

The new independent source for Maidstone United news: Edition 8 (October 3rd 2025)

The **Back** Page

The 10 Greatest Maidstone United games of all time*

*That you've seen

PLUS: The Steve Watt Column:
"If you threw a beer at me I'd probably drink it."
The Stones Quiz
Dagenham Disgust

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



The Stones Top 10 4

67 games were nominated. Who made the final cut?

Image of the week 10

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The greatest 67 days of your life ...

By Fred Atkins

Let's start with the disclaimer: caveats have to apply when conducting a poll like this and the results are inevitably skewed towards more recent games for demographic reasons.

We began with a stipulation that you had to have been at the games you were voting for, but we waived this as it would have excluded our loyal fan base in Vietnam, plus literally everyone who couldn't get tickets for either Ipswich or Coventry but who did watch on television. "Being there" became "being involved". As long as you had some first-hand experience of the game it was fine.

The earliest nominated eligible game was at London Road in the late 60s or early 70s when we came from 3-0 down to beat Tonbridge in front of a crowd around 3000. (The earliest ineligible game cited was in 1889, when Maidstone North End beat Maidstone Church Institute 4-2 on Penenden Heath after extra-time.)

We allocated points Eurovision style. 10 points were awarded for your number one choice and one for the tenth. If you only

voted for three games, we allocated 10, 9 and 8 points respectively.

Things got complicated when people mentioned only one game, which explains why the FA Vase drubbing at Mildenhall in 2001 briefly threatened to make the Top 10. It was our first away day in an FA Competition for a decade, but we lost 3-0 and the atmosphere was sulphuric by the end.

This wasn't the strangest reason a game was nominated: a 4-1 win against Southern League champions Dartford in 1974 stuck in one voter's mind because Dartford fans put a brick through the supporters' bus window, while *Stones Live!*'s Chris Bechervaise cited the Salisbury FA Trophy remark when we started corpsing because he referenced Barry Fenn's "sack of balls."

In other cases memories were inevitably hazy. The club reporter, Ruth Pettifer couldn't remember the opposition for her 10th choice, a cup final at Canterbury's Kingsmead ground in the late 90s, although after over two decades spent filing well over a thousand reports this is probably understandable.

If I'm struggling to understand how Woking away in 2017 ranked higher than Barrow, there are even more grievous sins of omission.

No one voted for the play-off wins over Folkestone and Faversham in 2013, the FA Cup wins over Exeter, or the 5-1 thrashing of Torquay in Division Four, which might have been when the team was at its peak.

But while surveys like this always throw up the odd bizarre result, the overall results were never really in doubt.

The voting was like Sunday's World Road Race, with Ipswich in the role of Tadej Pogacar and everyone else fighting for the podium places.

The play-off final was always coming second and the first FA Cup tie with Stevenage comfortably held off Boxing Day 1989 for third.

In all a total of 67 games were nominated and we'd like to thank everyone who took the time to vote – we'll include some of your individual Top 10s and the reasons behind them in future editions.



10

DARTFORD AWAY, APRIL 18 2022 W 1-0

It wasn't that *great* a game. Derbies are always nervous, and even more so during a title race. Jack Barham missed a penalty and we didn't know it at the time but this was the last we'd see of Joan Luque as a player as he suffered the injury that kept him out for the whole of the following season.

Sometimes, however, the occasion transcends everything else. Barham scored the only goal, 700 fans celebrated our first league win at Princes Park and Steve King reacted like a rattled pixie.

WATFORD AWAY, JAN 10 1987 L 3-1

9

This FA Cup tie featured in Edition 4 of The Back Page and to this day it remains the only time we've faced top-flight opposition in the FA Cup.

Steve Galloway gave us the lead against a side packed with past, present and future internationals, before we were ultimately outclassed in the second half.



8

WOKING AWAY, MARCH 17 2017 W 4-2

One of the stranger choices, perhaps, but arguably the greatest comeback of the JWW era.

Delano Sam-Yorke, on loan with us earlier that season, helped Woking to a 2-0 lead. Jamar Loza pulled one back before the break and completed a hat-trick before Yemi Odubade finished Woking off.

