

The **Back** Page

Into the final

Stoppage time winner beats Angels

Steve Watt

“By the letter of the law the keeper should have been sent off”

PLUS: – Salisbury and Weston reports and reaction
– Alex’s Corner
– The Stones Quiz
– Tom Rogers previews Maidenhead and Dagenham

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

Meet The Team



Image of the week **4**

Dave's delight at Salisbury.

The Dogso's bollocks ... **6**

... Keeper is spared a red card at the Raymac but we win anyway.

It's Chi Time **8**

Madamombe settles the semi-final in injury-time.

Weston win marred **10**

Injuries to Faal and Harness spoil the vibe.

The Steve Watt Column **16**

By the letter of the law, the keeper should have been sent off.

Alex's Corner **21**

Dagenham's latest owner: a YouTube sensation.



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Scenes in the away end at Salisbury as David Sesay scores the game's only goal, before celebrating with Jephthe Tanga, Deon Moore and around a hundred fans ...

Report, pages 6 and 7 ...

The DOGSO's bollocks but we win anyway

**SALISBURY 0
MAIDSTONE UNITED 1**
Sesay 82
Attendance: 1,043
(unsegregated)

By Fred Atkins

Half an hour into Saturday's game we were awarded a penalty, and one of our more senior supporters, a woman who had to be in her mid-to-late seventies, rose slowly from her seat in the front row and stopped right in front of the *Stones Live!* commentary box.

"We never score penalties," she said, before heading off towards the refreshment bar.

This isn't strictly accurate, but we both knew what she meant. Six different penalty takers had missed for us before Mo Faal stepped up at Salisbury, four of them in regular play (Gilbert, Corne, Moore and Carvalho) and two (Papadopoulos and Sesay) in shoot outs.

"The MoD is one of the major employers in the Salisbury area and the car park looked as if it had been recently used to test ordnance ..."

Papadopoulos, Bramble and Faal have scored in normal play and Kargbo and Moore *did* score in the shoot-out at Yeovil, but when Faal missed it took our ratio for the season to three out of eight in normal time and five out of 12 overall.

At this level, and the five above, the conversion ratio is roughly eighty percent. By any metric we're underperforming but this has somehow only cost us two points.

That it didn't do us any serious damage on Saturday was down to a performance of some arsehole. We always looked the more likely winners, but the nagging feeling we might "do a



Yila after being shoved off the ball for a penalty.

Chippenham" lingered until the final whistle.

It was only a fortnight since our last trip to Wiltshire, but it felt like a lot longer and most of us travelled in hope following the 8-0 rout of Enfield.

The Raymac is surrounded by Kings Hill-style housing, with multiple signs saying "No Football parking," lest the casual fan might want an alternative to a car park pockmarked by puddles that weren't far off craters.

The MoD is one of the major employers in the Salisbury area and it looked as if it had been recently used to test ordnance.

The ground itself is less than 30 years old, but it could do with a bit of sprucing. A battered sign outside still displayed the name of the old Salisbury City FC and in "our" end the disabled access seemed to be via several concrete steps.

Despite being (or perhaps because they were) taken over during the summer, Salisbury are not having a great season.

They were planning to transform their fortunes thanks to powerful "storytelling" that would help them to crack the Arabian market, but this hasn't happened and the average Arabian may currently have other things on their mind.

Given what happened last year we weren't entirely confident we'd get a game in, but the pitch was playable and we carried on from where we'd left off against Enfield.

The first chance came when Yila played in Tanga, who shot between the defender's legs, only to see the ball drift just wide of the far post. There would have been more, if we hadn't kept straying offside, to the obvious exasperation of Craig Fagan.

I stopped counting after we reached double-figures, a soft West Midlands accent could be heard saying: "for fuck's sake!" every time a flag went up.

The penalty came after Hamblin played a long ball into the channel on the right. Under pressure from Faal, Dominic Revan played a suicidal pass across the back that was intercepted by Yila.

