

SPORT

Cup triumph for Borough as Stones let chance slip by

Harrow Borough 3 Wealdstone 1
MEETINGS between the borough's two fiercest and most bitter rivals have followed a decidedly familiar pattern in recent years and Sunday's first ever Harrow Senior Cup Final stuck faithfully to the script as Borough gained another significant triumph over the Stones, writes John Comfort.

The clinical finishing of the Earlsmead outfit was the decisive factor in this 44th encounter between the clubs.

While Wealdstone had a more than ample share of the game, and certainly had more chances, they were sadly lacking in front of goal and were left to reflect on what might have been, as well as the fact that it is now some 10 years since they last got the better of Borough, in a Middlesex Senior Cup tie in 1985.

It was a fast and furious game. In the first half Lee Teckell's low shot for Stones had David Hook diving to turn the ball away, while at the other end a deflection kept out Dwane Ackerman's close range effort.

With 23 minutes gone it was Borough who drew first blood. Uche Egbu's perfect through ball beat the Wealdstone offside trap and Mark Xavier raced through to lob over the advancing Peter Bullerman into the net.

Stones hit back with Steve Fraser being put through but denied by Dave Sue's last-ditch challenge and Rod Brathwaite's follow up was blocked.

Then Fraser blazed over from close in and Hook bravely dived at the same player's feet to save after finishing a blistering 20 yarder from Brathwaite.

Another close chance wide, but Stones had a let off when Eamon O'Connor's well struck free kick from fully 35 yards was turned onto the bar and over by Bullerman.

Soon after Brathwaite was put clear at the other end by Marskell but fired wide, and within minutes he was sent free again, this time by Fraser, but Hook came out to block the ball away.

Hook repeated that feat again to deny Fraser but the goal Stones threatened finally came in the 69th minute.

Fraser put Troy Birch clear and although Hook came out to block his shot away, the ball was played back through to Birch and he made no mistake with his second effort.

Tenkorang's flying save prevented Mark Biggins from regaining the lead but on 79 minutes the tide turned back

in Borough's favour when their former player, Ben Marskell, brought down Metcalfe in the area and Metcalfe got up to net from the spot.

The Wealdstone heads visibly sunk after that and Borough put the issue beyond doubt two minutes from time when Xavier headed home their third goal at the far post from Paul McKay's deep cross.

At the final whistle Borough received the cup from the Mayor of Harrow, Cllr Stephen Giles-Medhurst.

The man of the match award went to Borough defender Dave Sue.

Harrow Borough: Hook, McKay, O'Connor (Palmer), Court, Sue, Hurlock (Metcalfe), Robinson, Biggins, Egbu (Seabrook), Xavier, Ackerman (Enderby).

Wealdstone: Bullerman (Tenkorang), Marskell, F. Moore, Bhaile, Shanahan, Yates, Walton, Tekell (Sheldrick), Brathwaite (Boreham), Fraser, Troy Birch.



© Harrow Borough skipper, David Hook, receives the Harrow Senior Cup from Harrow Mayor, Cllr Stephen Giles-Medhurst.

Stones reveal new home plan

Stadium is part of £2m multi-sports complex

HOMELESS Wealdstone FC, who have been ground sharing for the past four years since the sale of Lower Mead, are planning a new ground of their own on the allotments site off the Ridgeway in West Harrow.

Under the umbrella name of Harrow Sports 2000, a proposed coalition of sporting groups, the club has submitted an outline planning application for a £2 million multi-use community sports and leisure complex on the site which will include a 3000 capacity stadium

with car parking for up to 500.

Administration offices, function rooms, restaurant, members bar, retail sports shop and a canteen are all planned within the stadium complex.

Also planned in the development is a multi-use sports hall which will include a fitness room and squash courts.

The four court hall will be capable of accommodating a wide variety of activities from badminton, basketball and short-mat bowls to volleyball,

gymnastics and martial arts.

A full sized floodlit artificial pitch is also planned, to be used primarily for football training, hockey, netball, tennis and cricket practice, and there will also be three full-sized floodlit tennis courts.

Space permitting, a number of auxiliary grass pitches will be provided which during the summer can be converted into a cricket pitch.

Cricket training areas and practice nets are also planned.

Wealdstone general manager, Kip Hewitt, who was set

the task of finding a new home for the club a year ago by Stones chairman, Paul Rumens, believes that he has now succeeded.

He said that although the club is the instigator of the project, it is intended that as well giving them a new home it will also provide facilities for a multitude of sports and recreational activities.

He said: "There is a great need for facilities such as these in Harrow and they will be open to all sections of the community.

"It is also intended to have them available for children and for youth training and coaching projects in partnership with the governing bodies of sport and local schools."

Although the major funder of the project, Wealdstone will also be seeking financial assistance from the National Lottery, the Sports Council and the Football Trust.

Plans for the complex are due to go before Harrow Council's planning sub-committee on September 7.

Lane put Wares on the spot again

Edgware Town 1 Raynere Lane 1
(Lane win 6-5 on pens)

PEINALTY shoot-outs are clearly not Edgware's forte as they proved on Sunday by losing their second one in successive games to hand Lane a surprise third place in the Harrow Senior Cup tournament.

They appeared set for victory after taking the lead in the 86th minute when Lane keeper Andy Bushkes left his line to flap away a Steve Newing corner and Michael Roche lofted the ball back over him into the roof of the net from 25 yards out.