Your top Stones games in order

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1) Ipswich 217 | 19=) Newport IOW 10 | 44=) Dulwich (4-3) 2013 5 |
| 2) Gravesend Play off-final 2016 103 | 24=) Coventry 9 | 44=) Boreham Wood 2017 5 |
| 3) Stevenage 2014 90 | 24=) Dover 2007 9 | 44=) Aveley PO 5 |
| 4) Gillingham Boxing Day 1989 59 | 24=) Telford H 1984 9 | 44=) Dartford 2021 5 |
| 5) Gillingham 1980 42 | 24=) Truro 2024 9 | 50=) Walton Casuals A 2007 4 |
| 6) Cheltenham 33 | 24=) Tonbridge H 196? 9 | 50=) Hampton & R 2024 (5-1) 4 |
| 7) Charlton H 1979 29 | 29=) North Leigh 2005? 8 | 50=) Salisbury FAT 4 |
| 8) Woking A 2017 28 | 29=) Kidderminster A 1989 8 | 53=) Whitstable A 2002 3 |
| 9) Watford 1987 25 | 29=) Gravesend 2022 8 | 53=) Eastbourne A 2024 3 |
| 10) Dartford A 2022 26 | 29=) Eastbourne PO 8 | 53=) Kidderminster FAC 1st replay 3 |
| 11) Charlton A 25 | 29=) Orient H 2018 8 | 53=) Tonbridge H 1975-76 3 |
| 12) Stevenage 2024 22 | 35=) Carlisle H 1990 7 | 57=) Worthing H (4-0) 2 |
| 13) Brighton H 2012 21 | 35=) Runcorn 1989 7 | 57=) Ramsgate FAC 2002-03 2 |
| 14) Mildenhall 2001 20 | 35=) Gillingham 1990 7 | 57=) Eastleigh FAT 2023 2 |
| 15) Barrow FA Cup 2023 18 | 35=) Sheffield United 7 | 57=) Welling 2014 2 |
| 16) St Albans 2022 17 | 35=) Boreham Wood 2025 7 | 57=) Deal Town H 2002 2 |
| 17) Tooting & Mitcham 4-3 2011 16 | 40=) Littlehampton 10-0 6 | 62=) York City 2016 1 |
| 18) Folkestone 2008 12 | 40=) Dulwich 5-0 6 | 62=) Chelmsford H 2022 1 |
| 19=) Halesowen 10 | 40=) Hemel Hempstead 2021 6 | 62=) GNFC 2024 1 |
| 19=) Darlington A 10 | 40=) Guru Nanak H 96-97 6 | 62=) Canterbury City 1975-76 1 |
| 19=) Dartford A 1974 10 | 44=) Sevenoaks Town H 2000 5 | 62=) Ramsgate Albion KJC final 1997? 1 |
| 19=) Hungerford 2022 10 | 44=) Sevenoaks A 2006 5 | 62=) Macclesfield H 1989 1 |

The Vault: The Stones Top 10

The Vault: The Stones Top 10



Zavon Hines after scoring an outstanding goal

6

CHARLTON HOME, JAN 15 1979 L1-2

Perhaps another anomaly: the replay ranked higher than the game at the Valley, when Maidstone led 1-0 through Glenn Coupland's goal until late on and the performance was overshadowed by Derek Hales and Mike Flanagan getting sent off for fighting each other.

The replay saw Maidstone's highest recorded attendance at The Athletic Ground of 10,591 and again Barry Watling was frustrated that another creditable performance was overshadowed, this time by a floodlight failure when Charlton were 2-0 ahead.

"Their immediate reaction was that we'd spiked it and that we were trying to get the game abandoned" Watling said, in a 2015 interview. The lights came back on and Maidstone scored almost immediately but Charlton held out and the headlines were stolen for a second time.

The Back Page

7

CHELTENHAM AWAY, APRIL 18 2022 W 4-2

Maybe the zenith of the Saunders era and the best squad we've had since reforming, with Hines, Sam-Yorke and Pigott shooting us into an almost delirious 4-0 lead.

It would have been easy to think it was over - instead we had to withstand an Alamo-like siege during the second half and the team deserves nearly as much credit for this outstanding rearguard action as they did for going 4-0 up in the first place.

5

GILLINGHAM AWAY, DEC 22 1980 W 2-0

There's something about this fixture. Hakan Hayrettin said the atmosphere at a Kent Senior Cup tie was like an Istanbul derby and a subsequent game was made all ticket.

Some of it stems from this, an FA Cup second replay, after the first two games ended 0-0. The second in particular was marred by crowd trouble.

