

The new independent source for Maidstone United news: Edition 15 (November 21st 2025)

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¿Masivo en España?

The “what the actual ...?”
story behind
Nómada United

Motivate THIS

“Owning Eastbourne”
makes for interesting
viewing ...

PLUS: Watt's Occurring
The Stones Quiz: Kit Special
Torquay reports and reaction
And another nine-goal win for the Stones Women



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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The official away attendance at Plainmoor was, like your Dad in the Big Shaq song, 44*.

It's not the lowest away attendance we've ever had (the figure of seven at Rochdale in 1992 will probably never be beaten, but if they don't deserve a medal, then being put on some kind of loyalty list seems like a reasonable idea.

Picture by Helen Cooper.
Reports and more, pages 6-7.

*Ask your kids.

Tonight we're going to party like it's 1989 ...

**TORQUAY UNITED 0
MAIDSTONE UNITED 2**

Golding 28, 34
Attendance: 1,624
(44 away)

Torquay must be sick of the sight of us. They've never won at Whatman Way and their record against us at Plainmoor isn't a lot better - six losses in ten appearances. They *did* beat us in 2022-23 but that was when we were putrid. Even then it was only 1-0 and they still ended up joining us in the bottom four at the end of the season.

The last time they beat a Maidstone United side with an actual pulse was all the way back on December 30th 1989, when they pulled off a 2-1 victory in the old Division Four.

Anyone who thinks they were the good old days, incidentally, should take a look at the Top Ten, which included Jive Bunny, Jason Donovan, and Bros. Andy Stewart's "Donald Where's Your Troosers?" was the pick of the pops that Christmas, which says all it needs to.

"The last time Torquay beat a Maidstone side with an actual pulse was in 1989. Jive Bunny, Bros and Jason Donovan were in the top 10."

So as bad as this draw seemed when it was made (only 44 of our fans made the trip, most arriving before the players got there at 1.45pm) it was probably even more depressing for Torquay.

Even when they stole a draw from us with the last kick earlier in the season, the reaction from their supporters was that we still seemed to have some kind of a curse on them.

Our side looked "rotated" with Corne presumably still not 100 percent, Foran still injured and Papadopoulos on the bench with just three others. It was described as being the "bare bones" and, with Agbontohoma not included, we were one defensive injury away from having to play with



1-0. Golding fires in while falling backwards.

a midfielder at the back.

Holden, who played for the bulk of the 1-1 draw back in August, was also given a game and he would go on to have a crucial role.

Inexplicably playing in a mauve away kit, Torquay were on top early on, hitting the post with a Hayfield free-kick after Kurtaran unsightly yanked back the alicebanded Young when he was about

to shoot, just outside the area.

Holden may or may not have got a touch to that one, but there was no doubt about the double save in the 13th minute. He "did an Alexis" by palming Young's initial effort straight into the path of Fish, but redeemed himself with an obscene recovery save.

Beeden then volleyed over from a corner when he was unmarked



2-0. Golding for his third in the last two games.



"He's Gordon Banks-ed the arsehole out of that!" As the late David Coleman might have put it.

inside the six-yard box, the only consolation perhaps being that if he'd done that while playing Headers and Volleys he would have had to get the ball himself before going in goal.

The opener came after a shanked clearance by the keeper. Tanga mugged his opponent and broke down the right. His cross was only cleared as far as Court who "laid it on a plate" for Sesay. His cross broke to Golding, who won a tackle and lashed it in with his left foot while falling backwards, before sliding on his knees towards the travelling support.

Kurtaran then set up Gilbert for an effort he couldn't keep down, but on 34 minutes it was 2-0, with a punt downfield from Holden flicked on, first by Kargbo and then by Gilbert, straight into Golding's path. He took this chance as well as any centre-forward and a demoralised Torquay struggled to make any inroads until deep into the second period.

With 19 minutes left Holden reacted smartly to a Jay header that reared up off the turf before he tipped it over the bar, and Beeden then got himself out of jail by recovering to block Palmer's shot after he'd lost the initial challenge. Right on the

whistle Mbogba put in a challenge that fell into the "seen 'em given" category but on this occasion it wouldn't have made a difference as there wouldn't have been time to chase a second goal.

The euphoria lasted all the way through till Monday afternoon, when we learned our "reward" for getting through was a trip

to Yeovil, where we haven't won since March 11th 1989.

The Top 10 on that day included Michael Ball, Jason Donovan, and Michael Jackson with "Leave Me Alone."

At this point we once again invite readers to fill in their own punchlines ...



George and Lenny: a promising name for a sitcom?

