SPORT

Stones' wage bill takes cut

Chairman trims expenses in readiness for Diadora move

CLUB chairman Paul Rumens has slashed the Wealdstone FC wages bill and released assistant manager, Steve Frangou, in a cost cutting exercise aimed at paving the way for the Stones' hoped for entry into the Diadora League next season.

Mr Rumens outlined his plans in a 'heart to heart' meeting with Fred Callaghan last week, and the manager agreed to continue with the lower budget.

Said Mr Rumens: "The bottom line is that we are going into the Diadora Division Three, leagues permitting, and the manager has agreed to take a 50 per cent drop in wages to help the club out.

"By taking the cut and reluctantly releasing Steve Frangou, he will be in a position to keep the bulk of his side so there are no wholesale changes in Division Three."

"With a move down two divisions to Diadora Three we're creating a rod for our own backs. If we don't get promotion immediately we'll be under the cosh from the supporters, so we're setting our stall out now, trying to get everything geared up and not leaving anything to chance. But we can cut expenses back without destroying the makings of a good side."

He added: "At the end of the day we've got to pay to play but all I'm trying to do is to keep costs down and show to people that I mean what I say. I've said we're going to save at least £30,000 a season in the Diadora and I've got to prove it."

Initial indications are that key players in Callaghan's squad, Tim Buzaglo, Mark Biggins, Rod Brathwaite and Steve Browne, are likely to stay with the club, even if they do drop to Diadora Division Three. Rumens and Callaghan are already negotiating deals with them for next season.

Mr Rumens believes that a finer balance of good, strong players alongside the already established quality stars will be the recipe to success in the Diadora League and with a winning side, gates will substantially improve. "I'm not expecting 1500 gates, but if playing local Diadora football with a winning team doesn't bring people in then I don't know what will."

Wealdstone are still waiting to hear if the Beazer Homes League are to accept their resignation. The Beazer Southern Division joint liaison committee, which has to find a club from a feeder league to replace Stones if they are allowed to move across the pyramid, met last week but have yet to announce any decision.

"None of it is cut and dried but once we've had it in writing that our resignation is acceptable, then we can be put forward for entry to the Diadora League," said Mr Rumens.

STEVE Bates breaks for the line, urged on by teammates Nick Popplewell and Simon Hunter in Wasps' 33-22 Courage League win over West Hartlepool at Sudbury on Saturday.

Wasps get back in the title hunt

With Leicester losing at Gloucester and Bath dropping a point at Orrell, Wasps league ambitions are now still very much alive.

If they win their next two league games they will be in with a major chance of a second title. But the next two matches are Leicester away on March 4 and Bath at home on March 25.

Easier said than done.

COURAGE LEAGUE
Division One

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Bath	12	10	2	0	232	130	22
Leicester	12	9	1	2	277	185	19
Wasps	12	9	0	3	243	211	18
Bristol	12	6	0	6	221	231	12
Sale	12	5	1	6	242	254	11
Gloucester	12	5	0	7	180	192	10
Orrell	12	4	2	6	147	192	9
W Hartlepool	12	3	1	8	174	255	7
Harlequins	12	3	1	8	174	255	7
Northampton	12	2	0	10	166	270	4

Big entry for Mini-Marathon

ENTRIES are pouring in for this Sunday's tenth annual Harrow Mini-Marathon, to be held in Harrow Recreation Ground, **writes Tony Bush.**

The event is the selection race for the Nutrasweet London Mini-Marathon, to be held in conjunction with the London Marathon in April. The leading runners in the under-14, under-16 and under-18 age groups will represent Harrow.

The five races have attracted runners from all over the country, including one lady from Liverpool.

The organisers are taking entries on the day. Fees are £2.50 for senior men and women (£3 unattached) and £2 for all other age groups.

Prospective runners should register at least 30 minutes before their event.

The timetable is as follows: 2.15pm under-12; 2.45pm under-14; 3.20pm under-16; 3.20 under-18; 4pm over 18 and veterans.

The Borough of Brent are holding their fun run for 11-18 years olds on Sunday at Willesden Stadium with the winners going on to compete in the London Mini Marathon.

Runners can register on the day. Turn up by 10am. The first race is at 10.30am.

Borough old boys return to Earlsmead

HARROW Borough old boys Mark Pye, Martin St Hilaire and Andy Pape and ex-boss George Borg, all return to Earlsmead on Saturday with an Enfield side looking for maximum points to overhaul Hayes at the top of the table.

Apart from Tony Knight, who is waiting to start a two match ban, Borough should be at full strength for what should be an interesting encounter.

As **Edgware** consistently fail against struggling teams but raise their game against top sides, manager Jock McGleish is confidently predicting a victory over second in the table Thame on Saturday.

He has Steve Sailsman out, starting a two match ban and Peter Petrou is troubled by a back injury, but Steve Newing returns after missing the defeat at Tilbury.

