

# Observer SPORT

## Borough are thwarted by late goal

Leyton Wingate 3 Harrow Boro 3 BORO earned their first point of the month in a match of fluctuating fortunes on Tuesday, writes Tony Booth.

Boro recovered and equalised in the 19th minute when Richard Evans headed home from Robbie Johnson's corner but almost immediately Leyton restored their lead when Bolle netted.

after the break but turned the match round when Dicker and Emmanuel combined to set up Evans for a 61st minute goal.

## Big time athletics bring cash and facility headaches

# Gayts count the cost of success

OLD Gaytonians, the Harrow athletics club that has soared from obscurity to national prominence in five short years of unparalleled success, will face a tough baptism in the big time if major sponsorship cannot be found before the start of next summer.



BY AARON GRANSBY

them and offer signing-on fees as transfer inducements.

Gayts' team manager Tony Bush says the club will manage, just, if sponsorship is not forthcoming, but it will not be easy.

"The club will fund the trips somehow, we would not fail to go. But we will have to charge about £10 a head for each athlete who can afford it for the Edinburgh trip and the rest would have to come from the club's reserves. We will do it, but other club activities may suffer, it would be a question of priorities in that situation.

"While we have never lost members to other clubs because of loyalty and our own success, it would be nice to be able to recruit further athletes to strengthen our squad. Obviously, at division two level, it would be nice to offer more perks to athletes of the right calibre to join us and stay with us."

Another problem Gayts face is their lack of facilities at Bannister. There are four fixtures in the British League division two, which consists of six clubs, Cardiff, Edinburgh AC, Edinburgh Southern Harriers, Thames Valley, Windsor and Old Gayts.

This means only four clubs have home fixtures. Because there are two Edinburgh clubs in the division, one of them misses out, but Gayts are also without a home match because their facilities are the worst in the division.

"You have Meadowbank Stadium in Edinburgh which was good enough to host the Commonwealth Games twice, in 1970 and 1986. Then you have Bannister which is just about good enough to host the Harrow Schools Athletics Championships," says Tony Bush, comparing the facilities.

Bannister has absolutely no spectator facilities, and is dreadfully lacking in athletics equipment. Harrow Council, which runs the stadium, does not even have a budget to maintain a rolling programme of improvements to it. It took years of Old Gayts' pressure to even get the council to lay an all-weather running track there in May 1986.

Tony Bush says not having a home fixture will have an effect on Gayts, who have won their home league match every year since 1975 - a record the club is justly proud of.

"It is very frustrating and I don't have any doubt that it will be a handicap. Our record at home is something to be proud of and it definitely does give you an edge."

He also alleges that the council grossly neglects Bannister. "The hammer cage was out of action throughout last winter and will be again this winter. It just needs a simple repair, but without it there are no practice facilities for some of the top young hammer throwers in the country who live in the borough," he says.

Unless the club finds a sponsor and its facilities are upgraded, its phenomenal run of success could be at an end. Having been promoted from the Southern regional League at the end of the 1985 season, Gayts finished second in the British national League division five and were promoted in 1986, went up at division four champions in 1987 and this summer finished as division three champions.

All this success has come in the 11 years since the club went open, having previously been run just for Gayton (Harrow County Grammar) School pupils and its old boys.

The club, which in total runs five summer teams as well as taking part in winter competitions, also looks in good hands for the future. Its young athletes have been ranked in the top eight in the country for the last two years.

Tony Bush says he is hopeful that Gayts will arrive in the big time at first, even



● Tony Bush - seeking sponsorship and improved facilities for Old Gayts.

though two of the six clubs in the division go up and two go down. But he is not so sure about the club's long term prospects, given the current circumstances.

"I would have thought we would do well to retain a division two place, but we are capable of it. But if you get on the slide down, it is very easy to keep sliding. Although we have the athletes and the organisation to be successful at the top level, the club lacks the financial back-up and facilities that other top clubs have for ground."

Anyone interested in a sponsorship arrangement with Old Gaytonians should contact Tony Bush on 0923 211739.

Gayts' British League division two fixtures for 1989 are: May 13 at Hayes; May 21 at West London; May 15 at Edinburgh; August 5 at Cwmbran.

## Beaten Lions on the slide

Staines 2 Wembley 0 SAD Wembley slipped further down the league table with this latest defeat on Tuesday, writes Richard Marklew.

Two goals conceded in the second half did the damage. The first came two minutes after the break when Bryan Kearns was dispossessed by Crawford whose teasing cross was headed home by ex-Wealdstone striker Andy Graham.

The home side sealed the game in the 81st minute when Wembley lost possession in midfield and Staines substitute Jones pounced on the loose ball and led Gregory who duly converted the chance.

During a blank first half Jeff Fenner came to the Lions' rescue with a fine save from Graham's flying header.

Wembley battled hard but their out-of-touch forwards were caught offside too frequently to make much impression.