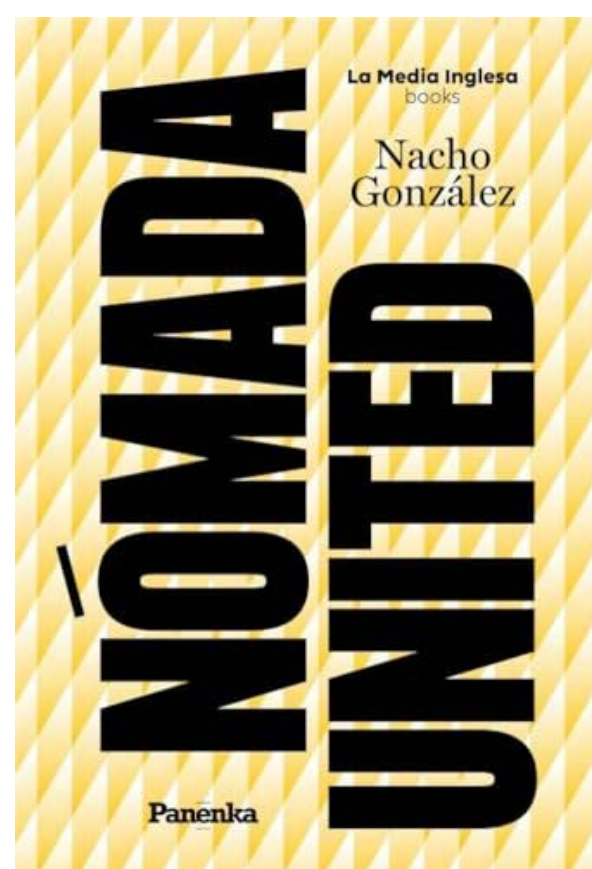
¿El Maidstone United es Masivo en España?

It's a book about Maidstone United, it's sold 6,000 copies, it has stellar reviews and hardly anyone in Maidstone knows about it – perhaps because it's in Spanish. **Fred Atkins** talks to **Nacho Gonzales**, author of Nómada United ...

Book events can go seriously wrong. In 2014 I attended a signing in Highbury as an editor and was sat next to an increasingly distraught author while several hundred completely disinterested Arsenal fans walked past a pile of unsold copies.

The product wasn't the problem: the book itself had been shortlisted for a Times Sports Book of the Year Award and it had been launched, successfully, at The Emirates a few days earlier, in front of an invited audience that included a number of Arsenal legends, and Graham Rix.

The problem was the location. We were in a pie shop. The company's owner was flushed by the success of the first event and thought we'd have similar success if we staged a similar signing in a more down-to-earth venue. It was about as much



Hertfordshire police weren't the only people looking for him ...

fun as having Ann Widdecombe sit on your face, but I put it down as a learning experience and swore never to stage a book launch in a pie shop ever again.

I later learned that this wasn't an uncommon experience. Almost everyone in "the business" has experienced something similar to the *Spinal Tap* record signing, where the band sit in a record shop, nobody turns up and the promoter, Artie Fufkin, tells the band: "You know what I want you to do? I want you to kick my ass. Come on. Kick this ass for a man!"

The redemption arc in this story occurs right at the end of the film, when the band realise they are "big in Japan."

Now if, at pretty much any point in the history of Maidstone United, you'd told me that the club would be the subject of a book by a Spanish author, that it would sell 6,000 copies and that the audiences would flock to signings at theatres in Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia, I would have assumed you'd recently escaped from a maximum security institution while trying to work out a way of contacting the authorities

without triggering you.

In March last year, however, I was contacted by Nacho Gonzales of *La Media Inglesa* after he'd read my book *Exodus*.

He said he was coming to England to do a few interviews and I spoke to him on the gantry for about half an hour before our game with Weston.

Nacho told me he thought our story would have a significant audience in Spain. As I'd had to convince my own editors that Maidstone United were of interest to people in Maidstone I was sceptical, but *La Media Inglesa* have a huge following and I had watched their film: "En Busca de Glenn Tamplin."

If you haven't seen this, two reporters go to the erstwhile Billericay supremo's home village, ask the locals if they know where he is and, probably quite luckily, don't actually find him. As the credits roll they can be seen shouting: "Glenn, where are you?" in strong Spanish accents.

Nómada United has since outsold *Exodus* by approximately ten to one, there are 72 reviews on Amazon and

the average rating is an eye-popping 4.9.

I am simultaneously delighted for Nacho and also slightly jealous, but the weirdest thing about almost all of this is that a year after it was released, almost no one in the County Town knows we are "Big in Spain," so I contacted Nacho, who was only too happy to do an interview ...

When did you first hear about Maidstone?

I'm pretty sure the first time was back in 2019 when Chris Smalling left Manchester to play abroad. That's when I found out he played for Maidstone at such early stages, but didn't investigate further.

