

Wembley steered home by Walker

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SPORT

Harrow St Mary's land title double

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Members vote to 'Carry on Stones'

All revealed at crisis meeting

'CARRY on Wealdstone' was the loud message from members at Tuesday night's crisis meeting at Vicarage Road.

They voted unanimously for the much troubled club to continue its existence and set it off on the long road to recovery by approving a new set of club rules, electing a new committee to handle club affairs, and also backed litigation to get back money lost in the tangled web surrounding the £12.1m sale of their Lower Mead ground.

Of the new rules, club chairman David Pollock told the meeting of about 150 members, shareholders and supporters: "I see them as a temporary set of rules while we are in administration until we decide on what basis we let the club go forward."

That way forward will be guided by the new four-man committee. Mr Pollock and club secretary Peter Braxton are part of it, together with David Buchler and Peter Phillips of the club's administrators, Buchler-Phillips. Mr Buchler is likely to be the committee's chairman.

The meeting heard from Philip Rueben of the club's solicitors, Finers Ltd, the full story of events which had led to the club's current plight, events which began in December 1990 with the sale of Lower Mead and periphery property, owned by Mr W. Johnson, to Tesco Stores Ltd. The £12.1m was to be shared equally between Mr Johnson and the club.

They heard of further agreements made with Mr Johnson and his company, Harrovian Group plc, for sponsorship of the club and construction of a new ground, then intended to be at Willesden, which resulted in Wealdstone receiving only £3.5m from the sale instead of £6.05m. It was believed that by this deal there would be a considerable saving in Capital Gains

By John Comfort

Tax on the Lower Mead sale.
Mr Johnson is now bankrupt and Harrovian Group plc is in liquidation.

Commenting on the events, Mr Pollock said: "We want to make it clear that the board feel that in hindsight the deal was ridiculous."

Wealdstone have now begun legal action against their former solicitors, Minet Pering, alleging negligence. Their claim is for an unlimited sum, but is "for millions of pounds" said Mr Rueben. He was "cautiously optimistic" over the chances of success in this action which will cost over £100,000 to pursue. Loss of the action, which cannot be heard for at least 18 months, could cost the club around £75,000.

Litigation has also commenced for the sum of £350,000 against Tesco Stores. This complicated issue relates to a periphery property owned by Mr Johnson on which there was a mortgage charge which was never redeemed and a deduction was made from money the club was due to receive. A date for that action is likely to be in 6-9 months.

Wealdstone will also be defending an action brought by Watford FC who have issued a writ in excess of £100,000 for ground charges at Vicarage Road. Wealdstone have paid £2m of a sum of £2.5m agreed for a half share in the 127 year lease of the ground, but it seems certain that their future now lies away from Watford.

Mr Pollock said: "One of the things we are looking at is the option of selling our share of Vicarage Road to raise assets to relocate at another ground, hopefully within the Borough of Harrow. But it is early days and we have to give Watford no-

dice."
The intention will be to sell Wealdstone's share of the ground back to Watford. If they chose not to buy it back, the ground would be put on the open market.

Wealdstone went into administration two months ago when the company found themselves in the position of having no cash with which to trade and lots of liabilities, a situation complicated by the club having three arms, the club, the limited company and the Trustees.

This move came after the Trustees, faced with a £2.4m Capital Gains Tax assessment from the Lower Mead sale, took legal advice and held back money from the Lower Mead sale. Agreement has now having been reached with the Inland Revenue that the Trustees are not personally liable, and the remaining money, £300,000, has been handed over by the Trustees.

The cost of the legal advice taken by the Trustees, it was revealed, was between £25,000-£30,000. After an emotional plea by Trustee Toby Jackson, members voted for the club to foot the bill.

The administrators believe there will be sufficient assets to pay the club's debts. Sorting it out, they estimate, will take about a year.

Biggest financial noose around Wealdstone's neck was a wage bill which David Pollock revealed was £185,000. This included contractual obligations to players and he praised club manager Brian Hall for his efforts over the past year in endeavouring to trim this figure down.

Club members are now being urged to do their bit by joining the club's Blue Ribbin Lottery Scheme. The club is also being backed by astrologer and Middlesex campaigner Russell Grant who is started a 'Support the Stones' campaign on his programme on Radio Five.

Borough are hit by goal blast

Harrow Borough 0 Wycombe Wanderers 5
THREE goals in the last seven minutes gave this pre-season friendly a rather lop-sided look, writes Tony Booth.

However, the gulf between the two sides was clear to see and Wycombe should be in the Football League next season. For their part, Borough created several good chances and generally gave a good account of themselves.

Martin Hilaire again created a good impression for Borough, especially in the 25th minute when he found Gipp whose shot flew across goal and rebounded off the far post. Shea and Byrne both cleared efforts off the Borough line before the visitors took a 35th minute lead when Ryan scored with a fierce volley.

The real deciding goal came five minutes

after the break when Greene was fouled and Carroll netted from the resultant penalty.

Byrne cleared off the line before missing a chance at the other end and Moussadik did well to turn a Neil Fraser shot over the bar.

The closing minutes brought three further scores for the visitors. Guppy's cross shot went in off Shea and then Gooden repeated the trick, his effort going in despite the efforts of Engwell on the line.

At the other end Pye's free kick was headed goalward by Thomas only for Moussadik to save again, but in the last minute Guppy broke clear to shoot home wycombe's fifth goal.

