The independent source for Maidstone United news: Edition 28 (February 27th 2026)

The Back Page

Cloud Eight

Stunning display shatters Enfield

Steve Watt

"The best thing about that game was that we didn't show them any mercy ..."

PLUS: - Dorking and Enfield reports and reaction
- MUFC women also hit eight
- Salisbury and Weston previews by Tom Rogers
- The Stones Quiz
- How have we turned into 2011 Barcelona?

Welcome: The Back Page

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

The team is a mixture of professional journalists, experienced amateurs and aspiring newcomers.
We aim to offer previews, reports, features, rumours and more.

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

Editor: Fred Atkins

Web Partner: Paul Furst

Video partner: Walnut Media

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

Proof readers: Jurgen Dahmer, Richard Fryer, Sean Scurr

Pictures: Helen Cooper & Steve Terrell

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

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Image of the week: 21:2:2026 Knight mare: “Manson Lamps”

There’s a lot going on in this one, to put it very mildly. Quite apart from the fact Jamie Yila’s shirt is almost all the way over his head, George Knight’s “Manson Lamps” are ablaze and he looks as if he might about to murder George Fowler. We’ve seen ‘em given ...

Report, pages 6 and 7 ...

Riley Court is mullered in the box by Luke Moore. No red card, no penalty.

The 'Dorking Dead' cling on for a point

By Fred Atkins

They celebrated as if they'd won. We celebrated because we'd remembered how to play football, after a run from Hades.

And the only obvious exception to the general mood of happiness was George Elokobi, who said he was extremely disappointed we hadn't won.

He had a point, in more than one sense. Dorking knocked it around nicely enough, but were, according to Marc White, like a cross between Dad's Army and the Walking Dead due to an injury crisis, although they still managed to put seven players on the bench.

Yet at times this season we've only had three outfield, and both Dajon Golding and Lexus Beeden are long-term absentees, so any sympathy was limited.

MAIDSTONE UNITED 1
Faal 60
DORKING WANDERERS 1
Prior 19
Attendance: 2,336

The early warning came in the 18th minute, when Prior beat Agbontohoma to a header that went a yard wide, before he scored, almost exactly a minute later, from almost exactly the same position.

I was watching alongside Stones Live founder Chris Bechervaise and we both had the same thought: "Steve Butler". Prior has been playing against us for nearly as long as we've been on air, and this looked like an old-pro using all his experience to get the half-yard of space he needed.

If you watched Sunday's North London derby, Tottenham had an equaliser ruled out for a similar kind of "push" - hands in the lower back – but Agbontohoma didn't think to complain, probably because he didn't think he'd been fouled.

Neither did any of his team mates, nor hardly anyone in the crowd, bar the Elvis Ender who was yelling: "fucking cheats!" at one-minute intervals throughout.

We responded well. Within two minutes Tanga floated in a cross and Moore rose above Norville-Williams, who made a point of telling the ref he thought he'd been fouled.

When Tanga was then tackled right on the edge of the box it fell into the "seen 'em given" category and Faal was looking like the rubber-legged menace he'd been in his first spell with us.

Tanga then cut in, only to be denied by Instagram's Harrison Foulkes and Agbontohoma put in a fierce tackle towards the end of the half that suggested his confidence level might have improved.

Report: Stones 1 Dorking 1

At half-time we were maybe unlucky to be behind and whatever luck was going in the second half went Dorking's way.

Five minutes after the restart Riley Court was poleaxed by Luke Moore. The foul was clearly inside the area, but the referee gave a free-kick. Moore, let's be generous, looked like he lost his footing, but it was still a two-footed tackle and with VAR it would have been a penalty and possibly a red card.

Court, however, went flying into the D, while Moore, who was hit in the chest, clutched his head and escaped with a yellow. The free-kick went into the wall and in the second phase Prior ran into Foulkes and went down injured.

You can call it professionalism, or cynicism. It worked, but the fact they were having to resort to it said everything about how the second half was going. Court then tried a scissorbastard that hit a defender in the chest, leading to unsuccessful calls for a penalty, before the introduction of Yila proved decisive.

Moore won a flick-on and Yila took two touches to set up Faal, who picked out the bottom corner and celebrated with some gusto. From then on we looked the more likely winners.

"White somehow blamed the officials, said our goal was handball, (not even close) and that Knight shouldn't have been sent off (mate...)..."

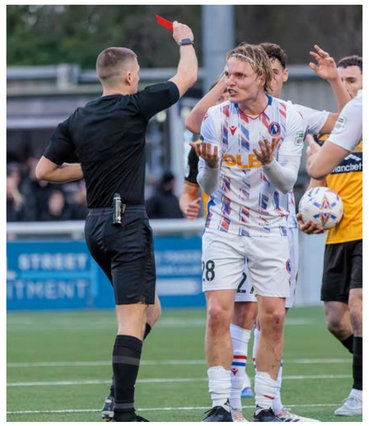
Hamblin hit a piss-whistler that missed by inches and Foulkes made a great one-handed save from Tanga. They forced a couple of saves from Harness, but were clinging on by the time the fourth official signalled eight minutes of stoppage time.

