

SPORT

Move blow for Stones

Tribunal rejects their case for switch to Diadora

THE door has been firmly closed on Wealdstone's efforts to move across the non league pyramid to the Diadora League.

On Tuesday the Tribunal of the Pyramid Committee upheld the Beazer Homes League's decision to refuse to accept their resignation and, barring a successful appeal, the club's hopes of achieving a considerable financial saving by joining a more localised competition appear to be dead and buried.

Stones chairman Paul Rumens, directors Quentin Fox and Graham Sharpe and general manager Kip Hewitt represented the club at the hearing in the Merchant Navy Hotel, next to the FA headquarters at Lancaster Gate.

But their pleas of financial hardship caused by Beazer Homes membership fell on deaf ears. The three-man tribunal, chaired by John Young of the Football Association, ruled in favour of the

By John Comfort

Beazer Homes League, who were represented by the League chairman, Doug Gillard.

The Beazer Homes League had offered two options to Wealdstone for acceptance of their resignation, a straight swap with a Diadora League Division One club or to rejoin the pyramid in the bottom division of a feeder league to the Diadora.

The first was ruled out due to the obvious lack of interest by Diadora clubs and the second was deemed unacceptable. Stones were prepared to drop two divisions in order to join Diadora Division Three, but dropping four divisions was clearly out of the question.

Said Wealdstone director Graham Sharpe: "We had a fair hearing, but the outcome was not entirely unexpected. We

know how difficult it was going to be to get an organisation to rule against one of its own leagues, so we were prepared for it to go against us. It was not an overwhelming shock."

There is a right of appeal and Wealdstone seem certain to take it. "We are bloodied but not yet beaten," said Mr Sharpe. "The decision was a smack in the face but we're returning to lick our wounds and will come out fighting in the next round. We will go through the appeals system, present our case and hope for a more sympathetic hearing."

However, in the meantime, the tribunal's decision does nothing to help Wealdstone's future financial stability.

"We've now got to get back to the drawing board and assess the implications of the decisions because we can't go on like this," said Mr Sharpe. "We will just be frittering away money that we have put by for a permanent home."

Wasps have say in who goes down



● Matt Greenwood powers through a Bristol tackle in Saturday's match at Sudbury.

WASPS will have a major say in the Courage League Division One relegation issue on Saturday when they travel to Northampton, writes Alan Bodenham.

If they win, bottom of the table Saints will be playing Second Division rugby next season and bitter London rivals Harlequins will be saved.

Quite an irony, because as anyone who has been in the Sudbury clubhouse on a Saturday night knows, news of a Quins defeat is always greeted with huge cheers.

There will be no room for sentiment at Franklin's Car-park however. Wasps must keep winning, just in case Leicester or Bath slip up. After last weekend's titanic struggle

at Welford Road, that is quite possible. The bruising contest must have sapped the resources of both sides.

Rob Andrew returns to the Wasps line up on Saturday to begin his preparation for the Pilkington Cup Final. Damian Hopley will sit this game out though, as will skipper Dean Ryan. Ryan's absence gives another chance to the highly promising Peter Scrivenner.

Winger Shane Royser, injured at Sale, is out but is expected to be fit to face Orrell.

Wasps will be running special coaches to the Pilkington Cup Final, leaving Sudbury between 10.30am and 11am on the big day. The cost is £5 return. For bookings phone Don Fowler on 0181-866-4246.

Glen's case is shot to pieces by sad Lions

Wembley 0 Ruislip Manor 3
WEMBLEY boss Glen Charles must have wished he'd chosen a more appropriate match than this one to offer a scathing attack on local journalists in his programme notes, writes John Comfort.

It seems we have failed to herald the dawn of a new Wembley era and not offered sufficient recognition for his team's achievements.

Having declared himself to be 'elate' at the way the team is performing' it must therefore have been somewhat galling for Glen that this self-same team should then rip his case to shreds with the most pitiful of performances.

The manager says he is not asking for favours or fabricated reporting. Well, he is not getting any. When a team plays well, we say they played well. When they play badly, we say they played badly.

Sorry, Glen, but on Monday Wembley were bad - exceptionally bad!

They were given the run-around by a Manor side that belied their lowly league position and victory for the visitors was well merited. And had it not been for inadequate finishing, the margin would have been acutely embarrassing for the Lions.

For the record, Paul Ripley opened Manor's account on 30 minutes, shooting home off a post after Wembley had been caught cold by a quickly taken free kick.

The unmarked Steve Scott headed in the second two minutes before the break and he also scored Manor's third from the penalty spot, 19 minutes into the second half, after being brought down in the area by Charlie Flaherty.

Wembley: Fanner, Flaherty, Holtgate, Cain (Willcox), Shields, Daly, Vaiga, Lawrence, Smith, McKinley, Graddol. Other subs: Murphy, Cumberland.

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Injury time goal thwarts Edgware

Hemel Hempstead 2 Edgware Town 2

EDGWARE contrived to give two points away by conceding a last-gasp goal in a game that they had largely dominated on Monday, writes Tom Hooks.

In an even first half Hemel had the ball in the net on 40 minutes following a goal-mouth scramble, but had it

ruled out, and Edgware made the most of this let off by taking the lead right on half time. Paul Ferry won the ball through sheer persistence and a good pass set Steve Newing free. His perfect cross was clear of the Hemel defence and allowed Paul Dale to walk the ball into the net.

