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How do you like us now?

STONES MOVE INTO THE PLAY-OFF PLACES

WATT'S OCCURING:

"I SAID DON'T TALK S*!"**

PLUS: STONES WOMEN HEAD FOR PLYMOUTH

THE STONES QUIZ: A YEAR IN THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

ALEX'S CORNER: WHEN ADMIN GOES ROGUE

ALAN THATCHER'S NON-LEAGUE ROUND-UP

THE BACK PAGE: GOSSIP, RUMOURS AND LIES

The Back Page is a new, independent news resource covering Maidstone United.

The team is a mixture of professional journalists, experienced amateurs and aspiring newcomers.

We aim to offer previews, reports, features, rumours and more.

If you'd like to contribute, please contact the editor on info@back-page-media.co.uk

Editor: Fred Atkins

Web Partner: Paul Furst

Video partner: Walnut Media

Contributors: Alex del Valle, Jurgen Dahmer, Nhan Thien Nguyen, Joe Parkhouse, Sean Scurr, Nigel Seager, Darren Styles, Alan Thatcher, John Tully

Pictures: Helen Cooper & Steve Terrell

Contact:
info@back-page-media.co.uk

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John Gilbert celebrates the first of his two goals at Farnborough, after a perfectly timed "arrive" in the box. Deon Moore burst into the area, the keeper rushed in, Gilbert lost his marker and the ball was in the net. Full report pages 6&7.

Resurgent Stones leave marks on Spencer

**FARNBOROUGH 0
MAIDSTONE UNITED 2**

Gilbert 11, 64
Attendance: 938
(unsegregated)

By Fred Atkins

Farnborough has a fair amount in common with the 'Stone: Suburban town, about the same distance from London, chequered footballing history and roundabouts so lethal they might have been designed by the IDF.

As a club they seem to be where we were a month ago: listing, sinking down the table, shipping bad goals every week and questioning their recruitment during the summer.

Yes, they were bad, but how much of that was down to the fact we've become half-decent over the last month or so? Some of this might be down to playing relatively weak opponents, but a lot of it is down to two very good loan signings. Plus, Sam Corne is "so back" and Gilbert is arriving in the right places at the right times.

"It's a bit early to be launching HMS Piss The League, but after Horsham things looked bleak, so let's enjoy it while it lasts ..."

It's a bit early to be getting ready to sail HMS Piss The League, but after the Horsham game things looked bleak so we may as well enjoy this for however long it lasts.

Cherrywood Road, incidentally, is only five miles from Ash United, where we played an infamous FA Cup tie around 20 years ago to the backdrop of a lone nutter shouting the letters A-S-H-U-N-I-T-E-D for the entire 180 minutes of both games. Cherrywood Road is a different kettle of poissos.

The highest level it's hosted is the Conference, but it's as good as some grounds in the 92 and has some fans who are nearly as committed as our old friend from down the road.



1-0. Gilbert leaps for joy after tapping in the opener.

A woman in her fifties was particularly vocal, yelling like a singer in an AC/DC tribute act. You couldn't fault her enthusiasm. Every time, and I mean literally every time, a player went down, she yelled: "MEDIC!" Whenever the ball was kicked out of the ground she let rip with: "CAN WEEEE HAVE OUR BALL BACK PLEEEASE?" At half-time she explained to her neighbour, "I just like shouting." And to be fair to her, she never turned on the Boro, unlike a few other Main Standers, who were wondering if

Farnborough were ever going to have a shot. They looked like a poor team. We were all over them like a cheap suit, pretty much from the start, with Moore heavily involved. He laid a Corne cross straight into the path of Tanga, who shot just over, then set up the opener for Gilbert, roasting a very raggy Omar, getting the ball as it looked as if it was going out and then pulling it back for Gilbert, whose marker's indecision gave him all the time he needed for an easy tap-in.



Sesay gave Omar a Sharif difficulty throughout the first half



2-0, and Farnborough's admin prepares to file a grievance.

Spencer Day admitted afterwards they were lucky to only be a goal down at half-time. Moore somehow missed twice from close range after a Papadopoulos cross and was then denied a penalty, perhaps because the ref was playing advantage and Fowler shot just wide, although that wasn't clear.

The fact that Farnborough's own highlights package produced a slow-mo of a member of the Main Stand heading a clearance demonstrated roughly how well their half went, as did Day's decision to withdraw Omar, who'd picked up a yellow card, not even waiting until the interval because he looked such a liability.

Their only serious chance came around five minutes after the restart, when Harness spilled a long-range effort and the rebound was blocked, either by Harness himself, or by the backside of the stricken number nine (the replays weren't entirely clear).

And just after the hour it was 2-0. Tanga switched the ball to Papadopoulos, he broke into the right side of the box and Gilbert was the first of three Maidstone players queueing up to turn in his cross.

From then on we killed the game fairly effectively, although at one point Elokobi started bawling out Leo Hamblin and then yelled "Do your fucking job!" at Foran when he tried

to take the blame. It was an isolated moment.

