..... Tyler WALKER.....	34	
35..... Dante BAPTISTE.....	35	
38 Jacob BERKELEY-AGYEONG.....	38	

ALDERSHOT

Amber/Black/Black

1 Jordi van STAPPERSHOEF	
28 Marcus DEWHURST	
3 Ollie HARFIELD	
4 Luke JENKINS	
5 Christian MAGHOMA	
6 Theo WIDDRINGTON	
7 Cameron HARGREAVES	
8 Tyler FROST	
9 Kai CORBETT	
10 Josh BARRETT	
11 Ryan JONES	
12 Keane ANDERSON	
14 Oliver BRAY	
17 Aaron JONES	
18 Oliver SCOTT	
19 Brad DOLAGHAN	
21 Ashley AKPAN	
22 Jack BARHAM	
23 Hady GHANDOUR	
24 Maxwell MULLINS	
27 James HENRY	
32 Emmanuel MAJA	
33 Luca WOODHOUSE	
34 Dejan TETEK	
35 Dan ELLISON	
36 Will ARMITAGE	
37 Tariq UWAKWE	

THE MIGHTY, MIGHTY stones

YOUR 2024-25
MATCHDAY
DOUBLE
ISSUE £3



v Woking

Saturday March 22,
2025, kick-off 3pm

v Aldershot

Tuesday March 25,
2025, KO 7.45pm

Double trouble: Stones new
striker combo of Tyler Walker
and Alex Reid celebrate the
epic comeback against
Eastleigh PIC: JON TAFFEL

WEALDSTONE WOKING

WEALDSTONE ALDERSHOT

Officials v Woking

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Shaun Farrer FOURTH OFFICIAL: Aaron Hallam
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KICK-OFF 7.45PM vanarama
NATIONAL LEAGUE

gpf lewis



MARCH 22 & 25: WEALDSTONE v WOKING, WEALDSTONE v ALDERSHOT

WELL, it could never be the same as being there, but what a celebratory atmosphere in The Vale Social Club just before 10pm on Tuesday night when the final whistle sounded at Altrincham!

How we envied the 37 fans who managed to work out how to travel to the game and get home afterwards... they were outnumbered by the 40-50 fans watching the live stream along with me in the bar, all of whom would have been at Moss Lane under different circumstances but all of whom noisily celebrated the 1-0 win. It was three points that hoisted the Stones out of the relegation zone when, at half time and goalless, we were second bottom of the table with so many results going against us.

Hats off to Alex Reid for converting Dom Hutchinson's near-post cross for the vital goal... his 17th goal of the season in just 25 games. And hats off to Neil Gibson and his team who have now pulled off four wins and two draws in ten NL games while Matt Taylor & Co managed five wins in 26 games.

This is going to be a rollercoaster final few weeks and it all starts here with a double issue of your match programme for the crucial visits of Woking (Saturday) and Aldershot (Tuesday). These Surrey clubs can evaluate their chances in the big FA Trophy semi-final showdown in a fortnight's time, April 5 when the Shots take on the Cards at the former's EBB Stadium (historically known as the Recreation Ground) and of course we are hoping that both sides take their eyes off the ball when they visit The Vale over the course of the next three days.

Our last home game saw the dramatic 3-3 draw with Eastleigh, when the extraordinary 0-3-down-

Written in Stone



BY TIM PARKS



The joy of a late leveller! Alex Reid & Tyler Walker celebrate against Eastleigh Pic Jon Taffel

to-winning-4-3 of that FA Trophy tie here in the Covid season was almost repeated. Most people seemed unsure of whether to celebrate a point or mourn the chance for a valuable win. All I know is that it was bloody exciting!

All eyes were on new captures Mustapha Carayol (on a permanent deal till the end of the season) and Tyler Walker on loan from Lincoln City, but I was captivated by the brilliant Alex Dyer who must have had 30 touches in that second half and lost the ball just once. And he was just as good at Altrincham.

If that was a midfield masterclass, the other ten players in the second 45 minutes were equally dynamic and as manager Neil Gibson said in his interview after the game: "The first half saw us at our very worst, but after the break we were pretty much as good as we can be".

I think I know which half we'd rather see replicated for these two crucial games coming up!

● The usual big 'Thank You' goes out to our generous match sponsors for both games, with **LMS Sheridans** taking the honours for Woking and **Rolfe East** sponsoring the Aldershot match. **Darrell Parson** is donating the matchball v Woking and **Peter and Steve Drew in Memory of Tony Drew** for the Shots game.



IT'S a big 'Happy Birthday' to junior fan Abi Morris who is six on Sunday. Woo-hoo!

Abi has dragged her mum Sally and dad Tom (pictured left, through the years) along to the Vale, even when they didn't particularly want to and she has charmed the bobbie hats off our fans in the clubhouse and on the terraces. So play nicely, you Surrey sides, and don't go spoiling her big day!

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WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2024/2025

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2019 / 2020 National League South

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

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

GROUND REGULATIONS

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

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

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

HELLO and welcome back to The Vale, firstly one of my old clubs in Woking who have seen a resurgence under their new manager Neil Ardley.

I think their squad is stronger now than when we faced them earlier in the season and their results have reflected this.

Some of the best memories I have in football were created at Woking. Our promotion to the National League via the playoffs, our FA Cup run which resulted in a Third Round tie against Watford and many more. I've also enjoyed scoring for the Stones against them and would love to grab another one today too!

I hope the Woking fans enjoy their visit (but not too much!)

I trust we have all recovered from what was a crazy last match at home against Eastleigh seven days ago. On the face of it, it looks like losing the first half 0-3 and winning the second 3-0 means that we were awful in the first forty five minutes and fantastic in the second. The real truth lies somewhere in between.

In the first half Eastleigh had four shots on our goal scoring three of them. We appeared lacklustre in our press and strangely struggled with their direct play having experienced that sort of barrage in recent weeks with teams like Tamworth.

The pitch was in complete contrast to our previous home game against Ebbsfleet where it was soft and heavy. Against Eastleigh, it had hardened up completely and the ball was bouncing increasingly high making it difficult to deal with on second balls and their set pieces.

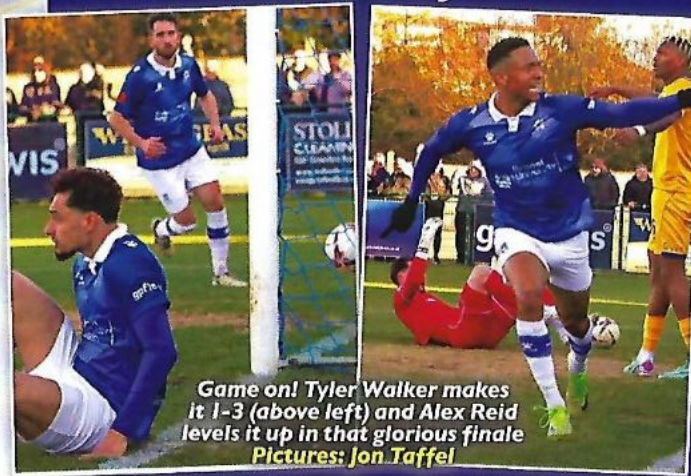
Having said that, we should've defended and managed the game much better than we did.

When walking off at half time, I actually mentioned in the changing room: "I may be stupid, but I think we can score three in the second half! (with some swear words thrown in there for good measure). It's one thing saying it, but actually having the quality and desire to do it is far harder.

No doubt we were far better in the second half though. The character required Our substitutions made a great impact on the game with all four of the earlier changes making a difference. Dyer, Dom,

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

'I don't think I've ever been disappointed to draw a game 3-3 after being 0-3 down at half time... but I was against Eastleigh. We created so many chances'



Game on! Tyler Walker makes it 1-3 (above left) and Alex Reid levels it up in that glorious finale
Pictures: Jon Taffel

Mustapha and Tyler all contributed to us attacking down the hill, dominating the game and creating numerous chances.

I don't think I've ever been disappointed to draw a game having trailed 3-0 at half time - but Saturday was just that. I thought the quality of the chances we created could've led to more goals but we have to see it as a point gained.

I will continue to say that it will be imperative for the whole squad to contribute for the remainder of the season if we are to achieve our goal of staying up.

Please continue to back us from the stands in good times and bad, but it's time for this team to put ninety minute performances together as we have often done against teams around our league position this season. **UTS! Max**

THE GAFFER'S COLUMN: NEIL GIBSON TALKS TO TIM PARKS



IT'S typical of Neil Gibson that at a quarter past 12 on Tuesday night, finally arriving back at his daughter's house in Manchester after the heroic 1-0 win at Altrincham the Stones manager calls to apologise for keeping me up!

He'd not really had time to reflect on the result or celebrate his first clean sheet since arriving at Wealdstone ten games ago as he met up with 20 or so friends after the game, who'd come across to support him and the club.

But he was buzzing with the unexpected win and so proud of the players who did all that he asked of them over the 90 minutes.

"After the goalless first half we were anticipating that Altrincham would come out strong so we were prepared to meet fire with fire - and then had the boost of Reidy's really good goal from Dom's (Hutchinson's) cross" he said.

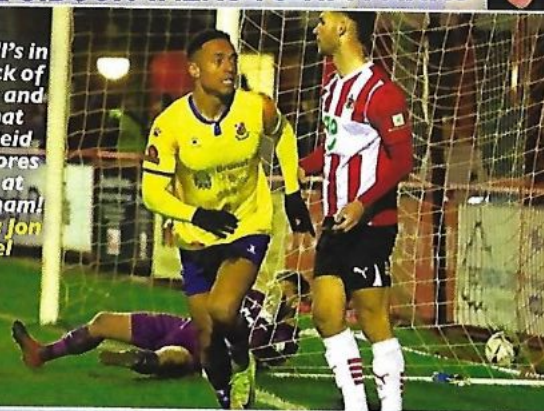
"We had a really good spell but at the end we were defending with our lives. Our hearts were in our mouths when Alty's Matty Cosylo hit the bar in the final seconds of added time but I thought we deserved the win".

Neil is particularly pleased to have added "real quality" to the squad with the signings of Mustapha Carayol and Tyler Walker.

"They are both high standard players, experienced and confident so they had no problems being accepted into the changing room. It was seamless, to be honest.

"The only issue was to introduce them gradually to games as Tyler has been continuing his rehab with Lincoln, while Muzzy hasn't played for six to eight weeks so we have to build his fitness up. He knows his own body

The ball's in the back of the net and it's that man Reid who scores again at Altrincham! Picture: Jon Taffel



The story behind the win at Alty...and how quality signings were landed!

and we trust his judgement.

"We don't want the Wealdstone Injury Curse to strike again! We have lots of games coming up, Saturday-Tuesday-Saturday-Tuesday and you can see the quality they have: Muzzy's first touch on Tuesday was a terrific cross to the back post that Connor McAvooy almost scores from."

I asked Neil how we had managed to steal both players from under the noses of National League rivals?

"Well, Steve Boone has a long list of candidates and Tyler and

Muzzy were stand-outs. But it's all about persuasion and I'd played with Tyler's dad (ex-England international Des Walker) at Sheffield Wednesday so maybe that helped... he is excited at playing up front in a two with Reidy and feels he can get among the goals for us. And Muzzy has been friends with Mapps (Adrian Mariappa) for a long time and was keen to come back to play in London.

"I'm really, really pleased with the football club and the people who work so hard on the board to bring them in. The squad and

the budget has been really stretched this season but I felt we needed a lift, and I felt we needed to bring a couple of players in for certain areas of the pitch.