The next time the Stones came to my attention was obviously during their 23-24 FA Cup heroics. And that's where it all properly started – firstly with a video to get our Spanish-speaking audience to know Maidstone, and eventually it all led to a book in Spanish about the Stones, as odd as it may sound.

What was it about the story that resonates with the Spanish-speaking audience?

The resilience and togetherness among those who stayed when it all went so wrong. I've checked myself when meeting with readers that the stories from those times at the lowest tiers playing park football were the ones that built a bond with the audience.

People who read the book couldn't believe what Stones fans went through and I'm happy that they still tell me they laughed, suffered and even cried learning from those struggles.

And obviously being so close to Sam Bone was crucial to get the insights of the FA Cup run, so they could relive every match as if the readers were on the pitch. Many of them told me the inspiring life stories of each individual that made that 23-24 squad were their favourite thing about Nómada United.

From what I understood you had trouble making contact with the club and then Sam Bone contacted you, is that right?

Well, to be fair the whole idea of writing a book kickstarted when Sam mentioned me on Twitter after he watched our video about Maidstone United, as he was already a subscriber looking to improve his Spanish.

It had to do nothing with an unanswered email to the club or something like that. But it is true that Sam helped me a lot to reach Bill Williams – as told in the book, he was kind of my media manager on duty as he let Bill know about me and helped arranging the interview during a halftime break. (Continued on page 10)



(Above) Sol Wanjau-Smith, a dinosaur, Sam Bone, Nacho and Conor Kelly outside Maidstone East (Below) A packed theatre in Madrid



Well, that's Non League at its best. You need to deal with an awful lot of bureaucracy to get to interview a Premier League player, while in the Non-League it is the starting midfielder who connects you to the Chairman.

How long did you spend in the town and who did you stay with?

I spent four days in Maidstone, from Thursday to Sunday — as many days as possible away from my daily job in Madrid. It was March 2024 and I had the chance to attend a 1-0 home win over Weston-super-Mare.

That day football was shit, as the great Steve Hemsley told me when I met him at the ground, but I had a great time.

I stayed somewhere in Union Street, probably the weirdest hotel I've ever stayed at. My room was in fact a basement, but hey, I slept well and that's all that matters.

“Sam, Sol, and Conor were the best hosts. They showed me around, took me to dinner and even showed me Spain getting beaten by Colombia on TV. I had the last laugh when Spain beat England in the Euros.”

Then Sam showed me around along with Sol Wanjau-Smith and Conor Kelly and I had the best hosts: took me out for dinner, a night out and we even watched on TV Spain getting beaten by Colombia at Wembley. Funny enough, I was the one who laughed last when Spain beat England in the Euros final.

How did the book do – was it popular in Latin America as well as Spain?

Well, it's gone beyond our best expectations. We're close to the 6,000 milestone and so far it's been one of the best-selling books Panenka has ever published. It's been a great success in Spain for proximity reasons as deliveries to Latin America have proven costly and complicated, but you'd be surprised how many Latin American readers have bought the Kindle version and even took the chance to get their copy when they visited Spain.

I always said that if we eventually sold 4,000 books we could call it an absolute success, and after only a year it's gone much further. To think it is a story written in Spanish regarding a 6th tier English side... Wow, that's not something you take for granted. The only thing I was 100 percent sure about was that Maidstone's story was worth the effort. Reviews at Goodreads have been really kind as well, so I can't complain!

You sold out theatres in Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia (I think) – and



Sam Bone in Madrid, where he spoke impressive Spanish (Below) Nacho at a festival in Barcelona.

yet when I showed my copy to a couple of people at the club they had no idea it had been written. Does that surprise you?

A bit to be honest, as they were aware I wanted to interview Bill Williams for this purpose. I tried to contact the club to send a copy as a thank you gift and never got an answer, but I'm saying this with no hard feelings. As a journalist I work close to a lot of clubs and I know the amount of things they need to pay attention to, and they gave me everything I asked for on that matchday back in 2024. I'm still more than happy to send them a copy if there's a chance!



Are there any plans to bring out an English version?

It's not my call, but I guess it all comes down to an English publisher that may be interested in Nómada United and contacts Panenka to reach an agreement in this matter.

Hopefully it happens one day and if more Maidstone fans read it, they relive their unique journey while feeling the book treats it both in a funny and respectful way.

Editor's note: If you're an absolute beginner I'd suggest waiting for the English version, but if you have GCSE or O level Spanish, or even some Duolingo prowess, you should get the gist.

I got a C when I did A Level Spanish in 1991. As I'd got a B in the mock, and as I'd been told that nobody ever gets an inferior result in the actual exam, I am still pissed off about this 34 years later, but with the help of Google I was able to understand Nómada United.