Rumour has it that Jim Thompson went into the dressing room beforehand with a huge pile of cash, cut off Barry Watling's team talk: "Don't listen to all that shit. Just win." Yet if it was Watling who told Frank Ovard that Ron Hillyard liked to stray off his line, it was priceless advice. Mark Newson broke the deadlock, before Ovard finished Gillingham off - by lobbing Hillyard.



The Back Page of the Kent Messenger after the 2nd replay

4

GILLINGHAM AWAY, DEC 26 1989 W 2-1



Keith Peacock took a late gamble on Mark Beeney's fitness before the game. Shortly after Steve Butler gave Maidstone the lead he gave away a penalty, only to instantly redeem himself, saving from Steve Lovell.

We're now deep into the stage where the games demand articles in their own right. The first ever Kent derby in the Football League pulled over 10,000 to Priestfield. Gillingham dominated the first half but didn't score. Steve Butler gave us the lead, then an only partially-fit Mark Beeney saved a penalty barely a minute later. Mark Gall pounced on an underhit backpass to make it 2-0 and future Maidstone manager Alan Walker literally knocked himself out scoring a consolation goal in injury time. "Mind the post" was the running joke when he signed for us, although no one actually said that to his face...

The Vault: The Stones Top 10

3

**STEVENAGE HOME,
APRIL 18 2014 W 2-1**

The evening it all went amber. There really was something in the air that night, a feeling outside the ground I hadn't felt since the London Road era. It was only the third season at JWW and we'd already had some great games, but the sight of a TV crew signalled a shift to another level.

The first game ended in a 0-0 draw, with Frannie Collin spurning a one-on-one late in the game. This prompted Jay Saunders to admit he thought we'd missed our best chance of beating them.

Stevenage manager Graham Westley hadn't even mentioned us in his programme notes for that game and coach Nicky Southall used this as a grievance to fire Maidstone up.

Frannie Collin scored from a rebound in the second minute, before Darius Charles made it 1-1 two minutes after half-time.

With 12 minutes left Saunders threw on Ben Greenhalgh and it was his cross that Collin headed home three minutes from time. Collin looked offside, but in the words of Barry Davies: "quite frankly, who cares?"

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Peter Taylor brings the expertise, Jake Humphrey the high-performance energy for the first ever live tv broadcast at JWW



1-0. Frannie Collin turns in a rebound after Chris Day saves Jay May's second-minute shot



It all goes amber

The Vault: The Stones Top 10

2

**FLEET AWAY,
MAY 14 2016 D 2-2
(Won 5-4 on
penalties)**



Bobby-Joe Taylor makes it 1-1



2-2: The figure fifth from the left on the touchline is, believe it or not, former Maidstone manager Barry Watling



A verb is born: To Kedwell. e.g. "He's absolutely Kedwelled that. And a fanzine cover is spawned (right).

Where to even start with this one? The bullshit over the tickets, the health and safety excuse that saw two-thirds of the away end empty, the story that the Fleet players were off to Vegas if they won, the £2.4 grand a week their star striker was on?

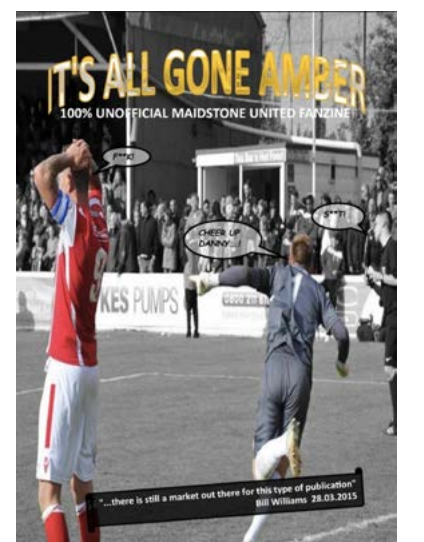
Or perhaps the two ludicrous penalties the referee couldn't wait to give in front of a crowd that had suddenly remembered there was a football team in Northfleet.

Past managers Barry Watling and Mal Watkins were in the away end. So was future Maidstone manager Hakan Hayrettin, who was working at the ground that morning and hung around to watch the game.

We'd done well in the first half but trailed 1-0 to one of the aforementioned travesties, but early in the second half Bobby Joe Taylor roasted makeshift right-back Tom Bonner (switched there for reasons unknown) to equalise and to take it to extra time.

