

SPORT

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers of Observer Sport

Shields quits

Wembley boss goes after two months in hot seat

By John Comfort



Paul Shields - resigned after two months.

WEMBLEY boss, Paul Shields, has dramatically resigned after just two months in the Vale Farm hot seat.

Shields, a veteran player with the Lions, only took over as manager after John Walsh quit in October, but, coupled with pressure of work, he has found the going tough. Injury and suspension problems have hit team selection hard and Wembley are struggling to retain the Division One status that they regained at the end of last season.

Said Shields: "I have come to an agreement with the chairman that things are just not working out. I've had a lot of work pressures and I could not put the time into the job that it requires."

Wembley are the second local club to lose their manager this week, following the decision by Peter Blain to step down after four years as manager of Kingsbury Town.

He had already informed the club that he would be quitting at the end of the season but after recent

poor results, culminating in a humiliating 10-0 defeat at Ashford Town in the Middlesex Charity Cup last Tuesday, he decided to bring forward his resignation date.

Blain's 20 year spell as player, coach and manager at the club is however unlikely to be broken. He is expected to be staying on at Silver Jubilee Park in some capacity, possibly helping with coaching.

In the meantime reserve team manager duo, Bobby Cook and Jason Scannell have taken over the Kingsbury first team and Cook is expected to be high on the short list when Town consider appointing Blain's successor.

"There are others in the frame," said club chairman Allan Davies. "But we are hoping to make an appointment some time in January."

Ware 3 Kingsbury Town 1
TWO first half goals effectively sealed Kingsbury's demise at Ware on Saturday.

Gary Sonnenthall's pass was intercepted by former Wealdstone striker, Lee Teckell, who chipped over Town keeper Alex Butcher for Ware's opener and then Steve Magona's cross dropped over Butcher and into the far corner of the net to make it 2-0.

It was against the run of play when Les Mitchell got a third for Ware, 15 minutes into the second half, and Kingsbury's only reply came after 73 minutes when Gary Dolling headed in a Tyrone Jones cross.

Kingsbury: Butcher, Ryan, Hamilton, Pags, Stewart, Perez, Sonnenthall, O'Rourke, Hughes, Dolling, Kelly. Subs: Jones, Kenny, Morris.

Stones too good for ailing Edgware

Wealdstone 3 Edgware Town 1
THERE was joy for Stones and yet more misery for Edgware from this ding-dong derby battle that attracted a bumper crowd of 605 to the White Lion ground on Saturday - a season's best for Division Two of the Ryman League and better than all but two of the day's Premier Division matches, writes John Comfort.

For Wealdstone, their second success against their landlords this season lifted them up to 4th place in the table and they are handily placed for another promotion.

For Edgware - on top of the table just a fortnight ago - defeat was the latest reverse in a disastrous run of six league matches without a win, and frankly on this form it's difficult to see where their next one is coming from.

Losing to their bitter rivals was bad enough in itself but they suffered the additional blow of having defender Joe Sheridan sent off for two bookable offences.

It was only in the opening exchanges that the Wares matched Stones and they struck the first blow in the 20th minute. John Coleman intercepted a wayward Wealdstone pass on halfway and sent Steve Fraser free on the right and he cut inside to blast a fierce drive past Darren Bonfield at the near post for his first goal for the club.

Stones hit back and only a timely tackle by Joe Lyons prevented Brian Jones firing them level and then the leg of keeper Andy Carter kept out Chris Walton's goalbound drive after Paul McKay had put him through.

But with 35 minutes gone Wealdstone finally scored the equaliser they deserved. Sheridan fouled Dennis Greene on the right and from Stan Bowdler's free kick the impressive Nathan Beckett came in unchallenged to shoot past Carter from close range.

Now well on top, Stones should have taken the lead soon after but Greene shot wide with only Carter to beat after being put through by a great pass from Jones.

A magnificently struck 25 yarder from Jones, following a McKay free kick, crashed into the top right hand corner of the net to finally put Stones ahead in first half injury time and there was still time for Carter to deny them a third goal, saving superbly from Paul Lamb's close range effort.

In the second half Edgware called the tune with sad Edgware rarely able to make any impact.

Carter saved well from Greene and then Jones before the third goal that had been threatened arrived in the 67th minute. Steve Bircham put Jones away down the right and he turned past Sheridan before crossing to Greene whose header was blocked by Carter, but he followed up to fire home the loose ball.

