

The **Back** Page

**What the hell
was that?**

**Dismal at Dorking
Empty at Enfield**

Stick it in Row Z

**Steve Watt on avoidable
goals and keeping it simple
in the penalty area**

PLUS: Anorak Corner
The Stones Quiz: Name The Trophy
MUFC Women batter Betteshanger
The Back Page Gossip Column



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



Image of the week 4

The late Mark Brewer and team mates at Priestfield in 1990

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Can you name the trophies Maidstone have won?



16th edition:
Friday November 28th
Published by Back Page Media
To advertise with us email:
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Next edition:
Friday December 5th



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Sometimes you do an internet search and get a very unwelcome surprise. This image of the 1990 Kent Senior Cup final, taken from the Unofficial Maidstone United History page on Facebook, shows Maidstone celebrating a 1-0 win, in front of a crowd of 3,159, against Gillingham at Priestfield. The final took place on the May Day Bank Holiday, two days after we'd booked a place in the play-offs with a 5-2 win over Carlisle. The players, from left to right are: Jason Lillis,

Warren Barton, Mark Gall, Mark Beeney, Mark Brewer, Steve Galliers, Matt Toms, Paul Rumble, Darren Oxbrow and Graham Pearce. Ken Charlery is in the front row, having been subbed early, while Jesse Roast and Tony Sorrell aren't in the frame. Manager Keith Peacock understandably had one eye on the first-leg of the play-off semi-final at Cambridge six days later and selected a mixture of youth and experience. Most fans of this vintage felt Beeney should have

been selected ahead of Nicky Johns. Pearce had played for Brighton in the 1983 FA Cup final, while Galliers had been signed from then top-flight Wimbledon, but never nailed down a place. Barton went in the other direction at the end of the season and became a full England international. Lillis and Toms both went on to manage Maidstone in the Kent County League. The one face I didn't immediately recall was

Brewer's. After checking the team sheet, a quick internet search revealed he died last year aged just 52. This was his only appearance for Maidstone but he went on to play for Margate, Enfield, Braintree and Cheshunt, where he was fondly remembered in this [tribute](#). Oxbrow has also suffered since retirement, having been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 2022. In [an interview with the BBC](#) last year he urged people to get checked if they have any unusual symptoms.

Minging in the rain

DORKING WANDERERS 3
Muitt 17 Prior 23, Lewis 61
MAIDSTONE UNITED 1
Bramble 94
Attendance: 1,605

By Alan Thatcher

The Stones' rollercoaster ride through this season hit a new low with this defeat away to Dorking.

It was a miserable day at the Meadowbank, with rain sheeting down throughout the match.

While Maidstone slipped and slithered, Dorking made light of the conditions as they confidently knocked the ball around.

They could have scored six had it not been for some great saves by Nathan Harness and some brave blocks by Stones defenders.

The man who tormented them throughout the match was Dorking's veteran striker Jason Prior, who gave a masterclass in his role as an old-fashioned target man.

"The time-wasting was so bad that during my commentary for Stones Live I told listeners: 'We apologise for the lack of coverage while we wait two minutes for Dorking to take a throw-in'."

The tall number nine was involved in so many Dorking moves that caused huge problems for the Stones defence, and he gave an object lesson in how to lead the line while playing with your back to goal.

As a target man you want the ball arriving to you at three different heights: head, chest or feet.

A lot depends on the kind of delivery provided by your teammates feeding those passes, and Prior was fortunate that so many balls were on target and comfortable for him to control or flick on.

This was in great contrast to the service provided to Maidstone's big number nine Hamzad Kargbo, who



"You have got to be shitting me ..." Part 1

was often chasing long, hopeful, inaccurate punts upfield that were easily mopped up by the Dorking defence.

The reason I am going into some detail on this subject is because there's something I've wanted to get off my chest for some time.

Fifty years ago, I played as a target man at Dorking for Eastbourne United. I held the line reasonably well playing with my back to goal and was able to lay the ball off to teammates when perfectly paced passes arrived at my feet.

In those days the clubs were competing in the old Athenian League. It was near the end of the season and the pitch was a mudheap. United won 1-0 and Dorking were relegated.

Had Dorking discovered that I was an unregistered player they would have been awarded the points and stayed up.

This scenario came about because Eastbourne centre forward Steve



3-0. Goodnight Vienna.

Sharp missed the team coach and manager Ken Carter asked me, then the sports editor of the Eastbourne Gazette and Herald, if I would like to play in Sharp's place (and using his name) to make up the numbers.

So, to any Dorking fans reading this, please accept my apologies.

