

# SPORT

## Lions are in no rush to appoint new manager

WEMBLEY FC chairman, Brian Gumm, is in no hurry to appoint a successor to Paul Shields, who quit last week as the club's third boss in just seven months.

"We will be advertising the post and we will wait and see what response we

get," said Mr Gumm. "But I am not going to rush into an appointment."

In the meantime, reserve team manager, Peter Grant, is running the first team in a caretaker capacity, and could be under consideration for the post.

"He's in charge for the moment," said Mr Gumm "and it's his chance to show what he can do."

He didn't get off to a spectacular start. His first game in charge on Saturday ended with Wembley losing 3-0 at Uxbridge.

## Thompson sees red on yet another day of Wembley woes

**Uxbridge 3 Wembley 0**  
**MANAGERLESS** Wembley's woes continued unabated on Saturday in this derby clash at Honeycroft. Another poor performance, three more points tossed down the pan, and Les Thompson the latest in a lengthy list of Lions to receive their marching orders this season, writes John Comfort.

The quality of Wembley's football may well be the subject for de-

bate at present, but their disciplinary record most certainly is not. It is less than awful.

Thompson's dismissal merely served to highlight a problem that urgently needs addressing.

The fierce first half injury time tackle on the striker by Kevin Cleary clearly incensed Thompson who, in his blind rage, managed to set about the wrong opponent in retaliation, striking Danny

Hawkesworth. After the fracas that followed had died down, both Thompson and Hawkesworth were red carded by referee Buckeridge.

Thompson can have no complaints but the Uxbridge midfielder has good grounds for an appeal.

The Lions were already a goal adrift at the time and showing every sign of seasonal benevolence. In the 41st minute successive errors by Mark Jenkins and

then Craig Elliott let in Michael Fredriksen to round Lee Ward and fire Uxbridge ahead.

The home side doubled their lead eight minutes into the second half, again thanks to poor Wembley defending.

Jamie Cleary's corner was flicked on by Kevin Cleary and Ward somehow allowed himself to be outjumped by Fredriksen who gratefully headed home.

Wembley had the best of their meagre share of scoring chances in the 73rd minute when Assim Ahmed put Youssef Sakhraoui clear. But he sadly put his shot high and wide of the goal.

Two minutes into added time Uxbridge completed Wembley's misery with a third goal and Ward was again at fault. His poor clearance attempt only found Phil Granville who laid the ball off for

Fredriksen to drill a low shot into the net for his hat-trick.

On another bad day at the office, satisfactory Wembley performances were thin in the ground.

Industrious skipper, Ian Bates, was in this minority category, as was impressive young defender, Bradley Scott.

Wembley: Ward, Ahmed, Jenkins (Duckwary), Sakhraoui, Scott, Elliott, Dee (Burgess), Bates, Mee (Hall), Thompson, Mitchell.



Edgware's Peter Sutton bursts between two Cheshunt defenders in Saturday's 8-0 goal spree.



Steve Newing shows his ball skill as he weaves his way through the Cheshunt defence.

Pictures by Sophie Powell

## Carroll keeps Stones at bay

**Northwood 0 Wealdstone 0**  
**NORTHWOOD** keeper Lee Carroll denied Stones victory with a fine display on Saturday witnessed by a bumper crowd of 607, the biggest in Division Two so far this season, beating by just two the attendance at last week's Wealdstone v Edgware game, writes Graham Smith.

The visitors had the better of the game but it was Northwood who could have scored first when Paul Halbert shot inches over the bar in the 9th minute.

At the other end, eight minutes later, Keith Boreham's cross was met by Paul Lamb whose thunderous shot was tipped over by Carroll. Chris Walton then had a shot that went just wide.

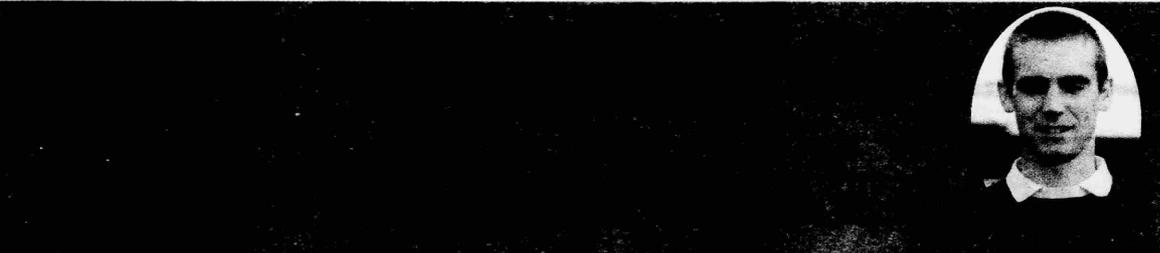
Soon after the break ex-Stone Terry Hibbert, playing his first full game for the Woods since his transfer, had two chances, but both went wide.

