

SPORT

SEE PAGE 142

SEE PAGE 142

Grant gets vote of confidence

PETER Grant's chances of being given the Wembley manager's job permanently have increased dramatically with the news that club chairman, Brian Gumm, is no longer actively seeking a replacement for Paul Shields, who resigned a month ago.

"Things are going well and I'm not looking for anybody at the moment," said Mr Gumm. "Peter's got the right attitude for the job and I'm pleased with the way things have been going."

Grant, who had a meeting with the chairman last Thursday to clarify his position, is also pleased, but he's not taking it for granted that the job will be his.

"It's going well, but I can't predict the future," he said.

Ian Bates is suspended and misses Wembley's home game with Barton Rovers on Saturday, and he is joined on the sidelines by Carlton Mitchell who starts a ban.

Les Thompson is available after completing a ban but Shaun Fleming, Andy Smith and Ashley Cumberbatch are still out through injury.

Striker Bradley Anderson



Peter Grant. has left Wembley and rejoined his former club, Leighton Town.

The suspended Matt Corbould misses Wealdstone's home game with Chalfont St Peter on Saturday and the visit of Witham on Tuesday. The injured Paul McKay will also be sidelined.

Edgware travel to Hungerford without both Steve Newing and Steve Hurd, who are suspended. Steve Fraser and Joe Sheridan both return after missing the mid-week cup win over Bedford, but Seamus Finnerty is doubtful with a back injury.

Shark shock tips Towers off top

THE inconsistency of Exide London Towers' performances this season was exposed once again by their 99-85 defeat at Sheffield Sharks on Sunday which cost them the leadership of the Budweiser Basketball League.

Towers led 25-23 after the first quarter, and six points ahead at 42-36 in the second period, but by half time the Sharks had drawn level a 48-48.

It was still very open at the end of the third quarter, with Sheffield just 69-66 in front, but then the home side began to steal away, with a 3-point play and a 3-pointer from John Amaechi helping to

push his team into a 75-68 lead. Towers hopes of recovering were not helped by Danny Lewis collecting a technical foul and then his fellow guard Paul Deppisch fouled out with three minutes left as the Sharks cruised home.

Lewis and Keith Robinson top scored for Towers with 20 points each, while Karl Brown notched 19.

Towers completed their passage into the last four of the Uni-ball Trophy last Wednesday, drawing 69-69 at Manchester Giants for an aggregate win of 159-138 over their rivals.

Lewis (22) and Hamilton (15) led the

scoring for Kevin Cadle's team. In the semi-finals, Towers have been drawn against Newcastle Eagles - the club that recently beat them twice in a week in Budweiser League matches at Wembley.

Towers are away to Derby Storm on Saturday, tip off 7.30pm.

On Sunday they are back at Wembley, hosting bottom of the table Watford Royals, tip off 5pm.

Tickets for the game, priced £6 for adults and £4 for children when pre-booked, are available from either 0171 722 6677 or 0990 232 023.

Wasps to face Irish in Cup

WASPS have been drawn away to local rivals London Irish in the quarter finals of the Tetley Bitter Cup, writes Alan Bodenham.

Despite the fact that they have already suffered 22-17 loss at Sunbury this season, club supremo, Nigel Melville, is confident that his side can reverse that result. "We've improved a lot since October," he said. "They caught us just at the right time when we had started to pick up injuries and our balance was disturbed".

The tie will take place on either Saturday February 28 or Sunday March 1.

Meanwhile, Wasps return to Allied Dunbar Premiership action on Sunday with Bristol the visitors to Loftus Road, kick off 3pm. Wasps have never lost to the west county outfit in league encounters and will be eager to keep that record going.

Lawrence Dallaglio, missing from the last two games, is expected to return. He has recharged his batteries with a break away with his family and rested a sore shoulder.

Alex King also took a rest for the game against Fylde but will start on Sunday.

Having gone on as a replacement at the weekend, scrum half Andy Gomersall is very much back in the frame but Melville has yet to decide whether to risk his international for the full 80 minutes. Mike Friday will probably continue in the starting line up.

Ex-Lion is star for Stevenage

FORMER Wembley striker Guiliano Grazioli was Conference club Stevenage Borough's hero on Saturday, scoring their equalising goal as they held Newcastle United to a 1-1 draw in the fourth round of the FA Cup.