"As soon as we saw Muzzy in training we knew he would be something special... he's certainly the quickest 36-year-old that I have ever worked with!



gpflewis®
Neil Gibson (right) and assistant manager Lee Jones are joyous at Altrincham Pic: Jon Taffel



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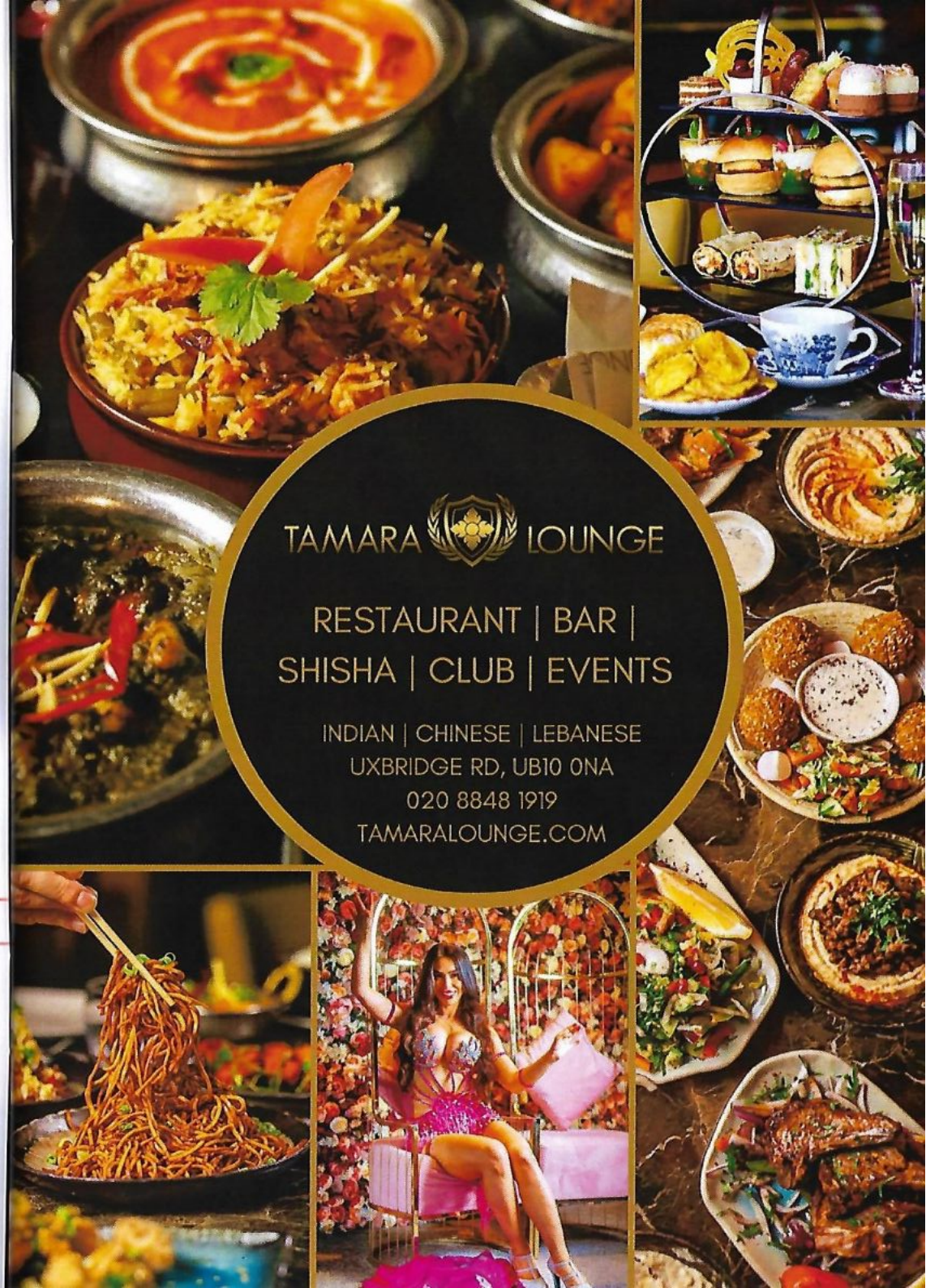


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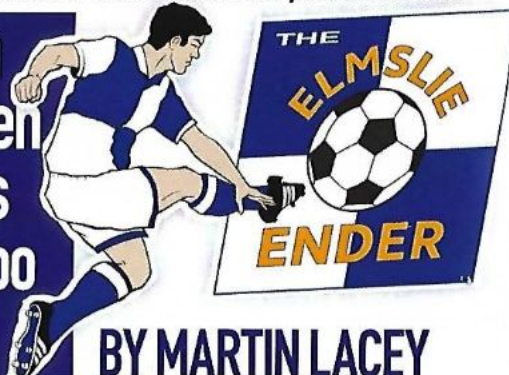
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©Elmslie Ender was among the first wave of football club magazines when it replaced 'Long Ball Down the Middle' as the Wealdstone fanzine in the mid-1980s. LBDTM's forerunner 'Wealdstone Whispers' was famously the THE very first football fanzine in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

Yes, we might have been 'sneaking out' but, for men of a certain age, that was more about visiting the loo after four or five pints



BY MARTIN LACEY

IN VIEW of last week's events here at the Eastleigh game the editorial team suggested I might make the theme of this column 'Great Wealdstone fight-backs'.



Problem is - and call it my glass-half-empty personality if you like - I can't think of any. Though I am assured they happened. But matches where we threw away an apparently unassailable lead? Now you're talking!

Who still has nightmares over that 3-4 FA Trophy defeat at Yeovil? Or more recently, Truro and the 4-4 after being 4-0 up? Matches you wished you'd not bothered with before the clock had ticked to five minutes?

Unlike most of you I actually attended (being match sponsor) the pandemic season home game against Dagenham when we were two down in three minutes. And Halesowen away - two down in five minutes so an eventual 5-3 defeat felt like a moral victory.

Sorry, do I sound like I'm revelling in misery here? Call me the Morrissey of programme notes.

Having endured every minute of our back-to-back 4-1 defeats at Tamworth and Rochdale, last Saturday I found myself otherwise engaged in the North of England and consequently missed what obviously turned out to be a very exciting encounter with Eastleigh. I have to say I was amused by those posters on social media who boasted that they'd walked out in disgust at half time and not returned, presumably frantically trying to delete those posts when they read what happened in the second half. All I can say is

'it serves you right'. If you're only here for the good bits you probably chose the wrong club to support. Can I suggest Bayern Munich (11 titles in a row) or Ludgorets?

At Rochdale, as tends to happen at these BELT clubs, despite there being a massive empty stand we were shoved in a corner with a mediocre view of the action. Unlike similar experiences at Notts County or Oldham, however, the rest of the stand was occupied by home fans.

This might actually have led to some lively banter and a decent atmosphere, except most of the Rochdale fans were as lively as a colony of hibernating sloths. The exception was a gaggle of ten year old wannabe ultras overdosed on Sunny Delight who made it their annoying mission to get as close to us as possible, from where they would shout 'Wealdstone Raider!' regularly and for no apparent reason.

Once the score got to 3-0, however, they changed their tune, literally, and every time a Wealdstone supporter left their seat to go and 'use the facilities' they would be serenaded with a high-pitched

chorus of 'We can see you sneaking out'.

These feral brats were presumably too young to grasp that, given the average age and beer consumption of a travelling Wealdstone fan, 'sneaking out' once or twice during the course of a game might be a bodily necessity.

I am sure one of our fans could write quite an authoritative book on non-league toilets, a much underrated aspect of sporting

The pubs in Rochdale made up for the disappointing defeat. PIC: JON TAFFEL



No-one was sneaking out from the 107-strong Wealdstone contingent at this point in the Rochdale game. Presumably it wasn't 4-1 at this stage. Picture: JON TAFFEL



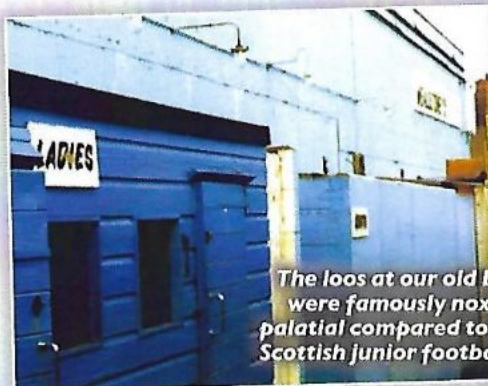
architecture. Personally I do like the traditional wall-and-gutter style familiar from Bath City (plenty of elbow room and accuracy not required) and even better if it's open to the elements. Merthyr Tydfil next season, anyone?

Personally I try to wait until that now-familiar and well-choreographed moment around the 75th minute when one or other goalkeeper will suffer an unexpected and surprisingly temporary hamstring injury.

The perceived wisdom is that this is to enable the manager to impart some words of tactical encouragement, but since there's no evidence this ever has the effect of improving matters on the pitch, and referees unfailingly indulge this play acting I am starting to think this is now the quasi-official toilet break. Anyway, at Rochdale I was determined to hold on to the end as there was no way I was giving the brats the pleasure of taunting me as I went down the stairs, not when

we're losing 4-1. Anyway, it turns out that some of our more treacherous supporters had indeed 'snuck out' because even before the referee had blown the final whistle to put us out of our misery they were posting pictures on Facebook of themselves enjoying a pint in The Baum, a pleasant enough if slightly pretentious hostelry where I myself enjoyed a couple of pre-match pints, before adjourning to the Cemetery Hotel (less distance to stagger to the ground) for another couple, before making myself comfortable in the very welcoming and hospitable Rochdale FC bar (should this column carry a health warning?) nearly missing kick off due to the utter inability of Rochdale's turnstile operators to master the technology required to scan a ticket on a phone. I hope they sorted that one before the Oldham match.

Come to think of it, maybe 'non-league toilets' could be a regular feature in the programme, as we seem to be desperate. Like me by the fifth minute of stoppage time at Rochdale.



The loos at our old Lower Mead ground (left) were famously noxious, but look positively palatial compared to the ones at St Roch's FC in Scottish junior football (right) Pic: JON TAFFEL



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**TODAY WE WELCOME FANS OF
WOKING & ALDERSHOT
TO GROSVENOR VALE**

**WFCSC
update**

BY JAMES KLARFELD



Good afternoon folks. Just a reminder for those that don't know me my name is James otherwise known on X (Twitter) as @wealdstonejames - if you don't follow me and would like to, please feel free to do so!

Firstly I would like to say a big thank you to all those that came to our first fundraising night to watch Ska band Big 10 which was a great success.

Our next gig will be the fantastic number one UB40 Tribute band 'Johnny 2 Bad' who are making a return after 18 months. If you haven't seen them before they are well worth coming to see, you will not be disappointed. Tickets are now available at the club bar CASH ONLY £18 or by contacting me on my mobile number 07979 795414 your continued support is very much appreciated.

The next gig to make a note following the above has now been booked for Saturday 28th June 2025 when tribute band Oasis who sold out when they made their first appearance for us last April. Please keep an eye on our social media channels as information for this gig will be out soon.

With Easter approaching we now have our Easter raffle tickets on sale with some great prizes to be won. If you can sell some raffle ticket books please come and see me, or any other members of our committee.

Please also remember to buy your 50/50 ticket or even better a book as you pass through the turnstile today. This season the prize money won has averaged between £200-£300 with a couple even making just under £400 and the FA Cup game against Wycombe Wanderers over £500! Not only does it give you a chance to win a nice sum of money it also raises much needed funds for the club.

Last Sunday we had our first fanzone where we had over 500 Newcastle fans using our facilities for the Caraboa Cup Final. It was a fantastic day with the Toon army raising valuable funds for our team.

It was also fantastic to have two new volunteers join us on the day and both thoroughly enjoyed their first experience and both have already said they want to do the next, one which will be Birmingham City in the Vertu Cup Final on Sunday

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13th April. Already this is looking very likely to be an extremely busy one with more bookings coming in every day so any more volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

James

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ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WOKING THE CARDS

Today's opposition in focus

Woking Football Club, known as the Cards (from the Cardinal red of the red and white halves), was formed in 1889.

The Club joined the West Surrey League in 1895/96, winning the title by one point on the final day of the season. However, within 21 years of being formed, the Club was in danger of folding for financial reasons. The turning point came when, in January 1908, Woking played Bolton Wanderers in the First Round of the FA Cup, having battled through five qualifying rounds. Despite losing the away game 5-0, the Club made it into the national press. Bolton Wanderers, impressed by the minnows they had defeated, travelled to Woking for a friendly match the following season, which kept the Club solvent.

In 1911 the Club joined the Isthmian League, maintaining their place in the top division for 72 years and finishing as runners-up to Wycombe Wanderers in 1956/57. That achievement was eclipsed the following season when, in front of a 71,000 crowd, the Cards beat Ilford 3-0 in the last FA Amateur Cup Final to be televised live. Sadly, the Club then went into decline, culminating in a first-ever relegation in 1982/83. By the end of the 1984/85 season the Club had plunged to Division Two South of the Isthmian League. It was during that season that former player, Geoff Chapple, was appointed as manager. Although he was not able to save the Club from relegation, the renaissance was underway. Just missing out on promotion at the first attempt, the Club clinched the Division Two South title in 1986/87 and, after two third place finishes in Division One, they were promoted back to the Premier Division at the end of the 1989/90 season.

