

# SPORT

## Stones move to Edgware

### Agreement reached on two year ground share deal

WEALDSTONE will be ground sharing with Edgware Town at the White Lion ground from next season.

Talks between the clubs have taken place over the past two months and a deal was finally concluded this week. The agreement is for a year with a year's option - similar to that which Stones have with Yeading, whose Warren ground they vacate in May after a two year stay.

Fears that the deal would be likely to culminate in Wealdstone taking over at Edgware have been totally discounted by both clubs.

Edgware Town chairman, Michael Flynn, described it as "absolutely ridiculous. The deal is to consolidate Edgware's future, not to condemn it." Said Wealdstone chairman, Paul Rumens: "Wealdstone FC are in no position to come in and call any shots in this arrangement. We are simply there to play our games while we look for a new home."

It is almost four years since Stones sold their Lower Mead ground to Teacos and began a nomadic existence which took

### By John Comfort

them first to Watford, then Yeading. Now they are significantly heading back to the Borough of Harrow for what they hope will be the final stepping stone before they find a new home of their own within the borough.

Said Mr Rumens: "The most important thing about the deal is that it brings Wealdstone back to within the Borough of Harrow. That is crucial."

"Our grateful thanks must go to Yeading for our time there. They have been excellent landlords and without their help at the time, I had serious doubts as to where Wealdstone would be playing two seasons ago."

"In an ideal world we wanted to go to Edgware then. But unfortunately there was no firm lease from the landlords of the White Lion ground, therefore Edgware were not in a situation where they could invite us to ground share. That situation has now changed, enabling us the opportunity to return to the borough."



● The White Lion ground - which Wealdstone will share with Edgware Town.

Mr Rumens said he hoped that ground sharing at Edgware would be viewed by Harrow Council as a positive move by the club and the first step towards their aim of finding a permanent home of their own within the Borough of Harrow, an aim which will require considerable council support.

"There are three factors involved in this move," added Mr Rumens. "It puts us back in the borough, it is a better financial deal for the club, and we also believe that as Edgware is more accessible than Yeading, a lot more people will come and watch us."

"The club continued to lose money while at Yeading. Obviously as long as we don't have our own home, there is no bar income, without which the overall future of the club will have serious problems. But certainly this move will improve the financial viability of Wealdstone FC."

Edgware chairman, Michael Flynn, is also delighted with the deal. He said: "It's a good deal, one that will be of benefit to both clubs. Our main income is through the bar and anything we can do to improve that situation has to be good for Edgware Town. Wealdstone are a well supported club and we will be looking to their supporters to support the clubhouse as if it were their own."

Suggestions that the White Lion pitch is likely to suffer through over use during the ground share period have been dismissed. Edgware are likely to drop their reserve side to accommodate Stones, so there will be no significant increase in the number of games at the ground. If the reserve side does continue it is likely they will play at a different venue and probably in the County League rather than the Suburban League as at present.

## Borough and Lions washed out

HARROW Borough's Carlsberg Cup tie at Hitchin on Tuesday was called off 25 minutes before the kick off when the referee decided that the wet pitch was unplayable. A new date has yet to be confirmed

with the Diadora League, although it could be this coming Tuesday. Supporters should check with the club. Wembley also made a wasted journey on Tuesday - to Abingdon for a scheduled Diadora League game.

The Oxfordshire club's pitch was declared waterlogged after a 6.15pm inspection. But the decision came too late to prevent the Wembley team travelling to the ground.

## Borough hit by suspension treble

SUSPENSIONS for Frank Appiah, Kevin Davies and Chris Metcalfe mean they will all miss Harrow Borough's home game with struggling Wokingham on Saturday.

Also doubtful are John Hurlock, who has a broken nose, Terry Benning who is injured and John Lawford who has flu. However, Lee Enderby should be back after missing the Hayes game with flu.

Harrow have received seven days notice of approach from Walton for Neil Fraser but the striker has indicated that he wants to stay at Earlsmead.

Wembley striker Guiliano Grazioli has suffered a recurrence of the knee injury he sustained against Ruimsip Manor and he, along with Kenny Page, who has a back injury, face late fitness tests for Saturday's visit to Uxbridge.

Steve Daly hopes to be available after recovering from a knee injury but is unlikely to be risked.

Charlie Flaherty is suspended from Monday for two matches which does not include

Tuesday's Middlesex Charity Cup tie at Harefield, effectively making it a three match ban.

Gerry Solomon is available for Wealdstone's visit to Clevedon on Saturday following a two match suspension.

Striker Mark Biggins could also return after missing the win over Basiley due to a family bereavement.

Edgware, who are at home to Windsor, are plagued with injuries. John Coleman (sto mach muscle), Andy Dale (groin), Paul Ferry (gashed leg), Andy Murray (ligaments) and Steve Salsman (groin) are all sidelined.

Kingsbury will again be without the suspended Richard Louch for their visit to lowly Lewes, but Steve Evans is available after completing a ban.

Raysers Lane will be looking forward to three points on Saturday at home to bottom of the table Yarnon, a team Lane beat 9-1 in the away fixture. Manager Don Durkin has no new injury problems.

