

# SPORT

League threat to £16,000 sponsorship

## Wembley deal is in balance

A PLANNED three year sponsorship deal for Wembley Football Club is in danger of falling by the wayside because the Diadora League claim it threatens the League's own sponsorship.

Wembley have successfully negotiated a deal with the Mizuno sportswear company which will provide each of their players with kit, including trackuits, boots, trainers and other clothing.

While no cash is being handed over, the deal itself is worth about £300 per player per season. With a first team squad of around 18 players, that works out to a total of over £16,000 for the three year period.

But Mizuno are one of Diadora's main competitors and

**By John Comfort**

the league say that as such Wembley's deal conflicts with their own sponsorship.

Wembley's links with Mizuno began three months ago when Gary Lineker and a BBC camera crew visited Vale Farm to film the Lions' FA Cup clash with Welwyn Garden City. With the prospect of making some extra revenue from the game, the club offered Diadora the chance of advertising at the ground.

They declined but when Mizuno were approached, they took up the offer and an advertising board was placed in a prime site to the side of one of the Vale Farm goals.

But a Diadora representative who attended the game

was far from happy to see the Mizuno board on display and club officials claimed they were later threatened with being thrown out of the league if it was not removed.

Further talks with Mizuno led to the sponsorship deal being agreed and following an exchange of letters between the club and league officials, the matter is now to be discussed on Monday at a meeting of the Diadora League's management committee.

Wembley chairman Brian Gumm is bracing himself for a confrontation if the League try to veto the deal. "It is difficult for small clubs like us to get sponsorship, so how can we turn this down?" he said. "There is no league rule which says we can't do it and I don't believe it conflicts with the league's sponsorship anyway."

## Steve stakes his claim with stylish comeback

STEVE Newing made a superb comeback in Edgware's 3-1 friendly win at Hertford on Tuesday night to stake his claim for a place in the side to play Egham on Saturday.

In his first game since a hernia operation, Newing scored a cracking volleyed goal to add to other great strikes from Colin Chance and Eugene Flynn. Edgware's only injury doubt for Saturday is John Coleman who has a groin problem.

John Ridout missed Harrow Borough's cup defeat at Wivenhoe with a back injury but should be fit for selection for Saturday's vital clash against fellow strugglers Wokingham. Mark Pye will be missing, as he completes his three match suspension.

Wealdstone's promotion aspirations will be

fully put to the test in Saturday's home game with fellow hopefuls Fareham. Martin Blackler is still sidelined, otherwise Stones have no injury problems.

Wembley's injury list lengthens. Kenny Page (dead leg), Peter Shodeinde (hamstring), and Uche Egbe (knee) all took knocks against Croxson.

Andy Smith and Bobby Hutchinson could return for their derby match at home to Uxbridge on Saturday but Steve Lawrence is away on holiday.

Adrian Smith's comeback after a lengthy spell sidelined through injury is expected to get off the ground with a run out in the reserves.

Striker Frank Omere has left the club and joined Third Division Northwood.

Kingsbury Town have a tough game away to second in the table Collier Row on Saturday, but manager Frank O'Brien has a full squad to select from.

Rayners Lane have an interesting home game against Banbury Town on Saturday. The two sides played out a thrilling 4-4 draw earlier in the season with Banbury equalising in the final minute. Lane boss Don Durkin has Kevin Langston, Fergus Meaney, Neil Owen and Ian Woodward available for selection after all came through a reserve game without ill effect.

### Fixtures

**Saturday December 19**  
 Diadora League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Wokingham Town (Earlswood, 3pm)  
 Diadora League Division One: Wembley v Uxbridge (Vale Farm, 3pm)  
 Diadora League Division Two: Egham Town v Edgware Town  
 Diadora League Division Three: Collier Row v Kingsbury Town  
 Beazer Home League Southern Division: Wealdstone v Fareham Town (Vale Farm Road, 3pm)  
 Hellenic League: Rayners Lane v Banbury Town (Lucas Ave, 2.15pm)

**Tuesday December 22**  
 Diadora League Division One: Wembley v Whyteleafe (Vale Farm, 7.30pm)

WALDOPTON RIFLE BROTHERHOOD  
 Week 22 winners  
 1st: M. J. 2nd: A. 3rd: M. G.  
 4th: D. 5th: A. 6th: D. 7th: J.  
 8th: J. 9th: D. 10th: M. 11th: J.