Grazioli, who left Vale Farm two years ago to join Peterborough, also starred in the previous round, hitting the winner for Stevenage as they came back from a goal down to beat Swindon 2-1.

WALDSTONE FC BLUE RIBBON LOTtery Week 24
 £50 4825; £60 2-04-293; £65 A-07-448; £75 M-07-219; £150 M-07-885.

Player problems for new boss

Exodus leaves Borough with threadbare squad

HARROW Borough have appointed Alan Paris as their new manager until the end of the season and he has been immediately plunged into a potential crisis after the squad was dramatically reduced to a minimalistic number of just 14 by more players leaving Earlsmead in the wake of Bob Dowie's departure.

Midfielder John Hurlock was the first of a trio of midfielders to go. He signed for Chesham, and was sent off in his debut game for them on Saturday against Heybridge. Ironically it means he is likely to be missing through suspension when Borough play the Bucks club on Saturday week.

Next to go was David Clarke who has been signed by Dover.

Negotiations between Borough and the Conference club are ongoing over an appropriate fee but if, as seems likely, agreement cannot be reached, then it will be determined by an FA tribunal.

The third departure from Earlsmead was Chris Metcalfe, who recently represented the Ryman League in their representative match against an FA XI.

He was signed by Borough's Conference neighbours, Hayes, for £4000, and came on as a substitute for them in their game at Hednesford on Saturday.

It was thought that another midfielder, Jon-Barrie Bates, might also go as the move this week after Borough received a seven day notice of approach from Yeading for the non-contract player. But it is believed that Bates, who was signed from Wembley earlier this season, has indicated that he wants to stay at Earlsmead.

Paris was this week busily endeavouring to bolster the club's playing resources. He has already given a seven day notice of approach to Carshalton for their central defender Martin Beard, and other possible signings are also in the pipeline.

Said Borough football director Peter Rogers: "Obviously now that we've lost a few players our resources are depleted and we need to build up the squad again. With our numbers run down to 14 it leaves no scope for any problems that might arise."

The situation could lead to a likely Borough rethink about running a second team, possibly in the Capital League.

Borough have no game on Saturday but on Tuesday are at home to Brimsdown Rovers in a Middlesex Senior Cup quarter final tie. Brimsdown were awarded their tie in the previous round after their opponents, Harefield United, were unable to raise a team to fulfill the fixture.



Soccer fixtures

Saturday January 24
 Ryman League Div One: Wembley v Barton Rovers (Vale Farm, 3pm).
 Ryman League Div Two: Hungerford Town v Edgware Town; Wealdstone v Chalfont St Peter (White Lion ground, 3pm).
 Ryman League Div Three: Kingsbury Town v Hertford Town (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm).
Sunday January 25
 Midts Senior Cup: Harrow Borough v Brimsdown Rovers (Earlsmead, 7.30pm).
 Ryman League Div Two: Wealdstone v Witham Town (White Lion ground, 7.45pm).

Latest tables

RYMAN LEAGUE		Premier Division		Theme		23		3		5		15		12		56		14	
P	W	D	L	F	A	pts													
Sutton Utd.	26	18	5	3	57	25	59	3	68	27	53	24	16	5	3	68	27	53	24
Dagenham	26	16	4	6	46	27	52	15	7	0	60	29	52	15	7	0	60	29	52
Kingsdown	27	14	9	4	48	24	51	27	13	8	6	58	39	47	13	8	6	58	39
Borham W.	22	13	2	7	34	38	41	25	11	5	9	49	40	36	25	11	5	9	49
Hylton	22	13	2	7	43	30	41	22	12	7	3	44	24	43	22	12	7	3	44
Enfield	27	11	5	11	40	41	38	26	11	10	5	30	17	43	26	11	10	5	30
Hendon	25	11	4	10	32	39	37	25	11	5	9	49	40	36	25	11	5	9	49
Wilton & H.	25	11	4	10	32	39	37	25	11	5	9	49	40	36	25	11	5	9	49
Puffley	26	11	4	11	34	36	38	24	7	4	44	44	37	24	7	4	44	44	37
Harrow B.	25	10	4	11	33	39	34	25	10	7	8	41	44	37	25	10	7	8	41
Aylesbury	26	10	4	12	36	34	32	24	10	5	9	33	37	35	24	10	5	9	33
Grays	25	10	4	12	37	38	32	24	10	5	9	33	37	35	24	10	5	9	33
Bromley	24	8	8	8	32	28	32	26	9	6	11	44	56	33	26	9	6	11	44
Cutech H.	24	8	7	10	37	38	30	22	9	5	8	36	32	22	9	5	8	36	32
Carshalton	21	8	6	7	35	36	30	25	7	10	8	45	43	31	25	7	10	8	45
St Albans	23	9	3	10	32	36	30	25	7	6	12	43	43	27	25	7	6	12	43
Yeading	26	7	6	13	34	43	27	23	6	3	13	23	43	21	23	6	3	13	23
Bishop St.	27	8	1	18	30	44	25	23	4	7	12	29	37	19	23	4	7	12	29
Chesham	24	4	12	43	47	24	24	24	3	16	28	54	18	18	24	3	16	28	54
Milkin	25	5	8	12	27	26	23	23	2	10	11	28	48	16	23	2	10	11	28
Basingstoke	19	6	9	20	33	32	22	24	3	6	15	26	49	15	24	3	6	15	26
Oxford C.	27	5	7	15	22	50	22	25	1	3	21	21	71	6	25	1	3	21	71

