

observer SPORT

Jennings signs a Wanderer

TONY Jennings continued his rebuilding of Wealdstone with the signing of Wycombe Wanderers right back Kirk Corbin on Saturday.

The Stones boss had been chasing Corbin for four weeks and was delighted with his capture.

"He still figured in Wycombe's first team plans in the Vauxhall Conference, but he made his mind up to come to

Wealdstone and it's a coup for us," he said.

Corbin is 32 but still a quick and exciting defender. He was formerly with Wokingham in the Vauxhall-Opel League.

Paul Davis, who occupied the right back spot at the end of last season, is set to stay at Lower Mead, but will find com-

petition for his place now that Corbin has signed.

Terry Baker, the former Colchester centre back, was due to see a specialist about a knee injury before deciding whether to start training with Stones.

Wealdstone kick off their pre-season warm-up on Tuesday with a trip to Leyton-Wingate, who are in the Vauxhall-Opel League premier division.

Stones sever the Morritt connection

DAVID Morritt's ties with Wealdstone Football Club have finally been severed after new chairman Alan Clifton won a High Court victory over the millionaire former supremo on Friday.

And late on Tuesday night, a jubilant Mr Clifton announced exclusively to the Observer that he had won the battle of Lower Mead.

As part of the deal that returned the Lower Mead car park and all the former board of directors' shares to the club, Wealdstone bought the chest clinic site and two properties in nearby Hindes Road from Morritt.

The cost, around £2 million, was recouped immediately when Alan Clifton negotiated its sale once again. This time the buyers were Harrow property company Harrovian Estates, who already own many properties in Hindes Road.

Now Wealdstone's ground has been freed of the £200,000 charge Morritt had on it and the club car park belongs to Wealdstone again for the first time since 1975.

This dramatically strengthens Wealdstone's chances of achieving their avowed aim to sell the site and move to a new ground, elsewhere in the borough of Harrow.

They will be able to sell Lower Mead and the car park as one lot to a supermarket chain for around £7 million. And Mr Clifton says that will be done within the next year as soon as a new site is acquired.

Friday was the third time this month that the case had been in court. And after three months of complex legal meetings, Alan Clifton was finally able to say: "David Morritt no longer has any part to play in this club."

Morritt's controversial seven-year reign as chairman



BY AARON GRANSBY

came to a sensational end in March when he resigned after being challenged for his position by Alan Clifton, at the time his deputy.

But in 1984 he had bought the lease of the Lower Mead car park from EMI Cinemas for £50,000. He said it was on behalf of the club, but bought it in the name of Leveoak Developments, one of his building companies. He refused to hand it back to the club when he left. Clifton issued a writ requesting its return and offered to settle all Morritt's financial dealings on behalf of the club in return.

He will now repay Morritt all the money he put into Wealdstone, around £200,000, another £200,000 charge he had on the ground, £75,000, including interest, for the car park, and release him from guarantees to Barclays Bank and Charringtons Brewery. Together with money Clifton has put into the club himself recently, the total comes to £800,000, which will be repaid to him, interest free, when the club sells Lower Mead and relocates.

The chest clinic, which fronts Hindes Road and Station Road, was bought by Morritt for £1,375,000 earlier this year. He also owned 9, Hindes Road and land at the back of 3, Hindes Road. Now Wealdstone have sold them to Harrovian Estates, who will look to redevelop the top end of Hindes Road.

Former Wealdstone directors Frances Morritt, David Clarke and Michael Macario have all returned their shares at face value, along with those

of David Morritt, to Wealdstone. Alan Clifton will redistribute them among the new board of directors.

An exuberant Mr Clifton said: "Friday was a great day for the club and our loyal fans whose encouragement gave me the strength to carry through this most difficult and trying task."

Of the settlement that finally won the day, he said: "Our offer to acquire the chest clinic and other properties was an incentive for Morritt to settle the other outstanding issues, in order for us to secure Wealdstone FC's perimeters and freehold."



• Thumbs up from Wealdstone chairman Alan Clifton at Lower Mead after successfully severing the Morritt connection.

Friendly dates finalised

EDGWARE Town and Rayners Lane have both finalised their pre-season friendly matches.

