

The **Back** Page

You've been Tanga-ed
Joyous Jephthe roasts Slough

WATT'S OCCURING:
Still haunted by the Hartsdown Heist

PLUS: PRIDE IN PLYMOUTH
THE STONES QUIZ: AN A26 DERBY SPECIAL
ALEX'S CORNER: TOP OF THE FORM LEAGUE
ALAN THATCHER'S NON-LEAGUE ROUND-UP
THE BACK PAGE: WIND-UPS, EMBARGOS AND ROAD RAGE

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.

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Meet The Team



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Jephte Tanga gets round the back at Slough.

Wide boys **6**

Four more goals at Slough, all from wide positions

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A reborn Jephte Tanga sets up Maidstone's third for Anthony Papadopoulos at Slough on Saturday. Tanga's performance earned him The Back Page man-of-the-match award, with 43.6 percent of the vote, ahead of John Gilbert who polled 28.2 percent and Papadopoulos, who got 25.6 percent. Reports and more, pages 6-9.

There’s actually more than one way, John

SLOUGH TOWN 1
Davies 52
MAIDSTONE UNITED 4
Gilbert 21, 24, Papadopolous 59, Tanga 83
Attendance: 1,102 (unsegregated)

By Fred Atkins

John Barnes was factually incorrect when he sang: “There’s only one way to beat them, get round the back.”

There are, in fact, lots of ways to beat them, (set-pieces, route one flick-ons, tika-taka, twatting it from distance ...) but Maidstone have scored nine goals in three games over seven days and eight of them have come from players largely following the erstwhile Lucozade salesman’s instructions, including all four at Slough on Saturday.

If you include the opener at Dagenham, when Papadopoulos’s cross was deflected in by a home defender, nine of our last 11 goals have been as a direct result of wide play and the result is we’ve surged into the play-off places.

It helps that we’ve had significantly easier opposition in the last month, with the four wins all coming against sides in the bottom half of the table, but there’s more to it than just luck.

Players who were struggling now look like some of the best in their position in the division and not just worthy of largely meaningless “team-of-the-week” accolades polled by people who automatically vote for their own players.

Better still we have options, “finishers” if you like, players who can come on against tiring defences and cause them nearly as many problems as the starters.

All of which meant that we travelled in expectation rather than hope on Saturday, to a ground that’s generally been a bit of a graveyard for us. We lost 1-0 last year, during our “dark” phase, and 2-1 the year before during our “saving it for the FA Cup” phase. In 2021-22, the year we “won the fucking lot”, they did the



Davies and Desbois collide under pressure from Moore ...



... then do something illegal in certain US states ...



... before Gilbert makes it 2-0



“He’s gonna flick one, he’s gonna flick one ... He’s flicked one ...”

“Someone of advanced years was giving it the ‘your name’s not on the list’ routine. She was smiling, but we couldn’t work out if she was joking, enjoying a power kick or both...”



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@FredAtkins1973

double over us and, although we did sneak a win there the season before that, it was during the COVID era and no one was there to see it.

It was absolutely bitter at Arbour Park, with the wind chill in single figures despite the intermittent sunshine and getting in was an experience in itself.

The car park attendant, a gentleman of advanced years, was complaining about how many of our players had driven instead of taking the bus.

“There are nine cars,” he said. “Club secretaries are supposed to tell us about this kind of thing.” Then, at the entrance to the stand, someone also of advanced years, was giving it the “your name’s not on the list” routine. She was smiling, but we couldn’t work out if she was joking, enjoying a power kick or both.

This being non-league football all three options seemed equally possible. “We’ve got emails,” one of us said and through a mixture of looking helpless and a bit of implicit pleading she waved us through.

Things improved when we actually got to our seats and the pre-match entertainment included a Brent-Betjeman mash-up to a reworked

version of Yellow Submarine, with the word “yellow” replaced by the word “amber.”

The ex-factor was always likely to play a significant role and there were times this season when I felt releasing Reiss Greenidge last summer might well have been a mistake, but his international absences and injury-record were apparently a factor and although he was back in the Slough line-up he only lasted 45 minutes.

Gilbert had a far greater impact, and had scored twice after just 24 minutes, playing as a false nine or, if you like, an actual 10. The first came from a Tanga cross from the left flank, after a great ball by Papadopoulos, sliding in to finish from the edge of the six-yard box.