Well before the end the natives were revolting, angry at the total lack of threat they were posing. What did it feel like? It felt almost exactly like the end of the Maidenhead game, not even a month ago. Since then we've taken seven points from nine and but for a scuffed penalty it would have been a full house.

The hardcore on the far terrace were

singing "We want Spencer out" and even our friend with the AC-DC voice seemed to have lost the faith, offering her congratulations before she left, slightly dejectedly.

Day's interview was interesting, as he blamed himself for the players he'd signed. As he's apparently also an investor, replacing him is likely to be about as easy as trying to get to the M3 from their ground, without some raging nonce in a Jaguar trying to wipe you out at a roundabout. Cheers.



Full-time and the team take some fully deserved plaudits from the travelling contingent.

Home Park awaits after Foresters are felled

MAIDSTONE UNITED 6
Campbell, Pearch,
Manktelow 2, Culpitt, Dale
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
FORESTERS 1

By John Tully

The Stones women warmed up for their daunting trip to Plymouth Argyle on Sunday by felling Tunbridge Wells Foresters 6-1 at the Gallagher Stadium.

It was a confident and ruthless performance in the South East Counties Women's League with goals coming from player-manager Tori Campbell, Georgia Pearch, Kylie Manktelow (2), Georgia Culpitt and Maddie Dale.

The result made it 20 goals in their first three league games and Tori herself scored the opening goal after just 30 seconds!

The league form has matched their Cup exploits with a recent 4-2 win over Badshot Lea, a team from two leagues above, earning a glamour away tie in the first round of the Adobe Women's FA Cup.

The team make the long trip to the West Country to tackle Plymouth Argyle in their 17,000-capacity Home Park stadium on Sunday.

History is being made as this is the first time the Stones have reached this stage of the Cup as the modern, reinvented club (the old club reached this stage in 1999).

The match represents a huge challenge as Plymouth are four tiers higher than the Stones and have started this year's campaign strongly.

They have lost only once and conceded just three goals in the League in eight games. On Sunday they showed their strength on the road by winning 3-0 at Watford.

The Stones will need to be on top form and have a good share of luck to progress, but, as the men showed at Ipswich two years ago, anything is possible.



Previous Maidstone sides have made it all the way to the FA Cup semi-finals. See Sean Scurr's article on the club's website for more details.

Manktelow will be looking to add to her magnificent goal tally of six so far in this season's cup competition.

Tori and her coaching team will have left nothing to chance in their preparation and if enthusiasm and effort are anything to go by the Stones have a chance of progressing.

After Sunday's win, she told Stones TV's Sean Scurr: "It was vital that we went in and continued to build on the momentum we have created in the past few weeks.

"Foresters are a fantastic team and it took a lot for us to break them down. In some areas they were better than us and it took a lot of work to settle it back down and we got there in the end. We needed that win going into the Plymouth game and that's what was important."

As for her early strike, she added: "It was brilliant build-up play down the right-hand side by Chi Madamombe. When the cross came in the ball actually struck my stomach and I wasn't convinced it was going to go over the line so I thought I'd better dive and head it to make sure."

As for goal hero Kylie, she added: "We have a handful of players who are vital to us and for Kylie to score two in the league is fantastic and what she deserves. Let's hope she continues on her FA Cup journey and can score some more at Plymouth."

After thanking the fans for turning out in such terrible weather, she hoped to see a few of them travelling to support the team in Plymouth.

"We look into every team we play, look at the players and the stats, and the video footage. We know they are four leagues above us and have plenty of international players so we know how tough it will be.

"But we're not going to change too much. We will go out there and enjoy the occasion and dig and dig."

As Tori said, the main objective is to enjoy the occasion and continue to make the club proud.

Men's first team manager George Elokobi is full of praise for Tori's achievements so far and sent his best wishes to the squad.

"Oh mate ..." When a club admin goes rogue

By Alex Del-Valle

Having now done some of the tweets (if that's what we still call them) from The Back Page socials for a little while now, I know first hand how difficult it is on a match day to give quick and precise updates on the game.

I think it's quite an underrated and unappreciated task that football page admins up and down the country dedicate their Saturday afternoons to the job, week in, week out.

Indeed, some of these tweets do end up going "viral", even in the non-league world. Not always for the right reasons, however. This weekend of National League South football provided us two fantastic examples of that – one of which directly involved our beloved club, Maidstone United.

I'll start with the other one, however: You may have seen Chelmsford's "50/50" red card challenge.

Chelmsford hosted Worthing last Saturday and ultimately suffered defeat. In the 43rd minute, Addai (the Chelmsford Keeper) was sent off for the hosts, which according to the Chelmsford socials was a "harsh" red given the "50/50" nature of the challenge.

"In the 43rd minute, Addai, the Chelmsford keeper, was sent off for a challenge which, according to their socials, was harsh ..."

What followed were quoted tweets with the real story. Foot to face, nowhere near the ball. It was quite amusing actually – the sheer polar opposite of tweet vs. reality.

The result was over 1.5 million interactions on "X" – as I said, going viral for all the wrong reasons.

Chelmsford wasn't the only club in that boat last weekend, however. Farnborough FC joined them after their 0-2 home defeat to Maidstone.