Next Wednesday August 3, Edgware kick off their programme by entertaining Harrow Borough at the White Lion Ground. On Saturday August 6, they are at home to Lings, and then travel to Wealdstone on Tuesday August 9.

Two days later they are at Rayners Lane, and then play host to a Charlton Athletic XI on August 13.

Rayners Lane go to Welwyn Garden City next Thursday, August 4, to start their pre-season run-up. On August 9, they are at home to Northwood, and after the Edgware match on August 11, entertain Finchley on August 16.

All their home midweek matches kick off at 6.45pm. Meanwhile, the Hellenic League, in which Lane play, has been re-named the Federated Homes League, following a big sponsorship agreement with the building company.

Manager Don Durkin will be without centre back Tony Kieley for most of the season. He has moved away from the area and will only be available on an emergency basis.

Town start at Manor

KINGSBURY Town begin their pre-season programme on Tuesday with a trip to Rushlip Manor, and then contest a QPR XI on Thursday.

On Saturday August 6, they travel to Rushlip side Bedford Town, before playing long bus to Hendon on Tuesday August 9. Two days later Alan Dalrymple's side meet Middleton United at home and then visit Rushden on August 13.

Their Vauxhall-Opel League first division campaign begins a week later, with a trip to Leatherhead.

Borough set for the off

HARROW Borough will be the first local senior side in action for the new campaign when they start their pre-season build-up on Saturday with a trip to Berkhamstead.

Manager Keith Chamberlain will be without Steve Long, Lawrence Holmes and Richard Evans, who are all on holiday.

But he is likely to give defender Stuart Ashton, a former Rochdale reserve, his debut at Berkhamstead or Edgware Town on Wednesday.

Ex director dies, 69

FORMER Wealdstone FC director and committee member, Mr Harry Benjamin, died on Monday at the age of 69.

Thomas tames Stanmore to clinch Kenton's final place

The semi finals scorecards

KENTON

Salmon b Tyler	7
Thomas S c Fraser b Waite	12
Slade b Barrett b Waite	32
Preacher c Fraser b Cook	23
Thomas D not out	34
Halg c Tyler b Porter	1
Hollen run out	0
Murphy run out	0
Levington not out	17
Extras	17

Total (for 7 wickets) 103.
Fall of wickets: 1 at 22, 2 at 32, 3 at 32, 4 at 68, 5 at 70, 6 at 85, 7 at 91.
Bowling: Tyler 5-1-11-1, Waite 5-1-13-2, Kelly 3-0-17-5, Cook 5-0-29-1, Porter 2-0-15-1.

STANMORE

Ellis b Shooter	6
Daniel b Greenston	12
Active run out	0
Reed c Lawrence b Greenston	16
Wickham b Shooter	15
Dunham c Greenston b Lederman	3
Smith not out	22
Najetta not out	9
Extras	9

Total (for 6) 126.
Fall of wickets: 1 at 15, 2 at 35, 3 at 61, 4 at 90, 5 at 98, 6 at 113.
Bowling: Greenston 6-1-34-2, Shooter 6-1-21-2, Lederman 5-0-44-1, Davis 2-0-20-0.

STANMORE

Barrett b Thomas D	1
Porter c Thomas S b Singleton	62
Williams bow b Murphy	6
Fraser c b Singleton	6
Tyler bow b Singleton	7
Kirby not out	1
Waite run out	0
Baker b Slade	2
Extras	18

Total (for 7 wickets) 100.
Fall of wickets: 1 at 11, 2 at 38, 3 at 37, 4 at 92, 5 at 96, 6 at 98, 7 at 100.
Bowling: Thomas D 5-0-10-1, Murphy 5-0-25-1, Singleton 5-0-29-2, Slade 5-0-29-2.

STANMORE

Coch c Daniel b Watley	1
Pross b Collins	0
Green c Smith b Collins	0
Arnold c Collins b Najetta	0
Parment b Najetta	6
Segal b Najetta	6
Lederman run out	0
Greenston not out	7
Larven not out	4
Extras	4

Total (for 7) 37.
Fall of wickets: 1 at 2, 2 at 3, 3 at 6, 4 at 13, 5 at 17, 6 at 21, 7 at 29.