In those days the old Dorking FC struggled to attract crowds of more than 150. Despite the weather, a decent crowd of 1,605 turned up on Saturday to watch Dorking Wanderers, the club that effectively replaced them as the town's team. Many of that number were Stones fans who had to brave torrential rain all afternoon.

The opening stages were combative and even, until Jimmy Muitt opened the scoring after 17 minutes with a brilliant, curling strike that was beyond the reach of Stones keeper Harness.

Within five minutes Dorking were two up. With limited visibility, thanks to the driving rain and the poor quality of the floodlights (*there's a job for you, Marc*) it appeared that Leo Hamblin had fouled Luke Moore after Harness had been beaten to a through ball.

The referee awarded a penalty but the TV replays clearly showed Hamblin stumbled, although he might reflect that he should have booted the ball to safety.

The appeals by Stones players were ignored by the referee and Prior sent Harness the wrong way from the spot kick.

For the rest of the first half Dorking were in complete control and several chances went begging, with Prior, Moore, Muitt and defender Brennan Camp all going close or having shots blocked, leaving Maidstone relieved to reach the interval just two goals behind.

George Elokobi made a triple change at the start of the second half, bringing on Antony Papadopoulos and two players returning from international duty, Deon Moore and TJ Bramble, replacing Jephte Tanga, Kargbo and Teo Kurtaran.

The Stones worked hard to get back into the game and Paps created an opening for John Gilbert, whose shot was saved by Harrison Foulkes. Bramble struck the post following a corner from Riley Court and Moore was inches off target with a clever flick.

To nullify the Stones threat, Dorking employed plenty of time-wasting



"You have got to be shitting me ..." Part 2. Moore's goal is chalked off for a dubious offside call.

tactics to slow things down. It was so bad that during my commentary for Stones Live I told listeners: "We apologise for the lack of coverage while we wait two minutes for Dorking to take a throw-in."

The Wanderers scored a third after 61 minutes when the Stones lost possession, allowing Dennon Lewis to chase a quick through ball and calmly place his shot beyond the reach of Harness.

The rest of the game saw Dorking defending in depth to frustrate the Stones (as did the officials when Moore had a goal disallowed for a questionable offside call) but the travelling fans finally had something to cheer during added time when Bramble smartly headed home a corner from Court.

And he may be only 19 but Court could at least be seen to be trying to rouse some of his more senior colleagues.



Bramble's consolation goal

What the hell was *that*?

ENFIELD TOWN 2

Youngs 63, Reynolds 69

MAIDSTONE UNITED 1

Moore 42

Attendance: 612

By Fred Atkins

Enfield Town play in a converted athletics venue and this performance was like watching a 400 metre race in which one of the participants decides to walk the final lap.

It was inexplicable and, after Dorking on Saturday, frankly worrying, although to once again borrow Alan Partridge's line about 1000 miles of trouble-free sailing on the Titanic before it hit the iceberg, for over an hour there was absolutely no indication at all how badly things were going to end.

The first half was even. Bramble had an early shot deflected wide and at the other end Reynolds missed by about a yard. Court might well have had a penalty when he was clipped while breaking into the box and Moore surged from halfway to the edge of the box before unleashing a shot that didn't really trouble the keeper

Youngs chipped one over the top for Reynolds and, although Harness was stricken after saving the one-on-one, the presence of Fowler and Beeden was enough to force Reynolds to steer the rebound wide.

"You can lose 2-1 after leading. It happens. And then you can lose 2-1 like this..."

It's also worth mentioning, for the people who say we constantly hoof it, that our goal came from a very attractive passage of play: Yes, Harness cleared the ball downfield, but Golding rolled it into the path of Papadopoulos and he spotted Tanga's run, before producing a perfect through ball. One-on-one with the keeper, Tanga might have been tempted to shoot, but instead squared it to Moore, who took a touch and picked out the bottom corner.

We just about deserved to be ahead, but failed to cash in on a succession of corners at the end of the first half. Bramble shot just wide from one of them, before



Riley Court leaps on Deon Moore after he puts Maidstone in front. This turns out to be the highpoint of the evening, in more than one sense.

Court shot wide from another. As you'll also see from the unsightly edited highlights, Fowler was having his shirt ripped off, meaning we should have had a penalty.

Within 25 seconds of the restart it could have been 2-0, with Tanga dragging a cross back to the penalty spot and the Enfield keeper just about keeping out a shot from Gilbert, who'd tried to pick out the corner.

An uneventful quarter of an hour followed and then it all went to shit. The natives were screaming for a foul when Papadopoulos tugged Adom-Malaki's shirt as he burst down the left, but the referee played the advantage rule and Adom-Malaki whipped in a cross that didn't go near a white shirt until Harness tried to deal with it. The ball bounced straight to Youngs, who was a yard out and couldn't miss. It happens.

