

SPORT

Stones suffer £249,971 loss

Huge deficit blamed on 'exceptional expenditure'

A MASSIVE £249,971 loss will be shown in Wealdstone FC's accounts when they are revealed tonight (Thursday) at the club's annual general meeting.

Having lost over £2m in a disastrous two year spell at Watford, Stones are no strangers to big money deficits, but the size of this loss, compared to a loss of £81,929 the previous year, is certain to leave club chairman Paul Rumens and his board of directors facing a barrage of hostile questions from club members and shareholders.

They will also be concerned at the disclaimer in the auditors' report, made as the auditors were unable, due to limitation of evidence available, to form an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs.

The accounts cover the financial year ending July 31 1995 and take in the last year of their ground sharing arrangement with Yeading and their final season in the Beazer Homes League.

Mr Rumens says the substantial loss "graphically illustrates why the decisions to relocate back into Harrow and transfer to the ICS League were taken."

He added: "I'm not happy about the loss but without the normal income non-league clubs depend on of bar and other money making opportunities, the club was always going to lose money. It is just a question of how much. However, there were areas of exceptional expenditure which will be explained at the agm."

Significant among that 'exceptional' expenditure were payouts totalling £43,638 to former club secretary Peter Braxton and ex-manager Brian Hall. Both were made redundant soon after the club went into administration in 1992.

Other large sums spent were £30,000 in professional fees, predominantly administrator's fees, the £25,000 cost of ground sharing at Yeading, a hefty £35,000 on players' wages and £25,000 in wages, architect's fees and ancillary costs for new general manager Kip Hewitt, whose brief is to find a new home for the club.

Mr Rumens said he personally negotiated the settlements with Hall and Braxton, "which was less than we were expecting."

He defended the size of the wages bill, splashed out in the season after Stones finished bottom but one in the Beazer Southern Division and only avoided relegation

because another club dropped out.

"We'd had years of grief and we took it upon ourselves to give Fred Callaghan a decent budget in the hope we could put out a decent team and give some sort of reward back to the supporters. But it went wrong and I can't legislate for what goes on in the park."

On the employment of a general manager, Mr Rumens said: "It's very straightforward, if we don't get a new home the club will fold. Kip has been taken on for the sole purpose of finding us one and his costs are less than a third of those of employing a qualified consultant. I'm happy with what he's done so far."

On the auditors' disclaimer, there is nothing untoward said Mr Rumens. It relates to an outstanding loan from Harrovian plc.

Whether the chairman's explanations will satisfy Wealdstone members remains to be seen.

But with club trustee, Les Hobbs, calling for the board to step down over the big loss, and claiming that the auditors' disclaimer is 'a warning' to shareholders, it is certain that tonight's agm will not pass off quietly.



● Wealdstone chairman Paul Rumens - it was a year of "exceptional expenditure."

London Towers bid for second trophy triumph

TWO impressive Budweiser League wins over Sheffield Sharks in recent weeks will give the London Towers a major boost when they take on their rivals in the final of the Classic Cola National Cup on Sunday at the Sheffield Arena, tip off 4.30pm.

However, Sheffield have stunned several teams this season by stepping up a gear after the interval, so the Towers, who are bidding for their second trophy of the season, will have to watch their backs in this game.

Said Towers coach Kevin Cadle: "I feel we have the best two teams in the League and it's a showcase final. The

Sharks are one of the few teams in the League we can get really motivated about. I don't have to get my guys pumped up to do what they have to do."

Towers are at Wembley Arena for their first home game against the Leopards and all tickets are reduced to £3. Call the Towers hotline on 0171-722-6677.

Double Dutch decision points way out for Town

Kingsbury Town 1 Ruislip Manor 2

KINGSBURY were understandably less than happy that giant Manor goalkeeper Paul Holland was the prime cause of their demise in the Middlesex Charity Cup on Tuesday night, writes John Comfort.