Sid the Sexist is alive and well in Rushden

By Alan Thatcher

A non-league match was abandoned on Saturday after both clubs alleged sexist abuse was aimed at a female referee. The Northern Premier League Midlands Division game between Coventry Sphinx and AFC Rushden and Diamonds was abandoned at half-time after the alleged comment was made.

The referee stopped the game for the individual to be removed. The match then resumed but at half-time the official told the teams she did not feel comfortable continuing after it became clear that the culprit had not been found. After an investigation an unnamed fan has been given an indefinite ban.

Sevenoaks Town manager Marcel Nimani saw the funny side after the 4-0 loss at Faversham: "Our

defending at the moment is comical. I grew up as a kid watching You've Been Framed. Three out of the four goals conceded today could go on it. At least you'd get £250 for each one..."

With no Premier League football over the weekend and with England fumbling around against a couple of international minnows, it was good to see *The Times* sports section devoting most of their centre spread to Worthing owner George Dowell and his ambitious plans to get the club up to the National League and then into the EFL.

Dowell, now 32, was paralysed in a car accident when he was 17, one week before he was due to make his first-team debut for the Rebels. He used his compensation payout to buy the club five years later and has ploughed in a total of £800,000 of his own cash. Fortunes have looked up again

since manager Adam Hinshelwood returned to the club following his surprise sacking by York City. Worthing are now third in the NLS table with eight wins in a row since losing to Forest Green Rovers in the FA Cup.

National League North side Chorley will be open again on Christmas Day, providing lunch in the Victory Park clubhouse for lonely and underprivileged members of the local community. The club said: "Last year we heard from so many people who said that if we hadn't opened our doors, they would have spent the day alone. That's something we just couldn't turn our backs on. So yes, we're opening again this Christmas Day, from noon until 4pm."

Alex Del-Valle is away, but Alex's Corner will return.

Nine-goal winning margin? #Standard

HOLLANDS & BLAIR RES 0 MAIDSTONE UNITED 9

Culpitt 26, 29, 62, Hinkley 41, Dale 54, Madamombe 63, 90, Campbell 77, White 84

By John Tully

Following last Sunday's 10-1 win against Sellindge, Stones again achieved a nine-goal winning margin, this time in the Kent FA Women's plate against Hollands and Blair reserves at Star Meadow, Gillingham.

This is an open competition for all Kent sides of Tier 7 and below, making it a potentially good opportunity for silverware for the Stones as one of the top tier sides in the cup.

Fielding a very strong starting line-up, the Stones started a little slowly and several moves ended up without reward.

It took until the 26th minute for the Stones to score, with Georgia Culpitt heading home the first goal of her hat-trick. She quickly followed up with her second, a strong back post finish with her right foot.

The chances were coming frequently now, with Kady Wilkinson



Georgia Culpitt

hitting the bar and the ball almost crossing the line on the rebound. Near misses continued as Kylie Manktelow headed just wide on 40 minutes.

Ellie Hinkley converted the third a minute later, with a powerful finish, well deserved as she had a near miss a little earlier. Maddie Dale almost made it 4-0 just before half-time, but was foiled by a block at close range by the home keeper.

The Stones pushed hard straight from the restart with both Culpitt and White nearly adding to the tally. Goal four eventually came on the 54th minute, with Maddie Dale getting the finish on the rebound after Hinkley had her effort blocked.

The 55th minute saw the now customary introduction of fresh legs, with Madamombe and Campbell replacing two of the first half scorers, Hinkley and Dale. The Stones continued to press, and Culpitt achieved her hat-trick goal just after the hour, finishing off after a good pass by White.

Two more changes soon followed with the ever-reliable Georgia Pearch and Kady Wilkinson making way for Etheridge and Platt. The strength of the squad is such that the changes do not seem to affect the playing style or creativity of the

team.

At 5-0 the stamina and fitness of the Stones had an even bigger effect, with Kelsi Wilkinson coming on to replace Culpitt and Pearch having to come back on again to replace Rowsell, who had picked up a slight knock.

Chi Madamombe scored number six in the 73rd minute, finishing strongly from a pass by Waud. The goals continued to flow at regular intervals with Tori Campbell hammering home powerfully in the style to which we have become accustomed.

A smart finish by captain Annie White with six minutes to go was just reward for her all-round dominant play. The final scoring act was left to Madamombe in the last minute with a close-range finish from a Manktelow pass.

Scoring nine goals and a clean sheet, as well as avenging last season's cup semi final defeat, made it an all-round good day. Other major mentions go to Manktelow with four assists and Captain Fantastic Annie White for her all-round play and leadership.

This Stones team shows quality in many areas including team spirit, a clear playing style, togetherness, a collective will to enjoy the game and great enthusiasm.

Credit to the players and the management for working together so well in the delivery of a real team ethos and tactical awareness.