His first touch took him round the keeper, Will Buse, who then shoved his right shoulder. With the last covering defender only just inside the penalty area, he was clearly denying him the chance to roll the ball into an empty net. He made no attempt to play the ball and yet he didn't even get a yellow card, meaning he was still between the posts when Faal struck his, admittedly weak, penalty a few moments later.

This, unsurprisingly, galvanised the home crowd, but we remained the better side for the rest of the half, despite only having a couple of mishit efforts from Fowler and Yila to show for it.

It says something about the way we defended that Salisbury had their only serious effort on goal two minutes after the restart, when Penn shot wide from an angle and Coppin couldn't quite follow it in.

There was a second controversy on 52 minutes when Faal was brought down by Revan, who was shown a yellow card. This was less clear-cut as the ball was bouncing awkwardly and Buse might have got to it first, but by this stage we might have been 2-0 up against nine men and it was still 0-0 against 11.

It became increasingly tense. Yila and Fowler had shots saved from difficult angles. Tanga had a far better chance saved when he was put clean through by Carvalho and with 10 minutes left Sesay had a "sighter" from out wide.

Two minutes after that, he scored. Bramble, Moore and Tanga were all involved before the ball fell to Sesay and he passed it into the far corner. It was the least we deserved and we managed the game fairly well in the closing stages, keeping possession and going for corners when it might have been tempting to fire crosses at Kargbo.

When the whistle finally blew the aforementioned fan came back to our commentary position, to say seven words. "Told you we never score fucking penalties."



Faal's shot is saved by Buse ...



... who also saves this one from Tanga ...



... but can't stop Sesay's winner.

Own goal breaks Angels at the death

MAIDSTONE UNITED 2
Culpitt 79, own goal 90+1
TONBRIDGE ANGELS 1
Churchill 43
Attendance: 227

By John Tully

Jubilant Manager Tori Campbell and Stones coach Nathan Baker rightfully expressed their pride in the Stones squad after they deservedly overcame tough opponents and great rivals to reach the League Cup Final, especially as they trailed by a single goal for much of the game.

The Stones dominated throughout, but as expected The Angels looked dangerous on the break.

In the first half the Stones failed to find the killer pass and too often overhit a through ball from a defensive position.

Maidstone looked in control but couldn't convert their domination into goals and the Angels' forward line was well marshalled by the Stones defence until the 43rd minute when they scored a breakaway goal after the Stones lost possession in midfield, during one of their many attacking forays into the Angels half.

The break from halfway was finished off with great skill by Aimee Churchill.

A 1-0 deficit going into the second half seemed harsh, but the Stones stepped up a gear and were even more dominant, creating several chances without lady luck being kind to them. They hit the woodwork and had attempts scrambled away as the Angels defended doggedly and with no little skill.

The longer the half went on the more the Stones pushed on, but just when it looked like they might fail to score, up popped Georgia Culpitt in the 79th minute to slam home a great finish with her 'wrong' foot (her right), the ball breaking to her after Ellie Hinkley had been wiped out inside the area for what would surely have been a penalty if it hadn't gone in.

By this time substitutes Neve Platt and Hinkley had injected some extra



1-1: Georgia Culpitt equalises with her 'weaker' right foot.

raw energy, Hinkley coming on as an extra striker for the defender Jaz Etheridge and Platt allowing Kady Wilkinson a well-earned rest after another nonstop performance.

The changes meant the Stones were even more on the front foot and, with the dangerous Kelsi Wilkinson on the right wing supported by Tilly Roswell at right wing back, the pressure was really ramped up.

The Stones pressed even harder and were finally rewarded in the

first minute of added time when Madamombe got her head on a great free kick from Kylie Manktelow and the ball was deflected in the net from close range.

Tonbridge were then reduced to ten and the Stones saw out the remaining few minutes without further drama to secure a deserved cup final place against Cray Wanderers.

■ This Sunday, the Stones play Cray in a league fixture at Flamingo Park, kick-off 3pm.



(Left) Hinkley, about to get wiped out in the build up to the equaliser. (Right) Culpitt celebrates.



Scenes after the winner is deflected in during the first minute of stoppage time.

