

SPORT



Trophy holders set for Starlight KO clash

IN the quarter finals of the Mayor of Harrow's 20 over KO, holders Stanmore have been drawn away to Starlight. The full draw is: Harrow St Marys v Bessborough; Lohana

v Harrow Town; Kenton v West Harrow; Starlight v Stanmore. The semi-finals are scheduled to be played at Bessborough on July 6 and at

Kenton on July 7, with the final set for Harrow on July 15. In the Mayor of Harrow's Plate, holders Old Gaytonians are away to North London Poly if they beat Tenterden.

The draw is: N London Poly v Old Gaytonians/Tenterden; Harrow v Lohana/Parkfield; South Harrow v Kodak/Belmont; Old Lyonians v Pinner/Oakdale.

No Premier place as agm vote goes against Stones



Protesting Wealdstone supporters outside Earlsmead on Monday. Picture by Sophie Powell

WEALDSTONE will be playing First Division football next season after Ryman clubs backed the management committee and voted through their constitution for next season at the League's agm, held at Harrow Borough FC on Monday night, writes John Comfort. Stones chairman Paul Rumens was given five minutes to address the meeting and put over the club's case for a place in the Premier Division which they had earned by finishing third in Division One, only to be told they could not go up because improvements to the White Lion ground necessary for the A grading needed for Premier status had not been completed in time. However, in the vote that followed 30, including the League management committee's block vote of 11, supported the proposed constitution, which had

8 were against, and there were 7 abstentions. Said club director, Graham Sharpe, who was Wealdstone's other representative at the meeting: "We weren't in any danger of winning but we did well to get it discussed and had the satisfaction of seeing the management committee looking a little uncomfortable. "It's always going to be very difficult to get clubs to see your point of view when it's basically irrelevant to them. The only point you can make is that in the future they might want our support against what might be considered to be draconian rules. But it's interesting that we got 14 others not to support the constitution which is normally voted straight through." The club has now accepted another season in Division One. "Once the constitution is approved it's difficult to know how

to get it overturned," said Mr Sharpe. "Now only legal intervention would give us any opportunity and it's difficult to see on what grounds we could justify the expense. We don't want to admit defeat but we've given it more than our best shot and have got to accept that it seems we're not going to be able to overturn the decision." Chairman Paul Rumens confirmed that "We will not be taking the matter any further," he said. "But I would like to thank all the supporters for their efforts, and my board of directors." About 40 Wealdstone supporters, backed by fans from other clubs, including Maidenhead and Bishops Cleeve, staged a peaceful protest outside Earlsmead before and during the agm. They handed out leaflets to delegates as they arrived, urging them to support Wealdstone. Sadly it went unheeded.

Harrow are through to British Cup semi-finals

HARROW Athletics Club successfully negotiated a tricky first round draw in the British Cup at Queen Elizabeth Stadium, Barnet on Sunday to book their place in the semi-finals at Watford on July 18. As part of the British League's attempt to make these early round matches more interesting, the organisers were experimenting with having ten teams arrive at the venue with a draw to decide the two five-team matches made prior to the first event.

The outcome left the weakened local side facing the two strongest teams - Haringey and Ilford, without the likes of Jamie Quarry, John Skeete and Luke Rosenberg.

However, they were helped by the return of Dean Macey, Dan Leggett and Tim Dalton, who were making their first ap-

pearances of the season. The afternoon started off well with Leggett jogging to an emphatic 10,000m victory, finishing over a lap ahead of all his rivals in a time of 31.50, which suggests he could take the club record apart in a competitive semi-final.

Further individual success was enjoyed by Macey (long jump, 110m hurdles), Mark Smith (high jump), Matt Weaver (pole vault) and Mark Cursons (5000m), whilst a rapidly constituted sprint relay squad of Andy Lewis, Macey, Rohan Samuel and Cannon surprised everybody with a comfortable win in a season's best of 42.3 secs.

Gareth Noble, on his return to the A team in the 800m, with a time of 1:55.51, Alan Wray (3.58 in the 1500m), and Tim Dalton, 59.3 in the 400m hurdles, also posted sea-

son's best times. Matt Bateson won the steeplechase and followed that with a rare 4 x 400m relay team appearance, with Noble, Wray and Cannon, that looked as if it might pull off another shock victory until they were reeled in on the final 200m to finish second.

Andy Lewis finished 2nd in the shot with 13.63m, as did Joseph Kenny in the javelin with a throw just under 50m.

Harrow finished a gallant 2nd to Enfield and now face the daunting task of taking on top UK club, Belgrave, in the semis.

Against the likes of John Regis, Dwan Chambers and Ben Challenger they have little chance of victory, but with two qualifying for the final they will be challenging Team Solent and Enfield for the second berth.

Bartlett ducks Aylesbury job

Manager decides to stay at Wealdstone



By John Comfort



Gordon Bartlett - rejected Aylesbury

GORDON Bartlett has turned down the chance to manage Ryman Premier Division Aylesbury United in favour of staying with Wealdstone.

Bartlett had already been interviewed for the vacant post at Buckingham Road two weeks ago only to lose out to former Stevenage boss, Paul Fairclough.

But when Fairclough did a U-turn at the week-

end and changed his mind about taking the job, Aylesbury again approached the popular Stones manager.

However, after another interview and then spending much time talking it over with his assistant Leo Morris' coach Frank O'Brien and wife Jackie, he decided to stick with Wealdstone and lead them in pursuit of the Premier Division place denied them last season by the League.

"It was a wonderful offer but I didn't feel it was right," said Bartlett. "Purely on football terms I should have taken it but I didn't."

"I can't deny the grass looks greener on the other side - I went to look at it and it was great. They've got a good budget there and from a footballing point of view it was right, but the timing was wrong. I made a very difficult decision and now we'll crack on and have a real go again for the Premier Division."

The club, the players and Wealdstone's supporters played a big part in Bartlett's decision.

"The players have committed themselves and I felt a loyalty to them," said Bartlett.

"I came to the club four years ago on the understanding that they'd have a new ground in a couple of years. We've

had three promotions in four years, but we're still a little too far away with the ground. But if it does come off, this is obviously the place to be.

"There is something unique about the club. Obviously I've got a feeling for them and the people involved. We've gone through a lot together."

"I said I would stay once the situation at the club had been settled and although I was very flattered by the Aylesbury offer I will be staying."

Wealdstone chairman Paul Rumens said: "It was a massive hammer blow when Gordon told me about the offer from Aylesbury because I

thought we'd put this one to bed.

"But I'm absolutely delighted that he's decided to stay. It speaks volumes about the club and is an endorsement for us despite all the problems we seem to encounter."

"I feel Gordon, Leo and Frank are not just a management team, they're part of the club. It's great news they're staying."

Cup away day
IN the draw for next season's Isthmian League Cup, Harrow Borough are away to Heybridge Swifts while Wealdstone travel to Hertford or Corinthian Casuals.

Wasps investigation
WASPS are to carry out their own investigation following fresh newspaper allegations made on Sunday against their former England captain, Lawrence Dallaglio, which he denies.
Coach Clive Woodward has said he will recall Dallaglio to the England squad on July 19 unless RFU investigators decide otherwise.

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11 year old Manchester United fan, Jack Witney, pictured with the Carling Premiership trophy that was on display at Harrow Borough FC on Friday.
Picture by Sophie Powell.

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