Wembley go to Maidenhead on Saturday without Steve Lawrence who joins Paul Shields on the banned list.

Mark McGinty is doubtful with a calf strain, but there is good news about Andy O'Brien who came through a reserve game without any ill reaction to the knee injury which has kept him out of action since November. Kenny Page hopes to be fit following back problems and Kevin Murphy rejoins the squad after serving a suspension.

Rayners Lane face title favourites Endsleigh, needing to win to keep alive their own championship chances. Other than the two long term injury problems to Steve Cott and Stuart Howard, Lane have no new injury problems.

Saturday February 18
Diadora League Premier Div: Harrow Borough v Enfield (Earlsmead, 3pm).
Diadora League Div One: Maidenhead Utd v Wembley.
Diadora League Div Two: Edgware Town v Thame Utd (White Lion ground, 3pm).
Diadora League Div Three: Southall v Kingsbury Town.
Hellenic League: Rayners Lane v Endsleigh (Lucas Ave, 3pm).

Monday February 20
Football Combination: QPR v Watford (Earlsmead, 7pm).
Tuesday February 21
Middx Senior Cup: Edgware Town v Bedfont (White Lion ground, 7.30pm); Hendon v Harrow Borough.
Middx Charity Cup: Harefield Utd v Wembley.
Wednesday February 22
Beazer Homes League Southern Div: Wealdstone v Bury Town (The Warren, 7.45pm).

The latest league tables

DIADORA LEAGUE
Premier Division

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Hayes	25	16	7	2	43	20	55
Enfield	25	12	8	5	54	32	44
Slough T	23	12	7	4	48	33	43
Bromley	25	12	7	6	47	38	43
Dulwich Hamlet	27	12	6	9	49	45	42
Harrow Boro	26	12	4	10	43	49	40
Carshalton	27	12	4	11	47	49	40
Aylesbury Utd	20	12	3	5	44	22	39
St Albans City	23	11	6	6	66	51	39
Yeading	24	9	8	7	44	41	35
Grays Ath	27	8	10	9	38	41	34
Walton & H	24	8	8	8	49	44	32
Molesey	24	9	5	10	38	37	32
Purfleet	25	8	8	9	47	51	32
Bishops St	27	7	8	12	38	58	29
Hendon	26	7	7	12	33	44	28
Kingstonian	24	7	6	11	36	42	27
Hitchin	22	6	8	8	35	40	26
Sutton Utd	25	6	6	13	35	41	24
Chesham Utd	23	6	5	12	37	46	23
Marlow	25	3	8	14	27	54	17
Wokingham T	23	4	3	16	23	52	15
Division One							
Boreham Wood	25	19	3	3	56	26	60
Chertsey T	25	14	6	5	75	29	48
Worthing	24	12	7	5	53	26	43
Staines	26	11	9	6	51	34	42
Basingstoke	27	11	9	7	59	46	42
Maidenhead	28	12	6	10	55	54	42
Whyteleafe	26	11	5	10	40	47	38
Billericay	24	11	4	9	35	34	37
Aldershot T	25	11	3	11	42	33	36
Wokingham	27	9	9	9	44	46	36
Tooting & Mitch	25	8	11	6	33	25	35
Newbury T	26	8	11	7	38	33	35
Abingdon Town	23	9	7	7	35	34	34
Uxbridge	26	8	7	11	34	44	31
Leyton	25	8	5	12	36	44	29
Bognor Regis	22	7	7	8	39	38	28
Basking	24	8	4	12	43	50	28
Ruislip Man	25	6	9	10	40	50	27
Heybridge Sw	22	7	5	10	37	42	26
Wivenhoe	27	7	5	15	34	59	26
Berkhamsted	25	6	6	12	25	44	24
Dorking	23	2	2	19	20	69	8
Division Two							
Barton Rovers	27	18	4	5	64	31	58
Thame Utd	28	18	3	7	57	34	57
Witham	26	14	5	7	53	33	47
Oxford C	25	13	6	6	50	28	45
Bradwell	24	12	7	5	53	26	43
Saffron Walden	26	12	7	7	44	36	43
Croydon	25	13	1	11	52	36	40
Chalfont St P	25	10	9	6	39	30	39
Met Police	27	10	8	9	40	45	38
Edgware Town	26	10	7	9	40	34	37
Hampton	26	11	4	11	46	54	37
Banstead Ath	25	10	5	10	38	44	35
Ware	26	10	2	14	35	48	32
Leatherhead	24	7	9	8	33	43	30
Chesham	26	7	9	10	38	53	30
Windsor	25	7	5	13	37	41	26
Tilbury	21	7	4	10	32	40	25
Hemel Hemp	25	6	7	12	26	36	25
Aveley	26	7	4	15	27	50	25
Egham Town	24	6	6	12	36	42	24
Hungerford	23	6	4	13	26	42	22
Maidon Vale	22	1	6	15	22	54	9
Division Three							
Northwood	27	17	5	5	56	29	56
Camberley T	25	13	6	6	36	21	45
Canvey Is	20	14	1	5	40	23	43
Collier R	18	13	2	3	39	14	41
Bedford T	24	11	7	6	55	35	40
Southall	22	11	5	6	31	31	38
Leighton	24	10	6	8	37	30	36
Harlow	24	10	5	9	37	50	35
Hornchurch	24	9	5	10	36	42	32
Kingsbury T	21	9	7	5	39	36	31
Hanfield Utd	21	9	4	8	32	30	31
Clapton	22	8	6	8	48	37	30
Horsham	21	9	3	9	38	39	30
Hertford Town	22	8	6	8	38	39	30
Tring Town	23	8	5	10	39	36	29
Epsom & Ewell	19	6	6	7	31	32	24
Flackwell Hth	24	7	3	14	37	57	24
Feltham & Hounsl	23	6	3	14	38	54	21
East Thurrock	23	6	3	14	30	60	21
Lewes	26	4	3	19	24	70	15
Cove	19	2	3	14	21	36	9

