

Gbogidi goal is Trophy winner
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SPORT

Harrow are tennis champs
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Graham saves Lions' blushes

Northwood 1 Wembley 1
WEMBLEY'S bad habits returned when they allowed Northwood to take a first half lead in Tuesday's Middlesex Senior Cup meeting and it took a 66th minute equaliser from Steve Graham to prevent the Lions from making an embarrassing exit, writes Richard Markiewicz.

Wembley dominated the opening half hour but only troubled keeper Ken Lavender once when a Steve Sailsman close range header required a flying save.

Northwood did not look dangerous until the 35th minute when Garfield Blackman got clear and was upended in the area by Ray Bennett. However, Jeff Fanner saved Greg Phillips' well placed but tame strike spot kick.

Wembley were not so fortunate four minutes later. Blackman's header from a Phillips cross seemed to be going wide but Robert Larkin's clearance attempt took him and the ball into the net to give Northwood the lead.

After stemming the threat of McFarrell and Vincent in the second half, Wembley reasserted their authority and took control and finally levelled when Graham hammered home Gursel Gulfer's corner after it had bobbed in a crowded goalmouth.

Wembley: Fanner, Larkin, Fitzgerald, Bennett, Shields, Gulfer, T. Waugh, Sailsman, Witter, Graham, Murphy, subs: Strachan, M. Bryan.

No deal

WEALDSTONE have denied rumours that they are about to transfer midfielder Paul Gbogidi to Kingstonian.

Cup date

WEALDSTONE referee John Smith is one of the linesman on Sunday when Colchester play Leyton Orient in the first ever FA Cup tie to be staged on a Sunday evening.

Away tie

IN the second round of the Middlesex Cup Wealdstone are away to either Hendon or Ruislip Manor.

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THE CALL IS FOR HALL

Bring back double boss say Stones fans after Gane sacking sensation

BRIAN Hall, the man who led Wealdstone to their historic FA Trophy and Gola League double in 1984, is the 'peoples choice' to take over at Lower Mead following the sensational sacking this week of manager Alan Gane.

Wealdstone chairman Alan Clifton ended Gane's 14 months spell in charge on Monday, claiming an unsuccessful involvement in the transfer market allied to an unacceptable wage level were instrumental in his departure.

Also sacked were assistant manager, Frank Dotson, and coach Richard Parkin, along with reserve team boss Roy Davies.

While on the face of it Wealdstone's involvement in the Beazer Homes League title race makes the sacking decision appear harsh, for Clifton the price being paid for it was clearly too high.

"We have 21 paid players and I wrote to Alan back in May telling him that the squad had to be reduced. We are £1,000 over budget," said Clifton.

"Since then we have had numerous talks and meetings but he hasn't done anything about it. If anything, the wage bill has gone up, with players being signed and then not played.

The crunch came when Clifton went away on holiday last month. "I told him I wanted four or five players to go be-



BY JOHN COMFORT

fore I got back but nothing happened.

"At the end of the day I had to call a halt to it. He'd had enough warnings and I felt it was 100 per cent necessary. I'm answerable more than anyone for the financial state of the club."

Gane, who enjoyed management successes at both Wycombe and Staines before taking over at Wealdstone last October following the resignation of Tony Jennings, said he was in "a state of total shock" over the sacking decision.

"It came as a hell of a shock. I just can't believe it," he added.

He agreed that he had been told to reduce the wage bill. "But I had seven players in-

jured and I said that when they were fit I could start releasing some. I was going to let three go this week and I said I would get it down by 25 per cent by Christmas. But the chairman just said 'that's it'.

"I find it amazing. You don't do things like that. If you're given an ultimatum to get the bill down then you do it, but I wasn't given one."

Gane said that he thought the club were just 'shooting themselves in the foot' with his dismissal.

"We have got a good team together, and key players are now coming back. If Wealdstone are serious about winning the league, to risk it all now by pulling the carpet away is an absolute joke."

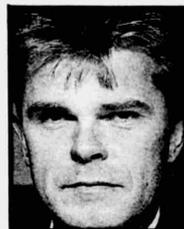
Gane said that he thought his sacking was a pretence to the return of Brian Hall as manager, but chairman Clifton denied that he had had any recent contact with the ex-Stones boss, who parted company with Yeovil two months ago and would be available to step straight into the Lower Mead hot seat.

"I last spoke to Brian six weeks ago at a Capital League meeting and he told me then that he wasn't sure if he would be staying in the game," said Clifton.

But would he be considered if he did show an interest in returning to Lower Mead? Clifton declined to answer a "hypothetical" question, but significantly he didn't rule it out.

Hall however is not among the 18 applications that Wealdstone have so far had for the manager's job. Interviews are starting this week, but Clifton said that an appointment would only be made when they were sure they had the right man for the job.

In the meantime senior player Mark Harrison will be in charge of team matters.



Alan Gane.



Brian Hall.