The next season saw the Club become part of FA Cup folklore. Entering the competition at the Fourth Qualifying Round, they beat three Conference sides to set up a Third Round tie away to West Bromwich Albion. Recovering from being a goal behind, Woking triumphed 4-2, thanks to a superb team effort and a never-to-be-forgotten hat-trick from Tim Buzaglio. To be drawn out of the hat with a home game against Everton was beyond everyone's wildest dreams. The tie was switched to Goodison Park and, against



a team packed with internationals, the sides were separated only by a solitary Kevin Sheedy goal. Over 34,000 people remained in the ground to give the players a rapturous standing ovation.

Promotion to the Conference was achieved in 1991/92. The Isthmian League title was clinched in early April, with seven games still to be played.

The FA Trophy was won in 1994, 1995 and 1997 and the Cards also achieved five successive top five finishes in the Conference, including being runners-up in

1994/95 and 1995/96. ish.

Significant events had taken place off the field. The downturn in the Club's fortunes had led to a financial crisis. With the Club facing administration or worse, successful businessman and long-time fan, Chris Ingram, came to the rescue, becoming Chairman in February 2002. He continues to own the ground, with the Club enjoying a 125-year lease at a peppercorn rent, but his financial backing of the Club and involvement in its running ceased at the end of the 2010-11 season.

The Club went full-time in the summer of 2003. The fans' hopes were borne out by a much better season, with the Cards achieving a ninth place finish, having been on the fringe of the play-off places until the last few weeks. Again, only a poor finish the following season deprived the Cards of a play-off place, but a final placing of 8th with 68 points was the best achievement since 1997/98. Disappointingly, the Cards failed to mount a challenge for a play-off place in 2005/06, finishing in 11th place. 2006/07 was another season of underachieving and, despite bringing in fresh faces during the January transfer window, the Cards finished in 15th place.

The following two seasons produced more disappointment, culminating in the Cards' relegation in summer 2009 from the BSP after 17 years in the top flight of non-League football.

In the 2011-12 season, the Cards reached the top spot in late September and stayed there throughout the campaign. The BSBS title was won by nine points, with only five games lost all season.

The Cards finished in a comfortable 12th place in their first season back in the Conference Premier, playing an entertaining brand of football, and did even better the following season, ending in 9th place after showing great form in the second half of the campaign. The 2014-15 campaign saw the Club



WOKING'S 6,036 CAPACITY KINGFIELD STADIUM

finish in a commendable 7th spot, missing a play-off place by only three points. Garry Hill maintained his record of top-half finishes the following season as the side ended in 12th position. But the summer of 2016 saw the loss of some experienced players and the side struggled throughout the 2016-17 season, eventually averting relegation thanks to generally improved form from the new year onwards, finishing in 18th place.

Summer 2022 saw an influx of new players, including established EFL players such as Padraig Amond and Scott Cuthbert, as the Cards found themselves in a playoff race from September onwards.

After a superb run in October and November saw Woking pull away from the chasing pack, cementing themselves in fourth place, the signing of Rhys Browne from Wealdstone proved to be excellent business, with the striker scoring 13 goals in total.

Woking eventually finished fourth, and were edged out in their first ever playoff game by Bromley in front of a full house, but Sarll has continued to add to his side, with playoffs very much the aim again in 2023-24.

Last Season Woking finished in 17th position one point and one place below Wealdstone.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

7. HARRY BEAUTYMAN - MIDFIELD

A Leyton Orient academy product leaving in 2011 to join Sutton United in the National League South. After two seasons with the U's, Beautyman joined Welling United. 14 goals across two seasons attracted higher interest and he was loaned to Peterborough United. Spells at Northampton Town and Stevenage followed before Beautyman rejoined the U's in 2017. Seven years at the club saw the him play a key role in Sutton's promotion to the Football

OUR RECORD V WOKING
P33 W17 D6 L10 F66 A45 GD 21
LAST MEETINGS
SAT 24TH FEB 2024 (A) - D 1-1
SAT 10TH SEP 2024 (A) - L 1-0

League as Sutton won the league as champions in 2020-21. Joined Woking in Summer 2024.

16. TUNJI AKINOLA - MIDFIELD

The versatile defender joined the Cards in July 2023. He started his career with West Ham United, where he was a regular at youth level, whilst he also made a first-team appearance in a pre-season friendly and featured for the club's Under-21s in the EFL Trophy. He spent his first year on the Hammers' books on loan at Leyton Orient, making 33 appearances in League Two, including his professional debut against Barrow in October 2020. He was released by West Ham in the summer of 2021 after 15 years with the club. From West Ham he moved to Scotland to join Partick. He made 45 appearances in all competitions across his two years with Thistle.

22. WILL JAASKELAINEN - GK

Will joined Woking in February 2023. The Finnish youth international has Football League experience, most notably with Crewe Alexandra, where he made close to 100 first-team appearances. He moved to AFC Wimbledon in the summer of 2022, but injury prevented from making a league appearance, and he was released in January. His father is former Premier League goalkeeper and Finnish international Jussi Jaaskelainen.



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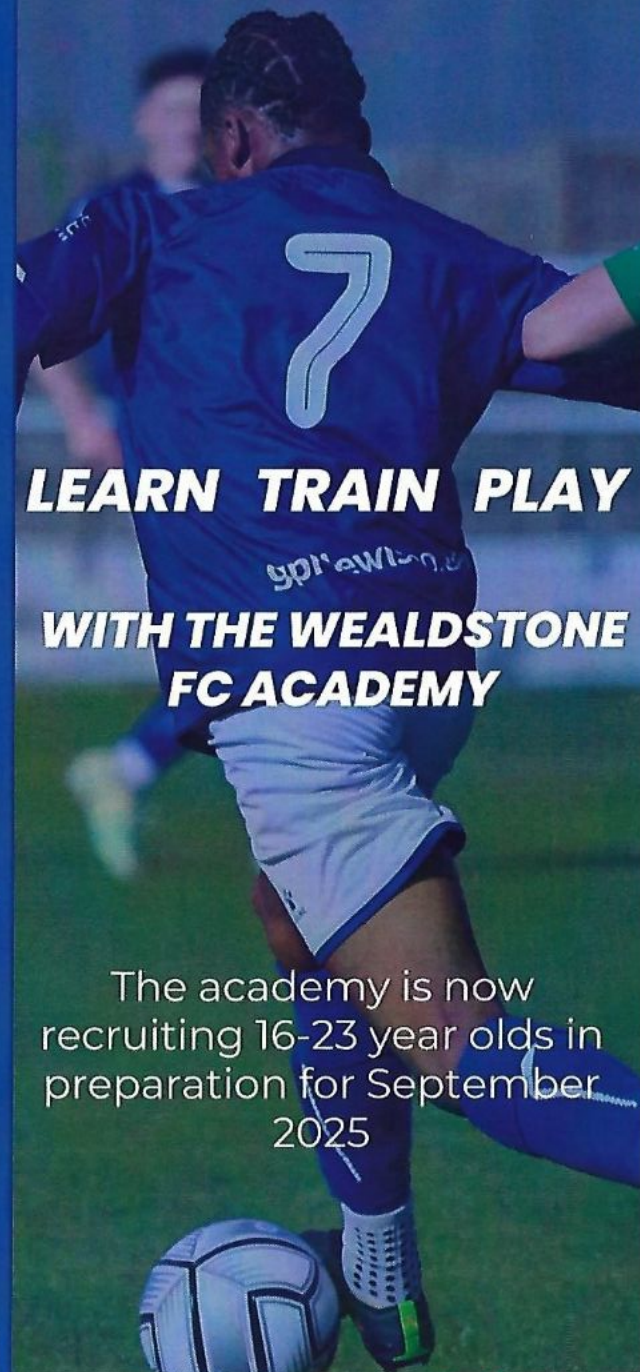
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Milestones MICK FISHMAN WITH A BIT OF A HISTORY

Through all the glory years we were competing as equals...but will that ever be the case again?



I TURNED on the wireless recently and tuned into the Home Service (that's Radio 4 to you youngsters) where the journalist and former ping-pong player, Matthew Syed, was presenting a programme looking back at the

first 25 years of this millennium and how much life had changed over the period.

With that theme in mind, I thought it might be interesting to compare where Wealdstone FC is now compared to our position a quarter of a century ago. The march of time is an odd experience. To me the year 2000 seems like yesterday. To younger supporters it must seem like the Stone Age. However fast time has or hasn't moved, there can be little doubt that much has changed at Wealdstone Football Club.

The most important issues facing a football club relate to the here and now. For us it is the current squad and doing our utmost to retain our place in the National League, closely followed by progress in securing a new stadium. But a football club of stature, which we are, also encompasses its history, good or bad, up or down. We have recently celebrated 125 years of existence, and I thought it would be interesting to take a brief look at where the club stood at its birth, and then at 100, 75, 50 and, finally, 25 years ago. That I can do so is only possible due to the diligent research Roger Slater undertook to produce his book celebrating the club's centenary back at the turn of the century.



Wealdstone parade the FA Amateur Cup in 1966 when our Isthmian League side were BIG fish

125 YEARS

ROGER'S research demonstrated that a Wealdstone football team existed in various forms - from 1887 and, 125 years ago in early 1900, Wealdstone were most of the way through their first season as a club competing in Division 2 of the Willesden & District League. They finished 3rd behind champions, Brigade Institute and runners up, Roundwood Rangers. Clubs of our type and vintage almost always started life playing in junior and intermediate level football, and that is where we found ourselves.

The club's first ground was a field straddling Headstone Road (now Harrow View) and Marlborough Hill with dressing room facilities provided by invitation of the landlord of the Queens Arms in Wealdstone. The facilities at Grosvenor Vale are relatively primitive in relation to most in the National League, but almost palatial compared to those faced by the club's pioneers of 125 years ago. The playing kit colours were black and white hoops.

100 YEARS

FAST FORWARD 25 years to early 1925 and the club had progressed significantly. Following the 1st World War, the club moved into senior football and by the 1924/25 season were in their 3rd term competing in one of the senior amateur competitions of the time, the Spartan League. No longer playing teams such as Metropolitan Railway, Harlesden Primrose and Stanmore, the

LESSON AS WEALDSTONE FC CELEBRATES ITS 125TH YEAR....

opposition now contained more familiar names to the modern football follower, like Chesham United (who became champions that year), Walthamstow Avenue, Maidenhead United, Aylesbury United and Botwell Mission (later to be renamed Hayes). Of equal importance was the fact that the rapid growth of the club following the Great War had seen it move from its previous home in Belmont Road (part of where Byron Park is now) to a new facility in Lower Mead, a stadium beloved by all supporters old enough to have seen the us play there. The team finished that season in a rather uninspiring 10th position from a division comprising 14 clubs.

75 YEARS

MOVING forward another 25 years sees the club in a different place. Having left the Spartan

League for the more powerful Athenian League in 1928, the club had done no more than consolidate itself in its position both geographically and at the level in which it was competing. All that changed in 1936 when we started signing players of pedigree in the amateur game, most notably full back Arthur Loveday, prolific goalscorer Charlie Bunce and inside forward Ken Baldwin. The team went from strugglers near the foot of the table to challengers for the title. By the outbreak of war in 1939 Wealdstone were one of the favourites to win the Athenian League.

That ambition was shattered by the war. Many of the pre-war players failed to return to the club whilst others, such as Charlie Bunce and Ken Baldwin, lost their lives in the conflict. The club had to rebuild which they did rather well. The 1948/49 season saw the club enjoy its best performance (to that point) in the FA Amateur Cup by reaching the Quarter Final, stage where they drew 0-0 at holders Leytonstone, before going down 0-4 in the replay in front of a crowd of 13,500, a record that would remain for the rest of the club's tenure at Lower Mead.