This tweet actually came the day after the game, when you would've thought the dust had settled.



Farnborough's tweet about Gilbert's second goal ended up getting "ratio-ed". As the kids say.

However, an apparently, unhappy owner of said club decided that enough was enough, VAR was coming to the National League South.

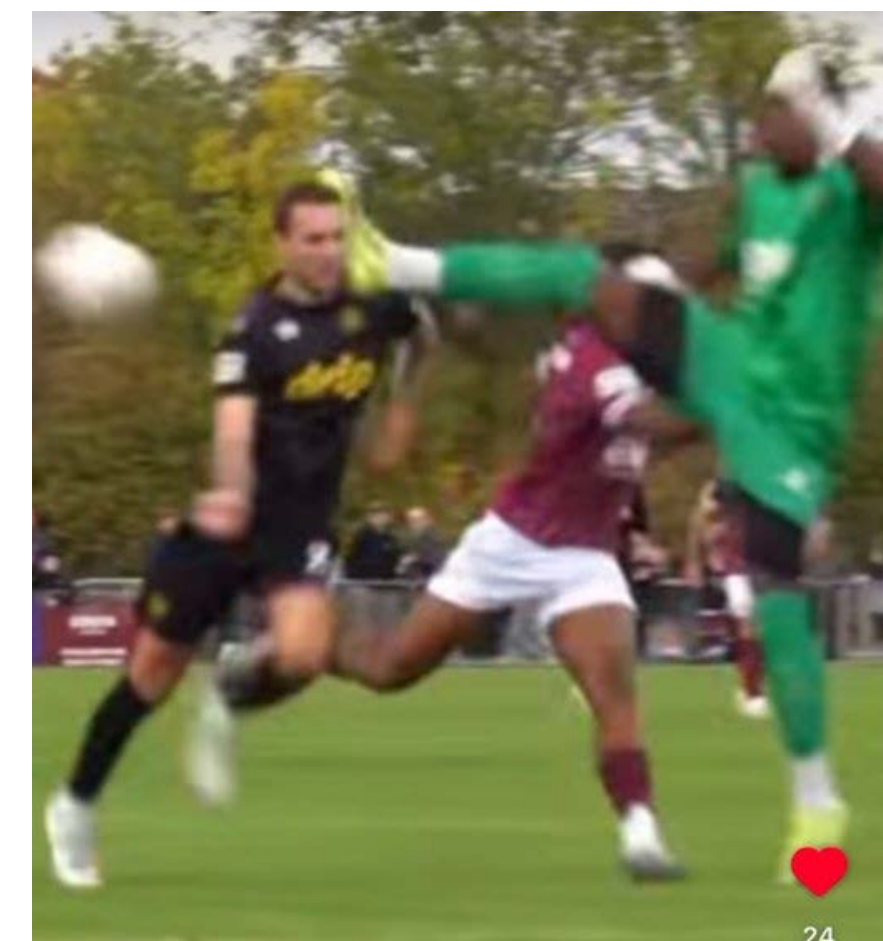
What followed, was a screenshot of the defensive line for Maidstone's second goal – and a very conspicuous black line drawn.

The rationale? To apparently show that Gilbert was offside for his second of the afternoon. Again, it was quite amusing. Not only is it something that no

one really cares about in the grand scheme of things (Maidstone never looked like losing), but deciding to tweet that? Really?

Football is a game of passion, of course. But sometimes we have to be careful in letting that get the better of us and saying/doing something we might regret.

I think in the cases of Chelmsford and Farnborough, they may have failed on this occasion.



"Ok it's high, but the game's gone if that's a red..."

Previously, on 'Jazz Club'



1-0. Tanga steers Gilbert's cross past a stranded Sandford in the tenth minute.

By Fred Atkins

The last time we saw Tommy Widdrington it was nearly a decade ago, as he walked across the turf at Whatman Way towards the dressing rooms. He'd been sent off, but rather than quietly duck the other side of the fence, the bejacketed Eastbourne manager strode proudly through the field of play, like a man who'd just been thrown out of a jazz club.

Much has happened in the decade since we last met, but Tommy is now back with the Borough, charged with turning round a cruise liner that seemed to be heading straight for the Fjords until Saturday's win at Maidenhead.

In fact quite a lot has happened since we last met the Borough back in May. Of the squads for the play-off semi-final, just three players remain with Eastbourne, compared to Maidstone's four, showing the growing level of player churn at this level. (Trusty and Sesay have swapped sides).

Eastbourne are also on their third manager. The ex-Sutton supremo Matt Gray seemed like a sensible choice

MAIDSTONE UNITED 3
Tanga 10, Moore 18,
Golding 85
EASTBOURNE BOROUGH 0
Attendance: 1,748
(unsegregated)

when he took over from Adam Murray, the man whose tactics tipped that semi-final in our favour, but he's been sacked already and Widdrington is back, a week after he stepped down at Aldershot.

"Widdrington might have been wondering what had happened to the atmosphere since his cross-pitch flounce a decade ago ..."