In the wars: Weston win marred by twin blows

MAIDSTONE UNITED 2
Faal 14, Yila 26
WESTON SUPER-MARE 1
Britton 79
Attendance:
1,519 (unsegregated)

By Fred Atkins

He gives with one hand and He takes away with the other. Just when it looked like we might have found a team, two injuries threatened everything we've achieved over the last five games.

The casual fan looking at the league table will see we've squeezed into the play-off places, having won our last three, but the true cost of Tuesday night's win isn't yet known.

The squad featured exactly the same 17 players who lost at Eastbourne three weeks ago. There were three changes to the starting XI and we were still a sub short, but some drastically improved individual performances have helped transform the outlook.

Some of this, we can surmise, is down to improving match fitness and some of it's down to cutting out errors, but David Agbontohoma looks reborn, Sam Corne looks like prime Sam Corne again and Jamie Yila looks like an authentic match-winner.

Which is just as well, because our other obvious match-winner looks like he could be out for a while ...

*

We overran Weston from the off and might have had a penalty on 12 minutes when Tanga went over two defenders and was instead booked for diving. Yet two minutes later we were in front, after Corne laid in Faal. His first touch gave him just enough room to score with a low shot that pinged in satisfyingly, off the base of the near post.

And then he was injured. He jumped for the ball and it was obvious he was hurt as soon as he landed. As there was hardly any crowd noise you could hear him call out in pain and you could also hear two men in the main stand yell "stop whinging".

Someone suggested this was



Faal takes a touch ...



... scores off the near post and celebrates ...



... but gets only five minutes to enjoy it before he suffers an apparent knee injury and is stretchered off.

targeted at a Weston player who was supposedly urging the referee to get on with it. The other possibility is that these men were just a pair of bastards.

Faal raised his hand as he was stretchered off and was given warm applause but it was a sickening sight, to see a young man who was just getting back to his prime struck down.

There was barely time to digest this when it was 2-0, Tanga crossing from the left for Yila to head home and it might have been three almost immediately, with Court missing by about a foot.

Weston were nasty, a side at war with us, the officials and each other and they got yellow cards that might have been upgraded to reds with VAR.

"Their captain, Emlyn Lewis, yelled: 'Do your fucking job!' at Dan Ellison, who replied: 'You fucking lost him!'"

Just before half-time their captain, Emlyn Lewis, yelled: "Do your fucking job!" at Dan Ellison, who replied: "You fucking lost him!" Ellison did not come out for the second half.

If losing Faal wasn't bad enough, we then lost Nathan Harness as well, as he claimed a high-ball and landed nastily. At one point it looked as though his injury might be significantly worse, as the medical staff were calling for a neck brace. He was able to walk off unassisted, although he looked severely agitated as he did.

It was still as comfortable as any 2-0 lead can be until a freak goal got Weston back into it. Yila, finally flagging and about to be subbed, broke up an attack, but played a high-risk pass back to Holden. He tried to punt it back downfield, but it rebounded off Britton and into the net.

"It was fatigue," George Elokobi said afterwards. "He will learn, because you don't play in those areas." Yila had his head in his hands as he went off and the cliché that goals change games has seldom been more obvious.

The Harness injury meant there were ten minutes of added time and by that stage we were tiring against a Weston side who'd had Saturday off. We were unable to keep the ball for any length of time and repeatedly had to deal with corners.



2-0. Yila gets his first goal for Maidstone.

For the most part we did this comfortably enough, but in the fifth added minute Britton should have scored. Presented with a cross so inviting that even Geoffrey Boycott's mother would have put it away, he somehow headed over.

We saw it out. When Fowler broke up an attack in the tenth added minute, he and his team mates celebrated as if they'd scored and a final Weston attack floundered on the edge of the box.

George said the performance was outstanding but added that Faal would be sent for a scan and that Harness was mildly concussed.

"We may need one or two additions," he said. "It's important we don't let the season die out, because the players have played a lot of games. It's a very small squad we're operating and we need help."

That was not a coded message.



Another injury. It never rains, but it shits it down.

Upcoming Commentaries

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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The Back Page

Red cards, bad injuries and how to deal with players who make mistakes. It's **STEVE WATT'S** latest column ...