The second came from the opposite flank, with the Greek Baggio mugging the full back and crossing for Moore, whose initial shot was saved, but who then managed to poke the ball a yard to the former Slough skipper who scored his fourth goal in three matches, all from a combined distance of about 15 yards.

Slough urgently needed something to get them going and the ground belatedly came to life five minutes after the break, when Sesay



4-1. Tanga puts the tin lid on it.

apparently clipped Makowski on the edge of the area.

At this point he was either extremely lucky, or very unlucky depending on your perspective.

After watching the replay half a dozen times, he may well have got the ball before bringing down the man. If, however, it was a foul, as the referee clearly thought it was, he was the last man and should have been sent off.

The free-kick and yellow card felt like a compromise, the location almost exactly the same as the position from which Ronald Koeman infamously “flicked one” past David Seaman in 1993*.

The result was also the same. Davies flicked it over the wall and Harness scrambled to his right, only for the ball to go in off the upright. If you compare the goals on YouTube it’s almost uncanny how similar they are, but the comparisons end there.

To plagiarise a best man’s speech, we endured an uncomfortable seven minutes, but I always felt we looked more likely to get a third than they did to equalise. Sitting back against a defence as wobbly as this would have been a mistake and Tanga got round the back again and laid the ball on a plate for Papadopoulos. He still had quite a lot do, but the

finish was perfect and it killed their momentum.

From then on it was as easy as taking a pay cheque for a Lucozade advert (*and doesn’t John wish he could get one of those now*).

The subs came on and maintained the levels. Golding forced the error that led to the fourth, charging down a loose back-pass and working the ball to Tanga, who got a deserved goal with a composed volley.



Golding. Well up for a ruck.

The other thing Golding injected was a bit of nastiness. You don’t want too much of this, but on the other hand, we were too timid in several games before this hot streak began. He might not win any fair play awards, but as Ali G once said of Tony Benn, that guy loves a fight.

** The differences being this was Berkshire not Rotterdam and that Davies hadn’t done anything to make Ray Wilkins say: “I just can’t believe the c*** didn’t get sent off.”*

44

PERCENTAGE OF VOTES JEPHTE RECEIVED IN OUR MOTM POLL

8.4

PLAYER RATING OUT OF 10 ON SOFA SCORE

1

GOAL

2

ASSISTS

3

KEY PASSES

100

PERCENTAGE DRIBBLE SUCCESS RATE



Vote for our MOTM award on Twitter: @thestonesbackpage



The players take the plaudits after the final whistle at Home Park

Pride at the end of a very long road

By Sean Scurr

It's not every day that a 7-0 defeat can be seen as a boost for the remainder of a season, but this wasn't an everyday experience.

Two years ago this week, Plymouth finally took over management and ownership of the city's womens team, a trend that's been happening more and more since the Lionesses first Euros victory.

They reached the quarter finals back in 1976 and 1977, but the Maidstone Tigresses made it to the last four in 1992 before losing out to Doncaster Belles, and in 1981 and 1982 Maidstone Mote United lost semi finals to St Helen's and Lowestoft.

If the County Town had history on its side, everything else pointed to this being a tall order. Plymouth last lost a home game exactly 9 months ago to the day, when they were beaten 3-0 by Stoke City in the FA women's National League Cup. Stoke's manager that day is now Plymouth's manager:

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE 7
Papaioannou 18, Noble 22, 66, Stephens 27, 49, Whitmore 28, 57
MAIDSTONE UNITED 0
Attendance: 532

Marie Hourihan.

And for all the progress that has been made in recent years, there's still some way to go. (In more than one sense: the coach left at 6.30am for the 2pm kick-off and it was a 500-mile round trip).

Home Park has a vast media area with individual monitors so you can watch replays, but there were only six people in it, which shows just how under reported womens football still is. (The crowd was, however, triple the number for the visit of Bournemouth in their last league game.)

As for the game, we held out until the

18th minute, when Giota Papaioannou headed in a free-kick. Ellie Noble chipped a second within three minutes and Ella Stephens steered in the third on 27, after the ball pinballed round the area. The fourth came via a great finish from Charlotte Whitmore and keeper Cara Davies did well to prevent Plymouth from adding a fifth before the break.

