

Borough sunk by 'old boy' Bolton

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SPORT

Wembley slip after leading twice

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Kelly robs Rushden with super strike



Tony Kelly - super strike.

Wealdstone 2 Rushden 1 A SUPERBLY struck 73rd minute goal from Tony Kelly saw Stones steal the points from struggling Rushden on Tuesday, but it was a lone highlight in what was a decidedly miserable performance by Brian Hall's team, writes John Comfort.

"It wasn't very pretty, was it" was the manager's after match assessment. He was spot on.

Hall's decision to employ a sweeper system in a bid to shore up a leaky defence bore the brunt of the criticism and by his own admission it wasn't a success. Wealdstone's rearguard always looked ill at ease and anxious as ever to show their benevolence.

It also reduced Wealdstone's attacking options and they posed few threats, despite the midfield promptings of double favourite Neil Cordice in his first

game back after being re-signed from Yeovil.

In marked contrast to Wealdstone's mediocrity, relegation haunted Rushden showed considerable will to win, and they must be wondering just how they managed to achieve the exact opposite.

The visitors should have gone ahead in the 12th minute when Andy Kirkup intercepted's Steve Tapley poor back pass. He slipped round keeper Dave Coles but then fired into the side netting from an acute angle.

Little was seen of Wealdstone in the early stages but remarkably in their first venture into the visitors' area in the 14th minute, Tony Kelly ended up on his backside following Garrett's challenge and Paul Goyette rammed home the resultant penalty to put Wealdstone ahead.

Rushden almost levelled after 29 minutes when Tapley and Coles combined in some careless ball watching as Ashby's teasing centre passed tantalisingly across the face of the Wealdstone goal. Neither took the responsibility of claiming it and only when the ball struck an upright was the requisite urgency summoned up to scramble it away.

Wealdstone's lead evaporated within three minutes of the start of the second half. Paul York was allowed to cut in unchallenged from the right and a stunning 25 yard drive crashed past Coles for Rushden's equaliser.

Spurred on by that success, Rushden put Stones under pressure but a firm strike by York that flew just wide and a snap shot by Kurilla that Coles held, were the only chances created. At this stage Stones would doubtless

have settled for a point, but immediately after replacing defender Steve Smart with striker David Gipp in the 73rd minute, they were suddenly looking at three. A quick break saw Corey Browne put Kelly free and the striker showed great composure and a lethal finish to beat the advancing Fox with a superbly struck shot.

When Ashden fired wildly over an open goal from Kirkup's cross two minutes later it seemed to sum up Rushden's day. And indeed it was Stones who came closest to adding to the score in the closing stages when Barry Blackman was put clear on the left and squared the ball for Gipp to send in a shot that was blocked.

Wealdstone: Coles, Watson, Smart (Gipp), Tapley, Harrison, Donnellan, Johnson (C. Browne), Goyette, Kelly, Blackman, Cordice.

League tables

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Premier Division

Table with columns: Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists teams like Worcester, Dover, Burton, etc.

VAUXHALL LEAGUE Premier Division

Table with columns: Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists teams like Redbridge, Woking, Enfield, etc.

Division One

Table with columns: Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists teams like Chesham, Hitchin, Tooting, etc.

Division Two North

Table with columns: Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists teams like Stevenage, Vauxhall, Ware, etc.

Double ace returns

Grand gesture by supporters

Hall looks to Cordice to add touch of class



SUPPORTERS are the life blood of every football club and those at Wealdstone FC proved both their worth and generosity last week when they made a £1,000 donation to the club.

PRATTS MOTOR INSURANCE CAN WE SAVE YOU MONEY? ASK US TO QUOTE... IMMEDIATE COVER FROM OUR OFFICE AT 40 LONG LANE HILLINGDON

WEALDSTONE manager Brian Hall turned back the clock at Lower Mead this week when he signed one of the club's 'double' stars, midfielder Neil Cordice, from Yeovil Town for an undisclosed four figure fee.

The transfer of 31 year old Cordice, Hall's first major signing since taking over from the sacked Alan Gae last month, was completed on Tuesday morning and several hours later he was making his comeback in Wealdstone's 2-1 Beazer Homes League Premier Division win over Rushden Town.

Cordice originally joined Wealdstone in 1980 from Northampton where he played eight Football League matches. He formerly played for Flackwell Heath and Wycombe Wanderers.

He was one of five Wealdstone players who followed Hall to Yeovil when he took over as boss of the west country club in 1987. However, since Hall's departure two months ago his career has been in the wilderness and he has only played a handful of reserve team games.

Hall feels that his Wealdstone squad is currently "lacking in quality" and the signing of Cordice will be seen as a



COMFORT



Neil Cordice - back at Lower Mead.

300 up for Borough's Payne



Colin Payne - set to make 300th appearance.

HARROW Borough's longest serving player, Colin Payne, makes his 300th appearance for the club against Wokingham on Saturday as they bid to try and find the winning formula which will save them from relegation.

It is still possible for Borough to stay up, but no one has stayed up in the last decade after losing 24 games, so the least they need to do is avoid defeat in 13 of their last 18 matches. Having lost 18 out of 24 so far, that target is looking to be something of a tall order.

Wealdstone are away to lowly Gravesend who have ex-Stones striker David Flint in their line-up.

A hamstring injury keeps Michael Johnson out of the side while centre back Paul Morris is again doubtful with a back injury. But full back Peter Bartlett could

make a comeback after being out for four weeks with an ankle ligament injury sustained against Hounslow in the Middlesex Senior Cup.

Ray Bennett has a twisted knee while Paul Lelliott has a torn hamstring and neither is expected to be fit for Wembley's away match with promotion chasing Molesey.

Edgware have signed Laurence Murphy from neighbours Wembley and providing the transfer formalities go through in time, he will be in manager Brian Rider's line up for Saturday's match away to much improved Saffron Walden.

Also likely to start is club skipper Vince Deritis who has been sidelined for the past four weeks with hamstring and knee injuries. He will have a work out this week and all being well will boost an

Edgware defence that has looked less than confident in recent matches.

The game will be Andy Ferguson's last before he starts a five week suspension, but it will also see the completion of Pete Davey's three match ban and he will be available next week.

Jason Dale had four stitches in a cut ankle injury sustained against Berkhamsted and is unlikely to be fit for Kingsbury's match at Basildon on Saturday.

The holidaying Peter Stapleton, Keith Williams and Niall O'Rourke all missed the Berkhamsted defeat but should be available to face Basildon and Robbie James should hopefully have recovered following a bout of flu.

Rayners Lane get a chance to recover from the holiday excesses. They have no game on Saturday.

Soccer fixtures

Saturday January 5 Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Gravesend & Northfleet v Wealdstone. Vauxhall League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Wokingham Town (Earlsmead, 3pm). Vauxhall League Division One: Molesey v Wembley. Vauxhall League Division Two North: Saffron Walden v Edgware Town; Basildon v Kingsbury Town.

Sunday January 6 Suburban League: Ruislip Man. Res. v Wealdstone Res. Tuesday January 8 Capital League: Wealdstone v Sutton Utd (Lower Mead, 7.30pm). Wednesday January 9 AC Delco Cup third round: Redbridge Forest v Wembley (Dagenham FC, 7.45pm).

Trophy tickets

ALTHOUGH Wealdstone's FA Trophy first round tie at Wycombe Wanderers on January 15 is not all ticket, stand tickets can be obtained from the Wealdstone club office (427-4064) during office hours up until Wednesday.