For they quite correctly felt that after the 15th minute he shouldn't even have been on the pitch to make the series of fine saves which denied Town what would have been a deserved place in the quarter finals.

It was at that point that Holland hauled down Town striker Vernon Nelson as he broke clear for goal. Referee Dave Buckering of Enfield awarded the obvious penalty but he failed miserably in his duty by not implementing the sending off that was also clearly required.

Holland was beaten by Nelson Kumah from the spot kick but the keeper then proceeded to keep his side in the game - and ultimately won it for them.

Job Hughes got round Holland two minutes after Town's opener but blazed wide, while Niall O'Rourke, Kumah and Graham Ash were all thwarted by good saves from the keeper.

However, while Holland was shining, ironically it was an error by his opposite number Darren Bonfield that gave Manor an equaliser on 38 minutes. He came out for a Keith Cooper cross and missed it, and Terry Flaherty headed towards goal for Paul Cooper to bundle the ball over the line.

Kingsbury dominated the second half but had little to show for their efforts. A mazy run by Kumah saw him beat three defenders but not Holland, and when Niall O'Rourke again put Kumah clear, the keeper parried his shot away.

With 10 minutes remaining Manor stole the lead when Paul Cooper beat Bonfield with a low angled shot and although the visitors were then reduced to 10 men by the sending off of Reg Leather for his second bookable offence, they held out to the final whistle.

But not without the aid of Holland. His flying save denied Jason Zazera and in the dying seconds he somehow kept out another close range effort from the luckless Kumah.

Kingsbury: Bonfield, Loughlin, Zazera, Gower, Stewart, Morris, N. O'Rourke, Ash, Hughes (Ford), Kumah, Nelson (D. O'Rourke). Other sub: Leslie.

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Paul puts Borough in Cup semis

Uxbridge 0 Harrow Borough 1

PAUL Fishenden's 73rd minute goal on Tuesday saw Borough progress through into the semi-finals of the Middlesex Senior Cup where they will face Premier Division rivals Hayes away on March 12, writes Tony Booth.

Boosted for this replay by the presence of Lee Enderbery, who had been on standby for the England semi-pro team on the same night, Borough were deserved winners, despite the narrow margin.

The first half was evenly contested but

finished goalless despite the numerous chances created. The hosts forced David Hook to make saves, particularly good saves, palming away Cleary's shot, holding Gill's drive and nonchalantly catching Nartey's header one-handed.

At the other end Dave Clarke, Mark Xavier and Chris Metcalfe all went close before Borough's best chance on the stroke of half time, Brian Jones sending Nko Ekoku racing clear only for his shot to fly past the far post.

Borough lost the injured Enderbery at

the break and Fishenden replaced him for a second half that Borough dominated.

A Metcalfe header was deflected wide, Ekoku shot just wide then Fishenden headed onto the bar from a Jones cross.

But ultimately the former Football League striker's prowess in the air proved decisive. Ekoku made ground down the left and his precision cross was firmly headed inside the near post by the towering Fishenden for the match winner.

Harrow Borough: Hook, Fraser, James, Court, Dowie, Clarke, Jones, Metcalfe, Ekoku, Xavier, Enderbery (Fishenden). Other subs: Marshall, Ellis.

England have Lee on standby

HARROW Borough midfielder Lee Enderbery was on standby for the England semi-pro team for their match with Ireland at Kidderminster on Tuesday evening.

England's next game is against Holland in April and Borough are hoping that Lee will go one better and make the squad.

Wealdstone facing vital six-pointer

WEALDSTONE face what manager Gordon Bartlett calls 'our most vital game of the season' when they visit promotion rivals Windsor on Saturday.

Revenge for the 5-1 defeat they suffered at home, a result that was totally false, will be the priority with the race to go up getting decidedly tight.

"We've got a mountain to climb but we owe it to our selves and our supporters to give it our best shot," said Bartlett. "We've been under achieving for far too long."