Stephens produced a stylish turn and shot for the fifth, just after the restart and Whitmore cut inside to make it six on 57 minutes. On 65 Noble produced a great arrive in the area to make it seven and thankfully that was the end of the scoring.

If the result was more Coventry than Ipswich, the post-match scenes shared the same sense of pride and joy at what had been accomplished and several bottom lips were seen trembling at the end.

The women are back in action this Sunday with a league fixture at home to Betteshanger, kick-off 3.15pm.

October couldn't have been a lot better

By Alex Del-Valle

It's fair to say that the month of October has offered the polar opposite to September, as far as Maidstone's results go.

The last game of September saw the Stones defeated at home to Maidenhead. It was the same game we saw the return of Anthony Papadopolous, who came on as a second half sub, but the result summed up what was a pretty miserable month for the club and its fans.

A two week break allowed the Stones to regroup and most importantly, give the recent arrivals time to integrate into the squad and understand the patterns of play.

What better place to display the output of this work than Dagenham, a side who themselves have been struggling for form up until late.

I think we will all remember Teo's wonder-goal which won us the game, a fantastic strike and one I'm tipping for goal of the season already. That win would propel us onto Herne Bay in the Kent Senior Cup, where we had a convincing 3-0 win, with Riley Court and Ruben Carvalho running the show.

The question was, were Farnborough that bad or were the Stones that good?

It was then back home to host Chesham - a 0-0 draw and a red card to contemplate (one that I no longer argue against, I must add). Despite the missed penalty we kept back-to-back clean sheets too - with Foran proving to be a solid addition to the Maidstone back line.

It was then on the coach to Farnborough, a side we've had relatively good results against in the past. This visit was no different. Despite the energetic runs of Dom Poleon (who should definitely still be playing at a higher level), there was no stopping John Gilbert, who scored a brace courtesy of assists from Moore and Papadopolous.

The question was, were Farnborough that bad or were the Stones that good?



Papadopolous putting the in the cross that led to the opening goal against Eastbourne and helped earn him the MOTM award

You only had to wait until the following Tuesday for that answer, as we ran riot at home to strugglers and former play-off rivals, Eastbourne. Papadopolous rightly earned a player of the match award on that occasion, which also saw Tanga grab his first goal for the club since his return.

With our attackers firing, we were all eager to see what they could do on their most recent trip to Slough.

Another dominant display ensued. Tanga this time the star of the show with a goal and two assists. Gilbert also grabbing a double against his former side and Papadopolous scored his first goal since his return. A

performance so impressive that even the Slough manager couldn't help but compliment the Stones, stating it was "the best Maidstone side I've seen in recent years" and noting that it was "the first time in a while a team have outworked us (Slough) at home".

All the above is credit to the players and of course, the management team. "Trust the process" is what is often said. Well, I think the players have more than earned that trust from the fans now, if they hadn't already.

Maidstone will finish the month of October in sixth place and top of the form guide with an unbeaten run in the league now stretching to five games.



Follow Alex Del-Valle
on Twitter
@justafan1M

Upcoming Commentaries

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

Gravesend & Northfleet (A) Tue 4th November: 1945 – No live broadcast

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

Dorking Wanderers (A) Sat 22nd November: 1500 Alan Thatcher and Nigel Seager

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.

It's run by volunteer supporters who have a background in professional broadcast radio and funded independently from the football club by volunteer donations or through sponsorship and advertising. Stones Live! is a not-for-profit service and any monies raised are put back into the radio station to pay for various broadcast licences and to renew worn or broken equipment. (Such as the laptop Charlie Seaman accidentally smashed last year).



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PYRAMID SCHEMES

CORRUPTION, INSANITY AND MIRACLES:
HOW NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BECAME MASSIVE

By Fred Atkins



How Non-League Football became massive – Paperback £9.99 Kindle: £2.99

With derbies against Tonbridge and The Fleet looming in the space of a week, **Steve Watt** explains how players see rivalries differently to fans in his latest Back Page column ...



Watt's Occurring?

Still haunted by the Heist at Hartsdown

The idea of a derby game in Kent is a bit different to where I grew up, so when I first came down here it was all a new experience for me.

