

big ed's bit.....



Hello, good afternoon and welcome to Princes Park, home of The Darts.

Today's FA Cup 1st round tie, sees PP stage the highest profile game since opening day. The game has obviously been made all ticket, and at the time of writing, a sell out seems on the cards. We welcome the Officials, Players, and I'm sure a few hundred supporters of Port Vale. We hope they enjoy their brief stay at our home. This is The Darts first appearance at this stage for over 20 years. Exeter City were the visitors to Watling Street that day, and a screamer from Andy Hessenthaler gave us a share of the spoils in a 1-1 draw. Darts crashed 4-1 in the replay, and it was going to be many, many years until we find ourselves gracing the 1st round draw again.

Port Vale are riding high in League 2 right now, currently occupying 2nd place, having only conceded eight goals in fourteen games! Hmm, think our strikers are going to have their work cut out today then! I think it's fair to say that, although we find ourselves at this stage today, we have made very hard work of it. Three ties against lower league opposition have seen, two replays, two odd goal wins and a penalty shoot out victory. Today at last, we are the big underdogs. Hopefully our players can relax and enjoy the game stress free, and turn in the sort of performance that we all know they are capable of.

Our league form is also in need of an improvement. Following on from the 3-0 defeat at Eastleigh, we managed to salvage a point at bottom club Lewes with an injury time equaliser. In my opinion this was fully deserved, and was great retribution for all the outrageous time wasting that the home team practised. We now travel to our old mates Dover on Tuesday. Always a game to guarantee fireworks.

You will notice in the centre pages of the prog, that we have been able to reproduce some of the Port Vale v Dartford programme items, from the last time the two clubs met in FA Cup 2nd round in 1965. There is also a report and photos from the game. We thank Peter Samson and Dave Pointer for their assistance in these items.

FROM THE BOARD

We would like to welcome everyone here to Princes Park today, for the biggest day since our reformation in 1993. This is the sort of day that everyone that stood by us in our darkest hours, have been waiting for – The Darts in the first round of the oldest, most famous football competition in the world, The FA Cup. The fact that today's game is a 4000+ sell out, and our continuing great attendances here, shows how right Dartford Council were to bring The Darts home four years ago. Today's events are dedicated to you, the hardy 250 that stuck by us in our fourteen year nomadic existence. Without you, we would definitely not be here today. Thankyou all.
Bill Archer Co-Chairman.

REPLAY ARRANGEMENTS

Should today's game end in a draw, the replay will, I believe, be at Vale Park on Tuesday 16th November. KO 1945. This would of course mean the postponement of the Basingstoke Town home game.

REARRANGED GAMES

The Basingstoke game, postponed from Saturday, has been provisionally re-arranged for Tuesday 16th November KO 1945. Also now arranged is The Kent Senior Cup game with Tonbridge Angels – Tuesday 30th November KO 1945. The Staines Town game postponed today, has yet to be re arranged.

FA TROPHY

We have been drawn away to our nearest neighbours Thurrock in the FA Trophy. This will be played on Saturday 20th November KO 1500.

DOVER ATHLETIC AWAY

We will, of course, be running a supporters coach to Dover next Tuesday. See Paul in the bar to book your place.

ADAM GROSS

It has been confirmed that Adam Gross has been released. Adam, who started 87 games for the Darts, was ever present last term and scored three goals in his career for the club. We wish him the very best in his future.

UNDER 18s

Dartford's Under 18 side progressed to the next round of the FA Youth Cup with a 1-0 victory at Maidenhead United. The young Darts were due to play in the 1st round proper vs AFC Wimbledon on Wednesday 3rd November. Good luck guys.

STATTO V STATTO

Our resident Club Statto, Mike Brett-Smith, had the pleasure of meeting his Lowestoft Town counterpart, at the recent FA Cup meeting between the two clubs. Now I don't know if there is some sort of Statto club code of appearance, or maybe it's something in the water? But wow, maybe even separated at birth? I'm sure that they got on famously !!!



DARTS NEWEST FAN

Pictured right, is one of Dartford newest fans. Please meet Master Robert Dunne. Robert is proudly displaying his new darts bib supplied by his proud parents Sarah and Arthur Dunne. Welcome to the clan Robert.



Keep Smilin'

Tony

from the captains table.....

Welcome to today's FA Cup first round tie against Port Vale.

