

SPORT

Bates boys back to boost Lions

THE Bates brothers, Ian and Jon-Barrie, have completed their suspensions and will be back in action for Wembley in their home game with lowly Eggham on Saturday when maximum points for promotion seeking Lions will be a priority.

Also returning after being unavailable for the Edgware match is Sofiane Sardi, but Carlton Mitchell and Les Thompson are both still banned while Paul Shields is doubtful with a hamstring injury. There are question marks over the fit-

ness of both Ian Rutherford and Glynn Hooper for Harrow Borough's home game with St Albans, but Chris Metcalfe is likely to be back after injury. Borough have signed former Enfield and St Albans striker Trevor Wilkinson from local rivals Hendon.

Finnerty spot on as Wares deal another blow to Wembley's hopes

Edgware Town 1 Wembley 1
SEAMUS Finnerty's penalty for Edgware five minutes from time denied Wembley three much needed points in this derby clash on Monday and dealt a body blow to their promotion hopes, writes John Comfort.

With their rivals closing in all around them, the Lions are far from being the certainty to go up that they appeared just a month ago. Only wins will now do in a race that looks set to go to the wire.

Wembley boss Glen Charles had no complaints about the Edgware result. "I didn't think it was a penalty, but a draw was a fair result," he said.

He would certainly have been more than happy with a point after a first half which Edgware dominated but were sadly lacking in front of goal, and none more so than Steve Newing. Heading a Karl Thomas cross wide of an open goal from only two yards was a particularly notable achievement by the big striker.

Wares must have felt it wasn't going to be their day after Kevin Beckles acrobatically saved from Carl Lindo in the opening minutes of the second half, and that view seemed to be confirmed in the 67th minute when Wembley took the lead.

"How (expletive deleted) doest was that?" was Edgware boss Jock McGeish's comment as Steve Hurd needlessly fouled Anthony Carr. "Excrementally daft!" was the clear answer as Keith Boreham powerfully headed home from Shaun Fleming's free kick.

However, with time running out, Edgware drew level. Wayne Walters was deemed to have pulled back Lindo in the area and Finnerty rammed in the spot kick equaliser.

And there was further disappointment for Wembley in injury time when James Burgess was sent off for his second cautionable offence.

Edgware: Carter, Hurd, Lyons, Brennan, McCluskey, Finnerty, Valenti (Ivers), Lindo, Newing, Thomas, Kirby (Murphy). Other sub: Finch.

Wembley: Beckles, Cumberbatch, G. Boreham, Walters, Shields (Walsh), Burgess, Wilcock, Smith, K. Boreham, Carr (Ackerman), Fleming. Other sub: Ross.

WEALDSTONE FC BLUE RIBBON LOTTERY
Week 43
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Some neat ball juggling skills from Edgware's Carl Lindo as he holds off the challenge of Wembley defender Wayne Walters.



Wembley midfielder Hurracia Wilcock bars the way for Edgware's Karl Thomas. Pictures by Gareth Beard.

Stones out to make a point

Draw with Harlow will be enough to take Bartlett's boys up

By John Comfort

AFTER 11 years in soccer's wilderness, Wealdstone are on the brink of taking a significant step along the long road back to their glory days on Saturday when they face Harlow Town at the White Lion ground.

In one of the most important games in the club's recent history, just a point will be enough to ensure that Stones are promoted from Division Three of the ICIS League, a seemingly minor achievement, but one that will come as a breath of fresh air for a once proud club that has suffered innumerable body blows since they created non-league histo-

ry in 1985 by becoming the first club to win both the Conference and FA Trophy in the same season.

Wealdstone chairman, Paul Rumens, has no doubts about the importance of the Harlow clash. "It is massive," he said. "It is the first time in 11 years that we have been on the verge of winning something."

"The club is long overdue a turn of fortunes. We've gone through a lot of hard times and despite the problem of having no ground and losing money week after week, it looks as though we'll hopefully have something to smile about in long last."

