

SPORT

SOCCER

Borough falls again to Chelsea

Harrow Borough 0
Chelsea XI 2

A YOUNG Chelsea XI proved too strong for Harrow Borough at Earlsmead on Saturday, writes Tony Booth.

The Chelsea side — made up of reserve and youth team players — maintained their record of never being beaten by Borough in five visits.

Borough boss Tom McAlister blooded two more new boys in his bold bid to use youth as the remedy for last season's troubles — former Wimbledon youth players, left-back Matthew Alexander and striker Jeffrey Rowe.

Harrow got off to a bright start, but fell behind in the 24th when right back Duane Henry turned the ball into his own net after a long cross by Matthew.

From that point the visitors began to take control and Harrow were limited to few chances.

After the break, Borough made a couple of openings, with Gurney foiled by the keeper after a Rowe cross and Alexander's cross-shot being held at the second attempt.

But it was Chelsea who added to their lead with a decisive goal in the 54th minute when Barnard dived past Henry to head in at the far post.

Harrow: Crompton, Henry (Stocker), Alexander, Payne, Rogers (Mills), O'Connor, Mason, Pyc, Rowe, Gurney, Barrowcliff, sub McCallion (not used).

A CLOSE season draw against QPR has boosted the confidence of a Wembley side who are still finding their rhythm.

Manager Tony Waugh was pleased with the 1-1 result against the First Division outfit which was led out by Bradley Allen, up and coming brother of Clive Allen, another former Rangers' star.

He said: "It is early days yet to say whether the team is coming together or not. The main thing is that we have tightened up at the back, because last season we were struggling in defence. But there are still a lot of things to sort out."

Two new signings will be out for the first match of the season, against Bromley away. Charlie Flaherty has strained knee ligaments and will be out for a fortnight and Paul Fitzgerald has pulled a muscle in his back.

Waugh added: "Bromley have come down a level and had a change of manager, who has brought virtually all of the Leyton

Wingate team with him. So the standard will be difficult to predict."

Wembley also play Avesley at Vale Farm on Tuesday.

Concentration proved to be Wembley's undoing last Saturday against the young QPR squad who equalised with just five minutes to go.

Paul Shields had put his side ahead in the 30th minute after a Wembley corner swung over defence and strikers alike. When Rob Larkin drove back across the area, Paul Shields scored with a low header which left the QPR keeper with no chance.

"We held on until half time but missed a few chances while playing reasonably well after the break," said Waugh. "But they missed a few as well. Their goal was also a good move, and our keeper Andy Smith had no chance."

Wembley: Smith, Larkin, Waugh, Johns, Shields, Strachan, Gulfer, Sailsman, B. Hutchinson, Murphy, Thompson. Subs: Williams, Katsiaounis.

Hopes high for new look Kingsbury

A NEW SEASON, a new league, a new team. That is the situation facing Kingsbury this Saturday as they face Witham back in Division Two North of the Vauxhall Football League.

Most of the club's top players left after the club was relegated at the end of last season over a player registration infringement.

But hopes are high with a new manager, Frank O'Brien, the former youth team manager, and his new assistant, Peter Blain, who last season coached the reserves.

Their results have added to the optimism. Last week they beat neighbours Harrow Borough for the first time since 1973. They also thrashed Edgware 5-1, and beat Hendon 3-1. Only last Saturday's 3-1 defeat, by Yeading at Hendon, spoiled an impressive pre-season run in.



● Graceful stuff from a QPR player (left) and his Wembley opposite

Stubborn Stones net three in six minutes

3 Carshalton v Wealdstone 3: WEALDSTONE completed their pre-season friendlies undefeated on Saturday when they shared a six-goal thriller with Carshalton, writes Graham Smith.

Stones found themselves a goal behind after only seven minutes when Jimmy Bolton headed their Vauxhall Premier League opponents into the lead.

Indeed Bolton put the home side even further ahead on the half-hour when he ran onto a through ball and rounded Wealdstone keeper Chris Vagg.

But stubborn Stones bounced back with an incredible three-goal blitz in a sensational six-minute spell.