Gray and Murray were both tracksuit men. Widdrington is one of a dying breed of managers who still turns up to work in a suit, but he was probably wondering what he'd let himself in for as his reportedly expensive squad

struggle to make any impact.

He might also have been wondering what had happened to the atmosphere since his cross-pitch flounce a decade ago, when the home fans lapped up his strut to the dressing room.

It was quiet and the crowd seemed subdued, a likely consequence of a poor home record. We'd played well at both Dagenham and Farnborough but there were maybe only 200 of us there and there didn't seem to be a huge amount of optimism in the ground at kick-off.

It was down to the players to generate a bit of excitement and, on that count, they couldn't be faulted. For the first time since the Hampton game we dominated a visiting team.

Moore toiled against Chesham but was far better at Farnborough and was a menace again on Tuesday night. If his finishing improves he could be another Amantchi and on another night he might have had a hat-trick.

Tanga is also starting to look like the player we knew 18 months ago before



2-0. Moore heads in from Papadopoulos's cross.

he was lobotomised by a year at Stonebridge Road and, after Moore had an early angled effort saved, it was he who shot us in front.

Bramble fed Papadopoulos, who drilled the ball across goal to Gilbert. With the angle against him he pulled it back for Tanga, who picked his spot to make it 1-0.

Eight minutes later it was 2-0, with the Greek Baggio again the provider, this time via a cross of such violence that it almost pinged off Moore's head and into the net.

Eastbourne looked a significantly better side than Farnborough and might have pulled one back if Anifowose hadn't dithered a few

minutes later, the XG figure dwindling to almost zero by the time he actually pulled the trigger.

It was 2-0 at the break and although Eastbourne enjoyed more of the possession they seldom looked threatening.

A couple of long-balls caused confusion but Harness was decisive on both occasions and the game drifted, which was exactly what we wanted it to do.

As a spectacle it could have been more exciting and midway through the half around 20 of our younger fans filed all the way from the Elvis End to the Town End, where they tried to get a rise out of the maybe 20

Borough fans huddled there.

It was all a bit half-hearted. As a contest it needed an Eastbourne goal to liven it up a bit, but from our point of view we needed a third to kill them off. Golding, who like Moore hadn't had a lot of joy against Chesham, took his moment like a proper centre-forward, outmuscling his marker and sticking the ball to Sandford's left to effectively kill things off.

Papadopoulos nearly made it 4-0 just before he was subbed and that wouldn't have flattered us. The win means we've now taken 10 points from the last 12 and are into the play-off places. Who would have predicted that a month ago?



3-0. Whatever a plomb is, Golding just finished with it.

Upcoming Commentaries

Slough Town (A) Sat 25 October 2025: 1500 – Fred Atkins & Sean Scurr

Tonbridge Angels (H) Sat 1st November 2025: 1500 – Fred Atkins & Nigel Seager

Gravesend & Northfleet (A) Tue 4th November: 1945 – TBC

Chippenham Town (H) Sat 8th November: 1500 – Darren Styles and Alex Del-Valle

Dorking Wanderers (A) Sat 22nd November: 1500 Alan Thatcher and Alex Del-Valle

Enfield Town (A) Tue 25th November: 1945 – Fred Atkins & Sean Scurr

Salisbury (H) Sat 29 November: 1500 – Chris Bechervaise & Sean Scurr

Stones Live! has been providing radio commentaries of Maidstone United matches since the 2008 –09 season, way back when the club was a fraction of the size it is now, playing to crowds of 200 in Sittingbourne.

Founded by Stones fan Chris Bechervaise, its audiences grew steadily at first and then rapidly when the club returned home after the end of its 24-year exile in 2012. The Back Page editor, Fred Atkins, is a regular commentator, as are a number of this publication's contributors.



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Postecoglou had it easy compared to **Steve Watt** at Billericay. He talks Tamplin, tactics and the Stones' recent improvement in his Back Page column

...



Watt's Occurring?

Big Ange brought back memories of Billericay

The least surprising news of the weekend was that Ange Postecoglou had been sacked by Nottingham Forest. He got offered the job because the owner had fallen out with the previous manager and he would have gone into that situation knowing exactly what kind of environment it was, so it wasn't as if he was going somewhere like Liverpool, where there's steady ownership. Every week you hear nonsense like Gary Neville getting banned because he's said something slightly critical, so you know what you're getting yourself into.

This was pretty much what happened to me when I went to Billericay: I actually lost two jobs in one day and didn't set foot in either of them! After Jay was sacked, I managed Maidstone for three games, but on the Monday night after we'd played Salford I was called and told my services wouldn't be needed any more because they'd appointed Harry Wheeler, who'd previously been at Billericay.

This wasn't officially announced till the Tuesday morning and maybe 30 minutes or an hour after the news broke, Glenn Tamplin called me because he needed to replace Wheeler. Now obviously I was a bit wary, because you do hear stories,

but I asked a mate of mine who's now working as an assistant manager with a Football League club and he said: "Why not? If you go and do well, you get the praise and if it doesn't go well, he'll get the blame." There was a great squad of players, so I thought all right, I'll go in and give it a go and if I don't like it, I'll leave.