After the second travesty it was 2-1 in the dying seconds when Dumebi Dumeka swung his foot at a loose ball in the area to take it to a penalty shoot-out.

The rest is Kedwell.



IPSWICH AWAY, Jan 27 2024 **W 2-1**

There was only ever going to be one winner in this poll.

We could have picked dozens of images from the day itself, but this shot of Sam Corne stands out because of the Gladiator pose he strikes after scoring.

Unlike Lamar Reynolds, who was as euphorically stunned as everyone else by his opening goal, Corne celebrated this as if he was born for just such a moment.

The finish was similar to the equaliser against Barrow: low into the bottom corner, albeit on his left rather than his right.

He leaps, points to the name on the back of his shirt and spreads his arms, as if this was a Kent Senior Cup tie against Punjab United – (who we played three days later and needed panlties to beat.)

#1

Upcoming Commentaries

Dagenham & Redbridge (A) Sat 4 October 2025: 1500 – Sean Scurr & Nigel Seager

Herne Bay (A) Tue 7th October: 1945 – Darren Styles & Sean Scurr

Chesham United (H) Sat 11 October 2025: 1500 – Fred Atkins & Alex del Valle

Farnborough (A) Sat 18 October 2025: 1500 – Darren Styles & Alex del Valle

Eastbourne Borough (H) Tue 21 October 2025: 1945 – Chris Bechervaise & Alan Thatcher

Slough Town (A) Sat 25 October 2025: 1500 – Fred Atkins & Sean Scurr

Stones Live! has been providing radio commentaries of Maidstone United matches since the 2008 –09 season, way back when the club was a fraction of the size it is now, playing to crowds of 200 in Sittingbourne.

Founded by Stones fan Chris Bechervaise, its audiences grew steadily at first and then rapidly when the club returned home after the end of its 24-year exile in 2012. The Back Page editor, Fred Atkins, is a regular commentator, as are a number of this publication's contributors.

It's run by volunteer supporters who have a background in professional broadcast radio and funded independently from the football club by volunteer donations or through sponsorship and advertising.

Stones Live! is a not-for-profit service and any monies raised are put back into the radio station to pay for various broadcast licences and to renew worn or broken equipment. (Such as the laptop Charlie Seaman accidentally smashed last year).



The Back Page

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In this week's column for The Back Page **Steve Watt** talks player safety, abusive crowds and the benefits of having a top-class ex-pro like Jon Harley in your squad ...



Watt's Occurring?

Throw a beer at me and I'd probably drink it ...

I have a very thick skin and to get under it is near enough impossible, but I did have a rule.

You could say anything you liked about me but if you said anything about my family, that crossed a line. I saw a video of beer getting thrown at Rory McIlroy's wife during the Ryder Cup, and if that had happened to me then I don't care what the situation is, I wouldn't have accepted it.

You would have needed more than one person to hold me back from doing something that I would end up regretting – or maybe something I wouldn't have regretted.

I was thinking: "This is golf, it's meant to be a gentlemen's game" but now it's getting dragged into a football-like atmosphere.

Football is still the worst sport for this kind of behaviour; it's historically terrible for it. You can get two English teams, or two Scottish teams where the fans will meet up one week, have a fight and the next week they'll be having a beer together in a pub watching the national team as if nothing happened. (Admittedly maybe not Rangers and Celtic ...)

It just baffles me. I understand rivalries and history but it's just a shame people can't go to watch a game of football. I've always been of the opinion that I chose to do this, I put myself in the arena and it is a battlefield when you're out there; so I was never one to cry about it as long as it wasn't racial or discriminatory.

It actually fuelled me. The Maidstone teams I played in fuelled ourselves on it, but I did play at Grimsby once and even though we were winning 1-0 at half-time, the club had just dropped out of the Football League and we were playing a team who'd just been promoted.

The fans thought it should be 4-0 or 5-0 and the abuse did affect some players. That's where you need leaders and strong characters. If a player is affected, the dressing room needs to carry him through.

I've had altercations though and there was one occasion when I confronted someone in the Spitfire Lounge because they'd said things in front of my wife and son. That was crossing a line, but if you threw a beer at me I'd probably just pick it up and drink it.

"That crossed a line. You would have needed more than one person to hold me back from doing something that I would end up regretting – or maybe something I wouldn't have regretted ..."