Stones expect to have Lee

Tekell (thigh) and Roy Marshall (groin) fit in injuries while Paul Sheldrick, Steve Fraser, Tony Smith and Ian Waugh will all be knocking on the door for places.

Lee Enderbery is doubtful with a calf injury and Frank Appiah, who has a thigh strain, is definitely out for Harrow Borough's home game with Sutton United.

Struggling Wembley play host to Billerica on Saturday with suspensions once again hampering Glen Charles' team selection. Jon-Barrie Bates, Ian Bates, Wayne Walters,

John Granville and Paul Shields are all banned.

Youssef Sakhraoui and Bryan Hammatt return after suspension while Gavin Chid, Sofiane Sardi, Steve Lawrence and Ashley Lumberbary are added to the squad. Latest signings include striker Robbie Drake from Leyton Pennant, who was once on Arsenal's books, and midfielder Tony Pannou, formerly with Northwood and Hertford.

Edgware, whose Middlesex Charity Cup tie with Staines was postponed on Tuesday, play host to Bracknell on Saturday. They should have John Shanahan back after illness which forced him to miss the win at Cheshunt, while Danny Buckley is available for selection after completing his lengthy ban.

The latest League tables

ICS LEAGUE Premier Division		Wembley		Division Two	
pts	g	pts	g	pts	g
Enfield	27	14	6	51	19
St Albans City	24	18	5	50	22
Dulwich Hamlet	26	16	3	58	33
Revolutions	26	15	7	57	41
Kingsnorth	27	14	5	42	20
Bromham Wood	26	13	5	39	20
Hayes	26	13	4	40	20
Carshalton Ath	24	14	4	45	34
Harrow Borough	21	11	8	43	28
Sutton Ltd	28	11	8	47	38
Aylesbury United	27	11	6	41	26
Bishop's Cleeve	26	11	8	36	30
Chertsey Town	27	9	4	44	31
Hitchin	27	8	11	31	25
Yeading	28	10	13	24	35
Puffin	25	6	13	31	24
Milesley	26	5	17	21	19
Watton	28	4	16	23	18
Worthing	25	4	16	26	18
Hendon	25	7	14	35	25
Bromley	27	4	19	25	16
Orford City	24	18	4	51	31
Hybridge Sw	26	17	3	63	25
Aldershot	26	17	9	47	31
Linton Phoenix	27	13	5	46	34
Slarston Tn	26	11	9	52	41
Billerica	24	12	7	32	30
Bygones Reggs	22	6	17	43	26
Chesham Utd	29	10	10	36	29
Wokingham Tn	26	10	8	34	31
Beaconsfield	26	10	8	29	30
Uxbridge	25	11	11	47	36
Basingstoke Tn	26	11	8	42	32
Whitstable	26	11	9	47	31
Maidenhead	25	7	10	28	39
Thames Valley	26	11	11	43	29
Totting & Mitch	25	6	11	30	38
Barton Rovers	25	7	11	43	26
Albany Tn	27	5	16	42	22
Rushmore	25	7	14	35	25
Leighton Tn	25	18	4	3	67
Harlow	27	13	6	51	47
Widow & Eton v Wealdstone	21	14	4	35	25
Wellingborough	24	13	3	63	27
Wotton	25	13	4	38	23
East Thurrock	26	11	6	39	39
White Lion	26	11	6	36	39
Epson & Ewell	21	10	8	48	25
Kingbury Tn	25	10	8	48	25
Farnwell Tn	25	10	4	43	24
Tring Town	21	9	4	40	34
Claydon	24	7	13	32	25
Hertford Town	24	7	13	34	25
Cambridge Tn	22	7	13	31	25
Hertford Town	22	7	13	31	25
Southall	24	6	15	26	21
Northwood	22	6	15	26	21
Hereford	22	6	15	26	21
Swindon Town	22	6	15	26	21

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