Sheridan, foolishly booked in the first half for kicking the ball away, got his marching orders two minutes later. The defender probably thought he'd got away with sending Bowdler crashing in a good Stones build up after referee Wilkins played a good advantage. But when the move ended with Jones firing wide, the official called Sheridan over and his departure was a mere formality.

Green and Edgware's Steve Newing were booked for an ugly exchange soon after as the game threatened to boil over, but sanity was eventually restored and an enthralling encounter ended with Stones buoyant and the Wares a well beaten side.

Wealdstone: Bonfield, Bowdler, Corbould (Sterling), Moore, Beckett, Marshall, Walton (Bircham), Jones, Lamb, Greene (Celsare), McKay.
Edgware: Carter, Shanahan, Sheridan, McCluskey (Murray), Finnerty, Hurd, Roche, Fraser, Newing, Lyons (Valenti). Other sub: Sutton.



Edgware's John Shanahan tackles Wealdstone striker Dennis Greene in Saturday's derby clash at the White Lion ground. Picture: Edmond Terakopian.

Soccer fixtures

Saturday December 27
Ryman League Premier Div:
Hendon v Harrow Borough
Ryman League Div One:
Uxbridge v Wembley
Ryman League Div Two:
Northwood v Wealdstone; Edgware Town v Cheshunt (White Lion ground, 3pm)
Ryman League Div Three:
Kingsbury Town v Wingate & Finchley (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm)
Tuesday December 30
Associate Members Trophy:
Ford Utd v Edgware Town (7.45pm)

Latest tables

RYMAN LEAGUE									
Premier Division									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Dagenham	22	13	4	4	43	21	46		
Sutton Utd	21	13	5	3	44	23	44		
Kingsdown	22	10	6	6	37	27	39		
Boreham W	19	10	4	5	40	23	34		
Waltham B	20	10	4	6	30	27	32		
Purfleet	21	8	7	6	31	30	32		
Walton & H	21	9	3	9	26	34	30		
Aylesbury	22	9	3	10	26	32	30		
Hayes	18	9	2	7	34	29	29		
Enfield	23	8	5	10	33	38	29		
Bromley	20	7	6	28	24	28	28		
Cheshunt	17	7	6	4	30	27	27		
Bishops St	23	8	1	14	30	40	25		
Barnet	15	5	6	17	19	19	21		
Yeading	21	4	6	11	23	32	18		
Olford C	21	4	5	12	18	44	17		
Division One									
Hampton	23	13	7	3	43	25	46		
Grays	23	13	6	4	50	22	45		
Aldershot	22	12	5	4	43	25	44		
Leatherhead	23	13	6	4	37	22	43		
Maldenhead	20	12	1	7	42	19	37		
Chertsey	23	6	8	5	47	33	33		
Billerica	16	10	2	4	17	32	32		
Worthing	20	10	2	8	41	39	32		
Uxbridge	20	10	2	8	30	35	32		
Bognor	18	9	3	6	38	20	30		
Rushford	17	2	6	42	27	29	29		
Berkhamstead	22	7	3	12	34	48	24		
Leyton P	20	5	8	7	28	28	23		
Slough	18	7	9	22	26	23	23		
Wokingham	20	5	6	9	27	35	21		
Whiteley	18	5	6	9	24	33	21		
Barrow	20	5	6	9	24	33	21		
Wembley	20	4	8	18	21	20	20		
Croydon	18	4	3	13	23	38	15		
Abingdon	18	4	3	13	23	38	15		
Thame	19	2	4	13	10	52	10		
Molesley	20	1	5	14	17	42	8		
Division Two									
Canvey Is	18	12	4	2	54	18	40		
Met Police	19	11	6	2	40	23	39		
Banbury	18	10	6	2	48	28	38		
Wealdstone	18	11	5	2	38	16	38		
Edgware	21	10	4	4	21	27	37		
Beaconsfield	20	8	4	2	12	32	32		
Chalfont	21	8	6	5	33	29	32		
Barking	21	8	5	7	33	37	32		
Marlow	21	9	7	7	39	38	31		
Tooting	19	3	7	13	22	30	30		
Windsor	21	8	5	8	39	36	29		
Northwood	20	8	4	8	27	33	28		
Brockley	22	7	5	9	36	46	27		
Wivenhoe	20	6	8	6	34	32	26		
Hungate	21	6	6	9	36	34	24		
Barnet	17	5	5	7	25	28	20		
Leighton	17	6	2	13	20	49	17		
Epham	20	6	2	13	20	49	17		
Whitton	18	3	7	12	26	32	16		
Northam	21	3	5	13	24	31	14		
Tilbury	19	1	10	24	40	11	6		
Cheshunt	23	1	2	19	19	65	6		
Division Three									
Harrow	17	12	2	3	33	15	38		
Hatfield	18	10	7	3	36	21	37		
E Thurrock	16	12	0	4	32	16	36		
Ford	17	10	4	3	34	34	34		
Ware	17	10	3	4	31	19	33		
Hemel H	16	9	4	4	40	18	31		
Clapton	16	9	2	5	24	19	29		
Croydon Ath	19	8	3	8	34	26	27		
Hornchurch	20	7	5	8	32	36	26		
Avoley	15	7	3	5	28	21	24		
Flackwell H	16	6	5	5	32	26	23		
Epworth	17	6	4	7	29	31	22		
Corinthian C	16	6	3	7	31	31	21		
Ting	17	5	4	8	23	19	19		
Wingate & F	17	5	3	9	25	37	18		
Cambridge	14	4	5	25	21	17	17		
Dorking	17	5	2	10	26	46	17		
Kingsbury	18	3	1	14	22	18	10		
Leaves	18	2	3	13	18	43	9		
Southam	19	1	3	15	14	58	6		