HAPPY EID

FREE BOWLING

at *The Base Witham*

BUY ONE GAME OF BOWLING & GET A SECOND GAME FREE

Voucher valid anytime, subject to availability before end of Jan 98. One voucher per person per visit, not to be used with any other offer. The Base, Opposite, Wembley Twin Towers, Base Hotline: 0181 795 3333

JANUARY SUPER SAVER

£1 per game

Mon - Fri (Finishing before 8pm)

CARLSBERG

£1 per bottle

at *The Base Witham*

Voucher valid anytime, subject to availability before end of Jan 98. One voucher per person per visit, not to be used with any other offer. The Base, Opposite, Wembley Twin Towers, Base Hotline: 0181 795 3333

It's a struggle for Edgware

Edgware Town 3 Bedford 2
 EDGWARE made exceedingly hard work of putting Combined Counties League side Bedford out of the Middlesex Charity Cup on Tuesday night to earn a home tie with Waltham Abbey in the next round, writes John Comfort.

Jock McGleish's Trophy holders could have been a goal down after only 10 minutes when Bedford were awarded a penalty for Steve Hurd's reckless challenge on Paul Clark. But Dave Logie blasted the spot kick into orbit.

The visitors paid for that miss two minutes later when Michael Roche fired home a great low shot from 20 yards and when Hurd lashed in a 25 yarder that keeper, Lee Stevenson, could only help in to the net in the 23rd minute,

the game was taking a somewhat predicatable turn.

John Coleman amazingly fired wide of an open goal soon after and although Clark pulled one back for Bedford on the half hour, Edgware's easy passage seemed assured after Paul McCluskey deftly headed home a Fabio Valenti cross just a minute later.

Goalie clearances denied both Coleman and McCluskey from scoring what would have been a killer fourth goal in the second half and after the unmarked Simon Eyles headed home Bedford's second from a corner by Edgware old boy Steve Matthews in the 68th minute, the home side looked less than comfortable as they saw out the remaining minutes to the final whistle.

Edgware: Carter, Smart, Whytock (Ash), Hurd, Roche, McCluskey, Lyons, Murray (Glynn), Sutton, Coleman, Valenti. Other sub: Fraser.

Flint Insurance

Registered Insurance Brokers
COMPETITIVE QUOTATIONS
 CALL
Tel: 0181 427 6464
 Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 Sat 9.30-12.30
C.C. FLINT & CO LTD.
 51 STATION ROAD, N. HARROW
 MIDDLESEX, HA2 7SR.

CHEQUECASHING

Don't have a bank account?
 Don't want to use your bank account?
 If you have received a wages cheque, a tax rebate, a council cheque, a DSS cheque or any other cheque from a recognised company - then we can cash it while you wait!
 This includes cheques crossed "Account payee Only" and "Not Negotiable". Proof of identity required.
 248 HIGH ROAD, HARROW WEALD
 IS NOW OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 10AM-6PM
 (CLOSED TUESDAYS) SATURDAY 10AM-5PM
 0181-933 2244