Stones then pressed hard for their seventh win on the trot. A dangerous cross from Boreham was headed clear, a Dennis Greene header from Stan Bowdler's corner was well saved by Carroll, then a fine one-two between Lamb and Greene ended with Green's shot being parried to safety by Carroll.

Stones had a scare when Darren Bonfield came out and failed to gather Chris Gell's header which was goalbound until Bowdler got back to clear the danger at the expense of a corner.

The last five minutes saw substitute Mario Celaira have a shot go inches wide then Carroll made another outstanding save to deny Greene. But Northwood held on and managed to avoid a home defeat against Wealdstone for the first time since they became a senior club.

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## Tragedy for Edgware defender in eight goal spree

**Edgware Town 8 Cheshunt 0**  
 EDGWARE rekindled their promotion hopes on Saturday as this eight goal bonanza against bottom of the table Cheshunt took them up to second in the table, but their victory was marred by the sad sight of defender John Shanahan being carried off in the closing stages with a broken ankle which will put him out for the rest of the season.

It was a real case of triumph and tragedy for Shanahan who opened the scoring after only three minutes with a brave diving header when Seamus Finnerty returned the ball

across the danger area from a corner.

But despite this early breakthrough Edgware struggled to increase their lead, and they even missed two penalties.

Finnerty had his spot kick saved by Hilton after Peter Sutton had been impeded, and when Steve Fraser was brought down in the area, Steve Newing crashed his spot kick onto the crossbar.

Cheshunt posed no serious threat to Edgware and they had a mountain to climb after they had Weatherhead sent off for a second bookable of-

fence with just 25 minutes gone.

Only an excellent save from the busy Hilton prevented Fraser increasing the Edgware lead, with Sutton amazingly blazing the rebound wide of an open goal.

However, after 40 minutes Wares finally made the scoreline more reflective of their dominance when Newing burst through on the right and selflessly squared the ball across goal for Fraser to make it 2-0 with a simple tap in.

Eight minutes into the second half Fraser was again brought down in the area to give Edgware their third

penalty, but this time Fabio Valenti coolly side-footed the spot kick into the corner of the net.

Edgware were queuing up to score and on 68 minutes they got a fourth goal when a great move from one end of the pitch to the other ended with Murray teeing up the chance for Newing to smash home an unstoppable shot.

Five minutes later Newing returned the compliment when his superb 60 yards pass fell into the path of Murray who slotted it past the shell shocked Hilton.

With 15 minutes left Lee Smart

sent Michael Roche away on the right and, from his cross, Valenti made it 6-0 with a sweet volley.

The celebrations were muted with Shanahan's injury, sustained after he moved in to clear a rare Cheshunt attack, and with all three substitutes on, Edgware had to play out the closing stages with 10 men.

But they still scored twice more with a fine individual goal from Newing and then a well deserved goal from the hard-working Sutton.

Edgware: Carter, Shanahan, Sheridan (Smart), Sutton, Finnerty (McCluskey), Hurd, Roche, Valenti, Fraser (Murray), Newing, Lyons.

**AFTER** four defeats and a draw in December, Harrow Borough will be looking to start the New Year in better form at home to bottom of the table Oxford City on Saturday.

They will be without the suspended Kenny Webster but Steve Butler and Alan Paris return after suspension and John Hurlock, Nko Ekoko and Pat Gavin are all fit again following various injuries.

Rob Marshall plays his last game before returning to Aylesbury after his loan spell.

Suspensions rule both

Wayne Walters and Carlton Mitchell out of Wembley's big home game against top of the table Aldershot.

Shaun Fleming and Ashley Cumberbatch are still struggling with injuries but Andy Smith should have recovered from a bout of flu.

Edgware visit Bedford without Joe Sheridan who is banned after his sending off against Wealdstone.

Steve Fraser returns after missing Tuesday night's cup match at Ford.

Brian Jones misses

Wealdstone's home game with Tilbury through suspension, but is available again for the visit of Windsor on Tuesday.

Both keeper Noel Imber and striker Keith Boreham are expected to have recovered from injuries.

### Soccer fixtures

**Saturday January 3**  
 Ryman League Premier Div: Harrow Borough v Oxford City (Earlsmead, 3pm).  
 Ryman League Div One: Wembley v Aldershot (Vale Farm, 3pm).  
 Ryman League Div Two: Bedford Town v Edgware Town; Wealdstone v Tilbury (White Lion ground, 3pm).  
 Ryman League Div Three: Kingsbury Town v Hemel (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm).

**Tuesday January 6**  
 Middx Senior Cup: Hayes v Edgware Town; Wembley v Hampton (Vale Farm, 7.30pm); Slanes Town v Harrow Borough (Cherley Town FC, 7.30pm).  
 Ryman League Div Two: Wealdstone v Windsor & Eton (White Lion Ground, 7.45pm).

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