Watt's Occurring?

You have to get on with it, but it was a red card

By the letter of the law the Salisbury keeper Will Buse should have been sent off for his challenge on Jamie Yila on Saturday.

The law was changed a few years ago and a player who makes a genuine attempt for the ball no longer receives an automatic red card if his or her challenge results in a penalty, but Buse pushed Yila over when he would have had a clear shot at an empty net. Obviously that meant he was still on the field to save the penalty and when that happens you just have to hope it won't be a match-defining moment.

In this case it wasn't, but as a manager I'd still want to know the referee's opinion on why he didn't give it. Initially, when the emotions are running high, I'd personally be really pissed off if I'm being honest, but you have to guard yourself because there's a game to win and you can't let it affect the rest of the performance.

It's your job as a manager



The referee explaining why he didn't send off Salisbury's keeper Will Buse

and a team to make sure it doesn't. At half-time, one thing I'd be saying to the players is: 'I don't want us talking about how he should have been sent off and how we would have won if he had been.'

Luckily enough it didn't matter in the end, but those are the type of inconsistencies that really annoy managers and particularly players. I'm sure I've protested too strongly many a time during my career and maybe some decisions went against

me because of how I dealt with those situations, but we're all human and sometimes you'll say something you shouldn't.

Football is an emotional game and that goes for the officials too. It's possible they'd book someone because they have a history of behaving a certain way and they feel they need to clamp down on it. I quite like this human element of the game, and in recent years I think we've removed a bit of that.

Never forget to look after your injured players

When someone suffers an injury like Mo Faal did on Tuesday night, your first thought has to be for the individual. I had bad injuries during my playing career, so I've been that player and particularly when I was a professional, you just get cast aside, because the clubs don't care about you unless you're fit and available.

I never wanted any of my players to feel that way so I would always check up on them, but in the initial moments after it happens you have to make sure the show goes on, park your emotions and revisit them after the game. You have to think "let's win the game for him", make sure that's done and then look after him once the game's over.

Faal was just starting to score goals again and at a stage of the season where you're regaining momentum again, that's going to be a headache for George.

"Flish being Flish he refused to come off, squirted some water in his eye and said he'd be fine ..."

It happened to me at Margate when I lost my entire front line before we'd even kicked a ball. The late Michael Thalassitis left when he got the opportunity to join Love Island and I had a deal done with Vas Karagiannis, but at the last minute he decided to stay in France. That was nine years ago and I haven't heard from him since.

And then, in pre-season, we lost Alex Flisher. It was right at the end of a friendly and I almost took him off two minutes before it happened. He'd just been poked in the eye, but Flish being Flish he refused, squirted some water in his eye and said he'd be fine. He went back out and two or maybe three minutes later he turned in the middle of the pitch and did his ACL.

So I'll never forget loading him into his car after the game, driving him to his house and doing those sorts of things. It was absolutely gutting and he was obviously a very good friend of mine as well, but we ended up with Jordan Chiedoze and he didn't do too badly for us.



Mo Faal is stretchered off against Salisbury on Tuesday night. Managers need to be sympathetic but stay focused.

Hair-dryer treatment doesn't work any more

It's a sign of how the game has changed that a player would even attempt the kind of pass Jamie Yila tried to Lenny Holden on Tuesday night.

I don't think anyone in my team would have tried that because we were always looking to go forward and get a third goal, but the game has become more possession based and people are applauding when the ball goes back to the keeper, which I don't get at all.

If the keeper's going to boot the ball upfield anyway, why not just do it yourself?

That said, if we win the game, I wouldn't care. I'd say don't do it again, but otherwise you move on. If the mistake costs you points, you might approach it differently,

but you have to remember you've already suffered two bad injuries and the last thing you want to do is cause even more nervousness or bad feeling.

The Weston players were arguing among themselves, and I wouldn't have minded that either, because they were showing a little bit of fight. I'm pretty sure I've had worse rows, but I'm from a time and an era, when you'd say what happens on the pitch stays on the pitch.