Borough contribute to cup downfall

Harrow Borough 1 Enfield 3

NOT surprisingly, Enfield won this Middlesex Senior Cup tie at Earlsmead on Tuesday, but Borough - 17 places below them in the Vauxhall League - contributed to their own defeat, writes Tony Booth.

Without the injured Hopson and McPherson, Borough's resources were stretched to the limit and they were glad to see Furlong's first minute 'goal' ruled out.

Crompton did well to push aside Robinson's shot and hold an effort from Furlong, but he was at fault after 19 minutes when his poor goal kick fell short and Francis shot Enfield into the lead.

Borough equalised in the 32nd minute when Paul Ripley latched onto a clearance and outpaced two defenders before steering the ball past former Borough keeper Pape.

Widespread consternation broke out in the 54th minute when Crompton was chipped from 25 yards by Francis to put Enfield back in front and then almost immediately the hard-working Ripley was brought off.

Enfield however, were relieved and although Pye dispossessed Ripley and forced Pape to save well, Borough were never again to seriously threaten with Pascoe and Kelly being particularly ineffective.

With 20 minutes minutes left Barnard was outpaced by Furlong and his cross was fired home by Robinson to seal Enfield's victory.

Harrow Borough: Crompton, C. Payne, Barnard (Stockler), Shea, Di Cioccio, Murphy, Pye, Kelly, Ripley (Pascoe), Cooper.

Hendry back for Stones

WEALDSTONE expect to have midfielder Ian Hendry back after a toe injury for Saturday's trip to Cambridge City after missing the Middlesex Senior Cup win over Hounslow on Tuesday.

Due to insufficient bookings there will be no supporters club coach going to the match.

Mark Hopson and Gavin McPherson are injury doubts for Harrow Borough's visit to Dagenham where they will be looking to complete a rare 'double' against the side that provided the Earlsmead outfit with their first league win of the season.

A broken wrist sustained in an accident at work keeps striker Lance Cadogan out of Wembley's league match at Dulwich while Charlie Flaherty is doubtful with a groin injury, but the Lions have Bobby Hutchinson back after completing a three match suspension.

Laurence Murphy plays on Saturday but starts a three week ban on Monday for being sent off in a reserve team match and misses Tuesday's Middlesex Senior Cup replay with Northwood.

Edgware are hoping to have both Vince Deritis and Jim Davey fit for Saturday's tough game against Royston who have only lost once in the league this season. Eugene Flynn will definitely be back after being unavailable for last night's match with Staines.

Robbie James had a groin injury and is doubtful for Kingsbury's home game with Clapton. Kingsbury will be looking for their first double of the season, having beaten Clapton away last month.

Rayners Lane's injury problems are slowly easing and Robert Rendle and Neil Sargent should be available for selection in their important home game with fellow strugglers Swindon Athletic. However, definitely out are Fergus Meaney, Steve Cott and Gary Woolsey who are all a couple of weeks away from fitness.

Soccer fixtures

Saturday December 8
Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Gombosi City v Wealdstone
Vauxhall League Premier Division: Dagenham v Harrow Borough
Vauxhall League Division One: Dulwich Hamlet v Wembley
Vauxhall League Division Two North: Edgware Town v Royston (White Lion ground, 3pm), Kingsbury Town v Clapton (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm)
Mellonic League: Rayners Lane v Swindon Ath. (Lucas Ave, 2.15pm)
Suburban League: Wealdstone Res. v Northwood (Lower Mead, 3pm)
Midxx Premier Cup: N. Green-

Sunday December 9
Capital League: Wealdstone v Southend Utd (Lower Mead, 7.30pm)
Tuesday December 11
Midxx Senior Cup replay: Wembley v Northwood (Vale Farm, 7.30pm)
Lottite Cup: Dorking v Harrow Borough
Lottite Trophy: Hornchurch v Kingsbury Town
Wednesday December 12
Lottite Trophy: Edgware Town v Maidenhead Utd (White Lion ground, 7.30pm).

Tragic break for Browne

WEALDSTONE 2 HOUNSLOW 0
STONES moved into the quarter finals of the Middlesex Senior Cup on Tuesday but their success was marred by the tragic loss of star midfielder Steve Browne with a suspected broken ankle, writes John Comfort.

The game was in injury time when Browne was cruelly felled by a tackle from behind by Hounslow defender Dave Scurry. It was poetic justice therefore when after Browne had been stretchered off, Tony Kelly headed home Wealdstone's second goal from Paul Goyette's free kick.

The rest of the game had been marked by Stones' patent inability to score goals with chances galore going begging before they went in front in the 72nd minute when a great ball from Leo Donnellan put Steve Browne through on the right and he laid it back perfectly for substitute Barry Blackman to fire home.

Wealdstone: Vagg, Bartlett (Watson), Smart, Tapley, Goyette, Harrison, S. Browne, Gbogidi, Kelly, L. Donnellan, M. Brown (Blackman).

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