

Court are beaten in County final SEE PAGE 37

SPORT

Andrea wins her second National SEE PAGE 38

Stones slip after Gipp goal

Wealdstone 1 Cambridge Utd 3 WEALDSTONE'S first game for two weeks ended in a 3-1 defeat by Cambridge in the Capital League on Tuesday, writes Graham Smith.

All the goals came in the first half with David Gipp giving Stones a good start when he scored after just three minutes. But the visitors levelled after six minutes when Proctor's shot was not held by keeper Alex Tzitsis and Dobie fired in the rebound.

Cambridge took the lead in the 17th minute when a corner from Sinclair was flicked on by Baillie for Robinson to head home from close range and eight minutes later Claridge scored from six yards to extend their advantage.

The second half was evenly contested with Gipp and Ian Fergusson unlucky not to score with good efforts for Wealdstone.

Wealdstone: Tzitsis, J. Ferguson, Smart, Glucina (Howard), Bartlett, I. Fergusson, Tapley, Goyette (Martin), Kelly, Gipp, N. Cordice.

Barnet interested in Pye

GM Vauxhall Conference title chasers Barnet have shown interest in Harrow Borough's talented midfielder Mark Pye.

Borough boss Peter Lawrence says he will not stand in Pye's way if he wants to progress, but the Earlsmead club will clearly want a fee if the player is to move on.

A five figure fee has been reportedly mentioned which is unlikely to tempt Barnet to further their interest, particularly after the midfielder's moderate performance in Tuesday night's friendly between the two clubs.

Borough's transfer listed midfielder Mark Hopson has attracted local interest with both Wealdstone and Wembley making tentative enquiries.

Conroy on target in his Borough debut

Harrow Borough 1 Barnet 2 BOROUGH boss Peter Lawrence had good cause to be pleased with his side's fine performance in this friendly on Tuesday night as they came close to sharing the honours with their illustrious opponents, writes John Comfort. New signing from Kingstonian, Steve Conroy, was one of many who

impressed for Borough and marked his debut by scoring Borough's goal in the 63rd minute when he beat keeper Flashman to Mark Barnard's cross and headed past him into the unguarded net.

That goal put Borough back in a game that Barnet had threatened to run away with in the first half when they built up a two goal lead and could have

had more. Gary Bull scored them both, the first in the 22nd minute from Richardson's cross and the second two minutes later from the penalty spot after Mark Barnard had handled.

Lewis hit a post for Barnet early in the second half but Borough battled on gamely to reduced the arrears through Conroy and only a fine save from

Flashman prevented the in form Kevin Mudd from equalising with a header from Robert Thorpe's corner.

Harrow Borough: Crompton (McLoughlin), Payne, Barnard, Shea, Mudd, O'Connor (Cooper), Hopson (Henry), Pye (O'Shea), Conroy (Johnstone), Ripley (Arnall), Thorpe (MacPherson).

Forget fears of Stones going on eve

Club's future is very healthy says chairman on eve of crucial members meeting



BY JOHN COMFORT



Alan Clifton - dismisses fears that Stones are going under.

WEALDSTONE FC chairman Alan Clifton has dismissed fears that the club is on the brink of going under. The sale of their Lower Mead ground to Tesco for £6 million has left Wealdstone with just three months to relocate before the bulldozers move in.

And with the proposed move to Willesden Stadium seemingly quashed by local opposition and no sign of any agreement on ground sharing being concluded, Stones' supporters have become increasingly alarmed at the prospect that no home could also mean no club.

But Mr Clifton allayed their concern on Tuesday when he said: "I can tell you Wealdstone Football Club has a very healthy future. There is no doubt about that, none whatsoever."

Mr Clifton has been severely criticised by supporters for the cloak and dagger way in which he has conducted negotiations to relocate the club and he can expect a hostile reception from them on Sunday when he endeavours to 'clear the air' at an extraordinary general meeting of club members and shareholders.

But supporters' expectations of hearing exactly where the club is heading are likely to be deflated at the meeting, for Mr

Clifton said: "I will have nothing concrete to say at all."

He added: "I have two or three things going on at the moment, but things are very delicate and I'm not prepared to say what they are because to do so could possibly jeopardise them."

On criticism of his negotiating tactics, Mr Clifton said: "All I have been is diligent and done the job on behalf of the members and supporters of Wealdstone Football Club that I was elected to do."

That view is probably not entirely shared by the Wealdstone FC Supporters Club who voiced their concern at the current situation and the importance of Sunday's meeting in a statement issued on Monday.