The following season, 75 years ago, would see the club being one of the better performers in the Athenian League and having experienced its best

ever run in the FA Cup. The team saw off Hendon, Enfield, St Albans City and Edware Town before meeting powerful Southern League professionals, Colchester United, in the 4th Qualifying Round, A 1-0 win in front of over 9,000 spectators at Lower Mead set up a 1st Round away tie at Football League side, Port Vale. The heroic 1-0 defeat saw goalkeeper Danny Wiltshire concede his first and only goal in the tournament that season.

Wealdstone Football Club was now a known entity and respected club in senior amateur football, and this team already had in its ranks 6 players who would play a significant role in the squad that 2 seasons later would carry off the Athenian League title for the one and only time. In addition to keeper Danny Wiltshire, full back Charlie Barker, centre half Charlie Edmonds, right half Gordon Norman, inside forward Bill Roberts and winger Alan Benningfield were already in-situ. The Athenian League of the time, while regarded as just short of the status of the Isthmian League, was a powerful division and winning the title was a significant achievement.

The club's heyday as an amateur club was undoubtedly the 1960s when it moved up into the elite Isthmian League and carried off the coveted FA Amateur Cup in 1966.

50 YEARS

BY the time we reached the next milestone, 50 years ago, the club had been a semi-professional club for 3 seasons and was enjoying its first season in the Southern League Premier Division, having won the Southern League Division 1 South title the previous term.

We were now swimming in a pond of very big fish. Big old Southern League beasts awaited us. These were heady days and the players who had got us promotion all remained for the challenge along with the added stellar signing of John Morton (left), then acknowledged as the best goalkeeper outside the Football League. John had been a part of the Dartford team

that the previous season had been Southern League champions and defeated FA Trophy finalists.

This was a brief golden era for the club. With players of the experience and presence of John McCormick, Eric Burgess and Terry Dyson; the trickery of John Henderson; the sheer talent and promise of Chris Kinnear, John Watson, Ray Fulton and Bill Byrne; and of course the incredible goal-scoring talents of the incomparable George Duck, this was a terrific time to be a Stones fan. But it

Continued overpage >>>



Milestones CONTINUES INTO THE NEW MILLENIUM

From previous page

was brief. As injuries, retirements, transfers and loss of form took their toll, the team plateaued through the rest of the decade. Nevertheless, the club, having taken the big decision to turn professional in 1971, was now established as a senior semi-professional outfit. One of the best outside the Football League.

25 YEARS

WHICH brings us nicely to the last milestone – 25 years ago, the start of a new millennium. In reality, it was a minor miracle the club was still in existence. Since being at the very pinnacle of non-league football by winning both the Gola League and the FA Trophy, the subsequent 15 years had seen the club lose its beloved Lower Mead home, be a part of a huge property fraud that had resulted in the club being placed in administration, relegated twice and taken voluntary relegation down a further 3 divisions in order to survive, and being effectively homeless having to be tenants ground-sharing at Watford, Yeading and Edgware Town.

The club had pulled off a minor coup by persuading successful young manager, Gordon Bartlett (right), to move across from Yeading. His first 3 seasons in charge saw the team achieve 2 promotions. There should have been yet another promotion when the club finished 3rd in the Icis League Division 1, but in a devastating decision a ground-grading issue prevented the club stepping up. That had been just the season before this one and the effect was to almost implode the club. From a 3rd place finish, the team stumbled to 16th place in 1999/2000. For those who remember the period it was a desperately unhappy time; but the players gave their all and we should all remember players like Paul Benning, Steve Bircham, Phil Dicker, Carl Holmes, Noel Imber, Brian Jones, Paul McKay, Dominic Sterling, Danny Tilbury, Lee Walker, Chris Walton and many others with thanks and affection.

The turn of the century heralded in 8 years of hard slog through the Ryman League Premier and First Divisions, mostly doing our best to retain our status on a little money, a crumbling White Lion Ground and then a deeply depressing short period at Northwood.

So, 25 years on and where does the club now find itself?

In short, a very good place. During the first 10 years of the new century 2 things happened which had positive long-term consequences. First, the team scraped past Dulwich Hamlet in a "promotion" play-off for membership of the Ryman Premier League. The second, more important, moment was the club moving into Grosvenor Vale following 17 years of homelessness. Since taking occupation of The Vale in 2008, the club has achieved 2 promotions, being title

winners on both occasions, and are now members of the non-league elite competition, the National League - albeit tenuously at the moment.

It's worth pausing to take that in. We have been at the top of the game three times in our past.

First, in the mid-1960s when a member of the most senior league in southern amateur football and winners of the coveted FA Amateur Cup. Second, when part of the Southern League Premier Division between 1974 and 1979 when that league was then the most senior non-league competition in southern England. Third, when members of the Gola League between 1982 and 1988 during which we became the first winners of the non-league "double".

It has often been expressed that, having been promoted to the National League 5 years ago, we had returned to the level from which we were relegated in 1988. I don't think that is quite right. None of the "big" clubs against whom we were competing in the 1970s had previously been members of the Football League and none were full time.

Since promotion in 2020 the club has been competing in a league largely comprising full time football clubs, several of which could only be described as big ex-EFL teams. In the 4 plus seasons since promotion we have competed against outfits like Wrexham, Notts County, Chesterfield, Stockport County, Oldham Athletic, York City, Rochdale and Halifax Town. This is a very different football environment to the Southern League of the 1970s and the Gola League of the 1980s.

Perhaps we have become a little blasé. Three or four years ago we enjoyed a collective sense of awe when our club was taking the field against some of these huge clubs and, remarkably, standing toe to toe with them. Now we look to take points off any or all of the biggies despite the huge differences in facilities and playing budgets.

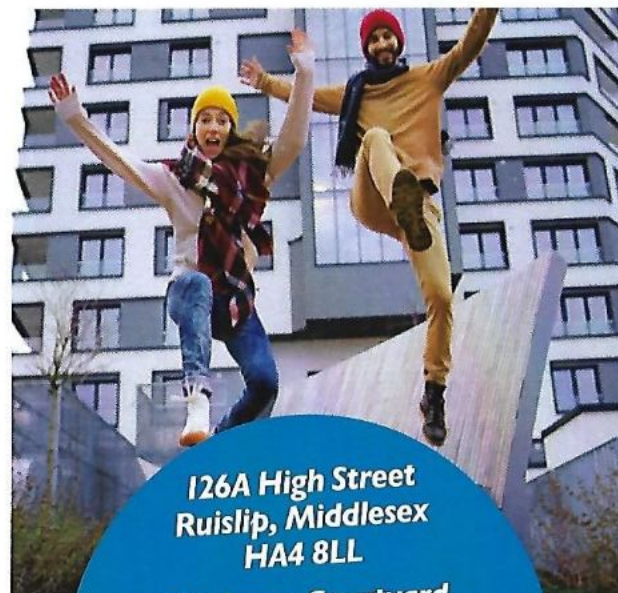
When the club hit its peaks in the early 1950s, mid-1960s, mid-1970s and early-1980s, we were a club competing amongst equals. That is far from the case now.

In order to be able to do so, we will have to pursue vigorously new investment and a new stadium. Until both are achieved we will continue to be a small fish swimming in a big pond, and as a result are vulnerable to losing that status.



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AWAY FANS FIRST UP, SHAUN STEVENS HAS STRONG VIEWS

After that win over the Stones in the FA Trophy I think we might have the tactical upper hand tonight...



Shaun models the Shots home kit

Your name and age? Shaun Stevens, 53. I have been following the Shots since 1978.

Aldershot had a good run in the FA Cup last season after narrowly avoiding relegation, and again this year it's been cup success (FA Trophy) that has caught the imagination. Why has the league again been disappointing? Last season's league campaign was excellent up until the last five games. However, over the summer we lost three key players in Stokes, Tolaj and Mnoqa and have unfortunately failed to replace them with players of similar quality. Tommy Widdrington chose to spread the wage bill across a larger number of players to try and give us greater strength in depth. We've also been a little unlucky with injuries - James Henry has real pedigree but is ageing and has regular absences, while the likes of Ollie Harfield, Dejan Tetek, Luke Jenkins and Ollie Scott have all suffered longer-term injuries. Fortunately some decent loan signings have helped us to stay just clear of the drop zone so far.

Do you think Shots will prevail in the Trophy in two weeks against your biggest rivals? Of course! In some ways this is the biggest game in the history of the

'new' club, as no Aldershot team has ever made it to Wembley. Our Surrey neighbours have been there before, so won't have quite the same level of incentive and motivation. When you add in the home advantage, I'm optimistic that we can get the job done.

Did you see the Shots v Stones games earlier this season?

I was at both games and what a contrast they were! Stones acquitted themselves really well in the initial League game, out-working us and taking a deserved three points. However, I think we learned a lot from it and were able to change our approach and tactics for the Trophy game. We were much more 'ourselves' that day and eventually won it with a bit to spare.

How many shots fan will travel today? We typically take about 200-250 to midweek away games in the London area, so that's what I'd expect for this one.

Have you seen a Shots game at Grosvenor Vale? What did you think of our patchwork home? I was here in the 90s for a game against Ruislip Manor but the place has changed a bit since then. I came back last season and really enjoyed it. It's a 'proper' non-league ground with the turret, the slope, fans very close to the players and all

the mish-mash of stands and buildings. It has an endearing quality and a decent atmosphere that takes me back to our days in the Ryman League (in a good way), so please don't change it! The only issue was the pitch which was in a very poor state that day and certainly didn't help the quality of football.

Who are the Shots' key performers? A theme of this season has been a lack of consistency across the playing squad, although things have been better in this respect since Christmas. Josh Barrett has all the skills and has scored some absolute pearlers, but he has also been anonymous in many games. Players like Tyler Frost, Ryan Jones and Jack Barham offer bags of energy but not always with an end product. Perhaps our most consistent performer has been Marcus Dewhurst, your old keeper.

Is Tommy Widdrington still flavour of the month? Tommy is rapidly becoming 'marmite' with the fans. He is clearly very passionate and has a great back-room team, but he makes some odd team selections at times and doesn't endear himself to supporters with some of his touch-line antics and interview com-

ON ALDERSHOT'S REDEVELOPMENT OF THEIR REC GROUND..

ments. The continual inclusion of his son in our midfield, irrespective of form, has become a bone of contention for many fans and it needs to be sorted out for next season.

When was your first Aldershot game? What are your memories of it? I first watched the old Aldershot FC way back in December 1978, when we beat Doncaster Rovers 2-1 at home. I was only six years old and remember almost nothing about the game itself, but I do recall having tea from a flask at half time and being absolutely hooked!! We had a big powerful Scottish winger called Murray Brodie who kept smashing his way through the opposition full back and he was my first football hero.

How many Shots games have you seen this season?

I'm a season ticket holder so I go along to every home game. My away trips this year have been restricted to just a few of the more local games so far, but apart from tonight I have plans to visit York and Barnet, and of course Wok-

ing on Easter Monday.

What are the three most memorable Shots games you've ever seen? That's a tough one! An earlier game that lives with me is our 3-2 win over Sunderland at the Rec in the old Division 3 back in 1988 which was capped off by an absolute banger of a winning goal from Steve Berry. The League Cup game at home to Manchester United in 2011 was really special despite the defeat. And our trip to Swindon last season, finding ourselves 7-0 up after an hour, is one I will never forget.

Do you expect the Shots to record only their second 'double' of the current season over the Shots tonight?

I'm sure it will be a tight game. I think we may have the tactical upper hand after the Trophy win, but with the league table as it is I know Stones will be scrapping for everything. The Shots have been one of the National League's draw specialists this year, so maybe that's the most likely outcome.

Can you tell us about plans to upgrade The Rec, and how

do you feel about that? This is something I'm very opinionated about! I feel the commercial model behind the plans is fundamentally flawed, as the development is split into two phases, only the first of which will be funded as things stand.

The problem is that it includes nothing that will generate new income streams to finance the second phase so we will be left with a half-finished project. Also, the designs presented to fans seem really poor, as they fundamentally change the layout and 'feel' of the ground, paying little regard to the heritage of the club and failing to make the best use of the land available.

I would very much like to see the Chairman go back to the drawing board by issuing a new brief to the development partners and architects that addresses these points. If the redevelopment can't be done right, it shouldn't be done at all. Like many others, I've put in my comments but the quality of fan engagement leaves a lot to be desired.

