

SPORT

Stones trustee refutes claims of holding club to ransom

'I've not got cash'

WEALDSTONE FC trustee Les Hobbs has refuted claims that he has been putting the club's future in jeopardy by withholding much needed cash.

After a meeting with club chairman Paul Rumens last week, he agreed to release £80,000 from the £987,500 received in an out of court settlement from former solicitors, Minet Perring, to enable Stones to finance this season's footballing activities.

Said Mr Hobbs: "When we won the money my job as a trustee was to look after it, and that's all I'm doing. But I'm not holding any money - it's all with the administrators."

"At no time did Paul Rumens ask me to release £80,000. The only approach made to me was in a phone call from Layne Patterson (a

Wealdstone director) and I said it was all right providing that the solicitors and administrators were agreeable. He said he'd come back to me but he never did.

"The meeting I had with Paul Rumens last week was at my instigation because I was fed up with people saying that I was holding the club to ransom. I've never said I wouldn't give him any money. The £80,000 for the running of the club was never in question. I wouldn't do anything to harm the club."

A court action brought by the club's administrators will now determine where the remainder of the cash from the Minet Perring settlement will go, the two options being the trustees or the board of directors. It is expected to be heard in two months time.



EWBA Ladies Singles finalist, Pat Kirk.

EWBA final honour for Pat

WEALDSTONE Bowling Club's Pat Kirk exceeded her highest expectations in the Ladies Singles of the English Women's Bowling Association National Championships at Royal Learmington Spa.

"I was worried about getting through the first round," she said.

But she did, and then won her way through four more rounds - and only missed out on the title when she was beaten 21-12 in the final by Ingrid Betke of the Thaxted club in Essex.

Pat, who lives in Honister Gardens, Starmore, knocked out the much fancied British Junior Champion, Lisa Francis, on her way to the final but just one step from the coveted crown, she then found Betke just too good for her.

"It was a lovely game," she said, "but disappointing - although not because I lost. It was a case of the one who did it on the day winning."

Reaching the EWBA Final has crowned an excellent season for Pat.

She has already won the Middlesex Singles Championship and in a great County double for the Wealdstone club, her clubmate Margaret Horne took the Champion of the Champions title.

Hot shot Stones take five

Viking Sports 1 Wealdstone 5
WEALDSTONE overwhelmed Viking Sports in a friendly on Tuesday.

They opened the scoring through Matt Hayward in the 39th minute after a Francis Joseph effort had been stopped on the line and Lance Pedlar and Vic Schwartz were unlucky not to add to the lead as they both hit the post.

Viking equalised after 67 minutes but Stones regained the lead when substitute Rod Findley made a 50 yard run and then rounded the keeper to slot home. Two minutes later Schwartz made it 3-1 from a Joseph pass.

Late in the game Joseph headed home a Mark Wilson cross and Findley rounded off the scoring with his second goal of the game.

All set for big kick off

THE new soccer season kicks off on Saturday for the local Diadora League clubs.

The hopes and aspirations of Harrow Borough, Wembley,

Edgware Town and Kingsbury Town are assessed below, along with the latest news of the departures and new signings.

Wealdstone's Beazer Homes League season does not start until Saturday week, as does that of Rayners Lane in the Helonic League.

A host of headaches for Harry



Harry Manoe - selection headaches.

WITH his newly appointed captain Andy Prutton unavailable, Dave Bensted and Graham Pearce both suspended, Kevin Davies and Jon Hurlock both receiving treatment for injuries and Lee Endersby still recovering from a knee operation, Harrow Borough are likely to start the new season at Wokingham on Saturday with a side some way short of what manager Harry Manoe envisages will be his optimum line-up for the new campaign.

But having begun last season with a hastily assembled squad following his late appointment, Manoe is still decidedly better placed than he was 12 months ago.

After an inauspicious start, Borough came good in the second half of the season and finished a commendable 9th and Manoe was hoping to build on that success this time round.

But with a lack of cash to buy specific players, his aim of challenging for League honours appears likely to remain on the back burner.

"I've had to bring in people where I felt they were needed," he said, "but while we obviously want to finish as high as possible, we've prob-

ably not got the strength in depth to finish in the shake up.

"I'm pleased with the way we've come through the pre-season games and I feel we're a bit further on than last year. But it's crucial that we get off to a good start and in two weeks time we'll have a measure of how we're shaping."

From last season's squad, Borough have lost skipper Jason Shaw to Boreham Wood, while Bob Booker has returned to his former club, Brentford, as youth team coach.

New signings are former Marlow striker Kevin Davies, strikers Darren Seabrook and John Lawford, who were both at Aylesbury last season, young defender Ben Maskell, who was formerly with Barnet, and defender Jason McLennan, who spent some time with Chelsea.

Following the departure of Joe Parish, Borough are currently looking for a new physio.