It said: "The Supporters Club would urge all bona-fide supporters of Wealdstone Football Club to attend the forthcoming extraordinary general meeting on Sunday February 24 at 10am in the Elmslie Tavern.

"This is without doubt the most important meeting in the club's long history, and far more important than any football match the club has ever played."

"Now is the time for all people who claim to have the club's interest at heart

to search their conscience and make sure that their opinions are made known."

"Although all bona-fide supporters will be admitted to the meeting, only members or shareholders will be permitted to vote on any proposals.

"However, any genuine supporters will, and must, be present and there can be absolutely no excuse for anybody who claims to be one not being in attendance."

"The future of the club is very much in the balance, the time for action is now and not later, as it could then be too late.

"If ever there was a need for solidarity amongst the supporters then surely that time is now."

Rumours that Wealdstone have been planning to ground share with Spartan League Hillingdon Borough are totally without foundation says Mr Clifton.

Mr Clifton said he had not been in touch with them and Hillingdon say they have not spoken to Wealdstone.

Moves to a possible ground share with neighbours Harrow Borough have also gone no further.

Borough officials say they have only had the one meeting on the subject and have since heard nothing more from Wealdstone.

Banned Mark misses Stones trip to Poole

MARK Harrison starts a two match ban and misses Wealdstone's match at Poole on Saturday and Tuesday night's visit to Gloucester.

Because of Gloucester's continued FA Trophy involvement, Tuesday's game is now subject to Gloucester getting a result in their clash with Witton on Saturday.

Paul Morris sustained a hamstring injury in training but is expected to be fit to face Poole while Paul Goyette continued his recovery from injury by playing in the Capital League game against Cambridge and is likely to be included in Brian Hall's squad. Wealdstone have extended the loan period for striker Steve Jenkins to Whitney Town.

Harrow Borough led victory slip away when they played Bishops Stortford in the Lottice Cup last month so they will be fancying their chances of putting that right when they clash in the league. In another match vital

Borough's survival hopes, boss Peter Lawrence only has one slight injury doubt with Paul Ripley suffering a slight hamstring injury in Tuesday's friendly against Barnet.

Wembley get back into action with a tough away game against League leaders Chesham and they will be without both Frank Foley and Charlie Flaherty who are starting two match bans.

Wembley full back Paul Fitzgerald has been made available for transfer at his own request. Fitzgerald, a non-contract player, has made over 250 appearances for the club.

Edgware go to Clapton on Saturday looking to make it a hat-trick of successes against their rivals this season. They have already beaten them 3-0 at home in the league and 3-2 at the Spotted Dog ground in the Middlesex Charity Cup.

The enforced lay-off through the weather has allowed time for injuries to Eugene Flynn, Jim Davy and

Lee Rider to clear up and although Peter Davey has been suffering from a stomach bug, he is expected to play.

With Mick Coffey serving a three weeks suspension, Brian Duffy will be back in goal for Kingsbury Town's visit to Hornchurch.

For their game against second from bottom in the table Swindon Athletic, Rayners Lane manager Don Durkin will decide on his final line-up after Lane's midweek friendly against Maidenhead United in which he will give all his first team squad a run out.



Mark Harrison - stars two match ban.

League tables

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE

Premier Division

Table with columns: p, w, d, l, f, a, pts. Lists teams like Camb City, Farnborough, Gloucester, etc.

Vauxhall League

Premier Division

Table with columns: p, w, d, l, f, a, pts. Lists teams like Kingsbury, Radbridge, Enfield, etc.

Division One

Table with columns: p, w, d, l, f, a, pts. Lists teams like Chesham, Vaux, Hinch, etc.

Division Two North

Table with columns: p, w, d, l, f, a, pts. Lists teams like Stevenage, Vaux, Ware, etc.

HELLENIC LEAGUE

Premier Division

Table with columns: p, w, d, l, f, a, pts. Lists teams like Milton, Shortwood, Fairford, etc.

SUBURBAN LEAGUE

Northern Division

Table with columns: p, w, d, l, f, a, pts. Lists teams like Wealdstone, Yeading, Hayes, etc.

Soccer fixtures

Saturday February 23 Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Poole Town v Wealdstone. Vauxhall League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Bishops Stortford. Vauxhall League Division One: Chesham Utd v Wembley. Vauxhall League Division Two North: Clapton v Edgware Town; Hornchurch v Kingsbury Town. Hellenic League: Swindon Ath. v Rayners Lane. Suburban League Cup: Wealdstone v Maidenhead Utd (Lower Mead, 3pm). Suburban League: Fulsip Man. Res. v Harrow Borough Res. Tuesday February 26 Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Gloucester City v Wealdstone.