Now I'm a firm believer that managers should run the team as they see fit. Signings are different because you need to sit down as a club and assess the age and types of players you need, but ultimately picking the team, training and such has got to be done by the manager personally, in my opinion.

I agreed this with Glenn, but I also told him I'd had words with Wheeler on the touchline when he was managing Billericay and I was in charge of Margate. I hadn't said anything about Glenn or Billericay, but I thought he should hear it from me in case someone brought it up. He was fine with it, told me to come in on the Thursday to meet the players and added me to some WhatsApp groups. I then spoke to the kit man about a few things, but at about 8pm that night, one of the players put a message in the group chat saying: "Thanks for everything, it's been a pleasure working

"I said: 'Don't talk shit. I've worked hard to have a respectable, honest name in football and I don't need people like you, who don't know me, making up stuff that's not true'."

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with you."

I knew straight away what had happened so I just replied: Boys, it's been an absolute pleasure, you're the best set of players I've ever worked with and I wish you all the best for the rest of the season." Then I left the group. Someone had raked up the row and invented a few things, so I lost a job I never actually had. I rang the individual in question up and said: "Don't talk shit. I've worked hard to have a respectable, honest name in football and I don't need people like you, who don't know me, making up stuff that's not true." He ended up apologising to me.

In the heat of a battle you will end up having rows with managers. He's trying to win and so am I.

Sometimes you will have a beer afterwards and it's forgotten, but not always. At one Kent ground a coach was once so disrespectful about my team that I went to his manager and said: "You need to sort him out, because I'm not going to put up with this for much longer."

I never heard another word from him, but when he came to shake my hand after the game I said no.

Experience key to upsurge in Stones' form

Did I know something no-one else did when I backed George Elokobi to turn it around a month ago? No I didn't - it's just football and we all know that bad spells don't last forever. George had been through similar spells previously and I fully expected him to do the same.

It might be slightly different if you were a manager that isn't used to spells like that and, if you don't have that experience, you might struggle. I could imagine managers that are not accustomed to that may struggle in those moments but he's navigated it quite well. You also can't underestimate the importance of just one player in a squad if it's the right player, with the right mentality, in areas where you may be lacking a little bit.

Most games are won in both boxes. It's about how you defend one and how creative and ruthless you are in the other. If you can get those two areas right, you put yourself in a great position to win games of football and obviously that's proved to be the case here.

A run-in with Harry Wheeler during a Margate v Billericay game had consequences a few months later



Reader's question: Why does everyone seem to have all 11 players in the box at corners now? Surely you'd be better off leaving someone up? **Jurgen Dahmer, Maidstone.**

I think that's partly because corners now, particularly at the higher level, are so detailed that they feel they need everyone back in their box. I'm not a fan of it and I always leave one up, but if I'm playing against a team that's really dangerous at corners, I may look at it.

I treat every team differently but I would say nine times out of ten, I'll have one player up. You can also counter from the edge of the box and not just boom it to one player up against two defenders at the other end. From a defensive point of view, I'm

never a fan of keeping everyone back in my box because I think you're inviting an extra body in your box in that respect, but it's football, it's opinions. I like to at least leave some sort of threat outside the box, and back my defenders and my organisation in the box to do its job.

I generally think in the Premier League it's because of the threat at set-pieces. Arsenal is a great example of it. Everyone's at the back post and then they come charging at the front post. It's very successful and obviously clubs feel like they need to flood the front post area to defend it.

If you have a question for Steve email us at info@back-page-media.co.uk or contact us via the socials.



George Elokobi on Tuesday night: Knowing how to navigate bad spells is invaluable experience for a manager

Slough have a Weston against new leaders

By Alan Thatcher

Weston-super-Mare overhauled unbeaten Hornchurch at the top of the Enterprise National League South after slamming **Slough Town** 5-1 on Tuesday.

Hornchurch were without a game in midweek and Weston took full advantage. They were already 4-1 up when Slough's Harvey Walker was sent off.

The Urchins maintained their unbeaten run on Saturday after netting a 97th minute winner against **Bath City** to make it 3-2.

Will Jenkins-Davies thought he had bagged a point for Bath when he equalised on 90 minutes but Darren McQueen struck deep into added time for Hornchurch.

After losing 1-0 at **Chesham United** on Saturday, **Torquay United** toppled bottom of the table **Chippenham** 3-0 on Tuesday to reclaim third place as **AFC Totton** lost 2-0 at **Bath City**.

Ebbsfleet United and **Tonbridge Angels** are in the bottom half of the table after the Fleet were well beaten by Enfield Town. The Angels fought back to record a draw at **Maidenhead** but are still in 16th place.

Let's hear it for Lamar Reynolds, who scored twice on Tuesday as **Enfield Town** sank **Ebbsfleet** 3-1 to move his side out of the relegation zone.

The bottom four are **Dagenham and Redbridge**, **Farnborough**, **Eastbourne Borough** and **Chippenham Town**. All four lost on Tuesday.