This weekend sees a trip to Betteshanger Welfare with a 2pm kick off in the league. The Stones will hope to continue their 100 per cent league record.



Follow Maidstone United Women on Twitter:
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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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The Back Page

A very happy **Steve Watt** talks about number two goalkeepers, part-time footballers and *that* World Cup Qualifier in his latest column



Watt's Occurring?

Going part-time just wouldn't work now

The issue of whether or not a club would be better off going part-time never really goes away. Hornchurch are part-time and they're top of the league, but knowing Macca (Daryl McMahon) like I know him, if they go up he'll be pushing to go full-time and I'm sure they will.

Jay took Maidstone from the Isthmian South to the National League, but that was a decade ago and the game has changed so much in that time I don't think what we did would be possible now.

"At Chelsea we had our own rooms because Mourinho didn't want us to be kept awake by other players snoring ..."

If you picked a team of the best part-time players in Kent they would still be competitive at National South level, but that wouldn't be so easy nowadays because I can almost guarantee you the top-end players you would want to attract will be near enough getting full-time wages anyway.

You'd still have the draw of the fan base, but the money has gone crazy and you'd also have to take the



Leaders Hornchurch are part-time ... for now

travel into consideration. When I was caretaker manager at Maidstone we went to Salford and back in a day and I can remember thinking that was a lot.

I can't remember what time we set off, but we had to get to Euston, which was a journey in itself. It wasn't just a case of jumping on a bus. Ideally you'd want an overnight stay and that would impact part-time players, but understandably

some clubs do decide to do it all in one day because it's a lot cheaper and some players like sleeping in their own bed.

Everyone's different. I'd rather go overnight, but early in my career I was probably spoiled: at Chelsea we had our own rooms because Mourinho didn't want us to be kept awake by other players snoring ...

Every number two keeper comes to a crossroads

Lenny Holden came into the Maidstone side on Saturday and kept a clean sheet. He has a difficult role and at the higher levels, in his position you have to make a decision early in your career.

You can make a hell of a lot of money being a number two keeper at the top level and performing when you need to, or even being a number three like Richard Wright, who went to Manchester City for four seasons and didn't play at all.

Or you can decide to go elsewhere, because you want to be a number one, and end up not having a career at all. Everyone starts thinking they'll be a number one but at some point you reach a crossroads and have to decide if you're happy as a second choice.

At lower levels you need a number one and a number two who's a youngster, maybe who's on a dual reg with another

club. If you've got two players who are exactly the same, the number two is never going to be happy, so if you have a number one like Lee Worgan, who never seems to be injured, you need a youngster who's happy to learn from him.

Jay had that in Will Godmon, who was actually very similar to Lee.

He was a similar sort of height, a great shot-stopper who kicked the ball very well. He knew he wasn't going to play but he was never a problem because he loved being a part of the squad.

So you need a youngster who is also capable of coming in for a game or two if there's an injury and being more than capable. He might not be ready for 15 or 20 games, but you can play him in cup games. He'll learn his trade and he won't be knocking on your door every week.



Lenny Holden at Plainmoor

It's never easy being a Scotland fan ...

You get a lot of stick being a Scotland supporter in this part of the world and rightly so, but it's all good fun. It's never straightforward being a Scotland fan, but the 4-2 win over Denmark was such an exciting game.

The last time we qualified for a World Cup I was actually there in Paris. I was 12-years-old and was selected for a four-a-side tournament alongside Aiden McGeedy who went on to play for Celtic, Everton and Ireland.

I also spent a good few years with Steve Clarke at Chelsea and I'm really pleased for him because he's a great manager. When Mourinho came in, he promoted him to first team coach and you obviously saw the two different sides of him, in

terms of managing and coaching youth players in a first team environment.

For me personally, he was outstanding and brilliant. I certainly wouldn't have had the career I had in terms of at Chelsea and elsewhere.

My game improved so much from working with him. He's always a person whose attention to detail is second to none. The amount of work he used to do *after* training to improve my game is stuff I'll never forget.

When it was 3-0 to Greece on Saturday I was thinking it was just typical Scotland to be honest.

You get into a position to qualify and then in true Scotland fashion, for

want of a better word, you f*** things up.

Tuesday night was exactly the same. After three minutes you score one of the best goals Hampden's ever seen, from the last player you'd expect to score a goal like that, but you still know it's not going to be straightforward. With ten minutes to go you score again, against ten men, and you think all right, here we go, lovely stuff, but not with Scotland.

I'm a firm believer that everything happens for a reason. Tierney then produces a hell of a finish but we were still hanging on and you just want McLean to run for the corner. Instead he chips the keeper from the halfway line and does it in style. I'm just absolutely delighted.

The 'friendliest club in the league' swoop again

By Alan Thatcher

Two things are constants in your life supporting Maidstone United: our west country away draws in cup competitions and former Stones stars ending up at **Boreham Wood**.