At Aberdeen we had rivalries with the two Dundee clubs, but they were two hours away. Whenever Rangers or Celtic came up that felt a bit different as well, but there's five hours travelling time between the cities, so it's not really local.

In professional football the rivalries might be considered bigger because there aren't so many of them. In Manchester there are only two clubs and although there are several clubs in Glasgow, Rangers v Celtic is *the* derby.

The most intense one I ever played in was Ross County v Inverness because there's only a bridge between the clubs. I was unfortunate when I was at Swansea that I never played against Cardiff, but I certainly heard enough about it and knew the importance of the game to the fans and the people of the city.

Up until I signed for Dover I'd always played professionally, so the first few years down here were a learning curve. There are so many teams down here that each rivalry has its own feeling, but as a player there were two types of

matches. There were games I wanted to win, and there were games I wanted to win even more.

Being a derby didn't really come into it, although if something bad had happened in a previous game, or if there had been an incident with a fan, that might add to my motivation.

But the games I was most up for were the ones against title rivals and in my time at Maidstone the main rivalries were with Dulwich and Margate.

I did play against Tonbridge when I came on as a sub in the 87th minute and was used as a striker, but Alex Teniola scored in injury time and they won 1-0. We knew we'd get some flak, for it but it was more because we'd lost than because of who we'd lost to.

There was pressure every week because we were going for the title, so the game that really sticks in my mind from that year was when we played Margate on a Tuesday night at Hartsdown, and I should have had three goals.

We lost 1-0, but I had one cleared off the line, one hit the bar and I had a header disallowed for offside when I was clearly a yard on and it still annoys me even now when I think about it!

"We lost 1-0 at Margate and I had a header disallowed for offside when I was clearly a yard on. It still annoys me now when I think about it!"

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What really mattered was that we went on to win the league and the players Jay signed from Tonbridge that summer were a huge part of that.

Frannie Collin and Lee Worgan were arguably two of his best ever signings and then there was Sonny Miles. He was a great guy and I really enjoyed playing with him. He only had one season with us and I'm sure it can't have been an easy decision for him, either when he moved from Tonbridge to join us or when he went back there.

It is different for players, especially in non-league, because you can't really be picky about who you play for. You want to play for as long as you can, so you can't go "I'm not playing for them," just because of a rivalry. In my case it would be more that I wouldn't want to play for certain managers, but you jump from club to club and don't really have any hatred towards a particular side.

Jay did some great business to get Sonny and we were really lucky to have him that year, but he did score an own goal to earn them a 1-1 draw at our place.

I've scored a couple of own goals myself and nine times out of ten it's just down to bad luck. There's nothing you can really do about it, but he would have got some stick from us in the dressing room for that: it was quite an unforgiving place.



Sonny Miles had a great season for Maidstone before rejoining Tonbridge after winning the Isthmian Premier in 2014-15

Watch and look after your team mates

In a dressing room like we had at the time you'd just get eaten alive, but you also need to read and know your team mates.

Not everyone is extroverted: when we signed Alex Akrofi from Brentwood he was a very young kid who wasn't sure he belonged.

I saw it as my job as a senior pro to make sure he felt he did, so I'd be in his ear in training, talking to him and helping him. I actually told him off when he didn't come to the celebrations after we'd won the league at Dulwich.

Jay had sent him back to Brentwood on loan and Alex felt he wasn't part of the squad, but

I told him he was and that he should have been there. I thought he was going to be a good player and that it was important to know he was wanted. Ten years later he still texts me for advice.

Initiation ceremonies were a way of integrating players. Shane Huke was an unbelievable guy and if anything you needed to rein him in, while Nathan Elder sang a song that we still talk about to this day.

We also talk about Alex Flisher's effort in Calais, although for very different reasons. We had to stop him after about three lines. I think he still thanks me for that to this day.



Alex Akrofi, rising like an electrocuted salmon from a pop-up toaster, to score at Sutton in 2015-16 as Steve Watt watches on

Stairway to Devon

By Alan Thatcher

The Stones face a familiar foe when we travel to **Torquay United** in the second round of the Isuzu FA Trophy on November 15.

The two sides have been frequent rivals in recent seasons and Stones have won 11 of the last 14 clashes between them.