Tommy Widdrington led **Eastbourne** to a 1-0 win at **Maidenhead** on his return to the club on Saturday, after being enticed away from Aldershot. Freddie Carter was the hero, clearing the ball off the line at one end in the 62nd minute and racing upfield to score the winner two minutes later.

Worthing enjoyed two big away wins at **Chelmsford** and **Chesham**. The Chelmsford game attracted 1,838 spectators but Worthing were in front inside nine minutes through Joel Colbran. Jack Barham limped off after 20 minutes with a knock but Lyle Taylor equalised with a superb free kick. Chelmsford dominated play and hit the bar but the match turned when home goalkeeper Dillon Addai was sent off for a high challenge on Worthing's Teddy Jenks. The Worthing website reported: "Just before the break, a moment of madness from Addai resulted in the Bromley loanee being given his marching orders. A long ball forward towards the advanced Teddy



Lucas is on the move again

Jenks caused the goalkeeper to intervene as he was caught outside of his area. His studs caught the face of Jenks which left referee Jordan Crossley with a simple decision to make and a red card was swiftly brandished."

In a reshuffle, former Worthing keeper Chris Haigh came on as substitute but after 58 minutes he was beaten by Harry Ransom for the Rebels' winner. Jack Spong scored both goals as Worthing won 2-1 at Chesham on Tuesday to underscore the impact boss Adam Hinshelwood has made on his return to Woodside Road.

Lucas Covolan is a free agent again after Wealdstone signed former Arsenal and Manchester United goalkeeper Hubert Graczyk.

Folkestone Invicta's first home game of the season on the new 3G pitch at the Alcaline Stadium finished as a 2-2 draw against Dulwich Hamlet with both goals from Joe Pigott in front of a crowd of 1,379. Folkestone followed that up by crushing Lewes 6-0 on Tuesday night with Pigott and Kevin Lokko both scoring, watched by 944 fans.

Third-placed Chatham drew 3-3 with Cray Wanderers, one place behind them, on Saturday with a crowd of 1,508 at the Bauvill Stadium. Chats drew 0-0 at home to Dulwich in midweek, with Wanderers sharing the

points 1-1 with St Albans.

In the National League, **Boreham Wood** were held 2-2 at **York**. Matt Rush scored both of Wood's goals, poaching the first inside two minutes and restoring the lead in the second half after Alex Newby equalised just before the break.

In front of a crowd of 5,193, the 46 travelling Boreham Wood fans were beginning to celebrate three points when Ryan Fallowfield headed home a cross from substitute Ben Brookes in the 89th minute. Wood are two points behind leaders Rochdale, who have two games in hand. Levi Amantchi's role at Rochdale these days seems to be as an impact player coming off the bench.

How about this for an amazing comeback? **Guernsey FC** were 5-1 down at **Shoreham** inside 40 minutes, but the away side went on to stage the greatest comeback in their history to claim a 7-6 victory in the Southern Combination Premier Division. Incredibly, after going 6-5 behind, Shoreham drew level before Guernsey grabbed the winner 12 minutes from time. The game broke Guernsey FC's previous record of 11 goals in a game which had happened three times in their history, most recently a club-record 11-0 win over Crawley Down Gatwick in January 2014. Record scorer Ross Allen, who netted six goals that day, set up the winner at Shoreham for Sam Murray.



Physical and mental fitness for the over 50s

Walking football is a growing sport for men aged 50 and upwards. It offers a multitude of health benefits to older people such as reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease and stroke while improving blood pressure resting heart rate and lowered cholesterol – all indicators of general good health.