Watch Carroll, but he can't be your only focus

You don't often have to deal with former top-flight players at National South level but Maidstone might end up playing Andy Carroll this weekend. They'll have to approach it like any other game.

It's pretty obvious what his threats are; he's very strong, physical and great from crosses. To nullify that you try not to let balls come into your box easily, stay disciplined in not giving away free-kicks and corners and look at doubling up at the right times. You have to respect him but you can't have too much focus on one player – if he doesn't play you'll have wasted a whole week's preparation on just one player.

There's never been a time in my career when I worried too much about individual players.

I did play against Danny Kedwell when he was at Ebbsfleet and I was at Maidstone, but I'd played against him when I was at Grimsby and I knew what I was up against.

He was a great player, a real handful, but you've just got to compete your best and try to nullify his strengths.

An ex-pro can add a lot to a non-league dressing room, as long as it's the right ex-pro.

I played alongside Jon Harley at Maidstone and he was a completely different player to Andy Carroll, but he brought great calmness, experience and knowledge.

I knew him from when I was a kid at Chelsea and people think the quality is the biggest factor with a signing like that; but for me it was his experience, knowing where to be at different times. He was always two or three steps



Jon Harley's experience stood out during his brief time at Maidstone, the team he supported as a boy

ahead. There were little things like taking a touch rather than being rash, allowing you to get the team out of trouble. That spreads

throughout the team and if you've got the right ex-pro it can only, in my opinion, have positive effects.

It shouldn't have taken a tragedy for us to start talking about player safety

It was devastating news when we heard that Billy Vigar had passed away last week and my thoughts are with his family, his club and everyone who knew him. It's just a shame that there has to be a tragedy for us to start having discussions around player safety at grounds. The game has evolved over the years and even at lower levels it's so much quicker than it used to be. You would think Health & Safety officers would be aware that this

means the hazards are far greater. We played at a ground in the last few years where there was a concrete wall close to the pitch at the bottom of a slope. I had to tell my players to be careful when running down the wing and this wasn't unusual. It's even a problem at new grounds. There's one brand new venue I won't name, an excellent facility but it still has a massive concrete wall opposite the bench that must be six feet high. If

you get pushed into that you don't need me to tell you how serious it could be. The risk becomes greater because when you're playing you're just concentrating on the game. I played for Maidstone at grounds where there were risks, but when you're out there you're just trying to win the game, so as a manager I do have to warn players that when there are walls and pillars these are things you need to be aware of.

Bivesh stars as Invicta pull off Horsham shock

By Alan Thatcher

Jay Saunders' magic touch worked again as Folkestone Invicta marched into the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup with a brilliant comeback win at Horsham.

Trailing 2-0 in the first half, Folkestone hit back to triumph 3-2 and their reward is a trip to National League side Southend United on the weekend of October 11.

Just as they did against Stones in the second qualifying round tie played at Chatham, goals either side of half time were the deciding factor at Horsham.

Two goals from Shamir Fenelon put the Hornets in command, but Finley Marjoram scored just before the break to give Invicta a lifeline. Two more strikes followed in quick succession from Ben Mason and Josh Strouts within eight minutes.

Former Stone Bivesh Gurung was outstanding in midfield as Folkestone repelled Horsham's efforts to fight their way back into the match.

Folkestone will pocket an extra £5,625 for this latest win over a Step Two side, following the £3,375 they earned for beating Stones and £2,250 for an earlier win over Sevenoaks. A further £9,375 is on offer for the winners at Southend as Folkestone aim to reach the first round for the first time in 20 years.

Yet after a 10-match unbeaten start to the season, Folkestone then suffered their first defeat away to VCD Athletic in the Kent Senior Cup.

Gurung started in defence this time and scored the opening goal, but the match finished 1-1 and Crayford-based VCD went through 6-5 on penalties.

+++

Jordan Higgs, who was released by Stones at the end of last season and promptly returned to Tonbridge, was man of the match on Tuesday night as the Angels crushed Cray Valley PM 5-0 in a replay.

Tonbridge will host Chatham Town in the next round. The Chats beat Deal Town 3-1 on Saturday.

FA Vase winners Whitstable Town, who overcame Hungerford 2-0, have been drawn away to National League Wealdstone.

Former Stones goalkeeper Lucas Covolan, hero of our epic win at Ipswich two seasons ago, is the second string keeper at Wealdstone and is hoping to have a run-out in the FA Cup.