Laurence Murphy had Wembley's best chance midway through the second half when he latched onto Derek Brown's piercing through pass but he ballooned over with only the keeper to beat.

Wembley: Fenner, Walsh, Kearns, McGrath, Jenaway, Murphy, Smith, Brown, Dalling, Pedlar, Williams (Hampel). Other sub: Hutchison.

## On form Town take five

Kingsbury Town 5 Chesham 1 FOUR second half goals against bottom club Chesham got Kingsbury back on course for promotion at the top of the Vauxhall-Opel League first division.

Paul Fitzgerald put them ahead after 20 minutes, but that was the only score in the first half.

After the break Stuart Atkins and Dwight Marshall increased the lead with two goals in the space of a minute before Bates pulled a goal back from the penalty spot.

Gurriel Gullifer added a fourth for Kingsbury - in the 80th minute and just before the final whistle, Marshall hit his second goal to complete the rout.

Kingsbury Town: Smart, Rhodia, Fitzgerald, Murphy, D. Lucas (Lindo), S. Lucas, Z. Zacharia, Atkins, Gullifer, Clarke, Marshall. Sub: Goodson.

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## Problems for Jennings in defence

WEALDSTONE manager Tony Jennings has selection problems for their trip to Watlington on Saturday in the Beater Home League.

Alan Risk and Dennis Byan are both injured. Steve Brown is away on a course for four weeks and Paul Wilkins has a lung infection. Shipper Eversal La Ronda is also doubtful with an ankle injury.

Harrow Borough will be without Francis Cassidy, who is sitting out a three week suspension, for their home game with Carshalton on Saturday.

And striker Richard Evans will miss Tuesday's AC Delco Cup tie with Leatherhead at Epsom because of a one-match suspension.

Robbie Johnson, still on the transfer list while Borough wait on Cambridge United, is likely to retain his place in the side.

Kingsbury Town face a tough trip to Borehamwood but have no injury problems,

while Wembley should also be at full strength against Leatherhead.

Edward Town expect to have Jimmy Davey and Johnny Coleman back for their hard trip to Southwark Sports on Saturday in the Sports League. But centre half Ray Mangan could be back in the reckoning.

Former Wares star Seamus Finnerty, who has now left Harrow Borough, came on as substitute last week against Borehamwood but is away this week.

Manager Brian Rider says that although Finnerty has signed for the club, he won't rush him into becoming a permanent fixture again.

Rayners Lane boss Don Durkin should have a full squad to choose from for the first time this season as his side face fourth placed Bishop Cleeve in the Federated Home League.

## Soccer fixtures

**Saturday November 12**  
Beater Home League premier division: Watlington v Wealdstone.  
Vauxhall-Opel League premier division: Harrow Borough v Carshalton Athletic (Epsom, 3pm).  
Vauxhall-Opel League division one: Wembley v Leatherhead (Vale Farm, 3pm); Borehamwood v Kingsbury Town.  
Football League Premier division: Fulham v Luton (2.55pm).  
Cheese Kings Sports League premier division: Southwark Sports v Edgewood Town (3pm).  
Beater County League: Gaytonians v Harrow St Marys.

**Sunday November 14**  
Woolgate Insurance Cup 2nd Round 2nd leg: Wealdstone v Rushden (Leeds Road, 7.30pm).

**Tuesday November 15**  
AC Delco Cup 2nd round: Harrow Borough v Leatherhead (Epsom, 7.30pm).

**Wednesday November 16**  
Cheese Kings Sports League premier division: Edgewood Town v Borehamwood (White Lion Ground, 7.30pm).

## Stones let slip 3 goal lead

Rushden Town 4 Wealdstone 4

INJURY problems and an inability to sustain momentum over 90 minutes cost Wealdstone dearly as they threw away a three goal lead in this Westgate Insurance Cup tie on Tuesday, writes Tony Jackson.

Alan Cordice gave Stones an ideal start after 3 minutes, latching onto Tony Lynch's through ball and firing home from 25 yards and Paul Morris made it 2-0 in the 21st minute when he scored unchallenged to power in a header from Danny Bailey's corner.

On the half hour Lynch gave Stones a seemingly secure 3-0 lead with a 20 yard lob but before the break Rushden reduced the arrears through Stuart Beards.

10 minute second half spell.

Nonchalant play from Mark Harrison allowed Botterill to head low past Williams after 56 minutes and two minutes later the talented Beards made it 3-3. A well struck free kick completed Beards' hat-trick with Stones reduced to spectators.

Reserve keeper Kevin Foster came on for the injured Ericson to highlight Stones' depleted squad which badly missed the composure of Alan Risk at the back and La Ronda in midfield.

Corey Browne replaced O'Brien in the 70th minute and it was he who restored Stones' pride, heading home a Lynch cross to leave the scores all square for Monday's second leg.