This is obviously a very important day for everyone concerned with Dartford Football Club, and one that does not come around very often. It has been 20 odd years since the club has got this far, and to be rewarded with a home draw against Football League opposition is great. The FA Cup is a fantastic competition and I hope everyone enjoys and remembers the day.

As players there is no pressure on us whatsoever. Port Vale are high flying in League 2 at the moment and everybody expects them to win comfortably. But we know from experience that it is not easy to travel away to lower league opposition and pull off a result. A few Football League sides will lose to lower opposition today, so why can't that happen here? Every year a non-league team progresses to the later rounds of the cup and I know we are capable of achieving that.

We are clearly massive underdogs, but this is a great chance to cause an upset. I would not fancy being in their dressing room today, as nobody will notice if they win, but everyone will if they lose. I don't think anyone needs any more motivation for this one, so make some noise and let's see what happens.

See you on MOTD!!

Bradders



sicknote corner.....

NEWS FROM THE PHYSIO ROOM

Hi everybody well here we are First Round Proper of the greatest Cup in the World 'THE F.A.CUP.'

For me personally its the first time i've worked as a Physio in this round,after working in the Non League for 20 years after qualifying as a Certified F A Physio.

Well at the time of going to print our squad is looking good on the injury front, a few stiff muscles which will be 100 percent by time the match comes around. The cut eye Burnsie picked up which the doctor and I medically glued on saturday night after the game at Lewes, will be fine Im sure. The medical team (myself, Leanne, Akhil, Jenny) will work hard during the week to ensure Tony has a full squad to make his selection from. Hope you all enjoy the day, and lets hope we give Port Vale a real hard game, I'm sure the guys will.

Dave P

Club Physio



tony burman's diary

I would like to welcome all the officials and players from Port Vale FC, to Princess Park for today's first round cup tie.

Its been a long time since we last played in the 1st round of the FA Cup, 21 years to be precise, far to long.

In the last three rounds we have been the favourites to go through against teams in lower divisions, but this competition always challenges the favourites. Eventually we have reached this stage after two replays and an amazing penalty shoot out.

When the draw is made, you hope for a home tie. The next thing you hope for is league opposition, and we have managed to get both.

The enthusiasm that this tie has generated can only be described as being unbelievable, and is a credit to everyone who has purchased tickets to make today's game a sell out.

Make no mistake we will be up against an excellent team full of quality players, managed by a very experienced manager in Mickey Adams.

Once the draw had been made, and the excitement goes on, as the Manager I have to start thinking about the opposition. Port Vale are one of the highest

ranked teams in the competition at this stage and are having a fantastic season in their league. Make no mistake we will be up against an excellent team full of quality players, managed by a very experienced manager in Mickey Adams.

Though the odds are stacked heavily against us, this IS the FA Cup ! and the competition always challenges the favourites. To give ourselves a chance we will have to play to our full potential and your support is going to be crucial over the ninety minutes.

I would like you all to really enjoy yourselves today, give the team the loudest support that you can, as you never know what might happen ?

Thanks for your support,

Tony



1	DAVID TARA	ANA HOVERD
2	WILLIAM A. JOYCE	WILLIAM JOHNSON
3	KEVIN & HARRY TAYLOR	CYRIL NEWMAN
4	CARINE CAMPBELL	KEN BROWN
5	CAROLAN LLOYD	JOHN HOVERD

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the all seeing eye.....



The last time Dartford played a 1st round F.A. Cup tie U2 topped the music charts with Rattle & Hum and Peter Taylor was the man in the Darts dugout, how times have changed. Over two decades have passed and Dartford are preparing for a game many fans are labelling "The biggest in recent history".

Just six months after running away with The Ryman's Premier League title Tony Burman's side will be taking on League 2 highfliers Port Vale this coming Saturday. These sides have met once before on December 4th 1965, Dartford losing out after a narrow 1-0 defeat.

Tony has achieved considerable success during his managerial reign, but admits Saturday's cup tie will be a special occasion for everyone involved. "I am proud and pleased for all the people who have volunteered for this club throughout the years, it is nice to see a spring in their step and hopefully we can give them a lot of enjoyment with a good showing on Saturday."

The Darts boss revealed that he has been doing his homework regarding Mickey Adams' Vale side. "I have had a few reports and watched some DVD'S over the weekend but I also attended their previous match against Burton Albion on Tuesday".