Both happened this week as we were drawn away to **Yeovil Town** in the FA Trophy (having brilliantly won 2-0 at Torquay United on Saturday) and Regan Booty joined **Boreham Wood** on loan from League Two **Barrow**.

One Stones fan kindly pointed out on social media that in our last 24 games in FA competitions we've been drawn away 18 times, being forced to hit the road seven times out of our last eight FA Trophy ties.

The Yeovil trip is on Saturday, December 13, with the winners earning £4,500 in prize money and the losing side collecting £1,250.

Yeovil are currently 18th in the National League, four points above the relegation zone.

As for our former midfield marauder and penalty ace Booty, he will be teaming up with former Stones striker Matt Rush at Boreham Wood.

Rush scored his 12th league goal of the season to give Boreham Wood an early lead at home to **Tamworth** on Saturday, which temporarily put them level on points with first-placed **Forest Green Rovers**. However, Tamworth hit back to win 2-1 as the friendliest club in the National League slipped to fifth. (Sarcasm comes free of charge with The Back Page.)

*

The latest FA Trophy weekend saw another managerial merry-go-round spin into action here in Kent. Record-breaking **Sittingbourne** manager Ryan Maxwell left the club after losing on penalties at **Ebbsfleet United** to take over at relegation-threatened **Welling United**.

The arrival of Maxwell ends the Wings' six-week search for a new boss since sacking Lee Martin, who has been named as the new boss at **Ramsgate**.

Last season Maxwell led **Sittingbourne** to the FA Trophy quarter finals for the first time. They won 1-0 at **Southend** in the last 16, and were involved in an



Getting sent off at Hungerford might have been a career-low for Regan Booty. He's now at Boreham Wood.

epic Isthmian South East title scrap with eventual champions **Ramsgate**. They finished runners-up with 101 points, scoring 117 goals, but endured agony in the play-off final when they lost on penalties to **Burgess Hill**.

Maxwell's final match in charge of **Sittingbourne** also went to a shoot-out, with the Bricks falling 5-3 on spot kicks after a 1-1 draw at **Ebbsfleet** in the FA Trophy on Saturday. Sittingbourne have promoted Reece Prestedge, who worked as assistant boss under Maxwell last season, to the manager's job.

Dover Athletic eased into the third round of the Trophy with goals from Kenny Coker and Siju Odelusi giving them a 2-0 home victory over **Dorchester Town**.

Tonbridge couldn't join them after being demolished 4-0 at home by a rampant **Worthing** side. (Incidentally, The Angels Twitter feed is still headed by poorly-cropped graphic displaying the result from the Gallagher. Since that day their record is P4, W0, D1, L3 GA 3 GA 10.)

Kofi Anokye-Boadi's injury-time header saw **Chatham** win 1-0 at **Wimborne Town**. Kent clubs in the FA Trophy third round: Yeovil Town v Maidstone United, Chatham Town v Plymouth Parkway, Ebbsfleet United v Braintree Town, Dover Athletic v Hornchurch.

*

Jay Emmanuel-Thomas came off the bench to score a late free-kick on his debut as **Braintree Town** beat bottom of the table **Truro City** 2-0 in the National League.

Emmanuel-Thomas was unveiled just an hour before kick-off following a short stint with **AFC Totton**. The 34-year-old was released from prison earlier this year having served 10 months of a four-year sentence for his involvement in a £600,000 drug smuggling plot.

Former Arsenal trainee Emmanuel-Thomas fired a free-kick into the top corner with five minutes left and John Akinde added another in stoppage time.

Deon is the top Stone in the Windies



Deon Moore and TJ Bramble in training. Both men started for their respective countries in Tuesday's friendly at The Sir Viv Richards Stadium

Stones players TJ Bramble and Deon Moore were on opposing sides when they became the second and third Maidstone United players to win a full international cap while at the club.

They faced each other when Antigua and Barbuda lost 4-1 at home to Guyana at the Sir Viv Richards Stadium. Both players started, with Bramble going off after 53 and Moore playing for 78.

Earlier in the international break Bramble played for Antigua and Barbuda in the 0-0 draw against Aruba at the same venue.

Moore had come off the subs' bench just before half time for Guyana as they beat Bonaire 2-1.

Reiss Greenidge, now with Slough Town, was our first full international, winning 10 caps for Guyana.

Whitstable Town striker Javaun Splatt scored five goals in two appearances for the British Virgin Islands as they opened their CONCACAF Series with two victories. He scored both goals in a 2-1 win over the Cayman Islands and netted a hat-trick in a 6-0 battering of Bahamas.

Follow @AlanThatcherCS

Matters come to a 'Head

Maidenhead United fans and players clashed after the 2-0 loss in the FA Trophy away to Leamington, who are currently bottom of National League North with just two goals in their previous seven games.