## Dafforn out of danger after hospital scare

WEMBLEY FC manager Alan Dafforn was said to be out of danger this week after being rushed into the Royal Free Hospital near his home in Hampstead with thrombosis of the leg.

Dafforn's condition, potentially life threatening if the blood clot is allowed to move round the body to the heart, was revealed by a scan following a visit to his GP suffering from pains and swelling in the leg.

Doctors have now contained the clot be-

low the knee and it was being dispersed by a drip and tablets.

Wembley chairman Brian Gumm visited him in hospital on Tuesday and said he was recovering well. "He'll probably be in there for the rest of the week but when he comes out he'll have to have regular blood tests," he said.

While Dafforn is convalescing, reserve team boss Tony Simpson will take charge of the Wembley first team.



Alan Dafforn.

## Late goal puts Borough out

Wivenhoe 2 Harrow Borough 1 RETURNING to the site of an embarrassing league defeat earlier this season, Harrow Borough again proved second best at Broad Lane on Tuesday night, this time in the second round of the Diadora League Cup, writes Tony Booth.

Despite taking a first half lead, they contrived to waste several scoring opportunities and fell to a late decider.

Andy Pape returned on loan from Barnet behind a revamped defence which wasn't under much pressure early on. Borough had all the early chances, skipper Shaw going closest before Steve Conroy gave Borough an 18th minute lead, heading home from point blank range from Micky Engwell's following a fine St Hilaire crossfield pass.

The visitors had plenty of midfield players on show, so gained much possession, but had little punch in attack. Pat Ryan twice move up from full back to shoot wide and Ian Stewart saw his shot headed from a St Hilaire cross, but Borough could hardly complain when the hosts equalised in their first real attack, five minutes before the break. Having scored scoring chances themselves, Borough saw Coleman's corner headed goalwards by Wright and although Shaw cleared off the line, the linesman signalled a goal.

In the second half Wivenhoe had much more of the play. However, Renelt sent an appalling shot wide, Dowman had a header saved and Howe headed just wide. When Borough did break away, St Hilaire was the brunt of fair tackles and foul, with three Wivenhoe defenders being cautioned. In the 53rd minute Ryan's cross found Stewart who turned and shot home only to find his effort mysteriously ruled out.

Another good crossfield ball by St Hilaire found Engwell whose shot brought a diving save from Wood and then Conroy volleyed over from St Hilaire's header.

Extra time loomed but Borough were denied even this when Jackman was ruled to have obstructed a forward near the corner flag with three minutes left and Abrhams forced the ball home from close range for Wivenhoe's winner.

Harrow Borough: Pape, Jackman, Engwell, May, Bensted, Frutton, Shaw, Ryan, Conroy, Stewart, St Hilaire. Subs: Ripley, Cooper.

## A new skipper at Stanmore



Stanmore's new captain, Dave Weston.

STANMORE Cricket Club has a new skipper for the first time in two decades.

As expected, at the club's annual general meeting on Friday, Graham Pouncefort, Stanmore's captain for the past 20 years, stood down.

Elected to fill the post was 30 year old opening batsman Dave Weston, a Stanmore member since 1979 when he captained the club.

However, Mr Pouncefort will still be at the forefront of the club's activities for he was elected as club chairman, replacing Ross Chiese, who has stepped down for business reasons.

Mr Pouncefort is hoping that he will be able to retain his place in the Stanmore first team where his remarkable spell as skipper has seen him play in every Middlesex County League match played by the club since the competition's inception. And he has only missed three club games during that time.

As chairman Mr Pouncefort said that he will be looking to see that the spirit of the club, in their unique village setting, is maintained at the highest level of amateur cricket.

Elected as 2nd XI captain was Richard Cooke, with Sean Devine taking the post on Sundays. 3rd XI skipper is Hitash Mashru.

Graham Pouncefort was recently re-elected as chairman of the Middlesex County League.

Both the Thames Valley League and the Herts League are to introduce promotion and relegation next season, but the Middlesex County League will not be following suite.

"We are keeping an open mind and it was discussed, but we have no plans for promotion and relegation for the foreseeable future," he said. "The feeling is that we have got the best league and the best players. It is felt that far from strengthening the league, promotion and relegation with other leagues would dilute it."

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