Burman also expressed his delight with breaking the 21 year run which has seen Dartford fail to make the 1ST round proper since their replay defeat to Exeter City in November 1989. "I am really pleased as is everyone at the club. It has been a long wait and another milestone we have reached since our move to Princes Park. A lot of hard work has been put in, but we have our rewards with a home draw against football league opposition, a great reward for the fans, with the game looking to be a sell out!"

Elliot Bradbrook, plying his trade in America just 3 years ago, will be leading the Darts out in front of an estimated 4,000 fans, a duty that fills him with pride. "It is an honour for me to be captain for a game like this. Last year I was lucky enough to be part of a title winning side, but now I get to lead the boys out for the Blue Square South and for amazing games such as this one."

The Dartford skipper admitted that the stuttering start to the league, which leaves the team languishing in 18TH place, is not good enough, but will hopefully improve after Saturday's F.A.Cup tie. "It is no secret we are not doing as well as we hoped regarding the league. The club has had nothing but success for the past few years and expectations are high, but we are in a tough league where the margin between winning and losing is very small. I feel we have deserved to win more games than we have but that is not an excuse, we will continue to work hard and hopefully the fans recognize that".

"The cup run is a nice distraction from the league. We are going into a game for the first time this season not being expected to win, so that should allow us to play with a bit more freedom, we definitely feel we can get a result."

No matter what happens on Saturday the current crop of players will go down in Dartford history, after ending 21 years of hurt. The F.A Cup always springs a surprise or two, who is to say Dartford can't defy all odds and continue a magical cup run?

Matt Poynton

the all seeing eye.....



THIS DAY IN DARTFORD FC HISTORY.....6th November

If you take the history on the 6th of November at face value, you would suggest Dartford would be pleased with the home statistics. Winning six of the ten games played at home is a fair achievement, even if the matches have been tight – only 13 goals were scored by the Darts in their 10 matches, with the Darts more miserly at the back, conceding only one every other match.

Away from home, the picture is slightly bleaker – one solitary win in 10 against our old rivals Gravesend and Northfleet in 1968.

1897: (A) Maidenhead L1-2
1909: (H) Rochester W1-0
1912: (H) Chatham L1-2 (FA Cup)
1926: (H) Kettering Town D0-0
1935: (A) Bournemouth Reserves D1-1 (Southern League Cup)
1937: (A) Aldershot Reserves D0-0
1946: (H) Gillingham W2-0 (Southern League Cup)
1948: (H) Bath City W3-0
1954: (A) Kidderminster Harriers L2-4
1965: (A) Chelmsford City L1-2
1968: (A) Gravesend and Northfleet W3-2
1971: (H) Cambridge City W3-0
1976: (A) Dagenham D1-1 (FA Cup)
1980: (A) Welling United L1-3 (Eastern Floodlit Cup)
1982: (H) Gloucester City W1-0
1984: (H) AP Leamington W2-0 (Southern League Challenge Match)
1990: (H) Dover Athletic L0-3 (Premier Inter League Cup)
1999: (A) Sittingbourne L0-1
2004: (A) Redbridge L1-5 (FA Trophy)
2007: (H) Edgware Town D0-0

Records on this day:

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
Total	20	7	5	8	24	26
Home	10	6	2	2	13	5
Away	10	1	3	6	11	21

Gary Clarke

around the.....



Braintree Town remain a point clear at the top of the Blue Square Bet South table following Saturday's round of matches.

The Iron comprehensively beat Weston-super-Mare 4-0 at Cressing Road, breaking the deadlock a minute after the interval through Sam Lechmere and then quickly adding a second 3 minutes later from Scott Schulton. A Sean Marks brace on 74 and 82 minutes – the first from the penalty spot – completed the scoring.

Bromley climbed into second place after winning 2-1 at Thurrock and then seeing that Chelmsford City had lost 3-1 at Farnborough. Ryan Dolby put Bromley in front after 42 minutes at Ship Lane only for Cliff Akurang to equalise from the spot right on the stroke of half time. Warren McBean scored what proved to be the winner 7 minutes into the second half.

At Cherrywood Road, Chelmsford led through Anthony Cook's 22nd minute effort before Kezie Ibe levelled 5 minutes after the interval. Jack King then gave Boro the lead on 68 minutes and an Adam Tann own goal 7 minutes from time sealed the Claret's fate.