Prior cleared a Bramble header off the line and six minutes into added time Knight literally kicked Sam Corne up the arse and was shown a straight red, but it was too late to make the advantage count.

In his post-match White blamed the officials, said our goal was handball, (not even close) that Knight shouldn't have been sent off (mate ...), and that we were playing an "absolutely broken Dorking team" who were depleted, desolate and had no substitutes (they made four).

Until he'd pointed that out, I hadn't realised just what a plucky underdog performance this was.

1-1. Faal rolls in the equaliser.



(Left) Turns out you can't actually kick players up the arse. (Right) George, knowing two points were there for the taking.

Chairman, Mo? The scorer with sponsor Paul Beckett of Total Machining Solutions, one of the possible future owners.

A close up view of a non-league star

By Alex del-Valle

Marc White epitomises non-league football and when someone mentions the phrase "non-league" to me, he's one of the first faces I associate with it.

Since 1999, he and his Dorking Wanderers side have climbed the ranks of non-league the "Wanderers way", achieving 12 promotions and suffering only one relegation in their history, all under White who is the Co-founder, chairman and current manager. It's fair to say he *is* Dorking Wanderers.

Some however, may know him more from short clips on social media which often depict the entertaining character he really is on the sidelines every Saturday and that's why I made sure I had a front row seat for last Saturday's 1-1 draw when the Wanderers came to visit.

"He's always joked that if the Wanderers did reach League 2, he'd get the tea lady to sit the coaching courses and he would still run the team from the sidelines..."

White has made over 1,000 appearances in the dugout for the Wanderers. Many of these are well-documented thanks to the Bunch of Amateurs documentary crew who do an incredible job of capturing the behind the scenes of each Dorking Wanderers match day.

Always fitted with a microphone and with a camera fixed on him, he's had some fairly viral moments that have been viewed way beyond the fringes of the non-league community. A very outspoken individual, White never holds back and his feelings towards certain refereeing decisions have seen him banned on a few occasions.

The Wanderers came into the game in fine form, top of the league and five points clear. A stark contrast to the Stones who were winless in their last five matches and found themselves slipping further down the league table as a result. If that wasn't enough to pit the Wanderers as the favourites, then you only needed to look at the fixture history with the Stones only managing to beat the Wanderers once in over 10 games.

Marc White taking the stage before Saturday's 1-1 draw.

Perhaps it was no surprise therefore to see White and his management team come out and sit in the dug out a good 10 minutes before kick-off – a display of confidence perhaps?

It's well known that White doesn't have any FA coaching badges. That's not an issue if you want to manage a side in the non-league pyramid, however, it is a requirement from League 2 upwards.

Despite that, he is probably the most vocal manager on the touchline I've seen this season and not just to the referees. He'd often give instructions to switch play or encourage his wingers to take on their man. And his players listen to everything. It was almost like watching a real-life game of FIFA. Having got the Wanderers 12 promotions, I think it's fair to say he knows what he's talking about.

That's perhaps why he's so respected amongst his players and staff and indeed the wider footballing community despite not having the "qualifications".

He's always joked that if the Wanderers did reach League 2, he'd get the "tea lady" to sit the coaching courses and he would still run the team from the sidelines. I genuinely wouldn't put it past him.

If you can't already tell, I'm a big Marc White fan. I've watched *Bunch of Amateurs* since its inception and am of the firm view that Marc White represents everything non-league football is about.

I think overall what makes him so likeable as a character in my opinion, is that he is simply a footballing man. Even when his Wanderers side were down to 10 men and looked like they could lose out to the Stones, he seemed to be enjoying himself.

We did have a brief moment where we locked eyes and grinned at each other, acknowledging the chaos of a simple game of football. He then looked up at the scoreboard clock and said, "hurry up will ya!" – acknowledging that his side were hanging on for a point in the end despite being firmly in control during the first half.

I think he can be misunderstood by many but ultimately, he's just like you and me – lovers of the beautiful game.

Soaring Stones surge into the semis

By John Tully

This overwhelming win was obtained with four goals in each half, even with a sluggish first half performance.

Goals came at regular intervals with Kylie Manktelow starting the Stones off with a fourth minute goal created by a Georgia Culpitt assist.

Culpitt, nicknamed 'G' is gradually getting used to her newer wing back role, having been an out-and-out winger.

She got her reward four minutes later finishing off a move involving Kady Wilkinson and the assist from Tilly Rowsell. Chances continued to be created by the Stones with Kelsi Wilkinson, Manktelow and Culpitt all going close before number three arrived in the 31st minute. Manktelow cleverly lifted a bouncing ball over the keeper's head for her 21st goal of a hugely productive season.

The Stones pushed on and finally got the fourth goal on the stroke of half time when Chi Madamombe was on the spot to tuck home a rebound off the post from a Georgia Pearch shot.