Six minutes later Enfield broke down the right and Fowler lost his

footing, allowing Youngs to swing his right foot at the ball. Harness saved the shot but the rebound went straight to Reynolds, who also couldn't miss.

Again, it happens, but you expect a response. We got nothing. The substitutions had no effect at all other than to make us less effective and even when the board went up showing six minutes of stoppage time, we did nothing to exploit Enfield's nerves, instead giving away naive free-kicks that allowed them to wind down the clock.

You can lose 2-1 after leading. You're pissed off, but if you've had a go you wouldn't feel that bad about it.

And then you can lose 2-1 like this, when you fail to even lay a glove on the opposition in the final half hour. And if you paid to watch it, you're perfectly entitled to ask, what the hell was *that*?

Edition 15: Kits through the ages

The answers to last week's Stones Quiz. This week's quiz is on pages 22-23.

1) This kit was only worn in the **88-89** season. For 89-90 the design remained the same but the plain amber was replaced with a "bird shit" splattered look.

2) **2005-06**: the KM sponsored the kit, stepping in after a problem with the answer to question 5.

3) **1990-91**: The Argentina Prosperity kit was used for our second season in the Football League.

4) **2000-2002**: an era when the away kits had no logos. Why we wore this kit at Tunbridge Wells (pictured), on the day we returned to senior football in 2001, remains a mystery.

5) Danny Kedwell in the KF Concept kit, used between **2003** and **2005**, when it was revealed the KF Concept was a pyramid scheme that conned over 8,000 investors.

6) **2006-08**. Previous sponsors Britelite returned for our title winning season in 06-07.

7) This kit was only used in the **89-90** season. Arguably the GOAT.

8) **1984-85**. It all went yellow for a season. Shunned by the Football League, the colour change was both unpopular and symbolic of a team in decline.

9) **1979-1981**. Another all-time classic, the stripe on the right, the kit that we wore during two classic FA Cup runs.

10) The Ajax-themed strip from **1974**. Say what you like about Jim Thompson, he did produce sensational kits.



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



The classic purple tie-dye



Malcolm Stewart in yellow



"Ajax pal, Ajax."

Persistence pays off as Stones soar to second

**BETTESHANGER 0
MAIDSTONE UNITED 3**
Hinkley 38, Pearch 44, Waud 90

By John Tully

Maidstone United Women recorded their fifth straight South East Counties Women's League win on Sunday, when they were good value for a 3-0 triumph away to Betteshanger Welfare.

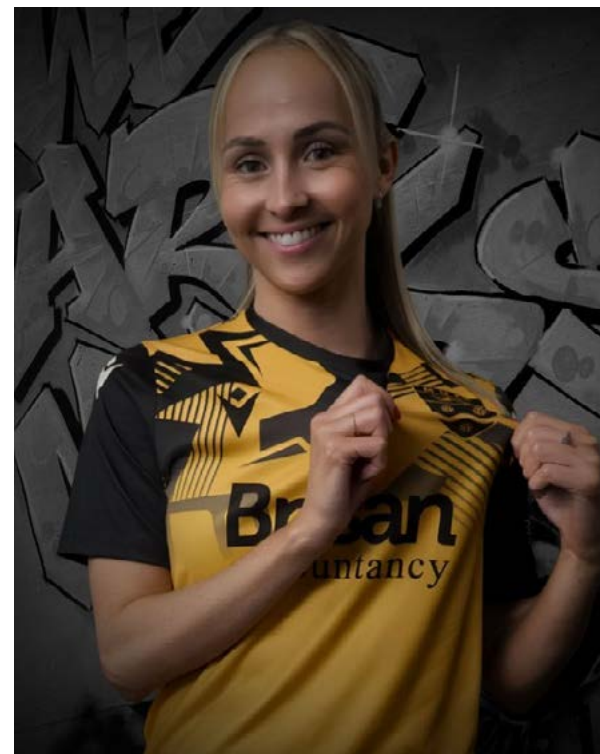
The fitness and concentrated pressure of the Stones again eventually overcame a competitive home side and goals from Ellie Hinkley and Georgia Pearch in the first half and Millie Waud late in the second half saw the Stones run out deserved winners.

Betteshanger have proved dogged opponents in the past, but Sunday's win already completes an early season double, the ladies having won 2-0 at Whatman Way on November 2.

As seems customary of late, the Stones pressed hard without joy in the opening stages, with several near misses and saves preventing them from opening the score.