The first came in the 37th minute, Steve Smarts' cross finding Barry Blackman who netted his first goal for the club.

Wealdstone were level three minutes later, Steve Browne rounding an opponent before hitting a screaming 25-yard shot into the roof of the net.

Mark Harrison scored Stones' third two minutes before the break with a left-foot curler.

But despite chances to increase their lead, Wealdstone were unable to gain a confidence-boosting victory. Jacobs netting for the home side just three minutes from time, after Bolton was denied a hat-trick by the crossbar.

Manager Alan Gane said: "We threw away a silly goal at the end but we may learn something from that. Getting a draw was certainly different."

"But we were generally pleased to have a good record going into the start of the season."

But he added this was not always a good thing. "Rugby will be a very hard side to beat, but I am more optimistic than I would have been at the end of last season."

"I will probably field the team who played against Carshalton."

He said the changes in the team line-up had made a big difference to the attitude of team members. "The approach is a lot better," he said. "But we have got a very difficult start to the season and only time will tell whether it will make a difference or not."

Wealdstone: Vagg, Donnellan, Smart (Bartlett), Tapley, Fergusson, Harrison, Browne, Goyette (Gbogidi), Jenkins, Blackman, Lynch (Lewis).

•Stones reserves need a kitman and sponge man. Anyone interested should contact Peter Braxton on 081 427 4064.

New signings will miss the start

DEFENSIVE errors let Edgware Town down in what was their last match before the season proper gets under way.

They lost 2-1 against Cove, with their opponent's manager admitting Town were the better team.

"We performed well, so I am not particularly worried about the result," said manager Brian Rider. "If it had been a league game, there would have been more edge to the contest. As it is, I think we did well in midfield and on the wings."

Up to four chances got away against their Vauxhall League North opponents, who made Edgware

pay. "Their first was a case of bad marking," said Rider.

"For the second, Ray Mangan was the last man and he seemed to be robbed when the ball bounced awkwardly. Their striker went straight through."

But he was pleased with Martin Kidd on the right, Lee Rider on the left, and Andy Fergusson in midfield. And John Coleman's equaliser early in the second half was of the quality supporters have come to expect: he passed two or three defenders before hitting the target with a drive.

However, four of Town's new signings will not be available for the

club's first fixture against Rainham on Saturday.

Steven Moore is on his honeymoon after getting married last Saturday. The PE teacher has yet to play a game for the club.

Eugene Flynn, who is a fireman, has been on shifts which counted him out of the pre-season games.

John Mangan was still recovering from a hamstring when he turned his ankle in a reserves game. He may have pulled ligaments.

And new left back Peter Augustine, formerly with Burnham and Kingsbury, has a suspension from last year to pay off.

Another new signing, Pe-

ter Davey, brother of last season's top scorer Jim, should be able to play.

"Rainham will have a lot to prove," said Rider. "They have come down from a higher division and will want to show they can go straight back up."

Edgware also play at home against Basildon on Wednesday (aug.22).

Edgware's objective this season must be to finish 10th or higher, so they beat the cut when the bottom half of their division is split into a North and a South section.

"It would be like going back to where we were last season if we didn't make it," said Rider.

Soccer fixtures

Saturday August 18
Beeser Homes League Premier Division: Wealdstone v VS Rugby (Lower Mead, 3pm).
Vauxhall League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Barking (Earlsmead, 3pm).
Vauxhall League Division One: Bromley v Wembley.
Vauxhall League Division Two North: Rainham Town v Edgware Town; Witham Town v Kingsbury Town.
Federated Homes League: Ryens Lane v

Tuesday August 21
Vauxhall League Premier Division: Enfield v Harrow Borough.
Vauxhall League Division One: Wembley v Avesley (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).
Vauxhall League Division Two North: Kingsbury Town v Ware (Silver Jubilee Park, 7.30pm).

Wednesday August 22
Beeser Homes League Premier Division: Basihay v Wealdstone.
Vauxhall League Division Two North: Edgware Town v Basildon (White Lion ground, 7.30pm).

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