Welling United are fourth after completing a good 3-1 win at the Camrose against Basingstoke Town.

Loick Pires gave the Wings a 39th minute lead, but David Pratt equalised with 11 minutes remaining.

Jack Parkinson immediately restored the visitors' lead and a Lee Clarke spot-kick in stoppage time made it 3-1.

Dover Athletic complete the top five and they too had a very good away win – 4-1 at Bishop's Stortford. It wasn't until the hour-mark that Dover took the lead through Adam Birchall and 4 minutes later the ex-Gillingham man doubled the Whites' lead. New



signing Michael Bakare pulled one back 15 minutes from time, but Joe Tabiri on 82 minutes and Harry Baker 3 minutes later confirmed victory for Martin Hayes against his former club.

Elvis came to Woking's rescue at the Beverree against Hampton & Richmond Borough. In this case it was Elvis HAMMOND, who bagged a brace in the final 9 minutes. Hampton took the lead in the 17th minute through Dean Inman. Hammond equalised in the 81st minute, before scoring a penalty he had won himself 8 minutes later.

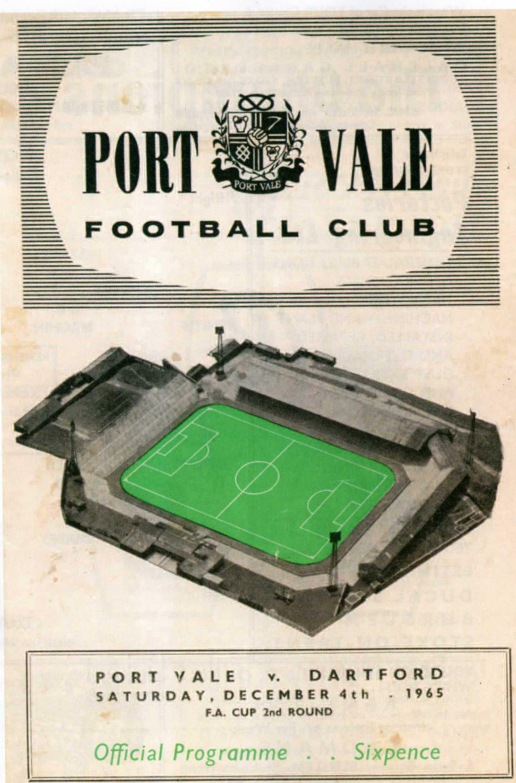


Boreham Wood and now Lewes are with Thurrock on six points at the foot of the table, with the Rooks picking up a point in Tim O'Shea's first game in charge at the Dripping Pan against Dartford. New-look Lewes took the lead 5 minutes before half time through one of several debutants, Paul Olima, only for Tom Bonner to eventually earn the Darts a share of the spoils 3 minutes into injury-time.

Boreham Wood went down to a 3-0 defeat at Eastleigh, whose Tony Taggart gave them an early 2nd minute lead. Richard Gillespie doubled the Spitfires' lead on 16 minutes and Chris Holland completed the scoring on 55 minutes.

St Albans City are only three points better off after going down to a 2-1 Clarence Park defeat to Ebbsfleet United, whose Callum Willock gave them an 18th minute lead. Inih Effiong levelled after 34 minutes for the Saints, but Tom Phipp scored what proved to be the winner for Liam Daish's side just before half time.

Ryan Moss also scored a late stoppage time winner for Dorchester Town to leap-frog out of form Staines Town at the same time. Earlier Danny Ings had given the Magpies a 55th minute that Andre Scarlett had cancelled out after 70 minutes.



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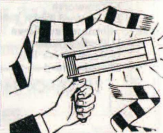
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DARTFORD

PEN PICTURES OF PLAYERS

for Season 1965/66

ROB STEPNEY (Inside Forward)

5ft. 9in., 12 stone, 29 years. 1st season. Played 8 seasons for Aldershot. Adaptable to most positions and a 90-minute player.

TERRY GILL (Centre Forward)

5ft. 9ins., 11½ stone, 29 years. 2nd season. Previously played for Bexley United for 11 seasons, scoring over 200 goals. Leading scorer for Darts last season.

JOHN RIPLEY (Inside Forward)

5ft. 9ins., 11 stone, 22 years. 5th season. Signed from local football. Intelligent and clever player.