Ellie Hinkley



Georgia Pearch

The breakthrough came in the 38th minute when captain Annie White was brought down after a purposeful run into the box.

Hinkley drove home a powerful penalty kick to relieve some of the frustration and six minutes later Pearch lashed home a rebound after a typical Kylie Manktelow blaster. This was Georgia's fourth goal of a productive season for the central defender.

The pressure continued in the second period, notably with substitute Tori Campbell hitting the crossbar. Other subs were made but we had to wait until the 90th minute for the last goal, when Millie Ward finished from a Neve Platt cross.

It was another strong performance from the ladies, who are building well on a strong back four, a busy midfield and a good all-round squad.

The win helped Stones into second place in the league table behind Tonbridge Angels, who have played eight games and also have a 100 per cent record.

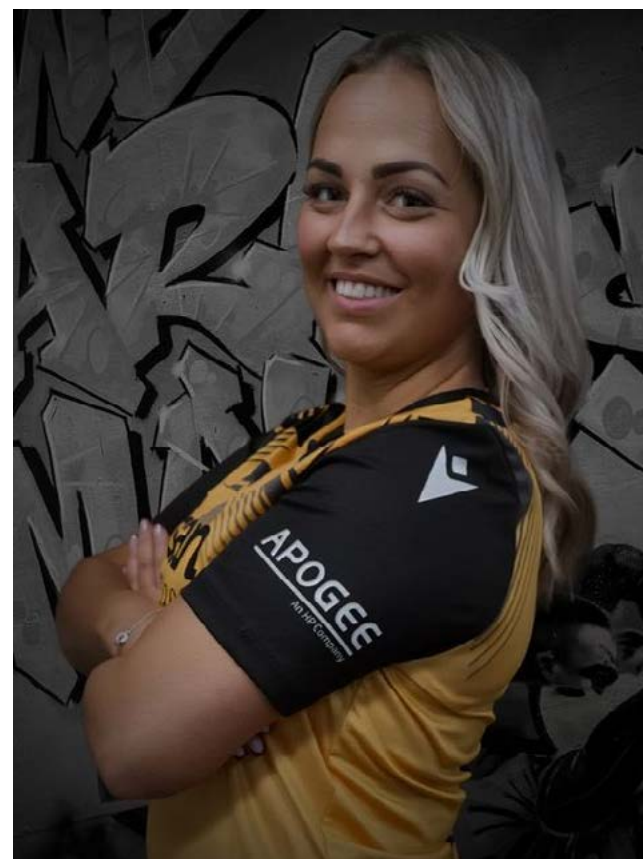
The Stones have conceded two goals in their five games while the Angels have let in 12 from eight but have scored 50 times versus the

Stones' 25.

We were meant to play Tonbridge at Longmead Stadium on December 7th, but this has been rearranged and we'll now be playing them home and away in the closing two months of the season, which only adds to the tension.

Before that, Stones play their last home fixture of 2025 on Sunday against Long Lane, who currently languish at the wrong end of the table with one point from seven games.

This outstanding Stones team deserves to see more spectators at home games. Home games kick-off at 3.15pm on Sundays.



Millie Waud



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

NLS - Bath City (H) Sat 6 December 2025 : 1500 - Chris Bechervaise & Alex del Valle

KSCQF - Charlton Athletic (H) Tue 9 December 1945 - Fred Atkins & Steve Watt

FAT3 - Yeovil Town (A) Sat 13 December 2025 : 1500 - Darren Styles & Nigel Seager

NLS - Hampton & Richmond (A) Sat 20 December 2025 : 1500 - Fred Atkins & Sean Scurr

NLS - Dover Athletic (H) Fri 26 December 2025 : 1500 - Fred Atkins & Sean Scurr

NLS - Hornchurch (A) Tue 30 December 2025 : 1945 - Darren Styles & 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.



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The Back Page

Back on his specialist subject, defending, **Steve Watt** talks about Row Z, Dorking and the NFL in his latest column for The Back Page



Watt's Occurring?

Stick it in Row Z: they can't score from there!

The first goal at Dorking was just a comedy of errors really. It looks like there was a really good press on and that was forcing them to play long. That's exactly what you want to do against a Dorking side, but it all went wrong from there really.

Maidstone got caught in a fight in the middle of the pitch when they didn't really need to and from there it seemed like the left back switched off to let Muitt in.

My cardinal sin in the final third is letting a player come inside. You have to show him outside because it reduces the angle he has to shoot at.

Now if he still scores, as Shields did for Tonbridge, I'll take the blame for that because that's what I told you to do, but this was easily avoidable and I'd be really disappointed to concede a goal like that.