Georgia "G" Culpitt scored twice before being subbed

FAVERSHAM STRIKE FORCE 1
Muckian 74
MAIDSTONE UNITED 8
Manktelow 4, 31, Culpitt 8, 59, Madamombe 45, Wilkinson 47, Campbell, 49, Boorman 81

The second half commenced with Tori Campbell replacing Jaz Etheridge at the centre of defence - this has become a regular change to ensure full flexibility and fitness throughout the squad.

It only took a couple of minutes before goal number five arrived, this time courtesy of a good finish from Kady Wilkinson.

Two minutes later player-manager Campbell scored a trademark blaster from a Manktelow assist, to bring her own personal tally to 15 for the season. At 6-0 Ellie Hinkley and Aimee Ascott joined the fray replacing Madamombe and Kelsi Wilkinson (56th minute).

6-0 became 7-0 on the hour when Tilly Roswell slid the ball across goal for Culpitt (who has 10 for the season) to tap in at the far post after an intelligent ball from Ascott.

Two further changes with 20 minutes to go saw Maddie Dale replace Georgia Culpitt and Freya Boorman taking over from Millie Waud.

On 74 minutes Faversham got a consolation goal through Danni Muckian but this was quickly cancelled out when, from a Manktelow corner, Boorman hit a terrific effort into the top corner. This was a deserved first goal of the season for a consistent and effective substitute.

■ Next Sunday (1st March) sees this season's eagerly awaited first meeting of the Stones versus league leaders and cup holders Tonbridge Angels in the League Cup at the Gallagher, with the usual 3.15 kick off.

The Stones go into this fixture on the back of a high scoring and confident run of form and gives them the opportunity to get a psychological boost for the run in to the season's end with up to 10 further fixtures possible.

Kylie Manktelow now has 21 goals in 2025-26

The Back Page
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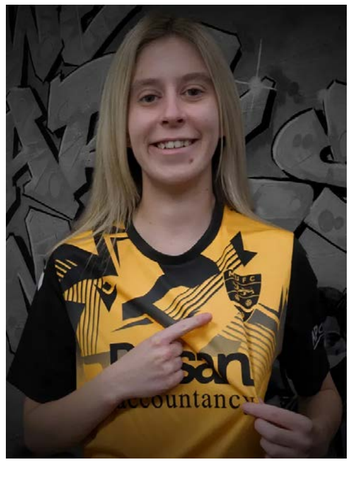

Freya Boorman scored her first goal of the season.

Report: Stones 8 Enfield 0

Stunning all-round display eclipses Enfield

MAIDSTONE UNITED 8
Court 5, 45+2, 55, Faal 19, Tanga 28, 47, Moore 71, Kargbo 89
ENFIELD TOWN 0
Attendance:
1,511 (unsegregated)

By Fred Atkins

You won't see many games like this in a lifetime. They do happen, but usually against lower level opposition in the cups, like the 10-0 massacre of Littlehampton back in 2014, or the 9-0 and 9-1 wins against Corinthian and Banstead three years earlier.

Scoring eight goals in a league game, at this level, is exceptionally rare and there are usually mitigating circumstances. (When Weymouth were hammered 9-0 by Rushden in 2009 they fielded a youth team and their chief executive ended up getting banned from football for betting on the result.)

Enfield had won 5-0 at Farnborough on Saturday. They *did* make four changes, but that alone can't explain what happened.

In the previous 14 days we'd lost to both Eastbourne and Chippenham, but Chelmsford allowed us a spasm of hope and we'd looked very good in the second half against Dorking. That said, if you believed Marc White they were reduced to playing a Walking Football XI, so just how good were we?

It wasn't immediately obvious we'd get a chance to find out. On the approach to the ground, the street lights were out on Buckland Hill, adding to the general Peter Sutcliffe vibe and there were no signs of life until the car park, where Jay Saunders could be seen talking to Bill Williams, probably not the first time they've spoken in that location.

The crowd looked meagre and although there was a rumour that Enfield might have "done a Slough" this turned out to be false and we started on time.

Right from the off they looked vulnerable on the left, unable to deal with Yila, Tanga, Faal and Court, who hit the post in the second minute.

1-0. Court scores in the fifth minute.

2-0. Tanga is felled and Faal converts.

3-0. Tanga finishes a superb team move.

That was just his sighter. On five minutes he took Faal's cross on his right and then lashed the ball across goal to make it 1-0. Faal then doubled the lead from the spot after Tanga knocked a raking ball from Foran past Benjamin and was clipped from behind, rolling it into the bottom left corner.

The third was maybe the best of the lot, a rapid counter after Corne had cleared one off the line that saw Faal play in Tanga, whose shot went in off the far post. Court steered in a Yila cross for the fourth, just after the board went up to signal four minutes of stoppage time.

When the half-time whistle blew, Enfield's coaching staff remained in the dug-out, but their keeper Wright wasn't waiting to say his piece. It sounded like: "You're too fucking weak!" and it looked like he had at least one of his rods up.