Hemel wasted no time getting level, scoring with the first opportunity of the second half, a poor clearance falling to Endacott whose shot appeared to mesmerise Griffiths.

However, Edgware responded admirably and three minutes later were back in front when a Newing corner was flipped on at the near post by Brennan and beat the keeper.

Although Edgware had another let off when Halbert's lob hit the bar, they should have made the game safe long before Halbert's injury time goal gave Hemel a point.

Edgware: Griffiths, Christodoulou, Mangan, P. Ferry, A. Dale (Roche), P. Dale, Brennan, Instone (Sue), John, Newing, Finnerty.

Stones secure best of season

Burnham 0 Wealdstone 4

INJURY hit Stones put Saturday's defeat by Havant quickly behind them by achieving their biggest league win of the season on Monday, writes Graham Smith.

The first half was surprisingly goalless, although Richard Buzaglio twice went close in the opening 10 minutes, then Roddy Brathwaite shot straight at Dilly with only the keeper to beat.

Burnham's Jones hit a post and later Gerry Solomon had to head Goodfitt's effort off the line.

Although they lost Brathwaite with a hamstring injury at the break, it took Stones just a minute of the second half to take the lead.

Simon Quail's chip shot beat Dilly and was headed off the line by Chandler, but only as far as Buzaglio who headed it back into the net.

10 minutes later Steve Browne put Mark Biggins clear and he turned inside and hit a low shot past Dilly to make it 2-0. Browne got Stones' third from the penalty spot after 63 minutes when Jarvis pushed Marvin Hall in the box.

Burnham then had ex-Stones player Paul Swales sent off for a second bookable offence and right on time another Steve Browne through ball had defender Mikurenda in trouble and with Buzaglio snapping at his heels, he fired past his own keeper to complete the scoring.

Shouts of 'bring on Dermot Drummy' in the latter stages from one part of the ground fell on deaf ears for Stones had already done more than enough.

Wealdstone: Franklin, M. Brown, Solomon, Birch, Milne, Hall, S. Browne, R. Buzaglio, Brathwaite (Hudson), Quail, Biggins. Other subs: Drummy, D. Hill.

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Borough bid to halt Slough

HARROW Borough could effectively end Slough's slender hopes of snatching the Diadora League title away from Enfield if they are successful in Saturday's clash at Earlsmead.

Manager Harry Manoe should have an injury free squad to select from but will be without John Hurlock who is suspended for one game for accumulated bookings.

Kenny Page, Youssef Sakharoui and Wayne Walters are struggling with injuries and are all doubtful for Wembley's visit to Slough.

Wealdstone have several injury problems for the visit of Weston Super Mare to the Warren on Saturday.

Tommy Mason has his leg injury in plaster and will miss

the rest of the season and there are doubts over Mark Hill, John Shanahan, Rod Brathwaite and Rod Findley.

However, Darren O'Neill is available after missing Monday's win at Burnham.

Kingsbury Town striker Nelson Kuntz is still recovering from a broken blood vessel in his leg and is unlikely to

be fit for Saturday's visit to East Thurrock.
Rayners Lane visit Wantage Town but although they won the home fixture 5-0, their rivals have shown improved form since then and Lane expect a difficult task as they will be without the suspended Bird and Woodward and the injured Matthews.

The latest league tables

DIADORA LEAGUE Premier Division		Division Two	
Enfield	37 24 9 5 82 41 80	Newbury T.	38 12 14 12 57 60 50
Hemel	37 22 11 5 89 37 71	Barnet	38 11 7 19 65 72 46
Slough T.	36 19 10 8 66 45 67	Bognor Regis	36 11 12 12 52 51 45
Aylesbury Utd.	35 19 12 12 59 37 71	Bedford	35 11 12 12 52 51 45
Mossley	37 18 7 12 61 50 81	Leyton	37 11 10 16 58 59 43
Kingston	36 17 10 11 60 50 80	Wokingham	36 8 20 46 30 30
St Albans City	36 14 12 10 67 59 80	Dorset	36 2 33 35 150 9
Carshalton	36 15 8 15 80 50 53	Thames Utd.	37 26 9 8 82 43 81
Hilsham	36 13 11 11 55 54 51	Barnet Rovers	36 12 7 18 44 77 33
Hemel Strat.	37 18 8 16 88 81 81	Bradford	36 20 9 7 78 44 69
Dulwich Hamlet	37 14 8 15 80 71 50	Diadora League Div Three:	
Purfleet	36 13 10 11 61 50 80	East Thurrock v Kingsbury Town	
Yeading	36 12 10 11 67 62 47	Beazer Homes League South-	
Cray A.S.	36 12 10 11 67 62 47	ern Div: Wealdstone v Weston	
Hendon	36 11 12 15 50 59 45	Super Mare (The Warren, 3pm)	
Stratford St.	36 11 10 11 51 74 40	Helletic League: Wantage	
Sutton Utd.	36 11 8 17 57 57 41		
Chesham Utd.	36 8 9 18 52 75 33		
Melton	36 8 9 18 52 75 33		
Wokingham T.	37 8 5 26 35 80 22		

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