### Latest league tables

DIADORA LEAGUE		Division One		Division Two	
P	W D L F A	P	W D L F A	P	W D L F A
1	12 3 2 32 42 31	1	12 3 2 32 42 31	1	12 3 2 32 42 31
2	11 4 3 33 30	2	11 4 3 33 30	2	11 4 3 33 30
3	11 4 3 33 30	3	11 4 3 33 30	3	11 4 3 33 30
4	11 4 3 33 30	4	11 4 3 33 30	4	11 4 3 33 30
5	11 4 3 33 30	5	11 4 3 33 30	5	11 4 3 33 30
6	11 4 3 33 30	6	11 4 3 33 30	6	11 4 3 33 30
7	11 4 3 33 30	7	11 4 3 33 30	7	11 4 3 33 30
8	11 4 3 33 30	8	11 4 3 33 30	8	11 4 3 33 30
9	11 4 3 33 30	9	11 4 3 33 30	9	11 4 3 33 30
10	11 4 3 33 30	10	11 4 3 33 30	10	11 4 3 33 30
11	11 4 3 33 30	11	11 4 3 33 30	11	11 4 3 33 30
12	11 4 3 33 30	12	11 4 3 33 30	12	11 4 3 33 30
13	11 4 3 33 30	13	11 4 3 33 30	13	11 4 3 33 30
14	11 4 3 33 30	14	11 4 3 33 30	14	11 4 3 33 30
15	11 4 3 33 30	15	11 4 3 33 30	15	11 4 3 33 30
16	11 4 3 33 30	16	11 4 3 33 30	16	11 4 3 33 30
17	11 4 3 33 30	17	11 4 3 33 30	17	11 4 3 33 30
18	11 4 3 33 30	18	11 4 3 33 30	18	11 4 3 33 30
19	11 4 3 33 30	19	11 4 3 33 30	19	11 4 3 33 30
20	11 4 3 33 30	20	11 4 3 33 30	20	11 4 3 33 30

## Move to Diadora vital says club chairman

LEAVING the Beazer Homes League and joining the Diadora League, which will be a major issue to be discussed at Wealdstone FC's annual general meeting next Thursday, is regarded as vital to the club's survival.

Rumens: "I have to stress that we cannot continue to play Beazer Homes football and expect the club to survive in its present format."

He added: "The big problem is that we are in a Diadora location. We are situated among many Diadora clubs,

trying to attract players who have the option of working on a Saturday until one o'clock, jumping in a car to a game, and being back home again at seven o'clock. That scenario doesn't happen in the Beazer Homes League. At the end of the day it is their second occupation.

A Diadora move would end the current struggle Stones boss Fred Callaghan has had trying to get players to commit themselves to Beazer Homes football.

Said Mr Rumens: "Playing Diadora football, I believe we can run a team on the same budget we are now paying and would get better players. There is no doubt about that."

"Alternatively we could cut our cloth, reduce the budget and still play localised football. Obviously the travelling costs are reduced as well. "The final factor, ultimately, is that we would be playing local derbies and that would attract more through the turnstiles."

Stones are hoping to get into Division One of the Diadora. "We will be trying our utmost to move across the pyramid structure to gain Diadora One status," said Mr Rumens.

"The only way that can be achieved would be for a sister

club to move across to take our position in the Beazer Homes League.

"But the worse case scenario is that Wealdstone would join Division Three and we would work our way up as Aldershot did.

"But I must stress that my board and I will do our utmost to achieve the same level in the Diadora as we currently hold in the Beazer Homes League."

He added: "This is a new Wealdstone FC. We are not the club of 10 years ago. I am not taking away any of our history, I am very proud of it, but if the club is to enter into any viable new era we have to cut our cloth accordingly."

"Previous regimes have been able to go along to the bank manager and borrow money against Lower Mead. This regime does not have the same benefits."

"I understand it is going to be an extremely invidious issue at the agm but I want everyone to genuinely believe that we want the same things for the club as they do and will strive our hardest to achieve our goals."

Wealdstone's annual general meeting takes place on Thursday January 26 in the Edgware Town clubhouse.



● Wealdstone chairman Paul Rumens - "Diadora move is vital" he says.

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**This week's soccer fixtures**

Saturday January 21  
Diadora League Premier Div: Harrow Borough v Wokingham Town (Earlsmead, 3pm).  
Diadora League Div One: Uxbridge v Wembley.  
Diadora League Div Two: Edgware Town v Windsor & Eton (White Lion ground, 3pm).  
Diadora League Div Three: Lewes v Kingsbury Town.  
Beazer Homes League South-east Div: Clevedon v Wealdstone.

Hellenic League: Rayners Lane v Yarnon (Lucas Ave, 2.30pm).  
Tuesday January 24  
Mildes Charity Cup: Edgware Town v Viking Sports (White Lion ground, 7.30pm); Harefield Ud v Wembley.  
Carlsberg Cup: Hitchin Town v Harrow Borough (provisional, check with club).  
Football Combination: QPR v Oxford Ud (Earlsmead, 7pm).

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