

SPORT

They're quick off the mark

New talent still needs blending in

Edgware 1 Chalfont St Peter 1
DESPITE the improved performances in the two previous away games, Jock McGleish demonstrated no complacency by drafting in three new signings for his first home game in charge writes Tom Hooks.

He also demonstrated the art of delegation by leaving it to coach Peter Grant to announce the changes. Former Edgware player Scott McGleish played his first game for Charlton Athletic on Saturday and the proud father was given time off to watch his son's professional debut.

Rain at Edgware had left a skidding surface and the first opportunity fell to the visitors who were opening up Edgware's central defence alarmingly. However, Keith Harvey saved the day with a brave diving save at the feet of Chalfont's Stone.

After a hesitant start, Edgware started to make their presence felt with Lesley Thompson looking particularly lively and Eugene Flynn combining well with new signing Gerry Brennan in midfield.

However, the home side were having surprising difficulty in turning a very loose and cumbersome-looking visiting defence so that most of Edgware's efforts amounted to speculative long-range shots.

One of these, from skipper Shay Finnerty, troubled Ellis in the Chalfont goal. The keeper failed to hold the shot and Steve Newing's follow-up shot seemed

goal bound until it struck colleague John Coleman.

Chalfont were causing the Edgware defence uncomfortable moments. On 20 minutes Bonoventura saw a shot/cross strike the bar and Edgware had an even more fortunate let-off five minutes later when a Chalfont goal was disallowed for off-side.

Jason Dale was beginning to make an impression but it was not until 40 minutes that he had his first real chance. Thompson broke away on a good run and crossed to Jason who coolly picked his spot from 12 yards to give Ellis no chance and put his new team 1-0 into the lead.

Hardly had the crowd time to savour the moment when Edgware obligingly parted to allow Stone a clear route to Harvey's goal. The invitation to walk the ball round the despairing keeper and into the empty net was gratefully accepted and the match was level again at 1-1 as the first half ended in a draw.

The pitch was more difficult in the second half but Brennan came close to restoring Edgware's lead when he shot strongly against the post, only to see John Coleman blaze the rebound over the bar. JC came closer a minute later when his deflected shot brought Ellis into action.

There was no lack of effort on Edgware's part but by playing through the middle and not forcing the big Chalfont's defenders wide the visitors were given little real concern.

Les Thompson was giving Chalfont most trouble, setting up a chance for Bren-

nan which Ellis saved at point-blank range and then Les himself had a great run on goal, only to be let down at the crucial moment by boots apparently borrowed from coach Grant.

On 65 minutes Edgware rode their luck again when the woodwork prevented Chalfont from going ahead. Five minutes later, Les Thompson was dismissed by the referee for obscure reasons and this unfortunately brought an end to an otherwise fine performance from the Edgware striker.

The referee continued to puzzle the crowd and players alike when he failed to award a penalty to Edgware in the dying minutes when Jason Dale appeared to be thrown out of the way by Chalfont's giant defender Harris. He in fact awarded the free-kick against the Edgware man.

Edgware battled well with ten men to earn the draw and, at the end of the day, had to be satisfied with the result. All three newcomers had promising debuts, with Andy Dale at right back performing soundly. It will take a little time to fully integrate the new men into the team and improvements will surely come, not least when the more established pair of Flynn and Newing abandon their personal duet to see who can kick shots at goal the highest. This week's prize goes to Newing but hopefully the big striker will start to find range in the near future.

Edgware: Harvey, Dale A, Salsaman, Sue, Finnerty, Brennan, Flynn, Coleman, Dale J, Newing, Thompson. Subs: John, Roche, Griffiths.

TWO Harrow karate kids have taken trophies in a national competition after less than a year training in the sport.

Nekish Patel (left), seven, and Christopher Herson, eight, both members of the GB Serwak Karate Club, fought their way through eight rounds to reach the finals of the Sudbury All-Styles Championships.