....THEN IT'S OVER TO WOKING FAN HANNAH DONAGHEY

The play-off win over Wealdstone's a great memory with that late winner



Hannah (right) with her mum Nickey at a Cards match

Your name and age? Hannah Donaghey, 35

Do you live in Woking and have you always lived there? Grew up near Woking but I now live in South West London.

Do you travel to away games? Yes as many as I can.

How big a part of your life is watching football? Watching football is a massive part of my life and has been for many years. I also follow Chelsea.

Have you seen a Woking game at Grosvenor Vale?

What do you think of our patchwork home? I've seen a few matches against Wealdstone - I prefer visiting the older and more characterful non-league grounds rather than the new grounds that are all very similar and quite bland experiences for fans.

What are the three most memorable Woking games you've ever seen? Well, the National League South play-off semi-final against Wealdstone six years ago stands out as one of the most

Continued overpage >>>

THE AWAY FANS AND THE WOKING VIEW CONTINUES.....



It's Sunday May 5, 2019 and Freddie Grant has just headed Stones into a 1-0 lead in the play-off semi-final at Woking. This is Hannah's fave game as the Cards came back to win 3-2

From previous page memorable in recent years (sorry) for how badly we played before snatching the late winner. Ironically the subsequent win over Welling in the play-off final felt quite anti-climatic after the semi-final drama. Beating Aldershot Boxing Day 2022 after so many disappointing results against them was a great moment. (Hopefully soon to be repeated).

Quite a random one, but one of my earliest memories of a real mad celebration in the Kingfield Road End at Woking was Woking 2 Accrington Stanley 1 at the end of the 2004/5 season - a last minute goal and a red card keeping the Cards' outside chances of a playoff spot alive that season.

What was the first Woking game you ever saw, and who introduced you to the club?

The first match I remember was Woking 8 Folkestone Invicta 4 in 1999 - my parents introduced me and my brother to the club back in the 90s after the FA trophy wins.

The Cards seem to have recovered from a poor start. Is it all down to Neil Ardley coming in? The change in manager seems to have had a major impact - there's been a noticeable improvement in form from some of the existing players. The change in ownership and invest-

ment in the squad at the same time has also helped as we've brought in some new players and strengthened the squad. Injuries keep causing problems though and in recent matches the squad looks quite depleted....

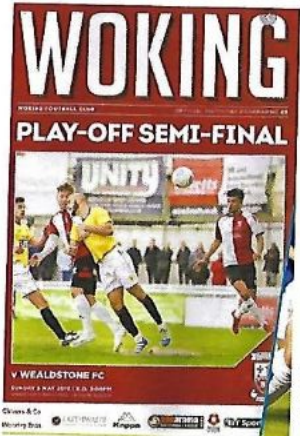
How does he measure up against the all-time great Woking bosses? Time will tell. We look better in possession - but are still struggling for regular goals, so haven't been able to pull away from the relegation zone despite some decent results. An FA Trophy win would certainly put his name into the record books, but keeping us up will be a great achievement if the current injury situation persists.

How do you think the rest of the season will pan out? Do you think the Cards will prevail in the Trophy against your biggest rivals? I think we will just escape relegation although I don't think it will be comfortable for us. Form seems to go out the window when we play Aldershot - I just hope that we give it our all on the pitch as the fans definitely will from the stands!

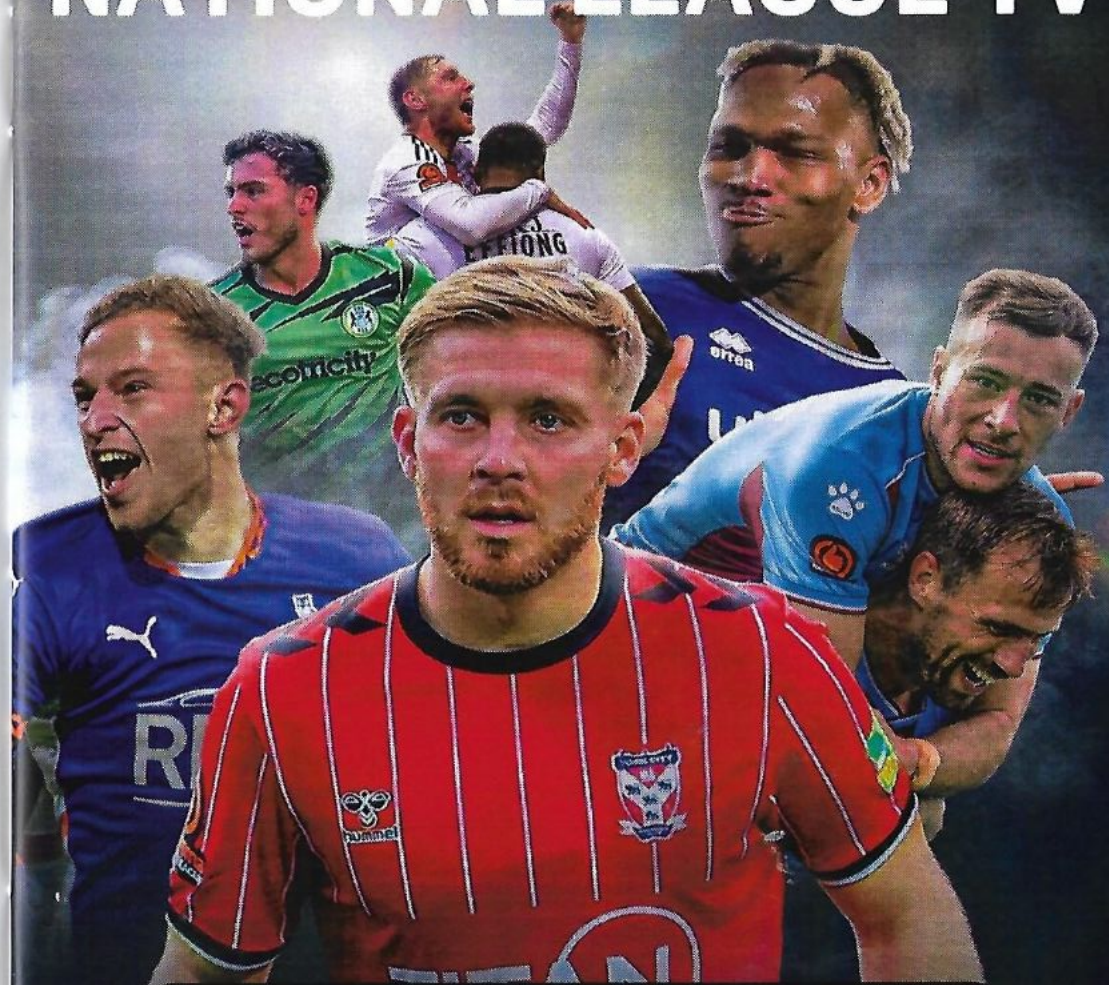
Did you see the Woking v Stones

game earlier this season? How did it rate? No - sorry I was on holiday!
Do you expect the Cards to record a 'double' over the Stones today? I hope so but we've not done many league doubles over teams this year.
How many Cards fans do you think will travel today? Hopefully 500! Our away support is amazing - we had over 900 at Oxford City in the FA Trophy Quarter Final a few weeks ago.
Who are the Cards' key performers? Goalkeeper Will Jääskeläinen (easily our most improved player and my player of the season by a long way), Matt Ward, Jacob Manzionis would be the players to watch out for if they are fit.
Where do you see Woking FC in five years' time? Is the investment and infrastructure in place for a Football League bid?

Its hard to say, hopefully 4 times FA trophy winners on a sound financial footing and looking up rather than down the leagues. We often have 3 year plans that back-fire, so best not to make any long-term predictions!



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The Fan in the Stand...AND TODAY WE

I mentioned to Steve that I would probably watch Wealdstone a bit more this year... just two days later I received a season ticket purchased by my wife. So she can't complain when I say that I'm off to football!

Your name and age? Andrew Dempster, 65.

Whereabouts do you live?

I currently live in Harrow Weald.

Have you always lived in that area?

I am originally from Kent. Brought up about one mile from Gravesend and Northfleet / Ebbsfleet ground.

When was your first Stones game? Having watched

Gravesend and Northfleet many times during my childhood, I went to watch the Ebbsfleet v Wealdstone game on 06/01/2024. The game ended 2-0 to Ebbsfleet. Wealdstone dominated the game but Ebbsfleet took advantage of their very few opportunities. I believe their second goal was a pretty dubious penalty. Although, having gone there with my pal Steve Paull to support Wealdstone and I was disappointed with the result, there was a part of me that was happy for my childhood local team.

What were your first impressions of the club?

I was impressed by the number of people who travelled in support of Wealdstone and by the amount of noise they



Andy (left) with his running pal Steve Paull in the glamorous surroundings of Braintree a few weeks ago

made. On the day, I thought the team were neat and tidy but lacked a real cutting edge up front.

What was the first football match you ever saw live? Or on telly?

My first memory of watching a football match was the 1967 FA Cup Final on TV. At the time I was seven years old and supported Spurs. Although Spurs won the game 2-1, I decided that I liked Chelsea better and have supported them ever since. Chelsea are now my second team after Wealdstone. From the age of eleven, until my mid twenties, I would watch them about twenty times a year. We would normally pick about five away fixtures to watch each year.

What's the most memorable game you've EVER seen? This question has to be covered by a trilogy. Having been in Division Two

HEAR FROM OLDIE BUT NEWBIE SUPPORTER ANDY DEMPSTER

Paul Canoville. The game changed instantly and by the 85th minute Chelsea were leading 4-3. A last minute foul gave Wednesday a penalty and the game ended 4-4. Chelsea won the toss and seven days later we completed the job by winning the second replay 2-1. Unfortunately, our long awaited trip to Wembley was thwarted by Sunderland and in particular, Clive Walker.

And the best Wealdstone game?

I don't have many in the locker to pick from but it has to be Barnet away at the end of last season. Barnet dominated us for pretty much the full ninety minutes but only led 1-0 as we entered nine minutes of added on time. This was due to the Barnet goalkeeper taking an absolute age to restart the game at every opportunity. We equalised in the 8th minute of added on time. The whole experience was made ten times better when I watched Dean Brennan's meltdown of an interview on the following Monday. He was blaming the referee

and everyone else for his time-wasting tactics. It was also better because of his past association with Wealdstone.

Who introduced you to the Stones?

During my bowling career I used to hear a lot about Wealdstone from Tony Waller. When I finished bowling and took up running, I was reintroduced to Wealdstone by Steve Paull. Tony has been watching Wealdstone since the 1980s I believe and Steve is part of a group, that I now stand with, who go back to the seventies. Hearing that these two had been so loyal for so long, I thought that I would start watching Wealdstone more this year to see what all the fuss was about.

Which level of football do you prefer? I like watching foot-

ball at all levels, but I am increasingly becoming disenchanted at the amount of blatant cheating at the top level. I would rather watch Wealdstone at the present time.

How big a part of your life is the game?

I'd like to think that I have the right balance at this point in time. However, I am looking to go away more and more so who knows, I might find myself looking at something else to occupy me between May and August.

Do you have other hobbies?

I am a member of Metros running club. At the moment I have an issue with my spine and hip so cannot run so I am consigned to volunteering at Park Run and Metros events.

How do you fit watching football in with your family/working life?

Happily, I'm now retired. My wife works from home running her own business, so by the time the weekend comes, we are more than happy to have some time to do our own things. Also, I made a comment to Steve Paull that I would probably watch Wealdstone a bit more this year.

Two days later I received my season ticket purchased by my wife. So she can't complain when I say that I'm going to football!

Who are the best Wealdstone players you've ever seen?

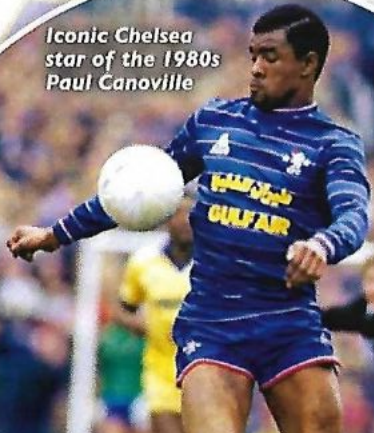
Could you name a best-ever Stones side, 1-11?