For Stones fans, perhaps the match that stands out most of all is the 2-0 triumph at Plainmoor during the breathtaking FA Cup run two seasons ago, when two goals from Levi Amantchi sealed victory in the fourth qualifying round tie.

Our Kent rivals in the NLS, Dover Athletic, Tonbridge Angels and Ebbsfleet United, have all been handed home draws in the Trophy.

Dover, with their squad boosted by the signing of Bivesh Gurung from Folkestone Invicta, host **Dorchester**, who won their replay at **Basingstoke** 5-4 on penalties on Tuesday after equalising with just four minutes to go to make it 1-1 at 90 minutes.

Tonbridge meet NLS rivals **Worthing**, who are looking stronger with Adam Hinshelwood back at the helm, while **Ebbsfleet** have a Kent derby against **Sittingbourne**, who won 2-1 at home to **Cray Valley Paper Mills**.

There are three ties between NLS teams: Hemel Hempstead v Chelmsford City, Chippenham v Weston-super-Mare, and Dorking Wanderers v Eastbourne Borough.

League leaders **Hornchurch** face a short trip up the A12 to tackle Isthmian League pacesetters **Brentwood Town**, who whacked Welling United 3-0.

Chatham Town will be disappointed to face a long trip to Wimborne Town after winning 2-0 away to **Waltham Abbey**, but **Folkestone Invicta** will be delighted with a home tie on their new 3G pitch against **AFC Totton**, who are currently third in the NLS.

Jay Saunders' confident Folkestone side powered to a 4-1 win away to **Burgess Hill Town** on Saturday.

Invicta's final goal was a penalty in the 89th minute, awarded after Burgess Hill's Bobby Price had been sent off. The Hillians' Twitter account said this was for "an off the ball incident." Folkestone's account claimed it was because Price stamped on Mikey Berry's head.

Chatham are enjoying great success in cup competitions this season, but their opponents tomorrow, **Buxton**, are fifth in the National League North, and they warmed up for the tie by hammering **Alfreton** 6-0 in the league.

Tonbridge's 0-0 draw with **Weston-**



Levi Amantchi in action during Maidstone's 2-0 win at Torquay in the 2023-24 FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round game at Plainmoor

super-Mare meant that unbeaten Hornchurch returned to the top of the National League South at the weekend.

Ebbsfleet beat lowly **Salisbury** 2-0 with goals from Jake Hessenthaler and a late 30-yarder from Maxx Manktelow with the visiting keeper dancing out of his area with all the composure of Ann Widdecombe on Strictly.

Hornchurch beat **Hampton and Richmond** 2-1 and face a tough battle tomorrow when they travel to fifth-placed **Torquay**.

In the National League, Matt Rush scored for **Boreham Wood** to put them level away to promotion rivals **Forest Green Rovers**. But Harvey Bunker hit the winner to make it 2-1 to Rovers 15 minutes from time.

Truro City supporters completed a 914-mile round trip from Cornwall to **Gateshead** for a National League match, surpassing their previous 878-mile record against Carlisle United.

The journey spanned up to 14 counties and took around eight to 10 hours each way. In total, 185 Tinnars fans made the trip north.

Truro scored two first half goals but Gateshead hit back to make it 2-2. A Truro fan cycled all the way to Gateshead and found himself staying in the same hotel as

the team, who gave him a great reception when he checked in with his bike!

Truro's trip may be the longest journey for a league match, but their west country neighbours **Falmouth Town** are claiming the record for a cup tie, having made a 956-mile round trip for an FA Vase defeat away to **Bedlington Terriers** in 2001 (4-1 after extra time). Bedlington is 10 miles northeast of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Veteran striker Jamie Cureton has now scored in every one of England's top 10 tiers!

The 50-year-old scored with a long-distance lob for Tier Six side Kings Park Rangers FC just seconds after coming on as a substitute to net the final goal in a 4-1 win for the Suffolk side.

Back in December 1994, he scored his first senior goal just 13 seconds after coming on as a substitute for Norwich City against Chelsea.

The Stones have been drawn at home to Charlton Athletic in the GoCardless Kent Senior Cup. Draw: Stones v Charlton Athletic; VCD Athletic v Ebbsfleet United; Bromley v Erith Town or Chatham Town; Tonbridge Angels v Sevenoaks Town or Gillingham (Ties scheduled for November 11 or 12)

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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.