Nekish, of Essex Road, won his section and Christopher, of Holmdene Avenue, fighting in his first tournament, was second in his group.

Adrian Mare, 4th dan instructor of the club, which meets in St George's Church Hall, Pinner View, said: "They were unbelievable. They both had big sections and fought extremely well."



Stones improve but not enough

Stones 1 Sudbury Town 2
A BETTER performance from Stones but still not good enough to prevent them from being put out of two cups in one week as they lost to the premier league side, holders of the Doc Martens Cup, on Wednesday, writes Graham Smith.

Fred Callaghan brought in two on-loan players, Andrew Jakes, full back from Luton, and Darryl Page, central defender from Rushden & Diamonds. This meant that John Shanahan went into an unusual midfield position but did not let the side down with a gutsy performance.

Sudbury took the lead in the 22nd minute when a poor clearance from Barry Gartell went straight to Hayes who volleyed the ball back over the keeper's head.

Stones equalised after 39 minutes with an excellent 30-yard shot from Simon Quail. Just before half-time Barry Gartell made a fine save from Greaves and was even more alert when the Stones keeper saved at full stretch from Reilly's effort early in the second half. Steve Mattis is inches away from reaching Ian McGrath's low cross.

Sudbury's winner came in the 77th minute when a deep cross was headed home by sub Farthing. In the last few minutes Paul Goodison hit the side netting and Stones were denied a hat in the next round, losing 5-4 on aggregate.

Wealdstone: Gartell, Jukes, Solomon, Hill, Page, Mason, Shanahan, McGrath, Quail, Mattis (Goodison), Hudson.

Havant Town 1 Stones 1
WEALDSTONE'S new signing, Tim Buzaglio, made his debut for the club on Saturday, helping them take a point from their match at Havant.

Buzaglio, who has moved to Wealdstone from Marlow FC, became a household name three years ago when he scored twice for Woking FC as they knocked West Bromwich Albion out of the FA Cup.

This was Stones' best recent result at Havant, even though they managed to score both

goals in this drawn league game on Saturday.

The home keeper nearly scored a bizarre goal in the very first minute when his drop kick bounced over Barry Gartell then hit the post and rebounded back into the grateful hands of the Wealdstone goalie.

Seven minutes later, Stones took the lead as Simon Quail got to the byeline and his cross was headed home by Tyrone Kent. Soon after, Quail put Buzaglio clear but Price got back quickly and his tackle prevented the striker from getting his shot in.

On 28 minutes, Fosbury's hard, low cross was unfortunately put into his own net by John Shanahan as he tried to clear while Barry Gartell stayed on his line. Then Stones lost the injured Gerry Solomon who was replaced by Rod Findley. Green latched onto a through ball but Barry

Gartell came off his line quickly and saved well.

Nine minutes into the new half, Semark's flying header hit the side netting. Simon Quail tried to beat three defenders when a pass to Tim Buzaglio would have been easier. Buzaglio then provided a pass to Simon Quail whose cross was hit straight at Havant's keeper by Tyrone Kent. In the last minute Fosbury should have scored but his close-range shot was superbly tipped away by Barry Gartell for a corner, giving Stones a well-deserved point.

Wealdstone: Gartell, Jukes, Solomon (Findley), Hill, Page, Mason, Kent, Shanahan, Quail, Buzaglio, Hudson. Subs: Mattis, Hill D.

Wealdstone's next games are both away, on Saturday at Braintree in the Beazer Homes League, kick-off 7.30pm, and on Tuesday (November 1) at Watlington Abbey in the first round of the Middlesex Charity Cup, kick-off 7.30pm.

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ATHLETICS

Old Gayts stretch lead at table top

OLD Gaytonians Athletic Club produced another great performance on Saturday to win the second round of the Chiltern League and extend its lead at the top of the league table to 260 points, writes Tony Bush.