Having only watched Wealdstone twice in the 2023/24 season my selection is limited to what I have seen this season. I have three favourite players: Jack Cook, Anthony Georgiou and Jaydn Mundle-Smith. My team would play 4-4-2. Matthews, McAvooy, Cook, Mundle-Smith, Grant, Boldewijn, Cesay, Wells-Morrison, Georgiou, Ashford and Reid.

And where do you think the Stones will be in five years' time?

I hope that Wealdstone are settled in their new stadium and are pushing for promotion to the Football League...

Iconic Chelsea star of the 1980s Paul Canoville



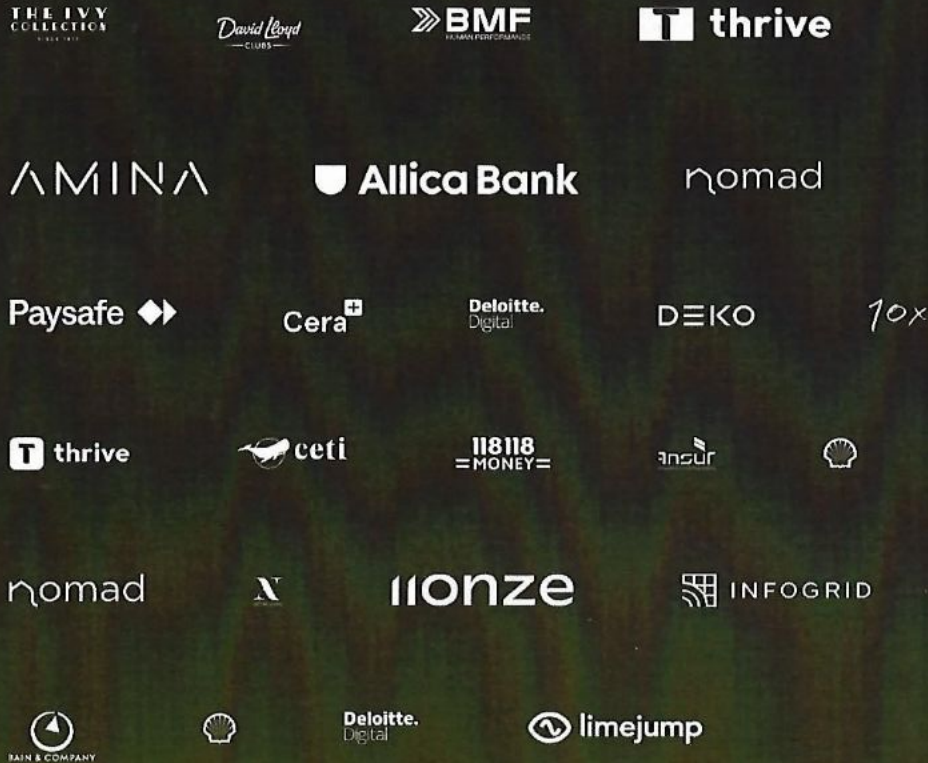
FIRST TEAM RESULTS & FIXTURES 2024-2025

Month	Opposition	Comp	Score	Crowd	(Away)	Leg	Goal scorers	Archie MATTHEWS	Jack COOK	Anthony GEORGIU	Deon WOODMAN	Alex DYER	Mason BARRETT	Enzio BOLDEWIJN	Craig EASTMOND	Sean ADARKWA	Max KRETZSCHMAR	Todd MILLER	Mustafa CARAYOL	Jeffrey SEKERE	Jacob ADAMS	Micah OBIERO	Luke DREHER	Will RANDALL	Dominic HUTCHINSON	Christian SCOTT	Adrian MARIAPPA	Sam ASHFORD	Kallum CESAY	Iacou TRAORE	Alex REID	Jayvin MUNDLE-SMITH	Henry SANDAT	Connor MCAVOY	Jack WELLS-MORRISON	Declan PHILLIPS	Elliot THORPE	Taylor CLARK	Josh GRANT	Jahman CLARKE	Harrison SONHA	Callum MCFARLANE	Sam HOWES	Toby STEWARD	Luca GUNTER	Brandon MASON	Dante BAPTISTE	Tyler WALKER	Wayne ANDREWS
AUGUST	10 Dagenham and Redbridge	VNL	1-2	1,523	215	16	Ashford	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	17 OLDHAM ATHLETIC	VNL	0-1	1,825	517	19		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	20 SUTTON UNITED	VNL	0-1	1,566	310	21		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	24 HARTLEPOOL UNITED	VNL	1-1	3,614	33	21	Obiero	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	26 AFC FYLDE	VNL	1-0	1,325	50	21	Sandat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
SEPTEMBER	31 SOLIHULL MOORS	VNL	1-1	948	180	20	(Own goal)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	7 YORK CITY	VNL	0-2	1,904	427	22		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	10 Woking	VNL	0-1	2,125	127	21		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	14 Forest Green Rovers	VNL	2-2	2,265	200	21	McFarlane (2)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	21 BARNET	VNL	0-3	2,590	575	22		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
OCTOBER	24 SOUTHEAD UNITED	VNL	1-1	1,947	746	23	McFarlane	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	28 FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL	2-2	1,442	97	23	Ashford (pen), Obiero	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	5 Gateshead	VNL	0-1	1,147	95	23		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	12 GOSPORT BOROUGH	FAC40	4-1	1,005	178	23	Reid (3, 1 Pen), Kretzschmar	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	19 YEOVIL TOWN	VNL	0-3	1,510	341	23		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
NOVEMBER	23 BRAINTREE TOWN	VNL	3-2	1,163	85	22	Ashford (2), Reid	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	26 Ebbsfleet United	VNL	2-2	1,498	250	22	Ashford, Reid	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	2 Grimsby Town	FAC1R	1-0	3,174	268	22	Reid	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	5 FULHAM U21s	NLC	0-2	190	TBD	22		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	9 Aldershot Town	VNL	2-0	3,156	204	21	Reid (pen), Kretzschmar	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
DECEMBER	12 SOUTHAMPTON U21s	NLC	3-1	160	TBD	21	Adarkwa, Sandat, Thorpe	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	16 ROCSDALE	VNL	2-0	1,922	558	20	Kretzschmar, Cesay	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	23 Eastleigh	VNL	1-1	2,020	187	19	Ashford	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	30 WYCOMBE WANDERERS	FAC2R	0-2	3,534	1,035	19		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	3 DERBY COUNTY U21s	NLC	2-0	96	TBD	19	Sandat, Woodman	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
JANUARY	7 Aldershot Town	FATR3	1-3	1,172	140	19	Cesay	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	10 ALTRINCHAM	VNL	3-3	1,005	45	19	Cesay, Reid (2)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	14 Oldham Athletic	VNL	2-3	5,534	77	20	Obiero, Kretzschmar	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	21 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	VNL	3-0	1,404	230	18	Ashford, Own Goal, Reid	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
	26 Maidenhead United	VNL	1-3	1,725	300	19	Reid	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
FEBRUARY	15 Sutton United	VNL	2-2	1,983	128	20	Grant, Cesay	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17																									



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ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT **ALDERSHOT TOWN** THE SHOTS

Today's opposition in focus



Aldershot Town were formed on **22 April 1992**, after the demise of Aldershot FC in March of the same year. Joint club founders Graham Brookland and Terry Owens were assisted in this huge undertaking of the creation of a new club by the Supporters Club and the wider fan base, and it was a joyful celebration on the opening day of the 1992-93 campaign when Shots' very first visitors were Clapton Orient, a match which the home side won 4-2.

The "new" Shots began life in Isthmian League Division 3 and opened the 1992-93 season in a carnival atmosphere at the Recreation Ground against Clapton. Braces from Mark Butler and Steve Stairs secured a 4-2 win in front of 1493 fans, which was more than watched their predecessors' last home game at the same ground. The campaign finished with the Shots as champions by a commanding 18-point margin, whilst strikers Mark Butler and Steve Stairs scored a combined total of 62 goals in all competitions.

A second successive promotion (via a third-place finish) followed in 1993-94 together with a run to the FA Vase quarter-finals.

Steve Wignall departed in January 1994 to take charge of Division 3 side Colchester United and was replaced by ex-Nottingham Forest winger Steve Wigley. Despite a strong finish to the 1994-95 season, the Shots missed out on a third successive promotion on goal difference. Following fifth- and seventh-place finishes over the next two seasons, Wigley left to take up a post in (former club) Forest's youth set up in the summer of 1997.

Following a spell under the caretaker management trio of Andy Meyer, Mark Butler and Joe Roach, Enfield boss George Borg was appointed in September 1997 and his first season yielded increased crowds and the Isthmian League Division 1 title. In 1998-99, the Shots won both the Isthmian League Cup and the Hampshire Senior

Cup. In 1999-2000, they retained the latter trophy, won the Isthmian League Charity Shield and ended the campaign as runners-up to Dagenham and Redbridge in the Isthmian League Premier Division.

A fourth-place finish was claimed in 2000-01, whilst November 2001 saw a club record crowd of 7500 fill the Rec for the 6-2 defeat by Brighton and Hove Albion in the FA Cup first round. Following a run of poor results and pressure from fans, Borg resigned in mid-January 2002.

Borg's assistant Stuart Cash took temporary charge before Terry Brown left his post at Hayes in late March to come to North East Hampshire, thus beginning a five-year love affair with the Shots fans. Following a third-place finish and a third Hampshire Senior Cup win in 2001-02, the squad was overhauled and, having attained top spot in mid-November 2002 the Shots remained in top spot to claim the title and, with it, promotion to the Football Conference; they also retained the Hampshire Senior Cup.

Disappointment followed in 2003/04, when the Shots were beaten on penalties by Shrewsbury Town (after a 1-1 draw) in the play-off final at Stoke City's Britannia Stadium.

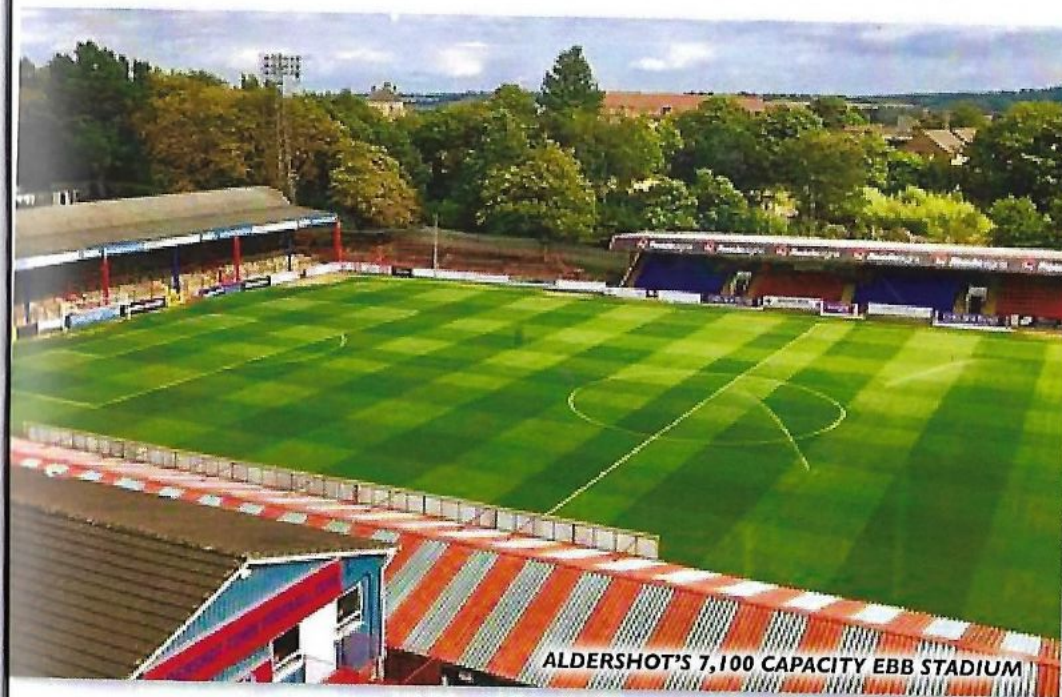
More play-off heartache was experienced in 2004-05, this time in the shape of a shoot-out defeat at Carlisle United in the semi-finals. The next two seasons were disappointing for the Shots (13th and ninth places respectively being secured).

In March 2007, Terry Brown resigned to take care of his wife, who had been ill for some time. Assistant Manager Martin Kuhl took caretaker charge for the remainder of the season.