When you play Dorking you expect them to move the ball and if they'd cut you open by playing football you'd say fair enough, but this was one long ball over the top after you'd had a good press on.

The penalty doesn't look like it should have been given. It may look different from a different angle, but it clearly looks like Hamblin kicks the floor.

In that sense you could say he was unlucky, but this isn't the kind of penalty you'd concede 15 or 20 years ago, because then a defender would just clear his lines. If defenders are



Dorking's opener came when Muitt was allowed to drift inside

being asked to play the ball these things are going to happen.

I always used to say, in and around the box, don't give the referee a decision to make. Players are humans and are going to make mistakes so the fewer decisions you give them to make, the better.

People can call me a dinosaur but I'd never tell a player off for smashing a ball off the pitch. It's instilled in players that they need to pass more and keep possession. As a player George was a no-nonsense defender and a very, very good

one, but maybe as a manager he's asking his players to do something different.

I don't know what he's told them but I would look at that and say, if you've drilled it into your defender that he needs to defend, he won't take that final touch in the area. He'll just put his foot through it.

Now it's also possible that he's told the defender to defend and he's taken a touch anyway: that can happen. I don't know. What I do know is that the opposition cannot score from Row Z.

Marc White's exactly the same when he's off screen

I first met Marc White when I was playing for Hastings. It was the season when Dorking beat Hastings in the play-offs and I left halfway through to manage Margate.

He is exactly like he is in the *Bunch of Amateurs* documentary and he's always been like that. He's a great guy and a breath of fresh air.

What you see is what you get with him and that's something I admire about him, because in football you don't often get people who say what they're actually thinking.

I know they pay very good wages because I've given Marc a couple of players: he took DJ Oldaker off me and he's now at Swindon, so I know how well they pay, but that doesn't always give you success. Marc's done fantastically there and he has a style of play he's always stuck to.

As a player I think you would have to watch your behaviour in that dressing room if the cameras were present. You might not do or say certain things because of how they'd be interpreted and you might not be defensive, but you probably would be wary.

Having said that, in the heat of the game I probably wouldn't be any different. If I thought I needed to go in at half-time lose my shit with people, I would and as a player all I wanted to do was win, it was that simple.

Whatever I needed to do or say to win I would, without hesitation, whether a camera was there or not.



DJ Oldaker, pictured here for Chesterfield at JWW, played for Steve at Hythe before moving to Dorking

"I know how well Dorking pay, but that doesn't guarantee you success."



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One thing people have noticed in *Bunch of Amateurs* is the number of print outs there are on the walls detailing set piece formations and corner routines.

I like to keep things very basic. At a higher level it would be different because you're working with a different calibre of player, not just in terms of their ability but in what they can process and digest.

At lower levels you've got to simplify the game a little bit and give players a base structure. I've never been one for giving players too much information but what we're seeing now at set pieces is interesting.

I'm currently coaching an American Football team (the South East Legion) and while they're obviously very different sports there are similarities when it comes to manipulating the opposition. You

could say Dorking did that for the first goal, they sucked in the full back then spun it behind him.

In American Football, if there's a mismatch somewhere you'd try to exploit it: you'd want your quickest wide receiver against their slowest cornerback.

One of the best players I played with and against was Chris Sessegnon, who I was with at Dover.

He was fantastic in one-on-one situations, but if I was playing against him I'd always use an inverted winger on his side to cause him problems and he always got caught.

Another example is Dan Carr, a forward who'd been at Huddersfield and was playing against Hythe for Sevenoaks. When I saw he was playing on the left-wing I immediately put Aaron Barnes on

him. Barnes was such an intelligent player that Carr spent the whole game worrying about him and we won 4-0.

My boy is an offensive tackle and if you did what he does on a football pitch you'd get sent off, but if you look at Arsenal and the way they work at set-pieces there are similarities with the way you block players.

I follow the Tampa Bay Buccaneers: I was always a Tom Brady fan so I kind of adopted them when he went there.

For me it's the best sport in the world: if I'm honest I don't even watch football on a Sunday now. It's not like when I was a kid: the games are just too predictable. I'll just watch the NFL instead because nearly every game has ups and downs and momentum swings.

"Social-first" FC sinks to the foot of the table

By Alan Thatcher

Torquay United have put their week from hell behind them with two stunning results.

Having lost at home to the Stones in the FA Trophy, and suspending two key players following a midweek altercation after a fans forum event, they bounced back in style.

They battered **Eastbourne Borough** 7-0 on Saturday, with a hat-trick from Louis Dennis, and ended **Worthing's** long unbeaten run by recovering from 2-0 down to win 3-2 on Tuesday.

