

Happy New Year
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Borough getting sinking feeling

Bishops Stortford 2
Harrow Borough 0

BOROUGH were left hovering uncomfortably close to the relegation zone following their unhappy defeat in this vital game against bottom of the table Stortford.

In the first 20 minutes they did lose Steve Ford with a head injury and also had Mark Pye suffer a nose injury. But that was no excuse for their defeat. On the day the home side just showed more hunger for the game.

Starting with five across the back against such lowly opposition seemed a rather negative tactic by Borough but Stortford still created the better of the

By Tony Booth

few first half chances, none of which were on target.

The nearest Borough came was in the 28th minute when Mark Barnard's cross found Paul Ripley in the box but he turned and shot wide.

Only in injury time did the game live up and with 46 minutes gone Stortford went in front when Boyce crossed from the right and Sailsman came in at the far post to knock the ball back across goal for Lawford to head in from close range.

Lloyd Powell then made two goal-

line clearance, one from a header and another from a well struck shot and at the start of the second half Barnard also had to clear off the line.

Borough began the second half looking more adventurous, although they remained frail at the back, and it was ironic that after new signing Steve Stoppard was replaced by Mark Kelly to give them a more attacking look, Stortford got their second goal in the 64th minute. A poor Barnard back pass allowed White to run to the byeline and cross for Melbourne to shoot in off the far post.

Stortford then sat back, content to defend their lead, but although Ripley

had several chances for Borough, all went wide or over.

The visitors pressure increased when injury reduced Stortford to 10 men in the 83rd minute but although Borough had territorial advantage, they created little.

They did have the chance to reduce the arrears three minutes into injury time when Boyce tripped Mark Pye in the area. But Ripley's penalty hit one post and rebounded across goal and wide of the other to complete an unhappy afternoon for Borough.

Harrow Borough: Crompton, Stoppard (Kelly), Barnard, Payne, Powell, Shea, O'Shea, Pye, Ripley, Ford (Smale), Cooper.

Kidd's late strike wins it for Edgware

Edgware Town 2 Camberley 1

MARTYN Kidd's 89th minute goal gave Edgware their 13th consecutive league win on Saturday and kept them bang on

course for the league title.

Edgware looked as if they might have to settle for a point against a useful Camberley side as the dying minutes of the game ticked away. But then Gursel Gulfer, on loan from neighbours Wembley, flicked the ball over the visitors' centre half, Leslie Thompson won the race for it and crossed for Kidd to gleefully run in and hammer it into the net from close range.

In a good open game, it was the visitors who made the early running and Kevin Beckles had to save well before Edgware took over with the lively Kidd in outstanding form. One superb run past three defender set up Gulfer but he miscued his shot.

Eugene Flynn and Steve Newing both had shots well saved before Edgware took the lead in the 22nd minute when a long ball down the middle was punched away by the Camberley keeper to Vince Deritis who knocked it left to Newing and his first time drive flew past the keeper as he vainly attempted to recover his ground.

The lead only lasted three minutes. Deritis misheaded into his own area and the ball was volleyed past Beckles for the equaliser.

Edgware had numerous chances to win it in the second half. Kidd flicked a Newing cross onto the bar, while Newing and Coleman both missed with close range headers. Flynn miscued with a header which hit Thompson and flew over and Edgware seemed destined to share the spoils until Kidd struck with his dramatic late winner.

Edgware: Beckles, Brennan, D. Coleman, Finnerty, Sheridan, Kidd, Flynn, Darity, Newing, Thompson. **Subs:** Evans, Quinn.

Borough target Harrison

HARROW Borough could this week make a move for Wealdstone's unscathed defender Mark Harrison.



● Mark Harrison.

Harrison, who captained Stones last season, is currently out of favour with manager Brian Hall. He has not started a first team game since November 9 when he played in the 3-2 defeat at VS Rugby.

Borough made enquiries about Harrison earlier in the season when he was placed on the transfer list. But they did not follow up their enquiry.

Now, with their defence leaking goals and an all-too familiar battle against relegation pending if the rot is not stopped, it seems they could be ready to renew their interest with greater enthusiasm.

