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## FOOTBALL: Local MP backing club's bid to stay



Boris Johnson shows his support for Wealdstone FC. Image: Darren Campbell

# Boris continues to show support for Wealdstone

BORIS Johnson continued to pledge his support for Wealdstone, who are based within his Uxbridge and South Ruislip constituency, as he met with representatives of the club and landlords KSMIC of London to try and resolve the future of the National League club at their current home within Ruislip.

The Stones, football nomads for over 20 years after selling their Lower Mead Ground in Harrow in the early 1990s, have been based at the Grosvenor Vale Stadium in Ruislip for the last 15 years and have been in discussions with its landlords for some time about securing its long-term future at the site.

However, after discussions had stalled, the former Prime Minister offered to step in to try and find a way forward.

Whilst Hollywood-owned Wrexham may grab the headlines, the real underdog story in the National League is at part-time Wealdstone who against all the odds finished 13th in the league indeed having spent much of the season within the play-off places.

Darren Linden, Engagement and Community Director at Wealdstone, said: "We're playing in a high profile, professional league and we're rightly proud of what we've achieved. Realistically if we're going to continue

to compete at this level and invest in the infrastructure that will allow us to progress into the EFL we need a long-term lease at Grosvenor Vale.

"Whilst our tenure at the Vale is secured for at least the next three years after a lease extension was signed in March this wasn't the outcome we wanted as the short-term nature of the lease prevents us from accessing both football and other sporting grants and from significantly investing our own funds in improving the Grosvenor Vale site for the benefit of not just the football club but the entire community.

"The meeting was construc-

tive and positive with plenty of ideas shared as to how collectively we can work towards securing a long-term lease at the site and we thank Mr Johnson for his both his continuing interest and efforts to find a way forward."

Boris Johnson added: "My thanks to KSMIC of London for meeting with me and the Directors of Wealdstone FC to discuss the future of the Grosvenor Vale grounds in Ruislip Manor. The Club has an exciting future ahead after a terrific season and I am proud to be supporting their exciting plans to develop the grounds to benefit the whole community."

## Harrow Borough name Berry as new boss



New Harrow boss Jordan Berry. Image: Bruce Viveash

HARROW Borough have announced the appointment of Jordan Berry as the new first-team manager.

Berry, 29, enjoyed a playing career as a combative midfielder at Plymouth Argyle, Harrow Borough (where he made 44 first team appearances between 2013 and 2014), Chipstead, Egham Town and Chalfont St Peter, before deciding he wanted to move into coaching and management.

Starting as an Academy coach at Watford, he moved to be youth team manager at Uxbridge, assistant manager at Northwood, coach at Southall, and finally manager at Egham Town.

Berry took the step five Surrey club to a clear second in their division last season, but missed out on promotion in the play-offs to Merstham of step four. Outside of football, Hillingdon-born Berry is a primary school P.E teacher in Hayes, and has a partner and a one-year old boy.

Reflecting on his appointment, he said: "I'm delighted to return to Harrow Borough and can't wait to get started. I'm optimistic about next season and am aiming for a swift return to step three football."

Club chairman Peter Rogers noted the board's interviewing sub-committee felt Berry ticked all the right boxes in terms of ability and expertise, and has proven himself to be a successful manager albeit at a slightly lower level.

"He is enthusiastic, energetic, knowledgeable and a highly rated football coach," said Rogers.

"It was a close run thing with a couple of other candidates, but the fact he was joining on the back of successful season with his previous club put him into pole position."