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WEMBLEY'S CHRISTMAS WEEK OF ENTERTAINMENT

From 9.30pm to 11.30pm

Book to date

OPEN TO 2am

Doors open 9.00pm

Midnight Bowling from 9pm

Hook stars as Borough fail to end famine

Harrow Boro' 1 Dulwich Ham 2
ALTHOUGH they remain in fifth place in the Premier Division of the Ryman League, it is now a month since Borough won a league match.
On Saturday suspensions and injuries cost them dear and more points went astray, writes Tony Booth.
It was in attack that Borough were short of success and it took them 53 minutes to get an effort on target.
By then they were already a goal behind and for much of the game it

was David Hook v Hamlet as Borough's keeper pulled off a string of fine saves.
In the first half a diving save denied Holmes then an excellent double save kept out a header from James and Anderson's close range follow up.
Early in the second half another double save from Hook kept out two efforts from Darlington but the striker found the net in the 48th minute, knocking in a Holness cross from close range to put the visitors ahead.

A minute later only the crossbar prevented James from doubling Dulwich's lead, then Coleman cleared another effort off the goal line.
The hosts got an effort on target when Pat Gavard headed Gary Issot's corner goalbound but Chin headed it off the line. Soon after a good Issot-Gavard move ended with Xavier going clear only for Connolly to deflect his shot onto the near post and wide.
Coleman had a header tipped over and Gavin had a header saved but

then Borough were hit by a break-away attack in the 59th minute and the deficit was doubled as Anderson headed home McKimm's cross.
Jon-Barrie Bates' header was hacked off the line but it was not until the fifth minute of added time that the hosts finally netted. Webster played the ball through for Ricky Denny to fiercely strike home a 20 yard shot.
Harrow Borough: Hook, Clarke, James (Bates), Marshall, Webster, Coleman, Rutherford, Metcalfe, Gavin, Xavier, Issot (Denny). Other sub: Dowds.

Lane strike winning note

Broadfields Utd 1 Rayners Lane 3
LANE ended the year on a winning note, beating local rivals Broadfields in a hard fought game on Saturday.
Only a good save from Randall at full stretch denied Broadfields a goal in the opening minutes and the keeper thwarted the home side again when he raced out to beat Dawes.
With the visitors penned in their own half, it was against the run of play when they opened the scoring, good work by Metcalfe allowing Bicknell to cross for Oriot to drive home.
Lane should have had a second when a clever back heel from Metcalfe put Bicknell

clear but, with only the keeper to beat, he missed his shot.
After the break, Broadfields were again on top and it was no surprise when they equalised with a header from a corner. But Lane quickly replied with a 'route one' goal to restore their lead. Randall's clearance letting the speedy Metcalfe in to round the keeper and net.
And with time running out it was Metcalfe who killed the game off, running onto a clever pass from Mills to clip home from the edge of the box for Lane's third.
Rayners Lane: Randall, Coward, Bird, Verni, Coakley, Bicknell, Donnelly, Hordern, Oriot, Mills, Metcalfe. Subs: Clements, Meaney.

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