Dennis, 33, again did the damage with two strikes including the second half winner, giving him ten for the season so far.

The Gulls were flying high against **Eastbourne**, leading 4-0 at the interval, by which time Borough players had decided to reimburse their fans who made the 500-mile round trip for the cost of their tickets (but not their petrol or train fares).

Then things turned nasty. On Sunday morning the club issued a statement decrying the online abuse of players, staff and the club hierarchy, who again went on the defensive when further candid views were expressed by fans on a local radio phone-in.

"Instead of discussing media trends, perhaps the club should concentrate on the football, and hopefully 'inspire their players to reach their full potential'."

Maybe the Borough owner Simon Leslie will commission a new video, especially as the team slipped to the bottom of the table after Tuesday night's results.

We look forward to the coverage of tonight's "meet the manager" event at Priory Lane, when Tommy Widdrington will no doubt try his best to put some spin on Mr Leslie's vision for the club.

The following paragraph is culled from



The unmistakable, peak-hatted figure of Alan Devonshire at JWW in September when Maidenhead beat us 1-0

Mr Leslie's personal business website:

"As the proud owner and chairman of Eastbourne Borough, the fastest-growing social-first football club, Simon seamlessly blends his passion for sport with his business acumen. Whether discussing media trends or inspiring others to reach their full potential, he thrives on helping people and organisations unlock their true capabilities."

If anyone has the faintest idea of what a "social-first football club" means, please get in touch.

Instead of discussing media trends, perhaps the club should concentrate on the football, and hopefully "inspire their players to reach their full potential".

* Give some credit to our besties at **Dover** for some amazing foresight in making their home game against **Eastbourne Borough** free entry for fans on December 20. (*Editor's note: there are no circumstances under*

which we'll be giving Dover credit for anything.)

* My match report from Dorking deals with the subject of target men. While not an out-and-out member of that profession, it's interesting to see that Mo Faal is back on the market after being released this week by League of Ireland side Waterford.

Still in Ireland, our best wishes go to Sam Bone for a speedy recovery from an injury that has kept him out of the team for champions Shelbourne. He has been playing in the heart of the defence and has weighed in with some important goals, notably the one that helped Shelbourne advance in the Europa Conference League.

* **Maidenhead United** players are determined to give manager Alan Devonshire a fantastic farewell.

Following the announcement that he is to step down as manager at York Road, after a disastrous run of results

since their win at the Gallagher in September, Maidenhead responded with a 6-0 win away to **Salisbury** on Tuesday night.

West Ham and England legend Devonshire takes charge of the side for the final time tomorrow when they entertain lowly **Chippenham Town**.

Ryan Peters, who followed him to York Road from Braintree as assistant manager, has been appointed interim boss.

* **Horsham** won 2-1 at **Ebbsfleet** on Tuesday to take their unbeaten run to 11 matches in the NLS and 14 in all competitions.

This victory propelled them to fourth in the table and they face a formidable challenge tomorrow when they are at home to second-placed **Weston-super-Mare**.

On Saturday, **Weston** announced ambitious development plans for their Optima Stadium, but the mood was spoilt when visitors **Dover** snatched a 2-1 victory with a late winner through Luca Cocoracchio.

* Leaders **Hornchurch** were held 1-1 at home by **Totton** on Saturday. Aaron Henry, signed on loan from Boreham Wood, scored a superb first half free kick to put the Urchins ahead.

However, Totton drew level 15 minutes from time with a header from veteran defender Joe Oastler.

Totton slipped out of the play-off paces in midweek after losing 3-2 at **Slough**, with the home side scoring twice in the last five minutes to climb out of the relegation zone.

Slough slipped up 2-1 at home to **Worthing** on Saturday in a clash between two clubs both known as The Rebels.

It was **Worthing's** seventh consecutive league win, with two goals from Bradley Dologhan taking his tally to 11. However, he failed to register at **Torquay** as the Gulls' goal machine Louis Dennis roared ahead in the goal charts. Since their FA Cup defeat to **Forest Green Rovers** on his first game back, Worthing had won every game under Adam Hinshelwood leading up to Tuesday night's trip to **Torquay**. Tomorrow they face another massive match with the visit

of leaders **Hornchurch**.

Chelmsford's impressive recent run ended with a surprise 3-0 defeat at **Salisbury** on Saturday and they slumped again in midweek, going down 2-1 at **Hemel Hempstead**. **Tonbridge Angels'** losing run continued with a 1-0 defeat at bottom of the league Chippenham Town on

Saturday, but they bounced back in midweek to win 3-0 at struggling **Hampton and Richmond**, who appear to be in freefall.