JOHN DENNIS (Wing)

5ft. 8ins., 11½ stone, 25 years. 4th season. Previous clubs — Arsenal, Yeovil and Tonbridge. Fast, tricky and scores goals.

JOHN STEVENS (Wing)

5ft. 8ins., 11½ stone, 24 years. 2nd season. Experience with Cray Wanderers and Bromley as amateur. Signed professional for Darts last season.

JOHN BOURNE (Goalkeeper)

6ft. 1in., 12 stone, 25 years. 5th season for Darts. Signed from local football.

TONY SITFORD (Right Full-back)

6ft. 1in., 12½ stone, 25 years. 3rd season. Strong 90-minute player. Experience with Crystal Palace, Brighton and Gravesend.

PETER MABEY (Left Full-back)

6ft., 12 stone. 29 years. 7th season. Intelligent and steady. Previous club — Gravesend.

MALCOLME PYKE (Wing-half)

6ft., 13 stone, 27 years. 6th season. Played for West Ham and Crystal Palace. Attacking player.

LES BURNS (Centre-half)

6ft., 13½ stone, 22 years. 5th season. Played for Millwall and Southampton. Strong and Clever.

TERRY MARSHALL (Inside Forward)

5ft. 8ins., 11 stone. 29 years. 1st season. Experience with Wisbech, Newcastle and Hastings. Clever goal striker.

matchday programme notes.....

VIEW FROM THE TERRACE

Bouquets are due all round at Vale Park – to the players, the ground staff, and the crowd.

The teams spartan qualities can rarely have shone out as magnificently as in last Saturday's great defeat of Southport in the foulest of imaginable weather.

It was a performance which again led one to speculate furiously on the fantastic spell of away misfortunes which have kept the clubs out-of-town points down to one. Surely, the tide is beginning to turn.

Nobody can complain now that you never see goals at Vale Park. Vale have hit the net seven times in the last two home performances, and the signs are that more are on the way. The victory last week was hared by Len Parton. The pitch has never been in better trim, and in spite of the wretched wintry conditions, he has maintained it impeccably. Referee Victor Batty (really? Ed) paid him an indirect compliment last week when he said "The ground was perfectly playable. I stopped the game for five minutes – but only because the blizzard was blowing in the players eyes and nobody could see a thing".

Finally, a word of praise for you, the spectators, for sticking out the dreadful conditions with such good humour. As one commentator has written, every onlooker deserves a gold medal. But it was worthwhile in the end.

Today we welcome Dartford, a club of tremendous courage and fighting ability. To have reached the stage of the FA Cup competition is a magnificent achievement indeed for any non league side. Without clubs like Dartford, the competition would lose a lot of its unpredictability and excitement.

However, we hope to advance in the competition today. This could bring us a plum draw with a first or second division side in the next round. The rewards of victory are not only added glory, but added gates. Let us hope for both.

Valeite.

did you know.....

This was a 2nd Round Proper tie.

Sir Stanley Matthews CBE was General Manager at that time.

Jackie Mudie was player manager.

No changes to the Dartford team named in programme.

Jackie Mudie in for Machin was only change in Port Vale team.

Darts went on to be relegated at end of season, finishing 4th from bottom and Alf Ackerman resigned.

Port Vale went on to be beaten 2-1 at Cardiff in the 3rd round.

Everton beat Sheffield Wednesday 3-2 in the Final, after being two down.

3" of snow lay on the Port Vale pitch days before the match.

Johnny Hill, who scored for Port Vale in 20th minute was an ex Irish international inside forward, had only signed from Everton 4 weeks previously.

The match attendance 6090

Saturday 4th December 1965

F.A. CUP (second round)

Dartford beaten by an inch

PORT VALE 1; DARTFORD 0

GALLANY, never - give - up Southern League Dartford, were beaten by no more than a inch by their Division 4 opponents in a dour, hard fought tie on the rain, and, occasionally, sleet swept spacious Vale Park ground at Burslem on Saturday. On a heavy ground on which earlier in the week three inches of snow had been measured, Dartford buckled to in no mean fashion and their willingness to carry the fight against the odds deserved them a second crack of the whip, writes Sports Editor Dick Broad.

And had their two Terrys — Marshall and Gill — been an inch taller, they must have been the best of friends.