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Fridays 18:45 - 20:30

Venue: YMCA Centre Melrose Close, Cripple Street, Maidstone ME15 6BD

stonesinthecommunity.org



CONFERENCE SOUTH
TO LEAGUE TWO =
PROGRESS

PACIFIC
SWINGS

パシフィック・スイングス | 퍼시픽 스윙스

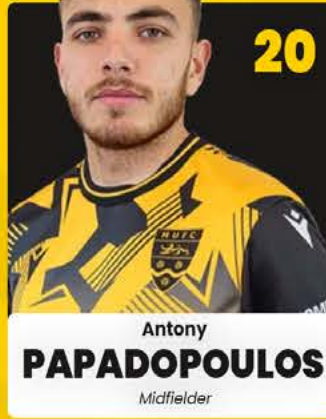
TRIPLE-A
TO TOKYO =
MADNESS

WATCH EPISODES

BASEBALL STORIES THAT CROSS OCEANS, CULTURES, AND SANITY CHECKS

MAIDSTONE UNITED

2025/26 SQUAD



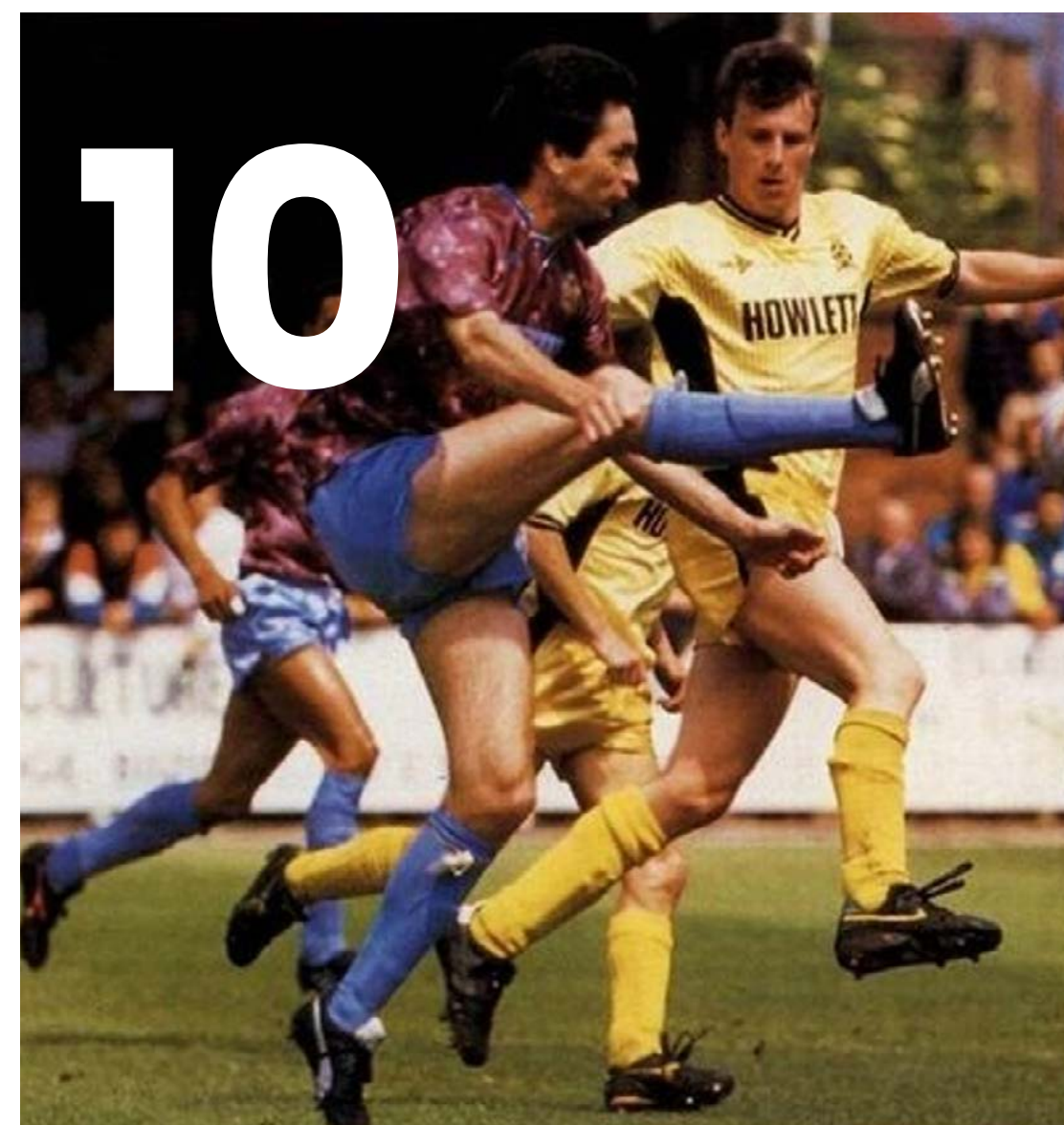
Designed by MAIDSTONE UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB IN VIETNAM

The first of Maidstone United's three seasons in The Football League, history, Kent derbies, own goals galore and a play-off semi-final. Test your knowledge of the 1989-90 season.



Future England international Warren Barton

- 1) Who were our opponents on the opening day of the season and what was the score?
- 2) Who did we beat 4-1 in our first "home" game?
- 3) Steve Butler scored a hat-trick in the above game. Which future Maidstone manager scored our only other Maidstone hat-trick that season?
- 4) Why did Tony Pamphlett never play another league game after the 2-2 draw with Cambridge at Watling Street in September?
- 5) This was Warren Barton's only season in amber before he joined Wimbledon. Against which side did he score his only goal?



Les Berry wearing one of our greatest ever away kits, flanked by Steve Claridge, in the first leg of the play-off semi-final at Cambridge United's "Shabbey" Stadium

- 6) Of the 24 teams in Division 4, which one is now in the Premier League?
- 7) And who are the only other team now in National South to have been in Division 4 that year.
- 8) Which chairman refused to sit in the Watling Street Directors Box, claiming it was a fire risk?
- 9) Who did we beat 5-2 on the final day of the season to seal a play-off place.
- 10) Who scored a last-minute equaliser at Cambridge in the first leg of the play-off semi-final?