He had every right to be fucked off. Quite aside from their suicidal tactics, they had at least three players who might as well have stayed in London.

When a team is 4-0 down at half-time their usual goal is damage limitation, yet Enfield set-up like a team who, in the face of all evidence, felt they could still get a result.

"From the desolation of Chippenham, just 10 days beforehand, we've gone to this: maybe the best performance in this venue's history..."

This was insane. The gaps went unplugged and two minutes after the restart Yila fed Tanga for a tap-in.

And still they went for it. Enfield kicked off with four attackers on the left of the halfway line, all of whom looked set for a sprint. This is how you set up when you concede in the final minute of stoppage time and desperately need a goal, not when you're 5-0 down with 43 minutes of normal time left.

Court completed his hat-trick five minutes later, from a Yila cross and at this point Yila was subbed to a standing ovation. Everyone deserved plaudits, but he really did look like a special, game-changing talent.

The subs must have been desperate to get on and both Moore and Kargbo got on the scoresheet before the end, the former tapping in Tanga's cross and the latter bundling one in after Wright parried Moore's shot. It was maybe the only mistake the keeper made all evening and he still managed a Gordon Banks-like effort to deny Moore the ninth in stoppage time.

4-0. Riley scores through the keeper's legs.

*

Enfield's manager Gavin MacPherson was emotional, "shellshocked" and said he was "beyond words". On a human level you had to feel for him, as he tried to make sense of what had happened when it must have felt as if his insides had been kicked in.

George saluted both an "outstanding" performance and the exciting football, highlighting the ruthless finishing. This was epitomised by Court, who admitted he was annoyed he'd missed the first chance but was "buzzing" to have scored his first senior hat-trick.

And who wasn't? From the desolation of Chippenham, just 10 days beforehand, we've gone to this: maybe the best performance in this venue's history.

5-0. Tanga gets his second, right at the start of the second half.

Upcoming Commentaries

Salisbury (A) Sat 28 February 2026 @ 1500 - Chris Bechervaise & Fred Atkins

Weston Super Mare (H)Tue 3 March 2026 @ 1945 - Darren Styles & Nigel Seager

Maidenhead United (A) Sat 7 March 2026 @ 1500 - Chris Bechervaise & Darren Styles

Dagenham & Redbridge (H) Tue 10 March 2026 @ 1945 - Fred Atkins & Nigel Seager

Farnborough (H) Sat 14 March 2026 @ 1500 - Fred Atkins & Sean Scurr

Chesham United (A) Sat 21 March 2026 @ 1500 - Chris Bechervaise & Adrian Sharpe

AFC Totton (H) Sat 28 March 2026 @1500 - Alan Thatcher & Alex del Valle

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.

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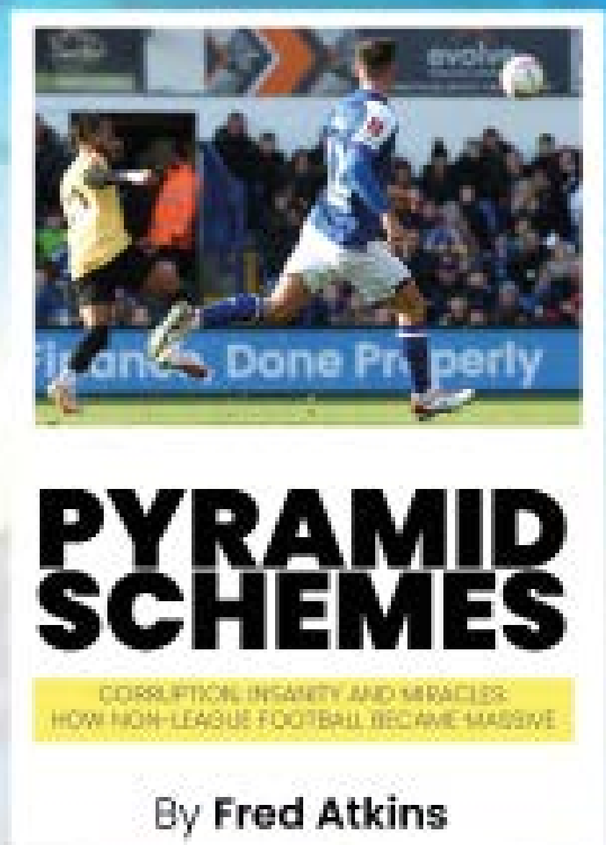