As soon after 20 minutes, the Darts fought their way back to the half and to get on terms with the half-way through the second half, their best chance presented itself.

time was mainly due to the fine work of big Les Burns — a pity that just before the close he was "booked" by referee E. Norman, (Blackburn), for a heavy tackle on Roy Sproson — and some spectacular work in goal from Johnny Bourne.

Bourne, the busier of the two 'keepers, made several brilliant saves, none better than towards the end when he jack-knifed in the air to turn away an almost certain goal from Sproson.

Throughout, Mabey kept a tight rein on Smith and Johnny Stevens had a commendable time against the planning and scheming of Vale player-manager Jackie Mudie, returning to the side after a back injury.

this pair which led to the only goal after 20 minutes — minutes well dominated by Dartford who had the lion's share in the early stages and might well have taken a shock lead.

But back to the all important goal.

A Burns' foot had just previously saved the situation when he turned a dangerous Richards shot for a corner when Vale attacked through Poole.

The move was carried on by Sprason and then back to Poole. The fast, accurate centre, whistled into the Darford 18 yard box where Malcolm Pyke, in a desperate effort to clear, slid down on the greasy surface and left Johnny HILL unmarked and about ten yards out.



Dartford defenders full back Tony Sitford and wing half Malcolm Pyke, stripe shirts, watch anxiously as centre half Les Burns gets the better of Vale player-manager Jackie Mudie in an airborne tussle on the mud-strewn Vale Park pitch.



Dartford goalie Johnny Bourne, who gave a great display, hurls his 6ft. 1in at the ball to foil yet another attack by the Fourth Division side. On the ground is Vale leader Tony Richards.

Left back Peter Mabey broke clean through on the touch line and ran fully 30 yards before putting racing winger John Dennis in possession.

The Dartford outside left went brilliantly round full back Terry Lowe and, pausing to pick his spot, centred perfectly at just about crossbar height.

course, went over to the right where Vale defenders gratefully cleared.

Afterwards Terry Marshall told me: "The ball just flicked my hair and it did the same to Terry Gill. A little lower and we must have scored with O'Neill at the far end of his goal."

But the fact that Dartford were so close at the

It was in attack that Dartford failed.

Although Robbie Stepney probed and roamed in the ever increasing mud, the line never moved with the smoothness that was needed to beat a well marshalled Vale defence in which wing halves Harry Poole and Sproson took the honours.

Right in front, the inside right gave Bourne no earthly chance of saving as his right foot shot bulged

Right on the interval Vas almost added to their score when Tony Sitford let Brian Taylor through. But Bourne, all alone, advanced to make a daring save.

Splendid Dartford defence

Vale had more of the second half but the Dartford defence, splendidly marshalled by Burns, gave nothing more away but their attack could never get the better of the home defence and comparatively speaking, O'Neill was never seriously bothered to keep his sheet clean.

Port Vale, under the eyes of general manager, Sir Stanley Matthews, earned their win. But they were made to earn it the hard way by a side that never gave in.

Well played Dartford, you deserved a better result than this.

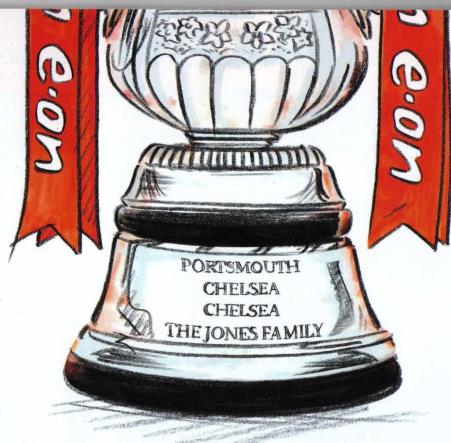
Attendance: 6,999.
Port Vale: O'Neill; Lowe
Wilson; Poole, Alcock
Sprouson; Smith, Mudie
Richards, Hill, Taylor.

Dartford: Bourne; Slitford, Mabey; Pyke, Burns; Stevens; Marshall, Ripley; Stepney, Gill, Dennis.

NETBALL

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League results: Gordon
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Northfleet 24, Gordon O.G.
2nd 23 — St. George's
O.G. 2nd 23, Bowater 8.

With thanks to Pete Samson for archive material.



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we've met before.....