Maidenhead's results have nosedived since their 1-0 win at the Gallagher in September, with five defeats in six matches, and winger Sam Barratt took to Twitter to make a statement.

"I respect and appreciate our fans hugely, but when things got personal to certain individuals I felt the line was crossed..."

"I'm feeling very low. In all the years I've been at this club I haven't seen anything like this before. I approached the fans with the intention of thanking

them for travelling and to apologise for our very poor performance but some of the chants and remarks really got to me.

"It all boiled over and some of us lost our tempers, for which I apologise. I respect and appreciate our fans hugely, but when things got personal to certain individuals I felt the line was crossed.

"We are a community club, where players and fans mix and chat regularly – something I love about this club! If the atmosphere gets like that then I fear we will lose that special community spirit."

Ironically, Maidenhead have just released a new video called Your Town, Your Club, Your Community.

The club's activities include walking

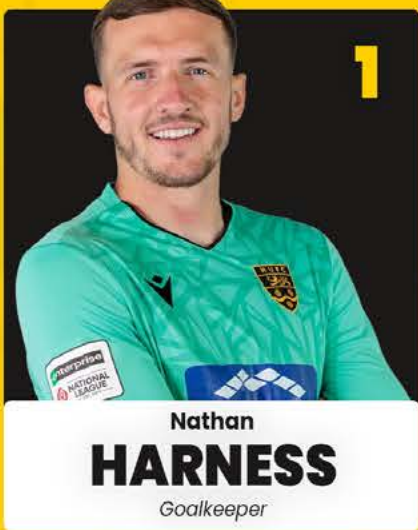
football for men and women, wellbeing walks for the elderly, women's futsal, support for deaf players and sponsorship of the local CALM group that works to prevent suicide in men under 45.

After their 1-0 win at Maidstone, Maidenhead fans told me that West Ham and England legend Alan Devonshire had pledged to lead the club to promotion in his final year as manager after more than 800 matches in charge across two spells at York Road.

Club chairman Peter Griffin said: "We all want the same thing as Alan (Devonshire) and it is tough at the moment. If change is needed it will happen but I am loyal and optimistic and this usually means the club will be OK."

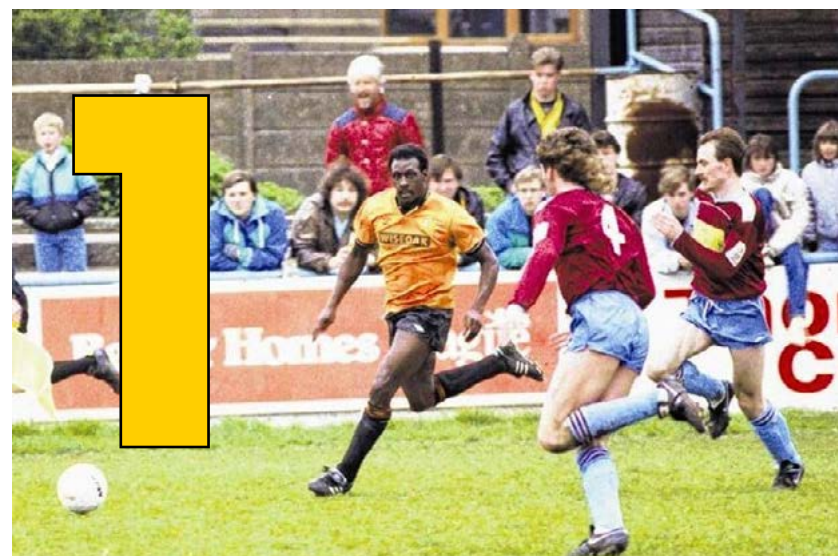
MAIDSTONE UNITED

2025/26 SQUAD



Designed by MAIDSTONE UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB IN VIETNAM

Can you tell the season or seasons purely through looking at a shirt? It's time for this week's Back Page Quiz! We'll give you the story behind each next week.



Mark Gall at Watling Street



Kent Messenger kits at Sevenoaks



The first Argentina shirt



No logos on the away shirts at Tunbridge Wells



Danny Kedwell and the KF Concept



Mo Takaloo in a Britelite shirt at "The" Crabble

7



The classic purple tie-dye

8



Malcolm Stewart in yellow



The equally classic vertical stripe



"Ajax pal, Ajax."

Answers to Edition 14: Keeeeepaaah!!!!!!!

1) Who was the first keeper to play for the first team at The Gallagher Stadium in the 2012 friendly v Brighton?
Deren Ibrahim.

2) Who kept goal for us in the 1970s and later managed Horsham against us, (getting into a row with Lloyd Hume in 2007?)
John Maggs.

