

Harrow are the best in London

See page 40

SPORT

Stones' farewell to Lower Mead

See page 43

'Concerned' DuGard offers grim warning on relocation deal

Stones fans fear collapse of Watford move

BY JOHN



COMFORT

WEALDSTONE FC's supporters fear that the club's much vaunted £2.5m move to Watford is in imminent danger of collapse. Amidst much speculation and concern over the club's sponsors, Harrovian Estates, with whom Wealdstone have a sponsorship deal worth over £500,000 over the next three years, former Wealdstone director, Nick DuGard, sounded a grim warning to members at the Supporters Club's annual general meeting on Monday. Mr DuGard, the Supporters Club vice-chairman, said: "I'm a very concerned man at the moment because it has become clear to me that our future, as far as I'm concerned, and I stress that this is only a personal opinion, is not secure at this moment in time. "I have no concrete evidence on which to base this

definite deal at this stage with Watford, because things have been happening. I'm sorry to have to say we should be vigilant and keep our ears to the ground and be aware that there could be serious problems ahead. "This is not scaremongering and this is not being negative. I realise that there are only rumours at this stage and I have no evidence to base this on but I believe that our deal with Watford is very much in jeopardy at this stage. I'm extremely concerned." The man who could have defused the situation, as yet they're unfounded but that is why it is so vital to put these questions to Alan and see if there are any grounds to them. A proposal that the chairman be informed of the supporters club's concern over the Watford deal was passed unanimously, as was a call for the committee to request an egn of the football club if additional information came to light that demanded it. Much of the supporters concern has surrounded Harrovian, but a spokesman said that all was well in the company. Harrovian financial director, David James, said:

"Harrovian, and everything they enter into, is A okay. "I have heard the rumours that are going around and they are all nonsense." On the question of the company's sponsorship with Wealdstone he said there was "no problem." News of developments at Wealdstone has reached Watford FC but club chief executive Eddie Plumley said it was of no concern to them. "We've done a deal with Wealdstone and we're not getting involving in internal politics and we're not interested in sponsors."

Chairman says deal is not in jeopardy

WEALDSTONE chairman Alan Clifton assured club supporters yesterday (Wednesday) that fears of the club's move to Watford breaking down were unfounded. "Everything is moving in the right direction," he said. "Such fears are totally without foundation, we're just waiting for the final pieces to be put in place." The delay, said Mr Clifton, is because of a requirement to obtain court permission for the club's trustees to carry through the deal. "The trouble is the trustees can sell but they can't buy, they need permission from the court." A tax problem was also complicating matters. It is thought that Wealdstone could be liable to over £1m in Capital Gains tax over their relocation. Contracts with Watford on the deal had been exchanged said Mr Clifton and completion had been due on Tuesday. But it has been extended a further seven days awaiting court rulings. On Harrovian, Mr Clifton said that everything is in place. "I have had a meeting with Harrovian and they categorically assure us that there is no problem," he said.

Kelly is Player of the Year



STRIKER Tony Kelly received the Jock Law Trophy before Saturday's game with Cambridge City after being named by the Supporters Club as their Player of the Year. In a close vote, Kelly came out on top ahead of Barry Blackman and Peter Bartlett. Pictured above Kelly (left) receives his trophy from Supporters Club vice-chairman Nick DuGard.

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Soccer fixtures

Table of soccer fixtures for Saturday May 4 and Monday May 6, including Beazer Homes League Premier Division, Vauxhall League Premier Division, and Hellenic League fixtures.

A point at Windsor will save Borough from drop

HARROW Borough go to Windsor on Saturday for their final game of the season knowing that a point will ensure their Premier Division safety and send fellow strugglers Barking down. It is almost a repeat situation of two years ago when relegation threatened Borough also faced Windsor in their last game - and won 3-0. In the Windsor side that day was former Borough striker Richard Evans. He is still at Stag Meadow but misses Saturday's clash because of suspension. Meanwhile, Barking go to Dagenham for

their last game with a vastly inferior goal difference to Borough. Victory there and a win for Windsor is the only combination of results that will send Harrow down.

Wealdstone's final match is against arch enemies Dover whose promotion hopes are now dead. Wealdstone Supporters Club will be running a coach to the game, leaving Lower Mead at 11.30am. Bookings can be made by ringing 427-4064. Only Supporters Club members are permitted to travel on the coach.

With first division safety now assured Wealdstone can relax in their final match at Tooting. Edgware's game with Berkhamstead will be a tense affair with the Wares desperately needing a win and for other results to also go their way if they are to clinch a place in the new second division next season.

Steve Surridge and Mark Keane are both available for selection for Kingsbury's home game with Hertford.

Rayners Lane have attractive holiday fixtures against Abingdon on Saturday and Swindon on Monday who were both beaten by Lane earlier in the season.

Lane boss Don Durkin expects to have Wayne Conkley and Jim Schurer both available for selection.

Lions seek new boss

WITH their future in Division One of the Vauxhall League now safeguarded, Wembley Football Club are inviting applications for the post of manager for next season. Former reserve team boss Marcel Pinto took over the reins when Tony Waugh quit the job two months ago and although he saw the Lions to safety it now seems unlikely that he will be offered the job permanently. Said club chairman Brian Gumm: "Marcel could still be involved, but I want to see what others are available. I want to interview other people and see just who is the right person for Wembley Football Club." Applications for the post, which will be treated in strict confidence, should be sent to Mr Gumm at 14, Woodfield Avenue, Wembley, Middx.

American Bowl '91



NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue with Jim Kelly of the Buffalo Bills (left) and Keith Jackson of the Philadelphia Eagles were at Wembley Stadium on Monday week to launch American Bowl '91 which takes place on Sunday July 28.

Monarchs march on towards World Bowl

THE London Monarchs' domination of the World League of American Football went unchecked on Sunday when they grounded the wireless Raleigh Durham Skyhawks 35-10 at Wembley Stadium for a 6 and 0 record that is unmatched, writes John Comfort. A place in the play offs is now almost a formality and it is difficult to imagine who is going to stop them from winning the World Bowl.

The defeat of Skyhawks before a 33,997 crowd was not however one of Monarchs' more impressive performances, witness four turnovers, including a fumble on their first play of the game which gave Raleigh-Durham good field position for Hoyle to put them in front with a 45 yard field goal. But despite this shaky start, once quarterback Stan Gelbaugh got the Monarchs moving, the result was never in doubt. A 1 yard pass to Jeff Alexander, with Phil Alexander adding the extra point, put Monarchs ahead and although Skyhawks regained the lead with a touchdown from Bursh, the Wembley based side were back in front before half time when Gelbaugh hit Andre Riley in the end zone from 25 yards. Monarchs' first drive of the second half resulted in a 13 yard touchdown run from the game's MVP Jeff Alexander and their second saw Gelbaugh's 8 yard pass give Tony Sargent a touchdown. Dave Smith completed the scoring with a 3 yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

Where the locals stand in the league tables

Table showing league positions for Beazer Homes League, Vauxhall League, and Vauxhall League Division One and Two North.