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE
Southern Division

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Baldock	24	16	4	4	51	29	52
Waterlooville	21	16	3	2	45	13	51
Salisbury	22	16	2	4	49	20	50
Weymouth	26	13	8	5	43	24	47
Havant	20	14	2	4	39	16	44
Ashford Town	23	12	7	4	54	31	43
Margate	23	11	3	9	37	37	36
Clevedon	23	9	7	7	42	29	34
Weston Super M	23	9	7	7	44	34	34
Witney T	24	11	7	6	35	27	34
Tonbridge	23	9	6	8	46	54	33
Newport IOW	22	10	2	10	41	42	32
Wealdstone	26	9	4	12	43	46	31
Fisher 93	22	6	7	9	28	32	25
Erith & Bel	25	6	6	13	33	51	24
Braintree	24	5	8	11	36	46	23
Bury Town	25	6	3	16	38	60	21
Poole Town	23	6	2	15	33	46	20
Yate	24	4	8	12	24	47	20
Bashley	16	3	7	6	19	18	16
Burnham	25	4	4	17	24	58	16
Fareham T	21	2	3	16	18	55	9

Towers miss their league chance

WITH Budweiser Basketball League leaders Sheffield Sharks losing to Manchester Giants, London Towers squandered a golden opportunity to close the gap at the top of the table when they suffered an 83-81 defeat at the hands of Doncaster Panthers at Wembley Court on Sunday.

Early on the Towers led by a commanding 15 points and they kept in front for all but the last crucial five minutes. Then the Panthers edged ahead - and stayed there.

In the final minute Anthony Joseph sealed victory for the visitors from the free throw line after an intentional foul by Tony Windless. That took the score to 83-78, but it was the 31 point haul of Fite that had powered the Panthers home.

Windless, who top scored for the Towers with 27 points, scored a three pointer right on the final buzzer but it was too little, too late.

Doncaster's win takes them into clear second place in the table, 10 points behind Sheffield, while the Towers drop down to fourth place.

Tonight (Thursday) Towers are at home to Derby Bucks at Wembley, tip off 8pm, and on Sunday they pay a return visit to Doncaster, tip off 5.30pm.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE

	p	w	l	f	a	pts
Sheffield	26	24	2	2022	1694	48
Doncaster	23	19	4	2017	1834	38
Thames V	24	18	6	2253	1985	36
London T	24	17	7	2071	1844	34
Manchester	24	17	7	2067	1823	34
Leopards	24	15	9	2129	1936	30
Worthing	23	12	11	2019	1980	24
Birmingham	24	10	14	2027	2023	20
Derby	24	8	18	1955	2104	12
Hemel	28	6	22	2232	2655	12
Leicester	21	6	15	1995	1805	12
Chester	24	3	21	1903	2191	6
Sunderland	22	3	19	1703	2185	6

New Charity Cup date

WEALDSTONE'S Middlesex Charity Cup match at Ruislip Manor on Monday was called off because of a waterlogged Grove-ner Vale pitch. The game has been rescheduled for Monday February 27 at Ruislip.

The scheduled friendly for Stones at East Thurrock this Saturday has also been called off.

Harrow Borough's Middlesex Senior Cup game at Hendon, which also fell victim to the weather, will now be played this Tuesday, as will the Edgware v Bedfont game in the same competition, and Wembley's Middlesex Charity Cup match at Harefield, which were also called off.

Gane sacked

FORMER Wealdstone boss, Alan Gane, was sacked by Sutton United last Monday after the struggling Diadora Premier Division club were beaten 1-0 in their FA Trophy replay at Bath City.

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