The younger generation don't respond well to the hair-dryer treatment so I certainly wouldn't rip a player's head off. You have to address what happened, but I'd probably do it by making a joke – just a little reminder that will keep him sharp and thinking.



THE SPITFIRE



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."

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I wish I hadn't pleaded for a 'Carroll 9' shirt

By Tom Rogers

Three wins on the bounce has seen the Stones creep back into the Holy Grail that is the National League South Playoff places. Despite a shaky final twenty minutes, Maidstone were the better side against Weston and have leapfrogged the west country outfit, climbing to within three points of fourth position.

Another busy week sees us travel to Maidenhead before hosting Dagenham & Redbridge in two season-defining games against fellow playoff contenders.

We sit level on points with Saturday's opposition Maidenhead, albeit we have played two games more. The Magpies, under the stewardship of former player Ryan Peters, have won eight of the new manager's fifteen games in charge since taking over from Alan Devonshire in November of last year.

"Last April, Egyptian Marwan Serry took a minority shareholding with the overly ambitious aim of making it the, 'Most famous club for Arabs'. The partnership unravelled within a week."

It was under Devonshire that Maidenhead won 1-0 at the Gallagher back in September, when a Matt Robinson goal was the difference between the two.

Ruben Carvalho is the only member of our current crop to have played for both sides. He turned out in thirteen league games for the Magpies to limited effect last season before moving on to Worthing for the latter part of the campaign.

Will De Havilland, now a non-league veteran, is captain at Maidenhead, having played for us back in the latter days of the Saunders era and the disastrous 18-19 season.

The visit of Dagenham on the following Tuesday perhaps provides a more exciting encounter due to the visitors' new minority shareholder. YouTuber, Boxer, Rapper and pioneer of the 'Rape Face', KSI has bought a minority stake in the club this week.



Will de Havilland abruptly ending a Riley Court run during Maidenhead's 1-0 win at JWW earlier this season.

He joins the 'Happy Fan Group' and will likely act as the face of the club going forward, leveraging his worldwide fame to boost the club's profile.

This isn't even the first time in the last twelve months a YouTuber has bought into Dagenham. Last April, Egyptian Marwan Serry took a minority shareholding with the overly ambitious aim of making it the, 'Most famous club for Arabs'.

The partnership unravelled within a week due to mass fan protests, when it was discovered his sidekick Salma Mashour had made pro-Hamas statements and denounced the 'illegal' state of Israel.

This went down as well as you'd expect and we can only hope with tensions in the Middle East higher than ever that JJ (as he's also known) doesn't go down a similar route.

Our first meeting of the season at Victoria Road was successful, with a Teo Kurtaran wonder goal earning us a 2-1 win. Kurtaran is currently enjoying a run of starting games with Tamworth after his departure from the Gallagher.

Andy Carroll, who scored six in twelve earlier this season, is unsurprisingly injured again, having

undergone surgery in late January.

Carroll has, on the day of writing, pleaded not guilty to breaching a non-molestation order against his ex-wife back in March 2025, when he allegedly repeatedly attempted to contact her. It's a matter of great shame that I pleaded for 'Carroll 9' on the back of my Liverpool shirt as a seven-year-old boy.

The Stones' solid run of form in the last fortnight means they will want to keep changes to a minimum, but this will depend on the severity of the injuries which forced Mo Faal and Nathan Harness off in midweek.

Faal looked to have been in serious pain when he was stretchered off before the half an hour mark and could be set for months on the sidelines, while Harness was concussed and under FA protocols will be out for a couple of weeks.

Sesay's extended spell on the sidelines remains a bit of a mystery, especially considering his match-winning cameo at Salisbury, which saw him play on the left wing.

This seemed a peculiar decision at the time, as Sesay had only scored four senior goals before this season, but it paid off - as it so often does for George.

Daggers find a *less* controversial owner

By Alex del-Valle

There was big news in the world of non-league football this week when Dagenham & Redbridge announced their "most significant strategic partnership to date", with social media star KSI acquiring a minority stake in the club.

This follows on from a series of events that started in the build up to pre-season when the Daggers announced, in July 2025, that the club had been bought outright by a "Qatari-led investment group".