Without a win since August, they conceded a last-minute goal in the 2-1 home defeat to **Bath City** at the weekend.



"Dad, shut the f**k up!"

Here's a story that sums up the essence of non-league football. During the **Whitehawk v Dartford** match on Tuesday, there were two red cards, which suggests some remarkably restrained behaviour from both teams renowned for their physical football.

When Whitehawk's Charlie Lambert hit the deck after a challenge and began rolling on the floor, a home fan began shouting, screaming and swearing at the linesman.

He then began an argument with a much taller Dartford fan, who had to be restrained by stewards when the conversation threatened to become physical.

At this point, Lambert was back on his feet and watching the whole scene unfold on the other side of the barrier.

He was moved to say: "Dad, Dad, Daaaad ... shut the f**k up!" Oh, Dartford won 2-1.

Thank you to Brian Oliver, a contributor to *Non-League News* on

Facebook, where the full report is well worth a read. Warning: do not have a mouth full of coffee while you read it!

Finally, a Southern Counties East Division One cup tie was abandoned with **Lewisham Borough** leading **AFC Greenwich Borough** 3-1.

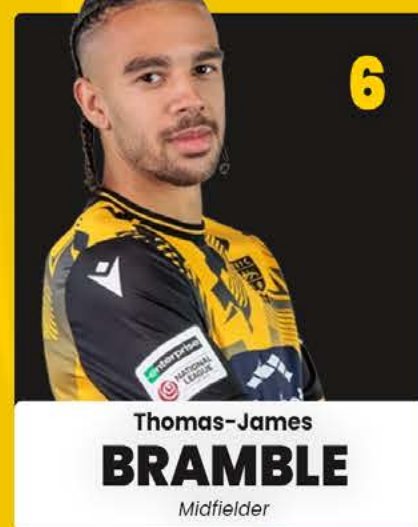
According to the Lewisham Twitter feed, "With only a few minutes remaining, a substituted Greenwich player confronted the Lewisham bench, resulting in some rather undignified scenes".

Lewisham thanked their fans for turning up to watch "a great match while it lasted".

Editor's note: older fans may remember we've enjoyed mass brawls against both these sides: vs AFC Lewisham in 2000-01, when a cup-tie erupted on the old London Road pitch and a couple of years later vs Greenwich at Bourne Park, where club official Darren Lovell's attempt to quell the situation by showing his police ID unsurprisingly failed.

MAIDSTONE UNITED

2025/26 SQUAD



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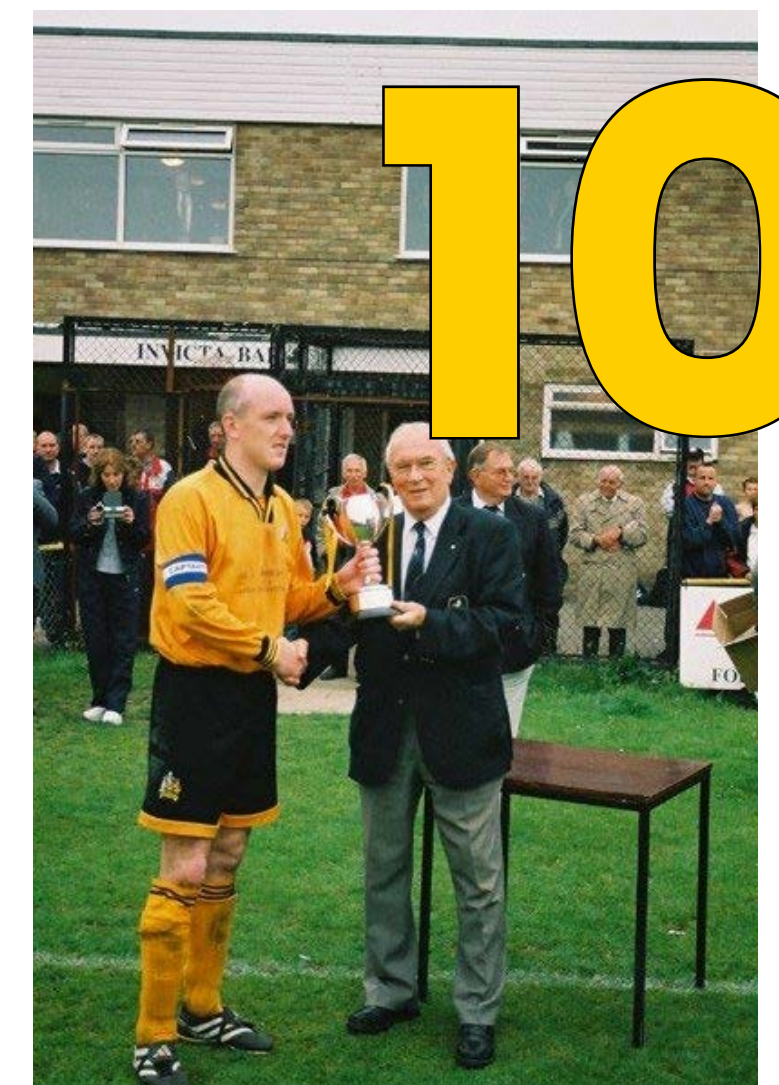
Maidstone have handled a lot of silverware down the years. Can you name the cups, shields and trophies here?