Borough press director Ben Romp confirmed that several possible new signings were to be discussed at a board meeting this week. Harrison's name was among them.

Stones back on right track



● Wealdstone's Leo Donnellan (right) wins a race for the ball against a Halesowen defender in Saturday's clash at Vicarage Road.

Wealdstone 2
Halesowen 1

AFTER their nightmare performance against Fisher, Stones regained some semblance of credibility to pocket maximum points from Saturday's clash with Halesowen.

It was a hard fought victory. Wealdstone held a two goal lead with nine minutes remaining but Halesowen pressure saw them reduce the arrears and only sound defending denied the visitors an equaliser.

Although Halesowen's Eric

By John Comfort

Smith had a header blocked on the line after 9 minutes, it was Wealdstone who had the edge in the first half. But finding the net was another matter.

Russell Wilson fluffed the best chances. He completely missed the ball from close in when Neil Cordice nodded down a Leo Donnellan cross and just before the break Paul Goyette's cross left him with the goal at his mercy but he

volleyed wildly over.

Stones finally broke the deadlock 7 minutes into the second half. A Tiv Lowe free kick from the right saw Goyette ghost in unchallenged to glance a rare header into the corner of the net.

This reverse stirred Halesowen into action with both Smith and Hazlewood going close, but just when they were threatening to level matters, Stones struck with a second goal in the 73rd minute. Sean Pearson's cross was flicked on

by Cordice to Donnellan who drilled home a low shot.

Stones regained the initiative and only a fine save by Williams prevented Wilson from scoring a third goal.

However, with 9 minutes left Halesowen reduced the arrears through Bradley and Stones were left grimly hanging on to the final whistle to retain their slender lead, and the points.

Wealdstone: Roach, Wilson, Lowe, Drummy, Tapley (Hedge), Cordice, Pearson, Quinn, Donnellan, Wilson (Hippolyte), Goyette.

Two goal start too much for Lions to pull back

Leyton-Wingate 2 Wembley 1
HAD they not given Leyton-Wingate a two goal start, Wembley probably would have won this match. But despite a good fight back, they could only pull one goal back.

All the goals came in the second half following a blank and untidy first 45 minutes. Wembley looked the better of the two sides then but didn't create enough chances. The best of them fell to Andy O'Brien who hit the outside of a post following Henry Clark's corner.

However, five minutes into the second half Wembley found themselves two

By Richard Markiewicz

goals down. Leyton's first came a minute after the interval when Paul Shields' headed clear a Mark Wiley header to Barry Poplewell on the right and he scooped the ball back over a motionless defence into the far corner of the net.

Four minutes later Leyton scored again. Bradshaw broke down the left and Gary Stanton helped on his cross which Mick Fredericks drove in at the far post.

The home side then sat back and allowed Wembley to push forward. Clark

went close with a drive that keeper Alec Welsh saved with his legs but Lions had more success in the 71st minute when 17 year old Frank Omere, making his debut, had a drive blocked. Adrian Smith fed the loose ball to Clark who fired past Welsh to make it 2-1.

Wembley continued to press but the nearest they came to an equaliser was when Bobby Hutchinson just failed to connect with Omere's inswinging cross from close in.

Wembley: Foster, Flaherty (Witter), Turlach, O'Brien, Shields, Graham, Lawrence, Adrian Smith, Clark, B. Hutchinson, Omere. **Other subs:** Shale.



● Martyn Kidd - scored late winner.

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Soccer fixtures

Saturday January 4

Beezer Homes League Premier Division: Wealdstone v Poole Town (Vicarage Road, 3pm).

Diadora League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Hayes (Earlsmead, 3pm).

Diadora League Division One: Wembley v Dulwich Hamlet (Vale Farm, 3pm).

Diadora League Division Three: Edgware Town v Collier Row (White Lion ground, 3pm); Hornchurch v Kingsbury Town.

Hellenic League: Rayners Lane v Bishops Cleeve (Lucas Ave, 2.30pm).

Monday January 6

Locite Trophy: Purfleet v Edgware Town.

Tuesday January 7

Middx Senior Cup: Hendon v Wealdstone.

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