Up for the Cup

Somehow we are still in the FA Cup after tip-toeing our painful way through 5 matches so far. It has brought us to what could be described as our Cup Final and the visit of League Two Port Vale. This brings the first problem to a nostalgia section in so much that the last time we played them i was 3 years old and my recollections are a little hazy. Although i have in fact been to Burslem in 1981 for the Heavy Metal Holocaust and stood in the centre circle but that is another story. So if you will indulge me i will share my more general FA Cup remembrances

My own personal memories of the cup started in late 1974 when we entertained Plymouth Argyle and were leading 2-1 with only minutes left (even the BBC had announced a major shock at Watling Street) but we somehow imploded to lose 3-2 in extra time. Then we entered a long barren spell with some ignominious defeats along the way (does anyone remember Redhill) before in 1982 we were given the pleasure of visiting the Den and facing Millwall.

The team that fronted up the lions that day was probably one of the best Dartford sides that I have ever had the pleasure of watching and they

matched Millwall blow for blow. In the end only losing to some South London skullduggery when the Millwall forward called for the Dartford defender by name to leave it which he duly did. The only thing that really spoilt a proud day was the BBC interview with George Graham (the Millwall manager) who could not manage to give us any credit whatsoever.

Talking of the BBC also reminds me of our appearance on Match of the day when we played the Metropolitan Police in the 1st round. Because this was the plod's first time of reaching this stage the beeb pulled out all the stops and gave it good coverage. Unfortunately for them we rather spoiled the party by winning 3-0 and George Borg scored one of the goals of the round. Rumour still has it that the BBC where going to include the goal in the "Goal of the month competition" but decided not to as it was not scored by a recognized team (it was a lot better than the winner).

I am probably again tempting fate but I shall save any further memories for a possible future stage of this competition.

Big John

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the all seeing eye.....

it's an fa cup fact

- Manchester United is the most successful of the FA Cup clubs in the history of the FA Cup. The Red Devils have won the cup 11 times and have been losing finalists on 7 other occasions.
- Manchester United is also the only team to have taken the FA Cup after playing top-flight clubs in every round, in 1948.
- In 1873, Wanderers enjoyed the privilege of playing in the first and last genuine challenge cup. They played only one game, the FA Cup Final, where they promptly beat Oxford University 3-0.
- The FA Cup was once won without the winning team scoring a goal. In 1927, Cardiff City defeated Arsenal in the FA Cup Final, thanks to an own goal by Arsenal keeper Dan Lewis. This was also the only time that the FA Cup was taken outside England.
- Derby County's contribution to the collection of interesting FA Cup clubs trivia is that this team was on the receiving end of the biggest thrashing in the history of the FA Cup finals. This happened in 1903 when Bury defeat Derby County 6-0 in that years FA Cup Final.
- The FA Cup has been contested 126 times. In that time, 42 different clubs have taken the trophy.
- FA Cup commentator Thomas Woodroffe was forced literally to eat his hat in 1938. The score was 0-0 between Preston and Huddersfield in the 29th minute of extra time, when Woodroffe commented he would eat his hat if a goal was scored. Seconds later George Mutch scored a penalty for Preston.
- Leicester City has the dubious honour of having made it to the FA Cup Final the most times without going on to win the trophy. It has reached the finals four times in the history of the FA Cup and lost on every occasion the last time being in 1963.
- Liverpool's 1986 FA Cup winning team featured only one player born in England. Mark Lawrenson. At the time, however, Lawrenson was playing international football for the Republic of Ireland.
- An astonishing FA Cup fact is that Manchester City goalkeeper Bert Trautmann played the last 15 minutes of the 1953 FA Cup Final with a broken neck. Despite his serious injury, Trautmann pulled of a series of fine saves in the final minutes of the game, helping Manchester City to win against Birmingham City 3-1.
- Most wins: 11, Manchester United (1909,1948,1963,1977,1983,1985,1990,1994,1996,1999,2004)
- Most consecutive wins: 3, joint record:
- Wanderers (1876, 1877, 1878) Blackburn Rovers, (1884, 1885, 1886)
- Most appearances: 18: Manchester United
- 1909,1948,1957,1958,1963,1976,1977,1979,1983,1985,1990,1994,1995, 1996, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007)
- Most appearances without winning: 4, Leicester City (1949, 1961, 1963, 1969)
- Biggest win: 6 goals, Bury vs. Derby County, (1903)
- Most goals in a final: 7:
- Blackburn Rovers 6-1 Sheffield Wednesday (1890) Blackpool 4-3 Bolton Wanderers (1953)
- Most goals by a losing side: 3: Bolton Wanderers: Lost 3-4 against Blackpool (1953) West Ham United scored 3 times (3-3) but lost on a penalty shootout vs Liverpool (2006)
- Most defeats in a final: 8, Everton (1893, 1897, 1907, 1968, 1985, 1986, 1989, 2009)