Anyone interested in the job should contact either Peter Rogers or Harry Manoe at the club, telephone 422-5989.

Premier Division is Wembley goal

ALAN Dafforn came close on several occasions to leading Wembley into the Premier Division, but the blend of experience and bright young prospects assembled at Vale Farm by current boss Glen Charles would appear to have a better than even chance of achieving the goal yearned for by club chairman Brian Gumm.

Charles has retained all of last season's squad and added exciting midfield prospect Horacia Willock, who was plucked out of Sunday football with Leyton County, former Uxbridge and Yeading striker Gavin Hughes, ex-Hanwell Town keeper Nick Bettacini, centre back Rod Shearer from Southall and striker Mark McGinty from Hemel Hempstead. Additionally, experienced defender Andy O'Brien has returned to the club after a season out of soccer.

All that leaves Charles with one big headache as he prepares for Saturday's opener at home to Uxbridge.

"My biggest problem is

going to be selection," he said.

"I'm happy with the squad as it is now and the pleasing thing is that all of last season's players have stayed and are prepared to fight for their places.

"Our pre-season games have gone well but that all counts for nothing on Saturday. The first game of the season is always a difficult one."

Promotion is the big prize dangling before him and Charles believes his team can achieve it this time round.

"I'm quietly confident but

we need a good start and the players need to believe in themselves.

"Our initial aim is to be in the top six at Christmas. Then we've got sufficient character in the club to generate the momentum and get us in the frame."

Wembley will be without defender Henry Clark for the start of the season. He is starting a three match ban.

In their final pre-season friendly, Wembley suffered a shock 1-0 defeat at Chalfont St Peter on Tuesday.



Glen Charles - quietly confident.

It's a familiar story for Edgware

THE new campaign has yet to start but already Edgware boss Brian Rider is battling against a familiar tale of injuries and unavailabilities.

Rider has lost Scott McGleish to Charlton and Hamid Harack and Said Louzi to Chertsey from last season's squad.

His new signings include ex-

Hendon defender Sean O'Leary, Ted John, a striker who plays for the British Fire Brigade, much travelled forward Steve Bastien, who was at Egham last season, and midfielder Patrick Mullucci, who was playing in the Irish League last season.

Additionally, striker Les Thompson has returned to the

club from Kuislip Manor and keeper Neil Mason is back after a year's absence.

But with John Mangan and Eugene Flynn injured and Joe Sheridan away on holiday, the side that opens the season at Windsor on Saturday is set to be below full strength.

Said Rider: "At the end of last season I thought we might be looking at promotion this time but the old problems are with us already. At the moment I'm just looking towards getting a settled side. Once we've got everybody back we can reassess our chances."

One boost for Rider is that striker Colin Chance who has not been out with knee problems since September, is likely to return in a few weeks time.

Loss of key trio is big blow to Town

THE loss of three players this week has proved a severe blow to Kingsbury Town's preparations for the new campaign.

Centre backs Thane Little and Paul Watkins and right midfielder James Moore had all been recruited by Kingsbury co-manager Dave Finn from his former club Harfield United.

They had all been involved in Town's pre-season friendlies but before Tuesday's game at North Greenford, which Kingsbury lost 2-0, they all indicated they had received better offers to stay at Harfield and returned to the Breakspear Road club.

"It has left us with a few holes to fill," said Kingsbury boss Peter Blain "and for the moment we'll have to fill with reserves and other players playing out of position. Losing three key players at the last moment is not the best of preparations, but we shall overcome."

Two significant losses from last season's squad are Mark Ivers and Niall O'Rourke, who have both joined former Kingsbury boss Frank O'Brien at Leighton Town. Andy Dale has also left to join Northwood.

Good news however is that Gerry Brennan, who was expected to depart, has re-signed

and new signings include skilful midfielder Richard Louch and striker Lee Richards, both from Potters Bar Town.

Kingsbury start their League season at home to relegated Lewes on Saturday and on Tuesday they visit League newcomers Bedford Town.

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Soccer fixtures

Saturday August 13
Diadora League Premier Div: Wokingham Town v Harrow Borough.
Diadora League Div One: Wembley v Uxbridge (Vale Farm, 3pm).
Diadora League Div Two: Windsor & Eton v Edgware Town.
Diadora League Div Three: Kingsbury Town v Lewes (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm).
Friendship: Rayners Lane v Wealdstone (Lucas Ave, 3pm).

Tuesday August 16
Diadora League Div One: Bletchley v Wembley.
Diadora League Div Two: Edgware Town v Wingham Town (White Lion ground, 7.30pm).
Diadora League Div Three: Bedford Town v Kingsbury Town.
Friendship: Rayners Lane v Harrow (Lucas Ave, 6.45pm).
Wednesday August 17
Diadora League Premier Div: Harrow Borough v Hayes (Earlsmead, 7.30pm).

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