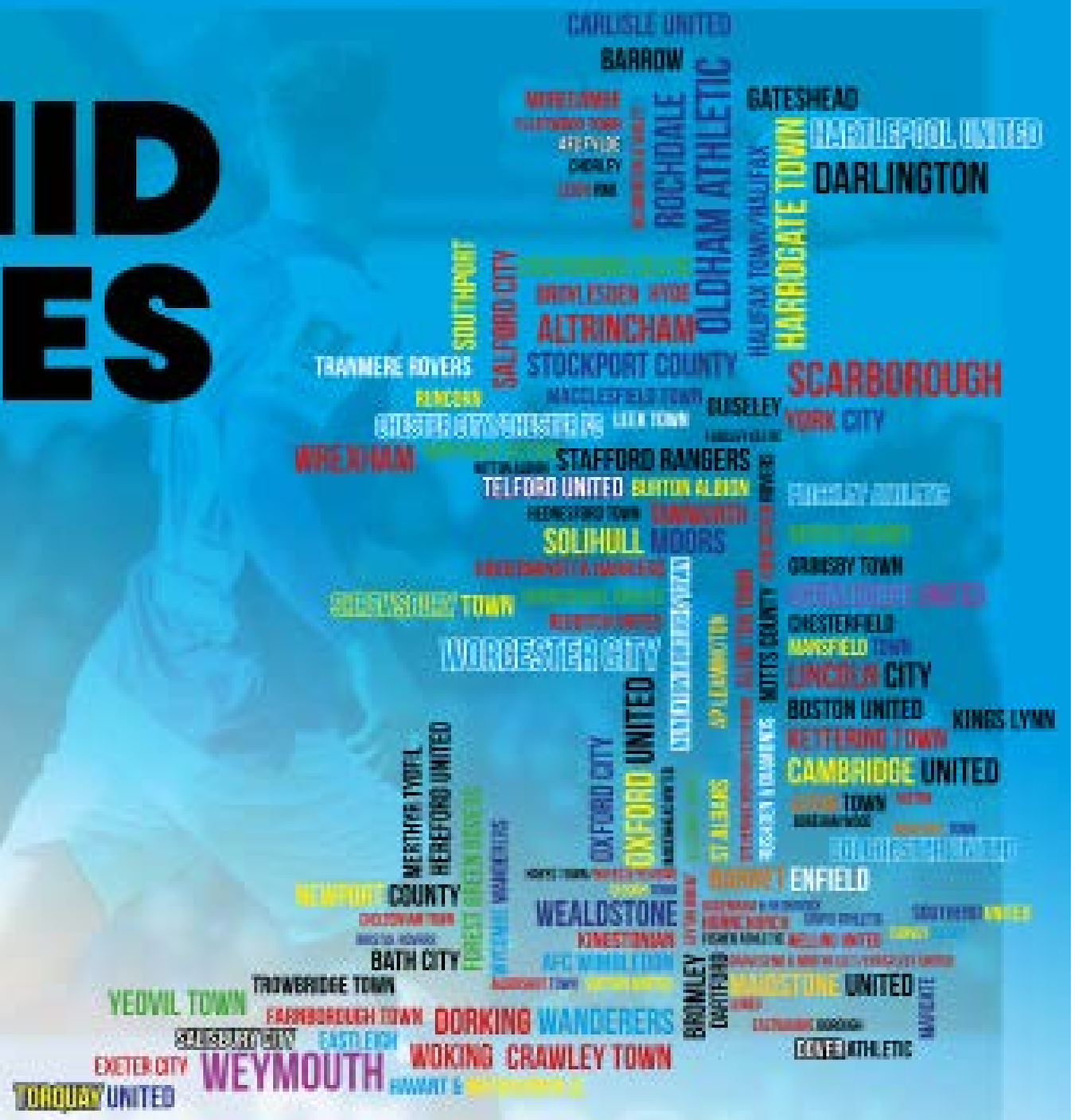

How Non-League Football became massive - Paperback £9.99 Kindle: £2.99

Column: Steve Watt

The Back Page

This week **STEVE WATT** talks about late goals, momentum, how he'd deal with Dorking and Takeover talk ...

Watt's Occurring?

If you feel a push, let the referee know about it

There were similarities between the goal Maidstone conceded on Saturday and the one that was disallowed during the North London derby, when Arsenal were leading 2-1.

I was watching that with a good friend of mine and my initial thought was that it was soft, but when you see it back it's just simple, it's a foul.

Did Gabriel make a meal out of it? Yes, but it was like Kolo Muani extended too hard and pushed. I don't know what he was thinking because it looked like Gabriel was underneath the ball and wouldn't have won the header regardless.

I probably would have done the same. If I'm out of position and feel a touch in the back, I'd be thinking I can buy a foul here. There's no doubt he's extended both his hands into the small of his back and you could say it's soft, but if that was down the other end every Tottenham fan in the world and every player would have wanted a free-kick for it.

You can be too honest as a defender sometimes and maybe David Agbontohoma was on Saturday, but it's a hard one because it all depends on your positioning and the force you feel from behind – if you go down like a sack of potatoes the ref will know you've dived.

David Agbontohoma might have been too honest for the Dorking goal

If your foot's on the other guy's neck, keep it there

I was captain when Maidstone recorded their highest ever win at The Gallagher Stadium against Littlehampton in the FA Cup in 2014 and at one point on Tuesday night it looked as if that record would be broken.

I've never been on the wrong end of an 8-0 scoreline, but I've had some fours and five and the truth is that as a player you can lose a game 3-0 and still have the same feeling. When a team has completely and utterly dominated you in every aspect it feels like you've been battered just as badly.