If you didn't already think at the time that Qatari investment in non-league football was bizarre, they then announced the signing of former Newcastle and Liverpool striker Andy Carroll a day later.

That new ownership appeared to be off to a flying start - until it wasn't. The facts still aren't fully known, but the Qatari dream was short-lived and new owners, the "Happy Fan Group" were announced in February 2026.

"I do think the cost of non-league football will come as a bit of a shock to him ..."

With the Daggers currently sitting 13th in the table, it's easier to understand why, given the context of what's been going on behind the scenes. It can be very difficult for club and staff to focus on what happens on the pitch, when what's happening off of it is so uncertain.

But this most recent change to ownership I think will provide exponential benefits to the club and the community.

KSI has reportedly acquired a 20 percent stake in the club. He has over 40 million followers across his social media platforms, and he announced his ambitions to take the club to the Premier League.

"I'm so excited to start this journey. It's gonna be a rollercoaster for sure but I hope to bring Dagenham & Redbridge back to the glory days," KSI told the club's website. "And once we reach that point, I want to



Teo Kurtaran's verified thunderbastard at Victoria Road back in October, when the natives were restless. (Not relevant, but he also appears to be kicking a miniature football).

go even further. Reaching the Premier League would be a dream. And I believe it is 100 percent doable."

So, is that doable? Well, he's well known for his "Road to Glory" FIFA videos in the 2010's but this is real-life football - it isn't a game. Of course, I'm sure he's done his due diligence before investing - he clearly has a great team around him and means well, but I do think the cost of non-league football will come as a bit of a shock to him, however. As it does to all of us!

That said, KSI has shown many times throughout his career that he gets things done. It's often said that he pioneered YouTube in the UK and the now popular "Influencer Boxing".

So, I'm very intrigued as to how this plays out. What does this mean for the rest of the Daggers' season? Well, I wouldn't completely write off a late playoff push but I do think promotion in general is probably off the cards this season, despite having predicted them to 'walk the

league' at the start of it all!

I just think other clubs such as Dorking, Worthing and Torquay have too much in terms of strength this season.

Perhaps the bigger question is what does this mean for non-league football in general?

Wrexham were famously acquired by Hollywood stars Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney in 2021. That turned out to be a mega success story, with the club eyeing up a spot in the championship playoffs this season.

Reynolds and McElhenney have perhaps created a blueprint for more investors such as KSI to follow and we could indeed see a new wave of money flowing into non-league.

With many clubs set to announce their financial results for the year ending 30 June 2025 in the coming weeks, this is indeed a very interesting time for football finance.

MAIDSTONE UNITED
2025/26 SQUAD

M



George
ELOKOB
Manager

1



Nathan
HARNES
Goalkeeper

13



Lenny
HOLDEN
Goalkeeper

2



David
SESAY
Defender

3



Leo
HAMBLIN
Defender

4



Lexus
BEEDEN
Defender

5



George
FOWLER
Defender

6



Thomas-James
BRAMBLE
Midfielder

7



Jephthe
TANGA
Midfielder

8



Sam
CORNE
Midfielder

9



Deon
MOORE
Forward

10



John
GILBERT
Midfielder

11



Jamie
YILA
Midfielder

12



Dajon
GOLDING
Forward

15



David
AGBONTOHOMA
Defender

17



Riley
COURT
Midfielder

19



Ruben
CARVALHO
Midfielder

21



Malachi
MBOGBA
Midfielder

22



Muhammadu
FAAL
Forward

23



Hamzad
KARGBO
Forward

24



Taylor
FORAN
Defender

30



Christopher
SWIFT
Goalkeeper

Designed by MAIDSTONE UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB IN VIETNAM

The Mistaken Identity clasico returns ...

They all look the same, these teams from middle-class commuter towns, don't they? We've lost count of the number of people who've confused us with Saturday's opponents. And who wasn't astonished when the National League's admin did it? This week's quiz is on the links between the Stones and the ... enheads.

1) Which striker, who played for us on loan from Dagenham in the 2007-8 season, made four appearances for Gillingham before ending up at York Road in 2013?