Our walking football programme is **open to all regardless of footballing ability**. Our programme is focussed on **using sport inclusively** to help **improve physical and mental wellbeing**. For the more competitive we have teams for +50's, +60's and +65s playing in the Kent league. If that floats your boat then dust of your boots and come along.



Scan the QR code opposite to register and then pop along to a session at the YMCA.

Fridays 18:45 - 20:30

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stonesinthecommunity.org



CONFERENCE SOUTH TO LEAGUE TWO = PROGRESS

TRIPLE-A TO TOKYO = MADNESS

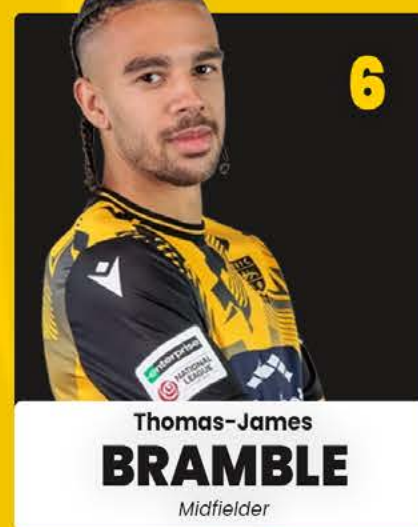
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MAIDSTONE UNITED

2025/26 SQUAD



Designed by MAIDSTONE UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB IN VIETNAM

It's the A26 Clasico this Saturday and a huge number of players have represented both sides down the years. Were they Stoned Angels or Angelic Stones? Test your knowledge with this week's Back Page Quiz.



Kent Senior Cup, 2012-13. Number 4 scores against number 5, who spent the second half flirting like mad with The Town End

- 1) Scored Maidstone's goal at Charlton in the FA Cup 3rd round, before playing for Tonbridge as a central defender in the 1980s, making 138 appearances for them. Sadly passed away last year.
- 2) Violent-tackling left-back who was part of the Stones reserve team in the 80s, moved to Tonbridge and then returned to London Road in the County League era.
- 3) Prolific striker from Canterbury who spent six years with the Angels from 1970, joined Maidstone in 1976 and broke the record for goals scored in a season, then moved to Gravesend in 1978 and finally returned to the Angels in 1981.
- 4) Who needs Messi, we've got ...? Hastings-born striker and brother of Tim who also played for both sides.
- 5) Keeper who played for MK Dons, Hastings, Tonbridge, Maidstone United. If you don't get this one, hand in your season ticket.



31st August 2002, Angels 2 Stones 3 in the FA Cup. One of seven Tonbridge players who went on to play for Maidstone scores for Tonbridge.
Picture from Unofficial Angels website.

- 6) "He's only got one eye ..." went the song. Towering central defender who was also lethal from set pieces, he joined Maidstone from Tonbridge in 2004 and scored both goals at Walton Casuals as we won the Isthmian South in 2007. Now a headmaster in Maidstone.
- 7) Tonbridge's record appearance holder played 527 times for them, but he had a one-season fling with the Stones in 2014-15.
- 8) Another player who had a one season stand at JWW. They sang some fairly (i.e. very) unpleasant songs about him last year, but he's back at Longmead.
- 9) Striker from the 2000s known as Razor, who played like Lionel Messi for Tonbridge and Lionel Blair for Maidstone.
- 10) Central defender for Tonbridge who seemed to get sent off every time he went back there as Maidstone's manager.

Answers to Edition 11: Season 1989-90

- 1) Who were our opponents on the opening day of the season and what was the score?
We lost 1-0 at Peterborough.
- 2) Who did we beat 4-1 in our first "home" game?
Scarborough.
- 3) Steve Butler scored a hat-trick in the above game. Which future Maidstone manager scored our only other Maidstone hat-trick that season?
Jason Lillis, v Colchester United at Watling Street.
- 4) Why did Tony Pamphlett never play another league game after the 2-2 draw with Cambridge at Watling Street in September?
He scored an astonishing own goal to hand Cambridge a late equaliser.
- 5) This was Warren Barton's only season in amber before he joined Wimbledon. Against which side did he score his only goal?
Yeovil Town.
- 6) Of the 24 teams in Division 4, which one is now in the Premier League?
Burnley.
- 7) And who are the only other team now in National South to have been in Division 4 that year.