If you're 4-0 down at half-time, how you approach a game tactically should depend on where you are in the league. If you're mid-table you might as well have a go. A team leading 4-0 can get complacent and if your opponent gets it back to 4-2 after 60 minutes then it's a completely different game.

"I think the best thing about the Littlehampton game was that we didn't show them any mercy..."

If you're down near the bottom of the table however, or chasing the play-offs, then goal difference can be decisive and that's when you've got to look at things. I might look at changing shape or doing something different tactically, but still with an element of trying to get back into the game.

At half-time I definitely wouldn't accept that I've lost, but if it's 5-0 or 6-0 with 75 minutes gone then you might look at resting key players and making adjustments to stop the flood gates from opening even further.

A manager has to front up after a performance like that. It might sound harsh, but I certainly wouldn't want to be congratulated for coming out and doing an interview. It's part of the remit. That's what we sign up for: you don't just need to be a manager for the good, you're a manager for the ugly as well.

I always tell the people that work for me that you need to make your mind up. Do you want to be a manager, or just a coach or an assistant, where you'll never be in the spotlight? We get the praise so we have to take the criticism when things go wrong.

It's never a great position to be in but I'm pretty sure Enfield's manager wouldn't have wanted sympathy on Tuesday night. It's crazy that they could concede eight after beating Farnborough 5-0 on Saturday, but if you have a bad day a team like Maidstone can easily put you to the sword.

Congratulating Sonny Miles after he scored Maidstone's eighth in the 10-0 win vs Littlehampton in 2014

We obviously had a pretty good afternoon against Littlehampton, but what I remember about the build-up is that they were on a really good run in their league*, so we took them really seriously.

I think the best thing about that game was that we didn't show them any mercy. That season we wanted to annihilate anyone who was in front of us and we'd been on a run ourselves, but all we ever heard was that we hadn't played anyone who was any good yet.

That changed slightly on the Tuesday before the game when we beat Kingstonian 4-1 in the league, but we turned up with the attitude that we needed to put Littlehampton in their place as soon as possible.

I think the way they played helped us because they didn't put everyone behind the ball. They came and tried for the win, which was fair enough, but when we were in that kind of mood we probably could have scored more. They had to be shut up.

I don't think they asked us to ease off and I certainly wouldn't have let anyone, even if they had. Once you get to six, seven and eight, you should want to get to double figures. Real winners and successful people always want more and I take great joy in getting my foot on a team's neck and keeping it there.

* Littlehampton did win the league that year, by a single point, ahead of Dorking Wanderers.

The Back Page: Advertising

Launching in March 2026

A new media outlet dedicated to independent coverage of Kent Cricket is coming in 2026.

The Spitfire will be run by Fred Atkins, who has followed Kent since the early 90s and has covered them for the ECB and Wisden since 2021.

Expect expert storytelling, colourful matchday writing, insightful analysis and in-depth interviews, as The Spitfire takes coverage of the club to new heights.

Everyone who signs up to the site's mailing list prior to launch will get a special discount on membership.

The site, which offers a modern reader experience and a commitment to zero intrusive advertising, will be up and running in March.

The Spitfire is the eighth county cricket outlet to be confirmed on CounterPress ahead of the 2026 season, as part of a wide-reaching project designed to revitalise written digital coverage of our domestic summer sport.

Other outlets announced so far include The Hawk (Hampshire), The Rey (Surrey), Lanky Lanky (Lancashire), Up The Middle (Middlesex), From The Sea End (Sussex), Cider Press (Somerset) and The Chester (Durham).
Further sites are still to be released.

CounterPress co-founder Sam Morshead said: "The Spitfire promises to be the go-to place for proper cricket writing on events at Canterbury and Beckenham."

To register your interest visit our website.

Previews: Salisbury & Weston

TJ Bramble scoring the only goal in the 1-0 home win over Salisbury

Salisbury: yet to crack the Arabian market

By Tom Rogers

Tuesday night bore witness to one of the great performances of Maidstone United's modern history as we reignited our season and pulled ourselves back into serious playoff contention.

Our eight-goal demolition of Enfield matched Dorking's 2021 win of the same scoreline against Havant to become the biggest margin of victory ever seen in the division. Yet I missed it.

My evening was spent in an airport bar watching 'Bahrain's next commentator', where a handful of young men gesticulated passionately over various clips of Middle Eastern football, which was totally lost on me due to my lack of Arabic and the fact the bar staff muted the TV.

Despite my bittersweet feelings, Tuesday's win has gotten us back into the running and we have reason to believe again. A visit to struggling Salisbury is followed up by a home match against Weston, who have struggled of late and are now fighting to keep their position in the top seven.

Salisbury should be safe from relegation. They sit ten points clear of the drop zone yet are too far removed to be considered an outside bet for the playoffs.

Yet there was expectation from outsiders that the Whites would do better this term, with Kuwaiti businessman Ali Alhamad taking over the club this summer.

