

SPORT

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FOOTBALL Wealdstone FC call on fans to chip in



Wealdstone FC manager Dean Brennan

Photo: Dean Brennan

Borough welcomes reopening

MINISTER ANNOUNCES LOWER LEAGUE MOVE



Harrow Borough in their 3-2 friendly win against Potters Bar
Photo: Harrow Borough FC

HARROW Borough FC have welcomed news that lower league teams will be allowed to play in front of fans again. The club's chairman Peter Rogers was delighted when Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Sport Nigel Huddleston MP announced that football clubs at the seventh tier and below of English football are to be allowed to reopen their matches for paying spectators, acknowledging that crowds at this level are relatively modest.

The news came after a nationwide campaign headed up by former Ministers Tracey Couch (Lab) and Cheryl Gillan (Cons). Borough chairman Peter Rogers said: "We pride ourselves on the friendly welcome that we offer at Harrow Borough, and now look forward keenly to both our regular fans returning and first-time visitors coming along to our games."

The club says extensive arrangements and protocols regarding Covid security for both players and spectators, in keeping with government guidance, have been put in place by the South Harrow club over recent weeks in the hope of this happening. Borough now await the Southern League Premier South's fixtures being published on Friday, with the league programme commencing on Saturday September 19.

The club views this as an opportunity, as clubs above them in the football pyramid remain restricted to 'behind closed doors' action. So, for the first few weeks of the season at least - and maybe longer if Football League grounds reopen but with attendance restricted - football fans in Harrow will have the chance to see good quality action on their doorsteps instead.

Club shares to fund players

By Robert Collins

WEALDSTONE FC is appealing to its fans to help fund its National League campaign.

The club, which was promoted from the National League South as champions at the end of the 2020/21 season, has seen income from matches and its social club dry up due to the coronavirus lockdown.

It is offering fans shares as part of its Stoneshare scheme. These cost £5 per week for a single share, each week for 40 weeks. The shares will be issued at the end of the season.

The club says the money will go directly to its playing budget.

An appeal sent to fans reads: "Last season, Dean, his management team and the squad gave everything as we won the National League South, but this season the step up in competition is massive!

"We needed to increase the budget to ensure we retained and improved a competitive squad, but with the Covid crisis, we have seen the income from matches and the social club slashed.

"We need our fans and local business to

help us bridge the gap."

Wealdstone lost 3-0 to Championship side Luton Town at The Vale in their second pre-season friendly.

Kazenga Lualua and Jordan Clark scored in the first half for The Hatters, followed by a goal in the second half from Andrew Shinnie.

Manager Dean Brennan's team included eleven of last season's league winners.

Kazenga Lualua opening the scoring in the ninth minute. Jordan Clark doubled Luton's lead in the 34th minute. And in the 50th minute, Shinnie, assisted by Ryan Tunnicliffe after a James Collins back-heel, fired into the bottom corner to treble the Hatters' advantage.

The Stones best chance of the match came in the 82nd minute as Danny Green's fierce free-kick was well-saved by Hatters' Croatian international goalkeeper Simon Sluga.

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*Source: social media channel followers Nov 2018

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