The
**Back
Page**



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The new independent source for Maidstone United news: Edition 16 (November 28th 2025)

Bi-polarity, poison, crime porn and #Motivation

The Back Page Gossip Column is back, contrary to popular demand

NEVER TOO HIGH, OFTEN TOO LOW

The phrase “never too high, never too low,” is being tested in this most bipolar of seasons. 10 days after outplaying a Torquay side who have subsequently beaten Eastbourne and Worthing 7-0 and 3-2 respectively, we produced arguably our worst half hour of the season at Enfield, against a team who were hovering above the relegation zone. The disappointment of losing at Dorking or Weston is mitigated by the calibre of the opposition. The disappointment losing at Enfield isn’t, but it’s possible to think this was a shit performance without wanting everyone shamed/sacked/fired into the sun. There’s more than enough negativity and poison swilling around the internet to go round. It’s not the style of *The Back Page* to hammer individuals who represent us and it never will be.

THROW UP, MORE LIKE

Now a confession: A decade ago I went a bit Goldbridge on *Stones Live!* after we lost 3-0 at home to Enfield Town in the Isthmian Premier. Some people liked it, but I knew I’d gone over the top as soon as I’d said it and I’m glad this was a time before *Stones TV* started using our commentaries on the highlights. On Tuesday night I said I felt like throwing up after the final whistle. That was possibly over-dramatic, but I have been feeling faintly nauseous this week, watching clubs promote the National League’s “3UP” campaign. The idea is sound. It’s the fact that I can’t get the words “piss-up” and “brewery” out of my head that’s tripping me.

YOU CAN’T HARRY, LOVE

There was a familiar face at the QE2 ground on Tuesday night: the hooded, sensibly-attired, Harry Kyprianou was in the house and could be seen chatting with his former team mates and staff members. Still only 28, the Enfield-born Harry has been without a club since he left Maidstone in the summer. For once the phrase mutual consent seemed accurate: apparently he was ground down by the constant injuries and wanted a break from the game.



No way through for George Fowler on Tuesday night. A familiar feeling if you wanted to use the M25 to get home.

QUICKSILVER SAM

You might have been bewitched by the quicksilver brain of Sam Matterface during his ITV commentaries, his unscripted monologues and effortless ad libs and the way he makes commentary sound so easy. It isn’t. At Enfield the *Stones Live!* crew were sat right in with the home fans, with all the potential for mayhem that ensued. They were at least friendly, but we had to rein it in when Maidstone scored for fear of causing offence. If there was one upside to that spirit-crushing second-half it was that there was absolutely no danger of upsetting them again.

DEATH PORN

An unusually high number of the aforementioned Enfield fans wished us a safe journey home on Tuesday night. Did they know something we didn’t? The Sat Nav in the Tonto Taxi didn’t think it was worth mentioning that the M25 junction was closed and subsequently diverted us into the kind of areas you associate with the words: “On BBC iPlayer. the shocking story of Redbridge Ron.” For the record, in the event that I die in

a high-profile crime, I explicitly do *not* consent to having my demise packaged for a true-crime podcast hosted by a salivating tosser like Iain Sinclair. Cheers.

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER FOR HIRE

Last week’s review of “Owning Eastbourne” (what a time to drop *that* by the way,) included our incredulous reaction to the revelation they’d hired a motivational speaker before last season’s play-off semi-final. We’ve not been immune to this kind of thing. One of our managers was in the habit of plastering motivational slogans on walls, one of which was: “No one ever drowned in their own sweat.” Unlike Eastbourne, where the slogans have been painted on the walls, ours were apparently written on A4 paper and fastened with blu-tack. We’ll leave you to guess which of our ex-managers this was. No spoilers but he was rumoured to have been running an unsuccessful coffee business somewhere in Hertfordshire. Now if you, or someone you know, essentially needs to be told to, “snap the fuck out of it,” I will happily do it for half the price quoted by any of the agencies you’ll find online. Link in bio, DM for details.