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County gold
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Financial crisis at new £430,000 home leads to dramatic cuts

Gym club sack top coaches

By John Comfort

HARROW School of Gymnastics' two national squad coaches, Len and Yvonne Arnold, have been dramatically sacked following revelations of a deep financial crisis which has threatened the club's survival.

The club is said to be a massive £33,000 in the red, just 15 months after moving into their superb new £430,000 facility next to Harrow Leisure Centre.

After many years of campaigning for a home of their own, the club's dream was realised thanks largely to a

£260,000 loan guaranteed by Harrow Council.

But while they have enjoyed the benefits of one of the best gymnastics facilities in the country, maintaining its financial viability has proved a difficult task, with overheads far outstripping income.

Harrow School of Gymnastics officials turned to the council for help but, after having their records examined, were advised that there was no hope of any grant aid until they could break even on their balance sheet.

Faced with a hefty cost-cutting exercise, the club made the decision to sack the Arnolds.

Also axed were choreographer, Mandy May, and former chairman Malcolm Hoppen, who was the club's administration officer.

Said Harrow School of Gymnastics chairman, Philip Smith: "The directors have had to take measures to cut expenditure due to a large deficit, and a similar forecast loss for this coming year. Four people out of a total staff of

about 30 have been given notice.

"These measures will ensure that the club is placed on a sound financial footing.

"All negotiations with regard to staffing cuts have taken place with the knowledge and approval of the London Borough of Harrow."

Although he declined to reveal the exact figure of the deficit, Mr Smith did say that it was "thousands of pounds."

He added: "The situation is desperate. We are in dire straits."

The decision to axe the Arnolds, which will leave the club without an elite coach, was not greeted with total approval. Parents of the club's 1250 members have lobbied club directors and forced an open meeting tomorrow (Friday) to discuss the situation.

Len Arnold, who with his wife Yvonne, has coached at Harrow for nine of the last eleven years, said he was "gutted" by the club's decision, but did not want to comment further until after Friday's meeting.

Parry lands a golden double

PHIL Parry, Old Gaytonians AC's international javelin thrower, marked his return to his best form at the weekend by winning two senior titles in the Middlesex Championships at Enfield.

After capturing the javelin title against stiff opposition on Saturday, he returned to the stadium the next day to add the shot put gold medal to his collection.

Parry's winning javelin distance was a life time best of 67.90m and in defeating Shaftesbury's Tony Smith, he reversed the fortunes of the previous week's British League match where Gayts trailed the field. The South Harrow athlete may even be on his way to the Olympics this year as he has opted to represent Greece, his mother country, in the future and is currently awaiting details from the Greek Federation as to the qualifying distance for his event.

The shot put title, gained with a throw of 12.98m, was an unexpected bonus in a field weakened by a number of late withdrawals.

Mark Collins was also in winning form at the championships when cruising to victory in the junior 400m in a respectable 49.9 secs whilst new member Nick Davies demonstrated the club's strength in depth in this event with a season's best of 49.6 for 3rd in the senior event.

Mark Cursons also took bronze in a high quality 5000m race with the good

time of 15.14.4 and was followed home by club colleague Andy Hoiles in 4th place.

Sprinters Mark Phillips and Rohan Samuel made it to a classy 100m final but finished down the field.

First year junior Stuart Taylor set a new pb when claiming 3rd in the 800m.

Winning titles elsewhere were triple jumper Ray Smith in Berks (14.65m), Matthew Weaver in Wiltshire with a pole vault leap of 4m, and Rafe Joseph, who took gold for the discus with 45.70m at the Hampshire Championships.

With his usual appetite for perpetual motion, Joseph also finished 2nd in the pole vault (4.40m), 3rd in the 110m hurdles (16.2) as well as contesting the long jump (6.56m).

Also competing in Berkshire was high jumper Mark Roach who took 2nd with a leap of 2m.

The Angell family did their best to dominate the hammer in Buckinghamshire with Steve in 2nd place with 51.40m while his old brother signalled a return to form with 45.82 for 3rd. Fellow club member Dave Mathieson came 4th with a good throw of 44.32m.

Triple Blue for Croad
OLD Gaytonians AC hammer thrower Malcolm Croad has been awarded a triple Blue by Oxford University after helping them to victory in the annual varsity match against Cambridge.

Shearby's keep it in the family



● National qualifiers, from left, Darren, Emma and Matthew Shearby.

A SMALL piece of Harrow and Wealdstone Swimming Club history has been achieved by the Shearby family. For the first time, three members of the same family have qualified for Nationals in the same event in the same year.

Elderest brother Darren, 19, has made the qualifying standard for both Olympic trials and ASA Nationals in the 200m breaststroke event, younger brother Matthew, 17, will be swim-

Stones go down to Southern Division

WEALDSTONE'S relegation has been confirmed by the Beazer Homes League following their management committee meeting on Thursday.

Stones will compete in the League's Southern Division next season, along with the three other clubs relegated from the Premier Division, Poole, Fisher and Gravesend.

Four new clubs admitted to the League have all been placed in the Midland Division.

Lineker to open Goal 92

GOAL 92, an exciting three day football exhibition and show for soccer enthusiasts of all ages, will be officially opened at the Wembley Exhibition Centre on Saturday at 10am by England international striker Gary Lineker.

The exhibition is open from 9am-5pm on Saturday, and 9am-4pm on Sunday and Monday.

Admission is £5 for adults, £2.50 for under-16s and senior citizens.

Touchdown hat-trick for Ford as the Monarchs return to winning ways

BACK in the starter's spot, quarterback Stan Gelbaugh threw three touchdown passes to Bernard Ford as the London Monarchs beat the Montreal Machine 45-13 on Sunday for only their second World League win of the season.

Ford, who totalled 198 yards in receptions, scored from 14, 39 and 16 yards, while Danny Lockett added two touchdowns, a 70 yard fumble return and a 13 yard interception return.

Monarchs' scoring was completed by Dan Crossman's 87 yard interception return for a touchdown and Phil Alexan-

der's 44 yard field goal. He also kicked six extra points.

In a good performance from Monarchs, Gelbaugh completed 14 of 18 passes for a total of 299 yards, while Jeff Alexander had 96 yards rushing.

Monarchs complete their season on Saturday at Frankfurt Galaxy, looking to avenge a narrow defeat at Wembley in Week Two.

Other World League results: New York 47, Barcelona 0; Birmingham 24, Orlando 23; Sacramento 21, Ohio 7; Frankfurt 13, San Antonio 43.

This week's other games: Orlando v Barcelona; New York v Montreal; Ohio v Birmingham; San Antonio v Sacramento.

Steve doubles up with Boro' awards

GOALKEEPER Steve Crompton was a double winner at Harrow Borough FC's annual presentations.

He won both the club's Player of the Year trophy and the Vice-President's Player of the Year award.

Keith Cooper won the Young Player of the Year award for the second year running while Paul Ripley took the Golden Boots trophy and a special award for completing 100 appearances for the club.



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