But in the very last minute referee John Smith awarded a controversial penalty to Lane, allegedly for Seamus Finnerty holding down Tony Verni in the roof of the net from 25 yards out.

Roland Matthews netted from the spot to take the 3rd

place play-off into a penalty decider.

Lane's first effort by Verni was well saved by keeper Lee Ward but later another sad effort from Gerry Brennan against an upright wiped out Edgware's advantage and it went to sudden death.

Bird and Spires then netted for Lane with Petrov scoring for Edgware but when Stuart Collins put Town's seventh kick into orbit, it left Jack McGleish's men unexpectedly holding the tournament wooden spoon.

The man of the match award went to lively Lane midfielder Paul Santos.

Edgware: Ward, Christodoulou, Angin, Finnerty, Collins, Hurd (Brennan), Dale, Roche, Dunning (Coleman), Newing, Murphy (Petrov).

Raynere: Lane: R and A (Bushkes), McKay (Creagan), Rice, Matthews, Smith (Haigh), Jobb (Anderson), Bird, Spires, Harris (Verni), Santos, Metcalfe.

Lions to kick off without suspended trio

THE season proper starts for Wembley on Saturday with the manager's fears about the lack of strength in his squad already rearing their ugly head.

The Lions will be without three players as they head to Whyteleafe for their opening League fixture - one of a handful of ICS League games that are being prematurely staged for the benefit of the football gods.

Steve Lawrence, Ian Bates, and his brother John, signed from Southall, are all sidelined by suspensions. "We're ready to go - we've got to be," said Glen

Charles "but we suspensions have brought back my fears about our lack of strength in depth."

However, there is good news for the boss in that Ashley Cumberbatch, who missed the end of last season through injury, is back to full fitness and is set to claim a place in the side for Saturday.

Wembley had their final pre-season friendly on Tuesday night against neighbours Edgware Town and had a comfortable 3-0 win. Mark McGinty, John Bates and Youssef Sakhraoui were the goalscorers.

Friday August 11 Harrow Borough v Weymouth (7.30pm)
Saturday August 12 ICS League Div One: Whyteleafe v Wembley Suffolts: Edgware Town v Whyteleafe (8.30pm) Stamons, 3pm; Raynere Lane v Whyteleafe (Lucas Ave, 3pm); Wealdstone v Chipstead (White Lion ground, 3pm)
Sunday August 13 Harrow Borough v Weymouth; Edgware Town v Harrow (White Lion ground, 7.30pm); Raynere Lane v Wembley (Lucas Ave, 7pm)

Croad signs for Stones

EXPERIENCED defender Steve Croad, has signed for Wealdstone.

Croad captained both the Southall and Yeading teams taken to the FA Vase Final at Wembley by Stones manager Gordon Bartlett, and, following a spell at Molesey last season, he agreed on Tuesday night to link up again with his old boss.

"I'm very pleased that he's joined us," said Bartlett. "He's an experienced defender and it's an area I felt we needed to strengthen."

Also signed are powerful midfielder Neil Yates, who was formerly with Barton Ro-

vers, ex-Kingsbury full back James Moore and former Harrow Borough forward Gavin Hart. Star striker Rod Brathwaite has also agreed to resign.

Wealdstone gave an encouraging display in beating ICS League Premier Division side Molesey by 4-0 on Tuesday night, goals coming from Marvin Hall 2, Rod Brathwaite and ex-Kingsbury striker Mark Ivers.

"We're progressing gradually and I'm pleased with the commitment and performance of the side," said Bartlett. "The hard work now will pay dividends in the season."

And there was praise from the boss for the supporters, particularly those who cheered Wealdstone's efforts in the Harrow Senior Cup tournament at the weekend.

"They were superb," he said. "They really lift the players."

Wealdstone: Tenkorang (Wilk), Marskell (Troy Birch), F. Moore, Bhaile (J. Hart), Shanahan, K. Boreham (G. Boreham), Tekell (G. Hart), Hall, Brathwaite, Yates, Ivers.

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Metcalfe injury blow for Borough

HARROW Borough have suffered an early blow to their hopes for the new season after losing Christian Metcalfe with a broken toe in their 4-2 defeat by Barnet in a friendly at Earlsmead on Tuesday night.

The injury could keep the talented midfielder out for up to six weeks.

Borough dominated the first half of the game with Jason Court thudding a header against the bar before they took a 24th minute lead when Lee Enderby's jinking run was ended by Hamlet's challenge and Brian Jones scored from the resulting penalty.

Tomlinson headed Barnet level in the 49th minute and further goals from Brady and Smith

put the visitors 3-1 up before good work by Enderby and Hurlock led to Darren Seabrook shooting home Borough's second goal after 72 minutes.

An injury time goal by Tomlinson completed the scoring and gave the visitors a rather-flattering margin of victory.

Harrow Borough: Hook, McKay, Palmer, Court, Jones, Hurlock, Biggins, Metcalfe (Williams), Egbu (Eko-ku), Xavier (Seabrook), Enderby.

© HARROW Borough are quoted at 40/1 to win the ICS League Premier Division Championship by bookmakers William Hill. Favourites are Yeovil at 9/4 with last season's champions, Enfield, second favourites at 100/30.

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