With Harlow having lost on Monday at Northwood - Wealdstone's next opponents

on Tuesday night - they will be desperate for a result to revive their own-promotion hopes, a point not lost on Stones boss Gordon Bartlett.

"It's going to be a very difficult game but we've just got to carry on doing what we've been doing all season," he said. "If we play our game, Harlow won't worry me."

Bartlett watched the Northwood game and said Harlow were unlucky to lose. He picked out striker Dennis Greene as their dangerman. "He's probably the best player in the league and certainly the most difficult we've played

against," he said. "He's very strong and he scores plenty of goals."

Although his team only need a point for promotion, Bartlett hopes they will do it in style. "I hope we can do it with a win, but if it's a draw then so be it. But the sooner we get promotion, the sooner we can focus our attention on our priority - which is winning the championship."

Against Harlow Stones will be without striker Bryan Hammatt, who is suspended, but he will be back for the Northwood game. Peter Green, who has internal bleed-

ing in a leg injury, will also be missing, and there is an injury doubt about Steve Kelly.

Stuart Miller is expected to make his debut and Bartlett is hopeful that Steve Bircham will play after recovering from a hamstring injury.

Stones are hoping to get a crowd in excess of 500 for the game. To encourage more people to come along and support them the club is offering free admission to under 16 year olds, with the 'Free Football' coupon printed on this page. Any accompanying adults will also be admitted for half the normal admission price.

The joke's on the Wealdstone fans

WEALDSTONE supporters were busily ringing the club office on Monday to confirm a report on the club's soccerline that manager Gordon Bartlett had watched former Stones stars, George Duck and Charlie

Townsend, in a veterans match and been so impressed that he had added them to his squad for the game against Harlow. They only fell in after being reminded of the date - April 1.

Borough are made to pay for Paris blunder

Enfield 1 Harrow Borough 0
DESPITE a competent performance against championship aspirants Enfield on Monday, a single defensive error led to Borough losing out to a very disappointing home side in a poor game, writes Peter Rogers.

The guilty party was Borough player/coach, Alan Paris, who attempted to dribble out of defence only to be robbed with comparative ease by Lee Enderby. The ex-Borough favourite was forced wide of goal by keeper David Hook but was able to lay the ball off for Leroy May to roll it into an empty net from six yards.

The first half was a very dull affair with defences on top and Borough matching their esteemed rivals step for step. Hook, however, had to work harder than his Enfield



Alan Paris - crucial error.

counterpart, ex-Borough keeper Andy Pape, twice saving well from Shaun Marshall and then from Steve West.

For Borough, Glynn Hooper brought a good save from Pape and then headed

just over from a cross by Gerry Solomon.

Enfield appeared to be willing under the pressure of having to break the deadlock but the arrival of substitute Leroy May changed things and his strong running caused Borough problems.

However, it took a defensive error to allow the home side to get their noses in front.

But Borough were not going down without a fight and a period of sustained pressure saw Mark Xavier go close to an equaliser and Nko Ekoru fired just over from 20 yards.

However, Borough's commitment to attack left them susceptible to counter attacks and in the closing minutes Enfield crashed shots against the post and bar with Hook well beaten.

Harrow Borough: Hook, David Clarke, James (Issott), Court, Paris, Webster, Cooper (Wilkinson), Butler, Xavier, Hooper (Ekoru), Solomon.

Steve Newing starts a two match ban and will miss Edgware Town's visit to Banstead on Saturday.

Anthony Whytock, who is still away on holiday, and the injured John Mangan - who is likely to be out for another two weeks - will also be missing, but John Coleman is added to the Jock McGeish's squad.

Kingsbury Town's Steve Davis is still sidelined with a knee injury and Alex Butcher continues to deputise in goal for their match at Hornchurch.