Bivesh Gurung was outstanding as Folkestone came from 2-0 down to beat Horsham 3-2. (Well of course he was).

The Oystermen are the lowest ranked side left in the competition, and currently sit 10th in the Southern Counties East Football League.

They have banked around £14,000 so far on their FA Cup journey, which started in the extra preliminary round when they won 7-2 at Lingfield. They followed that up with another goal feast in the next round when they battered Edgware 9-0 after the Londoners had two players sent off.

Ebbsfleet United ended Faversham's run with a 2-1 win at Stonebridge Road and have landed a third consecutive home tie against National League side Solihull Moors, who dumped Stones out of the competition at the first round stage last season.

Dagenham and Redbridge, who host Stones this weekend, were knocked out of the competition by Spalding United, thanks to a spectacular, curling free kick winner by Jack Roberts. It's well worth a quick Google search.

National League leaders Forest Green Rovers, managed by Robbie Savage, will travel to Worthing.

Dorking beat Salisbury 4-2 in a replay to earn a tie at home to Aldershot, but they were aided by officials who failed to spot a Salisbury goal - the ball entered the net but rebounded off a support post.

Hemel Hempstead enjoyed a superb 3-0 win at Hereford to land home advantage against Yeovil, while Eastbourne Borough are at home to Boreham Wood, for whom Matt Rush has been on target recently. He put the Wood ahead against Southend on Tuesday but the Shrimpers hit back to grab a 1-1 draw. Rush also grabbed the only goal of the game against Woking on Saturday. Wood are third in the table, just three points behind FGR.

Also in the National League, ex-Stones Temi Eweka and Aaron Blair were both on the scoresheet as Eastleigh won 2-0 at Truro City in midweek.

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Daniel, programme participant 2025

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CONFERENCE SOUTH TO LEAGUE TWO = PROGRESS

TRIPLE-A TO TOKYO = MADNESS

PACIFIC SWINGS

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WATCH EPISODES

BASEBALL STORIES THAT CROSS OCEANS, CULTURES, AND SANITY CHECKS



(Above) Opening day, July 2012. Who scores the first goal at the brand new Gallagher Stadium?
(Below) Shaun Welford scores Maidstone's first goal. Who were the opponents?

This week's Stones Quiz has been set by our old friend **Jurgen Dahmer** and it's on the subject of Gallagher Firsts ...

1) Before a ball had been kicked, and whilst everyone thought 3g was just the most amazing technology ever rather than an artificial surface, legendary Stones' fan Dave Ridgley had his ashes buried where the Genco terrace now stands. By what name was he better known?

2) Which Scottish international scored the first goal?

3) Who became the first – and only – member of the squad v Brighton to play League football, playing the likes of Bolton and Wigan before heading further afield to Scotland, Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus?

4) Shaun Welford scored Maidstone's first goal – coming in the second pre-season friendly. Against which League 2 side was this?

5) The first competitive game ended in a 5-4 defeat to which club?



6) The first competitive win came against Colliers Wood in the FA Cup, but we had to wait until September for the first league win, 2-0 against which club, for whom Socrates (the Brazilian footballer, not the Greek philosopher) once played?

7) Having been given his debut by Jose Mourinho, Steve Watt was the first ex-Premier League player to represent Maidstone in the Gallagher era. Followed soon after by which other former Chelsea defender?

8) Who were the first Football League team to play us in a competitive fixture?

9) Sam Flisher joined brother Alex on the pitch when coming on as a substitute v Hastings in the Isthmian League Cup in December 2012. However, they were only the second pair of brothers to play for The Stones that season – who were the first?

10) Who was the first Stones player to register a hat trick?



Steve Ward in action during our first league win at Whatman Way. Who were the opponents?

Answers to Edition 7: Managers

1) "He's fat, he's round, he tried to take us down ..." Which now iconic manager nearly got us relegated in the mid-1980s?
Barry Fry.

2) Which manager told the Kent Messenger: "We are a local club run on the same lines as Bearsted or MPE and we cannot legislate for players ringing up on a Saturday morning and saying they have to work"?
Mike Chatwin.

3) Who was our manager when Terry Casey and Oliver Ash took the club over in 2010?
Peter Nott.

4) Who managed us to our highest ever position in the football pyramid in 1989-90?
Keith Peacock.

