

SPORT

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WEALDSTONE Emmanuel stays but Clifford goes



Moses Emmanuel has signed a one-year contract with Wealdstone FC. Photo: Adam Williams

Tony is Volunteer of the Year

RAYNERS LANE FC



Tony Pratt Photo: Jed Leicester for The FA

A FOOTBALL club secretary who also runs the tea hut, collects entrance fees, cleans the dressing rooms and looks after the referee has won a national award.

Tony Pratt from Rayners Lane FC in Harrow has been crowned 2020 Volunteer of the Year award in the FA & McDonald's Grassroots Football Awards

The awards celebrate the efforts of volunteers across England who go the extra mile to support their local communities.

Sir Geoff Hurst, McDonald's Fun Football ambassador and 1966 World Cup winner, said: "Tony should be extremely proud of his work and grassroots football in Harrow is in a much better place with him having been a part of it for the last 50 years." Tony has been a part of Rayners Lane FC for over 50 years, serving in several volunteer roles to help run the club.

As well as working as the club secretary, he is also responsible for running the club's tea hut, collecting entrance fees, cleaning the dressing rooms and ensuring visiting match officials are looked after.

Tony was due to hang up his training top this year with a farewell party planned with his community, which was cancelled due to the pandemic. Tony will be presented with his award at an event at a later date.

Local McDonald's franchisee Kurt Jansen, who is an avid supporter of grassroots football in Harrow, said: "It's an honour to recognise the work of people like Tony within the grassroots football community in Harrow. Tony's commitment and long term service to the grassroots game and local community is inspiring, and his story really highlights the difference volunteers can make."

Striker signs up for season

By Robert Collins

WEALDSTONE FC striker Moses Emmanuel will be staying with the club after signing a one-year contract ahead of the 2020/21 season.

Emmanuel joined the Stones in January 2020 and started the final nine games of the season, scoring four goals, including a match-winning brace at Havant & Waterlooville on his second appearance.

With Wealdstone going up, the 31-year-old centre-forward gained his fourth promotion from the National League South in 2019/20 and will be playing for his fifth club in the National League next season.

Emmanuel said: "I'm delighted to have re-signed for the club. I felt really at home in the short period of time before the season was stopped, so I'm looking forward to next season in the National League and scoring goals."

He believes the squad's cohesion will help them after promotion from the National League South title, adding: "I'm buzzing to have won the league, it was fully deserved by the players and staff. It's really good that we've managed to keep

the majority of the same squad and think that will help to really compete in the National League."

Wealdstone also confirmed that midfielder Billy Clifford has joined National League South side Havant & Waterlooville.

The 27-year-old midfielder signed for the Stones in July 2019 and made 37 appearances for the club, scoring seven goals and making 12 assists in all competitions.

Clifford won his first National League South winners medal at the end of the 2019/20 season and was selected in the National League South Team of the Season.

A statement on the club website said: "Everyone at Wealdstone FC would like to thank Billy for his contribution to the club and wish him all the best for the future."

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