- Torquay United.**
- 8) Which chairman refused to sit in the Watling Street Directors Box, claiming it was a fire risk?
Southend United's Vic Jobson.
- 9) Who did we beat 5-2 on the final day of the season to seal a play-off place?
Carlisle United.
- 10) Who scored a last-minute equaliser at Cambridge in the first leg of the play-off semi-final?
Mark Gall.

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The new independent source for Maidstone United news: Edition 12 (October 31st 2025)

The art of the wind-up

This week's round-up: professional offence takers; The Fleet take over is on hold; and appeals to King's Lynn's "better nature" inevitably fail

CLUB STATEMENT

Relations between Maidstone United and Havant & Waterlooville have been historically low ever since 2018, when Terry Casey was refused access to their board room for wearing jeans.

For the return fixture, Havant's directors were told to remove ties or they'd be refused entry and one of their media crew threw a tantrum because there was rainwater on the press seats.

Now they have a new enemy: Farnham Town. Wednesday night's game at Westleigh Park was initially delayed because the referee ruled that Farnham's (admittedly horrific) green and white away kit clashed with Havant's white.

The visitors' kit man made a 90-minute round-trip to fetch the claret and blue home kit (which they could have worn in the first place) only for a "tear" to be discovered on the playing surface.

Time for an H&W club statement: *"The Farnham Town Manager made it clear that he felt the pitch was not safe to play on, and the referee had no option but to confirm that the game was to be postponed. Astonishingly, after this, the Farnham side then prepared to train on the pitch in the same area that they declared was not safe in their opinion."*

Farnham were clearly on a wind-up, but as Bobby-Joe Taylor pointed out, there's a big difference between a rondo and an actual game. They couldn't have picked a more deserving target if they'd worn Just Stop Oil t-shirts at The Den.



2018: Grievance manufacturers Havant & Waterlooville bar Terry Casey from the board room and get Elliot Romain sent off.
2025: They meet their match in Farnham Town.

PARAMOUNT PARKED

We're off to Stonebridge Road on Tuesday night because, astonishingly, plans to turn the Swanscombe peninsula into the new Disney World have yet to materialise. Nor has the reported take over by a consortium, agreed in August.

Now the Fleet have been placed under a transfer embargo, which won't be lifted until they pay the money they owe HMRC. This wasn't paid because they were waiting for (gulp) the National League to ratify the take-over.

IT CAN ALWAYS GET WORSE

The "magic of the cup" was wearing thin in St. Albans this week, when Ian Culverhouse and Paul Bastock decamped to Kings Lynn just days before their first round trip to Burton.

St. Albans had asked King's Lynn if they'd wait until after the game, "out of courtesy" but this request was ignored, to the surprise of absolutely no one who's seen how the Norfolk club have conducted themselves over the last few years.

It's less than a year since Culverhouse's first game in charge: a 1-1 draw at Whatman Way last November. Given that St. Albans were subsequently relegated, their fans might not be distraught that he's gone, but things can always get worse.

The first reply to the post announcing their departure was: "Do NOT appoint Harry Wheeler as interim."

FRIENDLY BOMBS

The PA man at Slough Town on Saturday was clearly an Office fan. He "dropped" both the Stereophonics version of *Handbags & Gladrags* and the more niche, *More Than a Woman*, the Bee Gees song featured in the Comic Relief episode.

15 minutes before kick off he also played a mash-up of David Brent's rebuttal of Sir John Betjeman which appeared in episode five of season one. Sadly one line that didn't make the final cut, in either the original broadcast or the Arbour Park remix, was when Brent said: "There's nothing wrong with Maidenhead. Now Maidstone, that is a shithole."

FORSTAL ROAD RAGE

The Village Hotel car park is a hub for "ballers" across the South East of England on a match day, a pick up point for coaches and car sharers heading to games across the region.

The only problem is that getting out of the entrance on Forstal Road can be fraught, with an almost constant stream of juggernauts heading to and from the Aylesford estates.

The traffic was so bad on Saturday morning that the unofficial Stones media crew had to pull a Dukes of Hazard manoeuvre to get on the road to Slough, cueing beeping of horns and a polite shout of "F*** you!" out of the driver side window.