In 2012-13 Former Rotherham United boss Andy Scott was brought in but couldn't stem the tide and relegation back to the Conference Premier (the club's first such event) was confirmed at end of the season as the Shots eventually finished rock-bottom of the table.

On May 2nd 2013, just five days after their relegation from League 2, Aldershot Town officially entered administration with reported debts of £1.4 million.

The Shots began the 2013-14 season with



ALDERSHOT'S 7,100 CAPACITY EBB STADIUM

a 10-point deduction as a punishment for the aforementioned entry into administration. With a hastily-assembled squad (some of whom were signed in the hotel the night before the season's opener at Grimsby Town)

On July 31st 2014, Aldershot Town announced that they had paid off all of their debts, which enables them to exit the auspices of the CVA after just 12 months – a massive two years ahead of the required date! The icing on the cake came with the additional news that the club had made "a modest profit" in the first year of trading under the new owners.

The 2015-16 season was another one of disappointing performances with the Shots finished the campaign having scored just 23 home league goals, equalled the club record for fewest home league wins (7) and most home league losses (12) as well as setting new club records for most league losses in a season (22) and lowest average home league attendance (1607); the season was also the fourth in succession in which the aforementioned crowd figure had dropped.

A new-look side for 2016/17 secured fifth place in the table and a Play-Off semi-final against Tranmere Rovers. Unfortunately, The Shots lost the home leg 3-0 but at least restored a great deal of pride with a battling 2-2 draw in the Prenton Park return.

OUR RECORD V ALDERSHOT TOWN P11 W3 D3 L5 F18 A21 GD -3

LAST LEAGUE MEETINGS

TUE 30TH JAN 24 (H) - D 3-3

SAT 9TH NOV 24 (A) - W 0-2

In 2017-18 the squad picked up where they left off and spent the majority of the season challenging for the title eventually finishing 5th in the table losing to Ebbsfleet in the play offs.

2020/21 saw the Shots placed 15th & 2021/22 placed 20th.

Over the summer of 2022, Mark Molesley put together his squad for the coming season and big wins were garnered over Boreham Wood, Barnet and FC Halifax Town before the team began to slide down the table, ending in Molesley's dismissal after a 2:0 FA Cup qualifier defeat at Chelmsford Town. Academy manager Ross McNeilly was put in caretaker charge and after a run of five wins from eight, was given the role on a permanent basis, until the end of the season.

Current Shots manager Tommy Widdrington has been in charge since 2nd April 2023.

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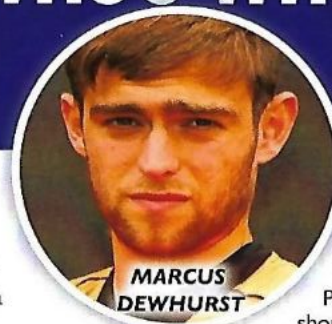
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ALDERSHOT THE SHOTS TO LOOK OUT FOR 2024-25

Who's who for the visitors



MARCUS DEWHURST

5. CHRISTIAN MAGHOMA - Defence

Christian Maghoma signed for the Shots in July 2023.

The centre-back was formerly at Eastleigh where he made 42 appearances over two seasons.

The 25-year-old has made a senior appearance for the Democratic Republic of Congo and came through Tottenham Hotspurs' youth ranks. Maghoma has also spent a couple of seasons abroad with Polish side Arka Gdynia where he made over 30 appearances in the Polish Ekstraklasa (top division).

6. THEO WIDDRINGTON - Midfield

Theo Widdrington signed from Kings Lynn for an undisclosed fee. The midfielder played 40 times and scored six goals in the National League North last season after joining them in 21/22.

Widdrington has also played for Havant & Waterlooville and Bristol Rovers, as well as spending time at Portsmouth.

7. CAMERON HARGREAVES - MIDFIELD

Hargreaves signed for the Shots in June 2024. The midfielder came through the youth ranks at Exeter City before joining Bristol Rovers where he made 20 Football League appearances. He gained loan experience with Hungerford and Chippenham before joining Kings Lynn towards the end of the 21/22 season before making his stay there permanent. Hargreaves will be familiar face to Tommy Widdrington and a number of the Shots first-team, having linked back up with his manager at previous club King's Lynn Town.

8. TYLER FROST - Midfield

Tyler Frost signed for The Shots in February 2023 on a free transfer after leaving Harrogate Town. Capable of playing anywhere across the midfield, the 23-year-old brings with him Football League experience, having made 37 League Two appearances with Crawley Town and 13 appearances in the same division with Harrogate this season.

9. KAI CORBETT - Forward

Kai Corbett joined the Shots in July 2024. Born in Barcelona, Corbett came through the youth ranks at West Ham before joining Peterborough in 2021 and has spent time with Barcelona, Arsenal, Chelsea and Southampton at youth level. Corbett impressed with

Peterborough's under 21 side and was named as the staff and players' Under 21 Player of the Season. He made a Championship appearance with Poole and most recently spent a short period on loan at Scunthorpe United at the end of last season.

18. OLLY SCOTT - DEFENCE

Olly Scott signed for the Shots in August 2023. Scott previously played under Tommy Widdrington at King's Lynn Town and made over 40 appearances in the National League and National League North. The left-wingback has also played for Blyth Spartans and Consett AFC.

22. JACK BARHAM - Forward

Jack Barham signed for the Shots in March 2023 from Maidstone United. The 27-year-old fired the Stones to promotion from the Vanarama National League South in 2021/22 with 18 league goals and has had spells with Dorking Wanderers and Barnet.

27. JAMES HENRY - Midfield

James Henry joined the Shots in August 2023. Henry spent the 23/24 season with Oxford United, who he joined in 2017/18, and made 14 appearances for the now Championship side as they won the League One playoffs last season and made a total of 260 appearances for them. The midfielder started his career with Nottingham Forest and earned England under 19 caps as a youngster and has had brief spells at Norwich, Bournemouth, Reading and Bolton. Henry has made over 200 appearances in the Championship and his longer stints at Wolves and Millwall saw him surpass a century of appearances.

28. MARCUS DEWHURST - Goalkeeper

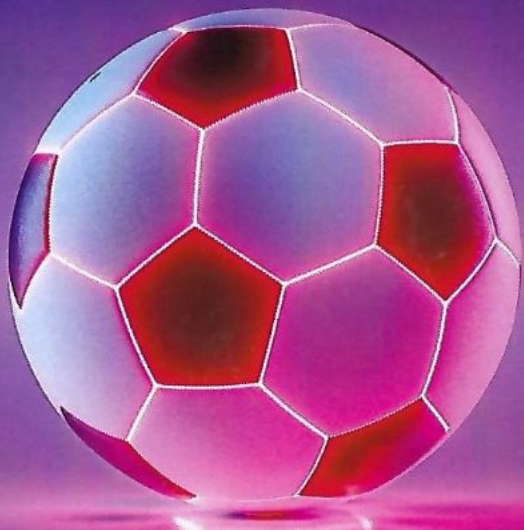
Marcus Dewhurst joined the Shots in July 2024. Dewhurst is a former England youth international and represented his country up until Under 20 level whilst progressing through the youth ranks at Sheffield United. The 'keeper has already amassed well over 100 senior appearances in the National League North and National League during loan spells and most recently with Wealdstone last season.



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



BY ADAM HILLS

THE National League is a relentless beast and one of the most competitive football divisions in the world.

Here we assess the likely points target required to survive the dreaded trapdoor. The table below shows the last 10 National League seasons and Points Required to Stay Up (PRtSU) totals. Four of those seasons (2021-22, 20-21, 19-20 and 18-19) come with caveats with several teams reprieved and the two Covid affected seasons where relegation was scrapped or the divisions smaller. But the average PRtSU for the 'standard' six season is 49.3. If that is to be the case this season, Wealdstone need to find 14 points from our remaining eleven games. We are currently picking up 1.03 points per game, but to hit the magical 50 point mark, we need to hit around 1.27.

The basis of any survival campaign needs to be based on a solid defence and the loss of Jayden Mundle-Smith for the season has been devastating. He has been Wealdstone's most consistent player for the last two seasons and his ability to start attacks stepping out from defence has been sorely missed. The defence has to improve though, with 21 goals conceded in 9 games since Neil Gibson's arrival and a clean sheet being elusive this calendar year. The manner of the goals conceded in the last four games is concerning and needs to be quickly rectified.

We've spoken about it many times in this column, but the points re-

To avoid the drop we need goals, creativity and real leadership



turn at The Vale is going to be crucial, as it has been over recent seasons. With six remaining games, four of them against teams 16th or lower, Neil Gibson will expect a double-digit return as minimum. With tough away fixtures at York City, Barnet and Altrincham remaining the home fixtures have to bring results. The proverbial six-pointers against Boston United (twice) and Maidenhead will likely make or break the outcome and the Stones supporters will need to make The Vale as hostile as possible.

The arrivals of Tyler Walker and Mustapha Carayol have added much-needed firepower to the squad. Kallum Cesay was expected to return at Altrincham on

Tuesday and his absence and energy in midfield has been sorely missed. It was around this time last season that Max Kretzschmar took up the reigns of being the face of the Stones survival push. I'm sure he'd be the first to admit that his performances have been under par of late, but there were hints of a return to form with the second-half comeback at Easteigh last weekend that he may be ready to lead that charge again.

There has been a noticeable lack of leadership and resilience across a team clearly lacking confidence in recent weeks - senior players like Jack Cook (above), Adrian Mariappa, Craig Eastmond, Alex Dyer and the aforementioned Kretzschmar must represent that

much needed spine/core of the team and stand up during the stern examinations we face. Similarly, we'll need a bit of agility about us tactically and that comes from the management team.

We've still not really seen a settled side or patterns of play and Neil Gibson and Lee Jones will need more than just a hopeful Plan A if we're going to do anything but roll over in those games against the promotion hopefuls. The new arrivals in the squad will give them more options both in personnel and tactics.

Season	No. Teams	Teams	Points	PRISU
23-24	24	20 - York City	53	53
		21 - Boreham Wood (R)	52	
22-23	24	20 - Maidenhead United	50	49
		21 - Torquay United (R)	48	
21-22	23	20 - Aldershot Town	43	35
		21 - Kings Lynn Town (R)	34	
20-21	22	20 - Woking	33	32
		21 - Kings Lynn Town	31	
19-20	24	20 - Chesterfield	44	42
		21 - Maidenhead United	41	
18-19	24	20 - Boreham Wood	52	45
		21 - Aldershot Town	44	
17-18	24	20 - Barrow	49	49
		21 - Woking (R)	48	
16-17	24	20 - Guiseley	51	51
		21 - York City (R)	50	
15-16	24	20 - Guiseley	49	49
		21 - Halifax Town (R)	48	
14-15	24	20 - Welling United	45	45
		21 - Alfreton Town (R)	45	

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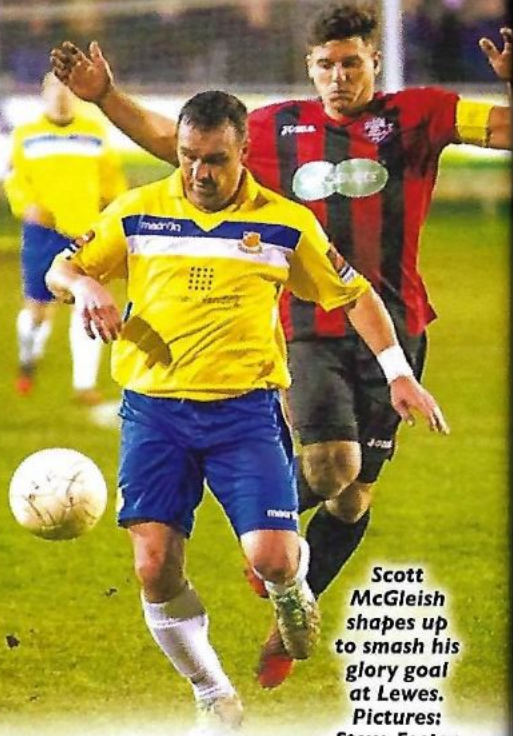
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On this Day TIM PARKS HOPS INTO HIS

11 years ago, when Scott McGleish was only 41 and in his prime, he went to Lewes and scored the 'best goal you have never seen'



Scott McGleish shapes up to smash his glory goal at Lewes. Pictures: Steve Foster

TUESDAY MARCH 25 2014, RYMAN LEAGUE PREM DIVISION: LEWES 0 WEALDSTONE 3:

THE SPRING of 2014 was a great time to be a Stones fan: we were playing Saturday-Monday-Saturday-Tuesday-Saturday-Monday (and even with the occasional county cup match on a Thursday) for 10 weeks, and won virtually every game!