5) Before George Elokobi got us to Coventry, which manager took us on our best FA Cup run?
Barry Watling (FA Cup 3rd round replay with Charlton in 1979-80)

6) Who played for us in the Football League before reportedly taking over at half-time during a County League match?
Jason Lillis.

7) Who took over as caretaker manager after the departure of Bill Williams and before the appointment of the answer to question 1?
Duncan McClachlan (previously the reserve team manager).

8) How many players have played for and managed the club since its rebirth in 1992? **11***
***This depends on your precise definition of manager as Alan Walker was technically Director of Football, but he was in charge of the team. If you include caretakers and joint managers the list is ... Graham Martin, Mark Irvine, Jason Lillis, Matt Toms, Mal Watkins, Alan Walker, Lloyd Hume, Jay Saunders, Steve Watt, Simon Walton, George Elokobi.**

9) Which manager spawned the "Every Fucking Week" gif?
Hakan Hayrettin.

10) Whose introductory speech to the squad allegedly began. "You're all ****s?"
A*F***.**



The new independent source for Maidstone United news: Edition 8 (October 3rd 2025)

They predict a riot

By Fred Atkins

The East End of London: slags, grasses, brasses, and people who go “you what?” Unlicensed boxing, dog fights, “leave it aaaaht,” Pete Beale, Alf Ramsey, pie and mash, eels, jellied eels, The Krays, “are you having a laugh?” Danny Dyer, Tom Hardy shouting “Nonces. Nonces!”, Jack The Hat, Family, The Blind Beggar. And best of all Alan Ford in *Snatch*, saying “Feed ‘em to the pigs, Errol!”

People have been “taking liberties,” (see *what we did there?*) round Victoria Road, the natives have got the right arsehole and it’s all going off on Saturday when there’s a demo aaaahtside before our game with Dagenham & Redbridge. (*Ok, that’ll do ...*)

Now you may or may not like our owners, but at least you know who they are. The *Dagnificent* website says their ownership situation is raising serious questions, the main ones being not only “who are they?” but also “Where are they?”

We covered some of this in a previous edition: the fatuous five-minute takeover by an Egyptian YouTuber and the bullshit about turning a sixth-tier club into a global powerhouse through the medium of “compelling story-telling.”

That, inevitably, didn’t happen, but as of this week the Qatari investors who reportedly agreed to buy the club in July still don’t appear as directors on the Companies House website.

Of seven active officers, three reside in the USA and Andy Carroll, who supposedly acquired a minority stake in July, isn’t one of them.

“After all your neighbours have been fed to the pigs, where are they going to go for their next meal?”

As *Dagnificent* puts it: “The complete silence is deafening ... not only is this unfair, but an insult, bordering on a proverbial middle finger to supporters who have already suffered unbearably for so long.”

I first went to Victoria Road in 1984, but that was when they were just Dagenham, one of the five component parts of their modern incarnation: Leytonstone, Ilford, Walthamstow Avenue and Redbridge Forest being the others.

This may be the reason for the existential fear. This is a club built from the remnants of others. And after all your neighbours have been fed to the pigs, where are they going to go for their next meal?

As someone who regards the likes of AFC Wimbledon and Bury as mere tourists, I thought the reference to “unbearable suffering” was perhaps a bit over the top, but it was positively restrained compared to what Dagenham fans were saying on the socials.

After last week’s FA Cup defeat at Spalding someone claiming to be a player’s father

PROTEST AGAINST THE BOARD

10 YEARS OF LIES
AND BROKEN PROMISES

NO
MORE
BS!



DAGGERS UNITED
NEEDS YOU

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER
vs Maidstone United 12:45pm to 2:15pm

Gather around top of Victoria Road

A flyer for the pre-game protest

posted what looked like a genuine post on a Dagenham forum called *The Sieve*.

“The players are just as worried as you fans about the future of the club, and their careers. Even Carroll isn’t in the know enough to tell them what’s going on and in fairness to him he is not happy with this either ... please think twice before aiming any abuse at them in the future. Be angry at the right people, please.”

This went about as well as when Bob Hoskins’ gets into the car at the

end of *The Long Good Friday*, but I thought the poster, whoever he was, had a point. The players are just human beings who aren’t quite at the level that Dagenham have become accustomed to watching over the last 30 years.

Ours have lost four straight games by an aggregate of nine nil, but I wouldn’t abuse them.

On the flipside, if the next owners of this club end up selling the ground for a housing estate, I’d happily see them fed to the pigs, Bricktop style.