3) It hardly ever happens, but which outfield player was forced to go in goal for Maidstone at Erith Town in 2004-05, when Steve Williams was injured 15 minutes before kick-off?
Peter Overton. (Who kept a clean sheet in a 2-0 win).

4) Who scored (and got an assist) for us in the 3-2 win over Hereford in 1991?
Iain Hesford.

5) Nicknamed "The Mouth of Kent" he played for us briefly under Jim Ward, aged 39, in 2003. What was his real name?
Mo Munden.

6) Lenny Holden came on as an outfield player vs Farnborough last season. Which Stones keeper came on as a striker in Bill Williams' testimonial two years earlier?
Tom Hadler.

7) Yoan Zouma scored an own goal on his Stones debut at York, but which keeper let his 40-yard daisy cutter trickle past him?
Dan Barden.

8) Which veteran was Maidstone's first choice keeper in our final season in exile, 2011-12?
Charlie Mitten.

9) Which ex-Charlton keeper did Keith Peacock sign to replace Mark Beeney?
Nicky Johns.

10) Lee Worgan was Maidstone's undisputed number one from 2013 to 2018. Who did Harry Wheeler initially sign on loan to replace him when he left for Dover?
Ross Woner.



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The new independent source for Maidstone United news: Edition 15 (November 21st 2025)

Dominated my arse

“Owning Eastbourne” is out and on a Sunday afternoon last May, we did

By Fred Atkins

The “Owning Eastbourne” documentary, released this week, is a watchable seven-episode trawl through the Borough’s 2024–25 season, but it kicks off with the claim that God’s Waiting Room was once known as “the Monte Carlo of England” and maintains this grip on reality throughout.

Episode 2 is titled: “The game is broken,” which has problematic undertones, although it turns out this is a quote from Barry Hearn, a friend of Borough’s owner Simon Leslie.

The Brentwood supremo is disappointingly sensible, saying you should enjoy your life and regard the money you’ve spent on football as worth it for the two or three lifelong memories you’ll get.

“They’ve scored a shit goal,” he says. “You will go on to win this game.”

But these memories do not come cheaply and Leslie is a man on a mission. “I’m not just fixing Eastbourne Borough,” he says. “I want to fix the non-league game.” Intentionally or not, the director immediately cuts to his then-manager Adam Murray, who says “Unfortunately there’s a lot of bullshit in the game,” before making it clear his chairman is a wonderful human being.

Yet when Leslie talks about the near £4 million “investment” he’s putting in over two years, the obvious question is: “Isn’t this exactly what needs fixing?”

The main interest for Maidstone fans will be in the footage of the two games we had at Priory Lane last season.

Before the league game we see Murray in a hoodie that says: “Jesus is King.” He correctly predicts it’ll be a physical game and that we’ll be direct. They win 1–0 and they cut to the footage of the scorer being



Jacob Berkely-Agyepong scores a “shit goal”.

carried off the pitch, which returned to haunt them.

Before the play-off semi-final, Leslie says: “It’s written in the stars,” but what follows is the one, genuinely jaw-dropping moment, of the seven episodes.

We cut to an American with biceps the size of Belgium. The caption reveals he is Sanyika ‘The Firestarter’ Street. “I’m gonna tell you the difference between the people in this locker room and the people in the other locker room,” he says.

And apparently the difference is that: “You’re all in, right now, every moment. You’re fighting for something that’s bigger than the people in the other room ... you will run straight through them ... you’re fighting for something that’s bigger and they don’t see it,” he says, pointing to the Maidstone dressing room.

I’m not even sure where to start with this but, worried I was being too cynical, I asked an ex-manager if he’d hire a motivational speaker before a play-off. He replied, simply: “Fuck’s sake,” fuelling my suspicion it was weapons-grade bollocks. As is the idea they “dominated” the semi-

final. JBA’s opening goal is described as scruffy and we cut to the dressing room, where we’re told “Adam now needs to deliver his most important team talk of the season.”

Which he does, wearing another hoodie, plastered with Christian slogans. “They’ve scored a shit goal,” he says. “You will go on to win this game.” We cut to Pavey’s equaliser. “Endless Eastbourne pressure is rewarded in the 63rd minute,” says the narrator.

We were clinging on for grim death after Seaman’s red card, but when one of their players went down “injured,” it allowed us to regroup. This game-changing tactical fuck-up isn’t mentioned.

Cut to:
NARRATOR: “And then ...”
FAN: “Shit ...”
NARRATOR: “Disaster. Eastbourne Borough 1, Maidstone 2.”
FAN: “That’s fucking shit.”

Eastbourne are currently 22nd and on their third manager of 2025. Sanyika ‘The Firestarter’ Street can be hired at www.bigspeak.com. Rates are available on request. Non-league football remains unfixed, for now.