The senior/junior squad won again, beating nearest rivals Oxford by 13 points. Mark Cursons was Gayts' leading runner in 7th spot and there was a much-improved performance from Nigel Flint who finished 9th in the large field of almost 200 runners.

South Harrow's Laurence Rudge enjoyed his best-ever Chiltern run to finish 20th while Gayts' top all-time points scorer, Mike Lepps, again ran well for 25th spot. There was good support from the Gayts' team management duo of Mike Baron and Chris Finill.

The under-17 squad retains its position after finishing second on Saturday. Eastcote's Jon Diffey ran well for 6th place in a high-class field while Gareth Noble had his best run of the winter to finish 15th.

Matthew Nicholls was Gayts' leading runner in the under-15 race, finishing 9th to lead the team to third place on the day and second overall. Pravin Mepani also ran well for 14th spot.

The under-13 team finished second on the day behind Milton Keynes. Brent's Mark McIntosh ran well after a slow start to sixth place and there was a good run from Mark Morren who improved by 18 places to finish 16th.

Gayts placings: Under-13: 6 Mark McIntosh 11.03, 8 Adam Bowden 11.05, 16 Mark Morren 11.26, 26 Neil Dimon 11.48, 34 Martin Shore 12.13, 35 Steven Lawrence 12.28, 42 Mark Bailey 12.56, 47 Chris McMenamen 13.16, 50 Peter Norris 13.40. Old Gayts' position after two matches: 1 Milton Keynes 414, 2 Luton 340, 3 Old Gayts 332.

Under-15: 9 Matthew Nicholls 14.34, 12 Gary Blackman 14.39, 14 Pravin Mepani 14.56, 19 Paul Eldridge 15.12, 22 Alexie Calvert 15.25, 23 Sean Hunt 15.27, 29 Geoff Thompson 15.38, 30 David Mowen 15.43, 31 Damian Nevins 15.44, 41 Grant Scott 16.40, 42 Rakesh Odedra 16.41, 48 Leon Holloway 18.34. Old Gayts' position after two matches: 1 Milton Keynes 394, 2 Old Gayts 330, 3 Oxford 296.

Under-17: 6 Jon Diffey 19.01, 11 Luke Hunt 19.25, 15 Gareth Noble 19.43, 16 Stephen Norris 20.03, 21 Peter Kelly 21.07. Old Gayts' position after two matches: 1 Old Gayts 179, 2 Windsor 171, 3 Milton Keynes 143.

Senior/Junior: 7 Mark Cursons 31.44, 9 Nigel Flint 31.57, 19 Matthew Bateson 33.08, 20 Laurence Rudge 33.11, 23 Mike Nolan 33.23, 25 Mike Lepps 33.29, 26 Mike Baron 33.31, 31 Chris Finill 33.54, 51 Richard Thorne 35.00, 53 Mike Kelly 35.05, 55 Alan Wray 35.09, 66 Graham Edmonds 35.40, 68 Russell Squire 35.42, 74 Ross Bloom 36.04, 85 Stuart McLuskey 36.40, 110 Patrick Brown 37.57, 132 Jeremy Collis 40.25, 157 Barry Graham 44.11, 161 Tony Bush 44.57, 162 Paul Smith 45.28. Old Gayts' position after two matches: 1 Old Gayts 2819, 2 Watford 2691, 3 Oxford 2686.

Overall positions after two matches: 1 Old Gayts 3660, 2 Milton Keynes 3401, 3 Oxford 3216.

Pool best

SOME of the country's top pool players, including the UK 9-ball pool champion Dave Turley, will be in action when the 'Best of the Midlands' take on the 'Best of London' in a challenge match at the Lord Halsebury Club, Eastcote Lane, Northolt, on Saturday.

Play starts at 1.30pm and admission is £2, tickets available on the door.

Players from the professional circuit and many top amateurs, including some from our own highly rated Observer Pool League, will be among the teams competing for a Challenge Cup donated by Bullseye Sports and prize money totalling £700.

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