Answers to Edition 10: Guess The Year

- 1) Indira Gandhi is assassinated, Seb Coe wins gold and silver at the LA Olympics, Michael Jackson's hair catches fire and Bill Williams calls 92 Football League chairmen: "a bunch of lying bastards" after we're denied promotion at the Cafe Royal.
1984.
- 2) Queen Victoria celebrates sitting on her (increasingly massive) throne for 60 years, Britain invades Benin, Juventus are founded in Turin and so are we! Only here, not in Turin.
1897.
- 3) The Suez crisis erupts, the Soviets crush the Hungarian uprising, Elvis releases Hound Dog and Maidstone United win the treble: The Corinthian League, Kent Amateur Cup and Corinthian League Memorial Shield.
1956.
- 4) The biggest hits of the year include "Seasons in the Sun" by Terry Jacks and "Tiger Feet" by Mud; Richard Nixon resigns, because provably bent presidents did back then, and we get to the Second Round proper of the FA Cup for the first time, losing at Swindon.
1974.
- 5) The Triple Entente is formed between England, Russia and France as the great powers do some last minute transfer dealing in preparation for World War One; an earthquake in San Francisco kills 8,000 people and we win the Kent Senior Cup for the first time.
1907.
- 6) Brazil win the World Cup, the cultural napalm of "Pop Idol" becomes a thing, Princess Margaret and the Queen Mother die in quick succession and we win the Kent League and Cup double.
2002.

- 7) The Birmingham Six are released on the grounds they are innocent, Freddie Mercury dies, the Soviet Union Collapses and Maidstone Borough Council murders the town's football club.
1991.
- 8) Superman is released, on film. Sid Vicious is also released, from prison, and he celebrates by dying the following day. The Shah is toppled in Iran and we get a 1-1 draw at The Valley in the FA Cup third round.
1979.
- 9) Communism collapses, Monty Python star and Hermitage Lane resident Graham Chapman dies, Arsenal win the league at Anfield and we win promotion to the Football League.
1989.
- 10) Barack Obama wins a second term as US President, Tom Cruise gets divorced (yes, really) Bradley Wiggins becomes the first British rider to win the Tour de France and Maidstone United finally return home.
2012.



The new independent source for Maidstone United news: Edition 11 (October 24th 2025)

Loans, asbos and fiction

A round-up of this week's gossip, speculation and shameless lying

FORAN AFFAIRS

George Elokobi says it's "no coincidence" that we haven't conceded a goal since Taylor Foran joined us on loan and the club are apparently trying to sign him permanently. He did get away with a rick against Eastbourne when it was 2-0, but he's now played for three and a half games and has an unblemished record. The run of 10 points from 12 games coincides precisely with his arrival. Insert your own "Boreham Wood" punchline here.

Before Foran (right) made his home debut against Chesham, the Stones Live crew were wrestling with a familiar problem. How do you pronounce a player's surname? Was it FORE-ann, as in Diego Forlan, or the more Irish-style FoRANN, as in Ronnie or Kevin Moran? A staff member told us to imagine someone from Newcastle saying the word "foreign" and we wouldn't be far off. This didn't help, massively.

BIG-TIME

Word reaches of us of a player rejecting a deal over the summer because he: "didn't want to play for a club like Maidstone." He subsequently signed for a rival and we're happy to say he's been instrumental in their plummet to the relegation zone. Cheers!

BULL-SHITZU-NAMI

It only takes just over an hour to get to Farnborough if the traffic behaves, but by the end of Saturday's journey, with every single radio station jammed with politicians of every hue posturing, lying and generally rewriting history; I was pining for a time when, if I heard the word "Maccabi," I'd just assume it referred to either mediocre music, or a shit cricket podcast.



ASBOS AND GHOSTS?

At times during Tuesday night's game with Eastbourne it was so quiet that you could hear the ball as it fizzed across the artificial grass. Asbos on scooters swarmed through the Millenium Park and there was a surreal interlude when a group of people wearing sheets over their heads appeared in the woodland between the gantry and the scoreboard. From a distance they looked like they might be members of the local KKK (whose HQ is nearby) but the happier explanation is they were celebrating Diwali. This also explains the fireworks which could be seen from the Main Stand, although in the Stone's more exclusive residential areas, you can enjoy the sound of bangers being let off in the small hours, 365 days of the year.

HORIZON-AL MARKING

Self-described "eternal non-league anorak" Alan Thatcher was compiling last week's round-up and wondering how Brackley, a small market town in Northamptonshire with a population of just 16,000, manage to compete in the National League. Their 6-2 win over

Woking in an FA Cup replay pulled just 661 fans, 217 of whom were supporting the visitors. The answer was simple: they have multi-millionaire owners. Co-owner Allan Leighton was involved with Leeds United in the Peter Ridsdale era and then became a non-executive chairman of the Post Office between 2002 and 2009. There is no suggestion Horizon computers were used to work out Brackley's attendances.

EARLY REDUCER

Steve Watt's column last week, when he was almost offended by the suggestion he'd need to go in two-footed on someone, called to mind an interview I did with Alan Walker over 20 years ago, when Maidstone were preparing to face a VCD striker called Jon Main, who went on to become a prolific goalscorer with Tonbridge and AFC Wimbledon. Asked how they planned to deal with him, Walker replied they'd give him a little dig early on, before stressing it'd all be within the laws of the game. Asked to describe Walker's tackling style during his playing days, his friend, and predecessor as Stones manager, Mal Watkins said: "he'd introduce you to the concept of flying lessons."