Despite the stereotypical assumption that an Arab buying into the club would equal rapid investment, it appears they have been more modest in their spending.

Alhamad regularly posts a podcast to YouTube where he discusses the running of the club and previously discussed his attempts to sign Mo Faal, having invited the striker to visit the Ray Mac whilst he was looking for a new club after leaving Waterford.

Alhamad, who has been involved in Real Estate and Cryptocurrency ventures, remarked that they were unable to agree a deal, finances being one of the main reasons.

Salisbury have struggled for goals this season, with their 33 league goals being the second poorest in the division. This is despite Matt Briggs, formerly of Dorking, and Nathan Odokonyero, once a hot prospect from Bognor amongst their frontlines.

Noah Coppin, who plays as a number nine or out wide is their top scorer. Taylor Foran began the season with the Whites, featuring in six winless games at the start of this season before returning to Bromley.

Considering the impact Foran has made in our backline, it's a surprise he didn't work out at Salisbury. Our previous meeting was a 1-0 victory, when an improvised TJ Bramble overhead kick in the second half proved the only highlight in a dour affair.

Unfortunately Salisbury have not cracked the Bahrain market. The most interesting thing I saw there was when I went to a bookshop. Their modest English language shelf was almost entirely taken up by Alex Ferguson autobiographies; and collectors editions of *Mein Kampf* with hologram Hitlers on the cover.

Drenched Stones fans after last year's win at Salisbury

Dajon Golding, crunched during the 3-0 defeat at Weston

Deon Moore on a difficult night back in September

*

Weston on Tuesday will be an important test against a direct rival. Despite starting the season brightly, beating us 3-0 in its early weeks, they've experienced a notable downturn and now sit sixth, seemingly out of the title race and perhaps looking nervously over their shoulder at those outside the playoffs.

Due to Horsham's FA Trophy commitments, Weston won't play this Saturday so they may be sat outside the top seven by the time next Tuesday rolls around.

Their downturn in form is linked to talisman Louis Britton's lack of goals in recent weeks. He is now seven league appearances without a goal. Despite being joint second top scorer in the division and bagging a brace against us in the reverse fixture, Britton is a man out of form.

Veteran Luke Coulson is their second top scorer with seven, having enjoyed a successful spell with the club since joining from Dartford after their relegation a year and a half ago.

The Stones will almost certainly stick with the side which won on Tuesday. Jamie Yila, while not yet on the scoresheet, has made a positive impact going forward, filling the gap Papadopoulos left.

Sesay's exclusion is a surprise. He's looked competent in the backline most of this season, but it will be tricky for him to regain a spot if we build on the momentum of Tuesday.

2025-26: The Stones Squad

MAIDSTONE UNITED

2025/26 SQUAD

George **ELOKOBI** *Manager*

Nathan **HARNESS** *Goalkeeper*

Lenny **HOLDEN** *Goalkeeper*

David **SESAY** *Defender*

Leo **HAMBLIN** *Defender*

Lexus **BEEDEN** *Defender*

George **FOWLER** *Defender*

Thomas-James **BRAMBLE** *Midfielder*

Jephte **TANGA** *Midfielder*

Sam **CORNE** *Midfielder*

Deon **MOORE** *Forward*

John **GILBERT** *Midfielder*

Jamie **YILA** *Midfielder*

Dajon **GOLDING** *Forward*

David **AGBONTOHOMA** *Defender*

Riley **COURT** *Midfielder*

Ruben **CARVALHO** *Midfielder*

Malachi **MBOGBA** *Midfielder*

Muhammadu **FAAL** *Forward*

Hamzad **KARGBO** *Forward*

Taylor **FORAN** *Defender*

Christopher **SWIFT** *Goalkeeper*

Designed by **MAIDSTONE UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB IN VIETNAM**

We'll never play you again ... part two

Part two of our quiz on teams we'll never play again concerns clubs that Maidstone United have played since reforming in 1992 ....

1) Who were Maidstone Invicta's first ever opponents in the Kent County League? They were also known as Fleet Leisure, Bowaters and then Gravesham Borough when they folded in 2018, after which their ground "caught fire".

2) They played home fixtures in the grounds of a country estate just outside Ashford and won the Kent County League in 1999. Who were they?

3) Which Eltham-based County League side, whose players once included the British world champion sprinter John Regis, folded in 2003?

4) Part of the Kent County League, even though they were from over the border, which Sussex side, dissolved in 2014, launched the careers of the Olorunda brothers?

5) Who played at The Small Glen, had maybe the best playing surface in the Kent League, but folded in 2009?

6) During our final season in exile, 2011-12, one of our rivals withdrew from the Isthmian South, after their owner was jailed for involvement during the Pakistan cricket spot-fixing scandal. Who were they?

7) Which team, under the chairmanship of our former owner Paul Bowden-Brown, left their home in Bayliss Avenue to share Princes Park with Dartford, before folding in 2018?