From trailing the powerful Maidstone and Dulwich sides by a few points at the turn of the year we were suddenly catapulted a dozen points clear at the top of the Ryman Prem table with games in hand... and the trip down to deepest Sussex to face Lewes somehow summed up the invincibility of Gordon Bartlett's side 11 years ago.

"It was a hectic schedule but you never feel tired when you are winning" said the Stones' iconic striker Scott McGleish when I spoke to him last week. He was the person I really wanted to ask about that game as he scored one of the greatest Wealdstone goals of all time... but it wasn't preserved on film or video!

"I know, the best-goal you've never seen" laughed Scottie when I pressed him for details of that stunning strike.

I'd not seen it either: The game was one of half a dozen matches rained off at the last minute in a desperately wet January, and I wasn't able to make the midweek trip when it was re-arranged.

Though we still had 120-odd travelling fans in the crowd of 356 in the picturesque surrounds of the Dripping Pan.

There were plenty of gloating comments on social media later that night as the clinching third goal was pored over by those lucky enough to have witnessed it. The official match report merely talks of "35 yards out on the right, with one touch, his shot curled into the top corner leaving goalkeeper Rikki Banks helpless".

So let's ask Scottie, who has the remarkable distinction of being the only outfield player in British football to have featured in over 1,000 competitive matches. He's also scored 358 goal, for clubs as diverse as Charlton Athletic, Orient, Peterborough, Colchester, Northampton, Bristol Rovers,

TIME MACHINE AND RECALLS LEWES AWAY, 25 MARCH 2014...

Wycombe Wanderers, Barnet, Chesham.... and so on and so on.

He totalled 112 appearances and 44 goals for the Stones. And he was top scorer this 2013-14 season with 23 goals. And I recall him scoring a sumptuous overhead kick to win a tight game at high-flying Kingstonian in December. So was the goal at Lewes really the best?

"Blimey, yes" said Scott. "It was the timing more than anything. We'd had all those tough games in quick succession and were desperate to win the league and go up automatically, after the heartbreak of the play-offs the previous year.

"So although we were 2-0 up at Lewes going into the last third of the game (Tom Pett and Luke Pigden with the goals) they were pressing strongly and might have made it 2-1. Then Wes Parker, I think, or maybe Jimmy Hammond played a ball into the channel to the right of the box and I was being chased and closed down by a defender... I knew I had to hit the ball early and it arrived right at the angle of the 18-yard box, sitting up perfectly.

"I didn't have the legs to do much else so I just struck the ball as hard as I could and it sailed beautifully over keeper Rikki Banks, who'd played for us the previous season,

and pinged off the far post, just under the bar and bounced back into the middle of the net. You could hear the noise as it went in off the post and it killed the game, there and then.

"Sometimes it's good to play games thick and fast as you have a good momentum when you're winning".

We had lost successive league games at home to Hampton and then at Canvey Island at the turn of the year - but then, until the surprise defeat at the Met Police in April we won 13 and drew 4 of the next 17 games! The title was in the bag.

Scott was a huge part of that extraordinary Wealdstone team and he says that he'd never been part of such a tight-knit group before. "Every one of those 20-odd players contributed to the success; none of us felt like we were just bit parts".

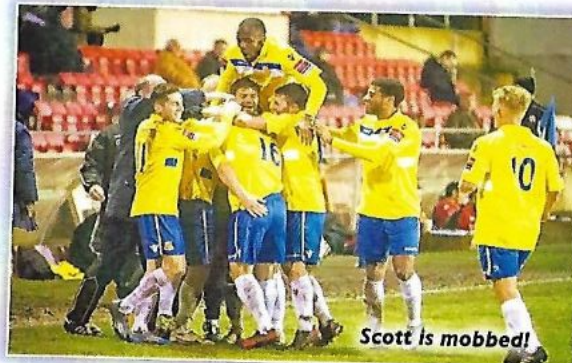
He had just turned 40 that season but there was no doubt that he could still score goals at that

level. He'd been lured across from fellow Ryman side Enfield Town where he'd scored 12 goals in 13 games - and he was still potent in his mid-40s as the Stones established themselves in the National League South, especially alongside his fellow semi-octogenarian Jefferson Louis!

"Jeff kept changing his age but I'm sure he was a bit older than me!"

Now at the age of 51, Scott still turns up wearing his boots as assistant manager to Fergus Moore at Leverstock Green in the Southern League Division One Central Division. Levy are struggling in their first season at that level but have an exciting addition to their squad: Stones loanee Jeffrey Sekyere who scored one goal and assisted two others in the 4-1 win at Enfield last weekend.

"I'd like to pass on some of my knowledge to Jeff, who had a terrific second half after an apprehensive start, but it's so hard getting the players together at training when they are all working and, in Jeffrey's case, travelling up from South London by



Scott is mobbed!

public transport. But he's showing a lot of promise".

Scott now works full time for the Professional Footballers' Association (having been part-time during his non League career) and looks after seven pro clubs with special focus on their players'

brain health.

"There is growing attention now on dementia among ex and current players, and related causes" he says. "It used to be thought that the older, heavier balls was the biggest culprit but now the lighter balls travel much faster so there is now no difference between the damage that can be caused."

Scottie, of course, spent his whole career heading the ball - and even had his head split open by a challenge at Hayes & Yeading ten years ago. "I had stitches put in. wore a bandage and was back playing a week later. I wouldn't advise players to do that these days!"

Wealdstone line-up at Lewes: Jonathan North, James Hammond, Jerome Okimo, Wes Parker, Sean Cronin, Elliott Godfrey, Carl McCluskey (sub Scott McGubbin), Luke Pigden, Scott McGleish (Lewis Putman), Charlie Penny (Jey Siva), Tom Pett. Unused: Michael Malcolm, Tom Hamblin



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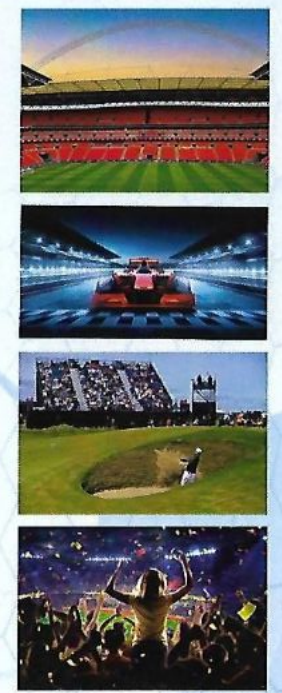


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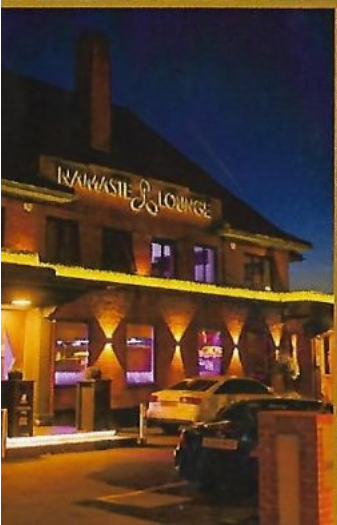
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Dominic Hutchinson APA Events & Security	17	Christian Scott The 3 Amigos (John, James & Victor)	18	Adrian Mariappa Sudhir, Akhil, Nikhil, Sarin & Kamran Rawal	19	Adrian Mariappa Watford Stones (JP, Scott & Luca).	19
Sam Ashford Jim Sorrell	20	Kallum Cesay Matthew Snell	21	Elliot Thorpe The Taffia	26	Jaydn Mundle-Smith Syl Allen	23
Henry Sandat Sponsorship available	24	Jack Wells-Morrison Sponsorship available	25	Callum McFarlane Sponsorship available	29	Brandon Mason Mike & Val Weston	32

The Football Foundation is the Premier League, The FA and the Government's charity.

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SUPPORT THE STONES HERE AT HOME AND ACROSS ENGLAND


Coming up here at The Vale >



ALDERSHOT TOWN
Vanarama National League
Tuesday
25th March
7:45pm




BOSTON UNITED
Vanarama National League
Tuesday
1st April
7:45pm




FOREST GREEN ROVERS
Vanarama National League
Saturday
5th April
3:00pm

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE - TABLE AS AT 18TH MARCH	ALL					HOME					AWAY					GD		Pts		STONES RESULTS		
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F	A	A	H	A	H	A	
1 Barnet	38	26	7	5	80	32	19	16	3	0	49	12	19	10	4	5	31	20	48	85	0-3	0
2 York City	37	22	8	7	69	35	19	13	3	3	44	17	18	9	5	4	25	18	34	74	0-2	0
3 Forest Green Rovers	38	19	15	4	59	32	19	12	7	0	31	14	19	7	8	4	28	18	27	72	0	2-2
4 Oldham Athletic	38	16	15	7	55	40	19	8	6	5	28	20	19	8	9	2	27	20	15	63	0-1	2-3
5 Halifax Town	37	17	11	9	46	34	19	8	5	6	21	18	18	9	6	3	25	16	12	62	0	2-2
6 Gateshead	38	17	9	12	66	52	19	10	3	6	34	25	19	7	6	6	32	27	14	60	0-4	0-1
7 Rochdale	35	16	8	11	51	33	18	10	3	5	30	16	17	6	5	6	21	17	18	56	2-0	1-4
8 Altrincham	37	15	10	12	57	47	18	8	6	4	29	15	19	7	4	8	28	32	10	55	3-3	1-0
9 Southend United	37	13	14	10	48	42	19	8	6	5	29	23	18	5	8	5	19	9	6	53	1-1	0
10 Eastleigh	38	13	14	11	52	47	19	8	8	3	32	22	19	5	6	8	20	25	5	53	3-3	1-1
11 Tamworth	38	13	12	13	50	58	19	7	8	4	29	21	19	6	4	9	21	37	-8	51	0-1	1-4
12 Sutton United	37	13	11	13	49	50	18	6	5	7	23	24	19	7	6	6	26	26	-1	50	0-1	2-2
13 Solihull Moors	37	13	8	16	53	55	19	7	4	8	30	33	18	6	4	8	23	22	-2	47	1-1	1-1
14 Aldershot Town	36	11	13	12	55	57	18	7	7	4	33	28	18	4	6	8	22	29	-2	46		2-0
15 Hartlepool United	38	10	16	12	44	48	19	5	10	4	18	17	19	5	6	8	26	31	-4	46	1-1	1-1
16 Yeovil Town	38	12	10	16	41	51	19	5	6	8	20	23	19	7	4	8	21	28	-10	46	0-3	2-1
17 Braintree Town	38	12	9	17	42	50	19	7	4	8	15	16	19	5	5	9	27	34	-8	45	3-2	2-1
18 Woking	36	9	14	13	38	50	17	7	5	8	18	18	19	2	9	8	20	32	-12	41	0	0-1
19 Dagenham & Redbridge	38	9	12	17	49	56	19	6	5	8	35	33	19	3	7	9	14	23	-7	39	3-0	1-2
20 Wealdstone	36	9	12	15	46	61	17	5	5	7	22	28	19	4	7	8	24	33	-15	39	--	--
21 Boston United	36	9	10	17	39	53	18	2	7	9	18	29	18	7	3	8	21	24	-14	37	0	0
22 Maidenhead United	38	10	7	21	43	69	19	5	5	9	23	32	19	5	2	12	20	37	-26	37	1-0	1-3
23 AFC Fylde	37	10	6	21	43	70	19	7	4	8	31	32	18	3	2	13	12	38	-27	36	1-0	0-2
24 Ebbsfleet United	38	2	11	25	27	80	19	2	6	11	12	32	19	0	5	14	15	48	-53	17	4-2	2-2


Follow the Stones on the road >



YORK CITY
Vanarama National League
Saturday
29th March
3:00pm



BARNET
Vanarama National League
Saturday
12th April
12:30PM



BOSTON UNITED
Vanarama National League
Good Friday
18th April
3:00pm



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MAINTAINING THE PAST

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