KENTON and Startlight contest what promises to be an intriguing final to the Kodak sponsored Mayor of Harrow's 20 over Knockout competition at Harrow CC tonight (Thursday) following their contrasting semi final successes this week.

Kenton shocked favourites Stanmore on Tuesday night, beating them by just three runs in a close and dramatic finish.

That clinched their final date with Trophy holders Startlight who eased through on Monday with a bloodless win over surprise semi-finalists Belmont who found themselves way out of their depth.

The defeat of Stanmore by Kenton was a real nail biting affair and owed much to a superb all round performance from Dave Thomas.

His unbeaten 34 saw Kenton to the positive luxury of 103-7 after the bowling of Geoff Tyler (1-11) and Mike Waite (2-13) had tied them down in the first 10 overs of their innings. The late flurry

By John Comfort

engineered by Thomas realised an amazing 45 runs in the final six overs.

Five plus an over to win was a more daunting task, yet well within Stanmore's compass, but Thomas made sure their reply got off to a less than ecstatic start when he bowled Steve Barrett in the third over and he conceded just 10 runs in his miserly five overs.

But then Rod Porter threatened to win the match for Stanmore on his own. He cracked 50 in 43 balls, including a six and 5 fours and when he was eventually out in the penultimate over for a magnificent 62 it set up a pulsating finish.

At 95-5 Stanmore needed 8 to win on less wickets lost in the final over bowled by Slade.

A wide off the first ball was redeemed out by the wicket of Waite lbw on the next and with a wide, a leg bye and two runs following, it left Stanmore on 100-6. Three runs from the last ball would still have seen them through but Slade tossed all the calculations out of the window by uprooting Baker's stumps to give Kenton a famous victory.

It was a finish in stark contrast to Monday's clash when Belmont were put to the sword by Startlight.

They battled bravely but found themselves totally outclassed as Startlight made 126-6 with Active top scoring with 45. And in their reply they could only muster 37-7.

Preacher looking to avenge defeat of '82

THE last occasion that Kenton were in the final of the Mayor of Harrow's Knockout competition was in 1982. Ironically, they faced Startlight - and lost, writes John Comfort.

Kenton skipper Bill Preacher is hopeful that his side can reverse that result, but knows that will be no easy task against the cavalier style cricketers of Startlight who hold the trophy and have won it on five occasions.

"If you win the toss you're always in with a good chance," he said.

"Being first in is vital in these games. You set a target and the pressure is immediately on your opponents."

Kenton, whose only win in the final came 22 years ago against Hatch End, will be strengthened by the return of opening bat Mark Giffin who was unavailable for the semi final against Stanmore. His presence will also provide his skipper with the choice of a fifth bowler.

Preacher said he was unconcerned about re-

ports that Startlight indulged in gamemanship in their quarter final match with Harrow. Harrow claimed Startlight had deliberately slowed down the over rate so that their batsmen would have to face their pacemen in poor light.

"I was surprised to read about that," said Preacher. "We'll leave that sort of thing to the umpires to sort out but if we win the toss, it's not going to be a problem anyway."

And he added: "Our matches with Startlight are always excellent and friendly games and I'm sure this meeting will be no exception."

Harrow's protests over the controversy were discussed by the organising committee this week and it now seems certain that their call for neutral umpires in all matches in the competition will be taken up.

Said committee spokesman Steve Johns: "The question of neutral umpires was discussed and it was agreed to in principle."

The final starts at 5.30pm at Harrow CC.

PRATS MOTOR INSURANCE

CAN WE SAVE YOU MONEY?

ASK US TO QUOTE

Open 9am-9pm Mon-Fri
Open 9am-5pm Sat

Established over 50 years

IMMEDIATE COVER FROM OUR OFFICE AT

40 LONG LANE HILLINGDON

Telephone: UXBRIDGE 32212
(STD code 0895 from London)

CAR INSURANCE

WHY PAY MORE THAN YOU SHOULD?

Immediate cover, best rates, substantial occupational discounts over and above any No Claims Discount.

CRESCENT INSURANCE

12 BONNERFIELD LANE, CENTRAL HARROW
Off Station Rd near Granada Cinema

01-863 0033