8) Which classic "Generic Essex side with no fans," where Chris Smalling scored in 2008, were placed into liquidation by owner Alfie Best in 2023, due to "historic debts from previous owners?

9) Which Surrey side folded in 2021, after they were kicked out of their Church Road ground by a landlord with "close links" to Ian Rush?

10) Which side won the National North play-offs in 2016, but then suffered successive relegations before resigning from the Northern Premier midway through the 2018-19 season?

Answers to Edition 27: WNPYA - Part 1

1) Which side beat us in the 1900 Kent Senior Cup final at Chatham but merged with their neighbours after World War 2?
Gravesend United.

2) Which works team from the coalfields of East Kent knocked us out of the FA Cup at the first hurdle in 1956?
Betteshanger Colliery Welfare.

3) They pipped us to the Southern League Division One South title by a single point in 1971-72, but effectively disappeared when they merged with their neighbours in 1998. Next year they plan to reform under the expert guidance of Harvey Bradbury: who are they?
Waterlooville FC.

4) Another side who merged with their neighbours, only for both clubs to go bust in 2011; who were our first ever opponents in the FA Trophy, in 1972?
Rushden United.

5) Who beat us in the Kent Senior Cup final in 1978, changed their name two years later and folded in 1990?
Folkestone & Shepway.

6) Playing at The Pilot Field, which coastal team folded in 1985?
Hastings United. The current Hastings United were known as Hastings Town until 2002.

7) Which Welsh side finished ninth in the inaugural Alliance Premier League, but were in Cymru North when they collapsed in November 2021?
Bangor City.

8) Which team challenged us for the Alliance Premier League title in 1984, folded in 2008 and folded again midway through the 2023-24 season?
Nuneaton Borough.

9) Who won the FA Trophy in 1984, played us in the notorious "pies and pints" match in 1986, lost two grounds in the 2010s and subsequently splintered along Judean lines?
Northwich Victoria.

10) Which team, managed by Neil Warnock, was the first to win automatic promotion to the Football League in 1986-87, but went under 20 years later?
Scarborough.

The independent source for Maidstone United news: Edition 28 (February 27th 2026)

How have we suddenly turned into 2011 Barca?

DR JEKYLL & MISTER STONES

A fortnight ago in the Back Page we spoke about violent mood swings, as we struggled to come to terms with a dismal defeat at Eastbourne.

Last week arguably saw the ninth drastic shift of the season so far:

(1) Pre-season was gloomy, but August wasn't too bad. **(2)** September was criminal, as we suffered four straight defeats to Weston, Horsham, Folkestone and Maidenhead, but ...
(3) We were then unbeaten in October, which included a 4-1 rout of Slough. November was schizophrenic.
(4) Two depressing derby defeats were followed by **(5)** morale-restoring wins over Chippenham and Torquay.
(6) We were crap at Dorking and Enfield, but **(7)** ended the month with a 1-0 win over Salisbury and improved throughout December.
By the time we'd won at Hornchurch it was almost time to launch HMS Piss The League and were excellent against both Torquay and Gravesend, twice but **(8)** we subsequently lost to Slough, Eastbourne and Chippenham.

Even in last week's edition the tone was more hope than expectation and yet seven days later we've transformed again, from a team that shithoused a point at Chelmsford into prime 2011 Barcelona.

DREI GLÄSER!

Helen Cooper's picture of the team celebrating Riley Court's hat-trick called to mind the scene in *Inglourious Basterds* when Michael Fassbender gives himself away by holding up his middle three fingers.

TJ Bramble and Taylor Foran would have fooled Major Hellstrom. Mo Faal copied Fassbender, while Riley Court went completely rogue, raising his middle, ring and little fingers. Maybe it's a Park Wood thing?

A mixture of three-fingered salutes after Riley Court completed his hat-trick against Enfield

PLASTIC OUTRAGE

A lot of so-called PR disasters are just manufactured outrages, with players supposedly shunning mascots who are too shy to talk to them, Pep refusing to sign merchandise for teenage grifters and Arteta not wanting to open his car window to Patrick Bateman.

When things do go wrong however, you need a heart of stone not to laugh.

At our level, the German Kebab shop in Week Street with the semi-literate slogan "Kebabs Done Right", thought it would be a good idea to hire Ebbsfleet United, who would have struggled to pull a crowd in Ebbsfleet itself, for their launch event.

Even that was minor compared to Torquay United's self-inflicted clusterfuck on Saturday. Earlier this season they banned two of their own players for four games following an "internal disciplinary" procedure, widely believed to be the result of a fight.

Having been beaten by Eastbourne (pain we can all relate to) their players were alleged by one of their own fans, claiming to represent the Torquay Travel Club, to have forced them to swap buses on the way home.

This was picked up by reputable news organisations, and The Sun, and memed remorselessly on social media at which point Torquay scrambled a response and put out a "club statement."

It turned out, disappointingly, that it was a manufactured outrage, but their attempt to "clarify the situation" ran to nearly 800 words, when three would have sufficed: "This is bollocks."