Soccer fixtures

Saturday April 5
ICIS League Premier Div: Harrow Borough v St Albans City (Earlsmead, 3pm)
ICIS League Div Two: Banstead Ath v Edgware Town; Wembley v Eggham Town (Vale Farm, 3pm)
ICIS League Div Three: Hornchurch v Kingsbury Town; Wealdstone v Harlow Town (White Lion ground, 3pm)

Monday April 7
Football Combination: OPR v Bristol City (Earlsmead, 7pm)

Tuesday April 8
ICIS League Div Two: Collier Row & Romford v Edgware Town (7.45pm)
ICIS League Div Three: Wealdstone v Northwood (White Lion ground, 7.45pm)

Wednesday April 9
ICIS League Premier Div: Harrow Borough v Bishops Cleeve (Earlsmead, 7.30pm)

League tables

ICIS LEAGUE

Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil T.	31	23	9	3	62	28	78
Sutton Utd.	32	15	7	6	50	55	53
Yeading	33	12	7	46	34	54	45
St Albans C.	34	15	8	11	58	48	53
Aylesbury U.	35	8	10	50	40	53	33
Purfleet	37	15	10	12	59	55	53
Dulwich H.	35	14	10	10	54	46	50
Oxford C.	34	8	12	58	69	59	49
Kingstonian	37	14	7	16	69	70	48
Haywards	34	13	11	54	66	49	49
Dagenham	32	13	9	10	43	32	48
Carshalton	37	12	8	12	42	41	44
Boreham W.	32	12	8	12	55	59	44
Hitchin T.	35	13	5	17	55	54	44
Bromley	34	11	16	54	57	49	44
Harlow B.	36	9	12	15	48	55	39
Barnet	39	10	16	13	54	57	44
Hendon	35	7	12	16	58	54	33
Staines T.	34	6	7	19	38	56	31
Grays A.	36	7	19	34	60	28	28
Chertsey T.	36	6	5	25	31	87	23

Division Two

Leatherhead	24	23	5	6	93	40	74
Collier Row	31	19	9	6	68	24	70
Wembley	31	19	6	6	54	37	66
Barking	33	19	6	5	54	28	66
Hosking	33	18	6	6	47	37	63
Bedford T.	35	18	6	11	67	37	60
Leigham T.	36	15	11	9	59	42	59
Edgware T.	35	14	13	8	57	43	55
Wivenhoe T.	35	16	7	12	58	45	55
Ware	35	12	11	10	43	42	47
Hungerford	37	12	11	14	61	70	46
Widow	37	14	12	11	57	56	45
Barnet	29	14	4	11	55	40	47
Bracknell T.	35	13	15	6	62	46	46
Met Police	34	13	6	15	54	33	45
Tilbury	36	11	7	18	58	64	40
Waltham	36	10	8	18	38	60	38
Eggham T.	35	7	8	20	37	77	29
Widow	36	10	8	18	38	60	38
Cheshunt	36	7	2	27	33	88	23
Dorking	34	5	6	23	34	81	21
Hemel Hemp.	35	19	6	24	53	45	18

Division Three

Wealdstone	25	21	2	2	65	16	65
Brantford	27	19	4	4	81	26	61
Northwood	26	15	9	2	51	24	54
Harefield	26	15	4	7	47	49	49
Aveley	26	13	6	7	52	33	45
Widow	26	12	7	7	57	56	54
Cambridge	26	12	5	9	47	36	41
Kingsbury	26	10	8	6	12	46	51
Hertford	26	9	6	12	46	51	30
Wingate & F.	26	8	6	12	37	50	30
Claremont	24	8	5	11	21	35	25
Hornchurch	26	8	5	13	26	45	29
Leigham T.	26	7	14	52	49	28	28
Tring T.	26	7	3	16	25	24	24
Essex & H.	26	6	5	15	25	23	22
Epworth	24	6	4	14	46	33	22
Southall	27	4	3	20	21	61	15

FREE FOOTBALL FOR UNDER 16s AT WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB

Complimentary Ticket WEALDSTONE v HARLOW TOWN SATURDAY 5th APRIL 1997 3.00pm at the White Lion Ground, High Street, Edgware. Come along and celebrate with your local football club at the above match (possibly the match that will clinch us promotion). *HALF PRICE TO ADULTS accompanying children with this ticket! FURTHER INFORMATION: Tel: 0181-381 1671

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