Individual

- Most wins: 6, Ashley Cole (Arsenal) (2002, 2003, 2005) & (Chelsea) (2007, 2009, 2010)
- Most appearances: 9, Arthur Kinnaird (Wanderers) (1872-73, 1874-75, 1875-76, 1876-77, 1877-78) & (Old Etonians) (1878-79, 1880-81, 1881-82, 1882-83)



- Most goals (one final): 3, Billy Townley (Blackburn Rovers) (1890), James Logan (Notts County) (1894) & Stan Mortensen (Blackpool) (1953)
- Most goals (all finals): 5, Ian Rush (Liverpool)
- Fastest goal: 25 seconds, Louis Saha (for Everton v. Chelsea, 2009)
- Youngest FA Cup finalist: Curtis Weston (Millwall), 17 years and 119 days
- Youngest player to score in an FA Cup Final: Norman Whiteside (Manchester United), 18 years and 19 days
- Oldest player: Billy Hampson, 41 years and 257 days (for Newcastle United v. Aston Villa, 1923-24)

All rounds

- Biggest win: Preston North End 26-0 Hyde United (First Round, 15 October 1887)
- Highest FA Cup attendance (of all time): 121,919 (Aston Villa v. Sunderland, Final at Crystal Palace, 19 April 1913)
- Highest attendance at Wembley: 126,047 (Bolton Wanderers v. West Ham United, Final, 28 April 1923)
- Most club competing for trophy in a season: 731 (2007-08)
- Longest tie: 660 minutes (6 matches in total), Oxford City v. Alvechurch (Fourth Qualifying Round, 1971-72; Alvechurch won the sixth match 1-0)
- Longest penalty shootout: 20 penalties each, Tunbridge Wells v. Littlehampton Town (Preliminary Round Replay, 31 August 2005; Tunbridge Wells won 16-15)
- Most rounds played in a season: 9, joint record:
 - Brighton & Hove Albion (1932-33: 1st-4th Qualifying Rounds, 1st-5th Rounds)
 - New Brighton (1956-57: Preliminary, 1st-4th Qualifying Rounds, 1st-4th Rounds)
 - Blyth Spartans (1977-78: 1st-4th Qualifying Rounds, 1st-5th Rounds)
 - Harlow Town (1978-79: Preliminary, 1st-4th Qualifying Rounds, 1st-4th Rounds)
- Most games played in a season: 13, Bideford (1974-75: one First Qualifying, two Second Qualifying, five Third Qualifying, four Fourth Qualifying and one First Round)
- Fastest goal: 4 seconds, Gareth Morris (for Ashton United v. Skelmersdale United, 17 September 2001)
- Fastest hat-trick: 2 min 20 sec, Andy Locke (for Nantwich Town v. Droylsden, 1995)[35]
- Most Career Goals: 49, Henry "Harry" Cursham (Notts County between 1877 and 1888),
- Most goals by a player in a single FA Cup game: 9, Ted MacDougall (for Bournemouth in 1971)[36]
- Scoreline: Two examples of teams scoring 7 goals and not winning – Dulwich Hamlet 8-7 St Albans City (Fourth Qualifying Round Replay, 22 November 1922), and Dulwich Hamlet 7-7 Wealdstone (Fourth Qualifying Round, 16 November 1929).
- Youngest player: Andy Awofori, 15 years and 88 days (for Worcester City v. Boreham Wood, Third qualifying round, 1987-88)[37]
- Youngest goalscorer: Jonjo Shelvey, 16 years and 311 days (for Charlton v. Norwich, 2008-09)

1st Season Entrants 1876

BARNES
CRYSTAL PALACE
DONNINGTON SCHOOL (Spalding)
HARROW CHEQUERS
MARLOW
REIGATE PRIORY
UPTON PARK

CIVIL SERVICE
CLAPHAM ROVERS
HAMPSTEAD HEATH
HITCHIN MAIDENHEAD
QUEEN'S PARK (Glasgow)
ROYAL ENGINEERS
THE WANDERERS