Harrow Borough: Crompton (Eswarumoorthy), Johnson, Engwell, May (Clark), Shea, Byrne, Pye, Ridout (Barnard), Conroy (Fraser), Sipp (Ripley), St Hilaire (Thomas).

Hedge to the rescue

Wealdstone 1 Wycombe Wanderers 1
WEALDSTONE gave a fine performance against Wycombe at Vicarage Road on Monday, but it took a 71st goal from Andy Hedge to earn them a draw.

In the first half David Venables fired against a post, Martin Blacker went close twice, while Neil Cordice went clear only to be denied by the keeper.

After the break Venables latched onto a poor back pass and rounded the keeper to set up Johnstone Hippolyte who fired wide of an open goal and

Win for Wembley

WEMBLEY completed their pre-season friendlies on Monday with a 3-1 win over Hertford, managed by ex-Wembley favourite Paul Janaway. The Lions' goals came from Kenny Page 2, and Andy O'Brien.

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'We'll do well' says confident Borough boss

Fixtures

Saturday August 22
Diadora League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Kingsthorpe (Earlmead, 3pm)
Diadora League Division One: Wembley v Molesey (Vale Farm, 3pm)
Diadora League Division Two: Edgware Town v Witham Town (White Lion ground, 3pm)
Diadora League Division Three: Thame Town v Kingsbury Town
Besser Home League Southern Division: Wealdstone v Margate (Vicarage Road, 3pm)
Hellenic League: Rayners Lane v Almondsbury Picksons (Lucas Ave, 3pm)

Tuesday August 25
Diadora League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Carshalton Ath. (Earlmead, 7.30pm)
Diadora League Division One: Wembley v Aveley (Vale Farm, 7.30pm)
Hellenic League: Banbury Town v Rayners Lane
Wednesday August 26
Besser Home League Southern Division: Burnham v Wealdstone
Diadora League Division Two: Edgware Town v Newbury Town (White Lion ground, 7.30pm)

THE season proper gets underway on Saturday with Harrow Borough boss George Borg in confident mood for the new Diadora League campaign.

"We're a good footballing side and I think we'll do well," he said. His side face two tough opening games at home to Kingsthorpe on Saturday and Carshalton on Tuesday.

They will be without Keith Cooper, who will be out for a month with an ankle ligaments injury, and keeper Steve Crompton, who is attending a wedding.

Wembley are still looking to get their new stand up in time for their opening game with Molesey at Vale Farm. It will be touch and go but indications are that the League will permit them to play even if it is not totally completed. On the field manager Alan Duffern has a full squad to choose from.

Keeper Wayne Roach is doubtful with a foot injury for Wealdstone's opener, at home to Margate. Dave Hudson stands by to deputise.

An ankle injury could keep Gerry Brennan out of Edgware home game with Witham.

Edgware have lost star centre back Darren Coleman. He was on trial with Charlton but when they released him he was snapped up by Premier Division Chesham.

Paul Bhatia has rejoined Kingsbury after a spell with Wembley and plays in their tough opener away to Thame.

Former Hounslow player Mark Harwood, who suffered a serious knee injury at the beginning of last season, is back in training and has rejoined Rayners Lane. Glen Maxim, formerly with Hendon and Harrow Borough, has also joined Lane who are at home to Almondsbury Picksons on Saturday.

Ramprakash is in trouble again

HATCH End's Middlesex and England cricketer star Mark Ramprakash is in trouble again.

On Tuesday he was omitted from the Middlesex side to

play Hampshire at Bournemouth, thought to be as a result of transgressions committed at Uxbridge on Sunday when Middlesex clinched the Sunday League title by beating

Yorkshire. He was unhappy at being given out and then reportedly clashed with a spectator.

Earlier in the season Middlesex severely reprimanded Ram-

prakash, fined him two weeks salary and warned him as to his future conduct after incidents involving an opponent in the match against Cambridge University at Fenner's.

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Redskins scalped by last gasp field goal

A FIELD goal from Mike Cofer with just three seconds remaining saw the San Francisco 49ers to a 17-15 win over Superbowl Champions Washington Redskins in American Bowl 92 at Wembley Stadium on Sunday.

A crowd of 61,722 was ample proof that the popularity of American football in Britain has not waned, but they were disappointed that the 49ers star quarterback Joe Montana was just a spectator due to an arm injury. And Washington quarterback Mark Rypien, who was only restored to the side last week after agreeing a new £1.6m contract, only stayed on for little more than the first quarter.

The Redskins, who led 12-0 scored with two Lohmiller field goals, a Johnson safety and Ervins' two yard touchdown. 49ers other points came from touchdowns by Watters and Kyles.

Stevenage get a shock from Wares

Stevenage Borough 2 Edgware Town 3

EDGWARE completed their round of pre-season friendlies with a fine win over Premier Division new boys Stevenage on Monday.

Edgware took the lead with an excellent goal, Steve Newing blasting the ball home after Thompson had dummied over a Murphy cross. Although Stevenage levelled before the break, Edgware regained the lead after the break when Martyn Kidd tou-

ched a free kick to Gursel Gulfer who fired home from the edge of the area.

Edgware sealed victory with a Seamus Finnerty penalty after Thompson had been brought down, but just before the end Stevenage rather fortunately pulled a goal back when Hourihan punched a corner onto an opponent and the ball rebounded into the net.

Edgware: Hourihan, Brennan (El-Iott), Mangan, Finnerty, Sheridan, Dale (Kidd), Derive, Flynn, Murphy, Thompson, Newing (Gulfer).

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