2) Which key member of the 2015-16 promotion-winning squad had previously played for Maidenhead?

3) Which member of the same squad reportedly left the ground early and caught a train home after being dropped for a game at York Road?



4) Who scored Maidenhead's equaliser, their first ever goal in the National League, when we met on the opening day of the 2017-18 season at JWW?

5) Which former Chelsea right-back joined Maidenhead at the end of that season?

6) Which Maidstone striker had a goal wrongly disallowed for offside when the Stones were winning 2-1 in the closing stages at York Road in 2018, in Jay Saunders' penultimate game in charge?

7) Signed by Harry Wheeler, which former Maidenhead midfielder usually got booked within the first 20 minutes of his 12 appearances for us in the cataclysmic 2018-19 season?

8) What was the score when we met for our only ever FA Trophy tie?

9) Which brick-headed defender joined us from Maidenhead ahead of the 2020-21 season and won the title with us the following year?

10) Which equally-brick-headed defender, who seemed to look like Mister Bump every time he played for us, ended up wearing a mask and a bandage when Maidenhead won at JWW earlier this season?



Answers to Edition 28: WNPYA – Part 2

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". **Scott Sports (we played their reserve side in that opening fixture).**

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? **Knatchbull.**

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

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? **Rye United.**

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

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? **Croydon Athletic. (AFC Croydon Athletic is their phoenix club).**

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? **Thamesmead Town.**

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? **East Thurrock United.**

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? **Whyteleafe (who also have an AFC pre-fixed phoenix club).**

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? **North Ferriby.**



The independent source for Maidstone United news: Edition 29 (March 6th 2026)

What do the letters MBE actually stand for?

Takeovers, influencers, sackings and journalistic bullshit

HE'LL BE MISSED ...

Dagenham fans were nearly as excited by the departure of Stephen Thompson as they were of the arrival of their new owners this week.

Thompson was one of the National League board members during the *Gate Money* saga and like every other director, executive and official, he refused to give us an interview.

Dagenham got almost £100,000 more of the COVID fund than they would have done, had the grant been distributed according to gate receipts. But did it make him popular? The replies to the post announcing his resignation included a meme of a large man jiggling his moobs in front of a microphone; a clip of Jay from *The Inbetweeners* doing a wanker sign; and someone asking if his MBE stood for "Massive Bell End".

The QTs were slightly more balanced, although one said he would be missed like "an acute bout of diarrhoea".

#LIKEANDSUBSCRIBE

The new man is Olajide Olatunji, better known as KSI, who in 2019 was named as the UK's number two influencer by the Sunday Times.

KSI wants to take Dagenham into the Premier League, which brings us rather neatly, as the late Barry Norman (ask your Dads) might have said, to Chelmsford City.

Spencer Gore's criminally underfunded Clarets did their own Premier League aspirations no harm on Saturday, when they thrashed Torquay United 5-0 at Plainmoor.



This was enough to get Paul Wotton the sack and for Neil Warnock to step in as a caretaker manager. Torquay might not be in freefall, but they have slipped to fourth and are nine points behind Dorking, having played a game more, after a season marred by internal punch-ups and PR own goals.

SWORD OF TRUTH

Luckily for everyone, our favourite regional media outlet, *Devon Live* wielded its trusty sword of truth last week, to put the record straight about the most recent of these own goals: "coachgate".

That story, as we said last week, was bollocks, but the lie flew round the world before the truth could get its pants on.

"It's a sad state of affairs," wrote Richard Hughes. "But truth really

doesn't matter any more – as social media speculation commonly trumps reality in an age when rage is the internet go-to, and reason and logic are ignored...

"The age of reason is gone, and the age of rage and fury is here. It's such a shame.

"Us old-fashioned journalists don't always get everything 100% right – but at least we do check the facts before losing our heads. The facts, sadly, are not good enough for some people any more."

It takes a special kind of talent to write all this barely a month after you've used your [Devon Live column](#) to accuse Leo Hamblin of feigning injury; insulting impoverished, salt-of-the-earth Devon types; and of being the worst thing in football.

Kudos to Dickie both for having that talent and for being unafraid to use it.