

# Observer SPORT



## Lance strikes back

DEPARTED Wembley striker Lance Pedlar has hit back at the Vale Farm outfit following last week's Observer story about his move to Hounslow.

The 22-year-old forward, who is also playing for Wealdstone in the Capital League, says his only motive in leaving the Lions was to better himself.

"The reason I went to Hounslow is that they have more ambition than Wembley, they

are in a higher position and want to win their league. Wembley's ambition did not match mine, and I want to play for a club that will do my career some good.

"I was not chasing the pennies as was suggested. If Wembley had wanted to keep me they could have put me under contract because they knew of Hounslow's interest at the start of the season."

## Stones find the gap in class shows

IF this was the yardstick as to how far Stones have come since relegation from the Conference last season, then Tony Jennings has an awful lot of work to do yet, writes Aaron Gransby.

But in fairness to the home side, it could all have been very different but for two incredible saves by Sutton keeper Trevor Rofley towards the end of the first half of this Clubcail Cup third round game.

The game was played in driving rain throughout which sent the 255 crowd scurrying under cover from the start. In the end, both teams coped well with the conditions.

Paul Wilkins shot just over in the ninth minute for Stones before Larry Dennis began a memorable evening by scoring Sutton's first goal four minutes later. He was given a free header from Justin Homer's cross and beat Darren Williams easily.

But Rofley made his mark on the game on the half hour. Danny Bailey found Kirk Corbin on the right and his cross met with a tramping header by Samson Olaleye. It seemed destined for the top of the net until Rofley intervened with a flying save that pushed it onto the crossbar.

Six minutes later, Rofley

**Wealdstone 0  
Sutton United 4**

denied Stones another certain goal. This time it was Paul Wilkins who met Olaleye's cross with a perfect header, but Rofley was there again to turn the ball over.

But after the break, Sutton really turned on the style that has taken them to the second round of the FA Cup, with three goals in eight minutes.

Paul McKinnon crossed low for Dennis to swivel and shoot under Williams in the 57th minute, and on the hour defender Stuart Hemley scored the best goal of the game with a splendid effort from 25 yards that deceived Williams and crept in under the bar.

Dennis claimed his hat-trick four minutes later when he poked home McKinnon's flick-on after Phil Dawson had crossed accurately from the left wing.

Wealdstone: Williams, Bailey, Harrison, Byatt, Corbin, La Ronde (C. Browne), Wilkins, Morris, Cordice (Lynch), Olaleye, Eriemo.

## Town fail in late late show

**Woking 1 Kingsbury Town 0**

TUESDAY'S match between two of the clubs chasing promotion from the Vauxhall-Opel League's first division was a late, late show in more ways than one.

To start with, half of the Kingsbury team did not arrive at the ground until an hour after kick-off, forcing the game to begin at 8.40pm. Their coach had been caught in heavy traffic at Greenford.

Then Woking scored the winning goal just two minutes from time, but still failed to dislodge Kingsbury from the top of the table, as Bankingside and Uxbridge, their nearest rivals, also lost.

Woking's Mark Davis had the last word, breaking free to shoot past Fred Smart from the edge of the box in the 88th minute, as Kingsbury struggled to keep going in the closing seconds having settled for the draw.

Kingsbury Town: Smart, Ebsita, Fitzgerald, Murphy, D. Lucas, S. Lucas, Zacharia, Atkins, Gutter, Goodison (Lindo), Clarke, Seb. Hill.

# IT'S TIME TO BUY NOW JENNO

**Observer Sport COMMENT**  
by Aaron Gransby

WEALDSTONE manager Tony Jennings must get the cheque book out if Stones are to regain the impetus they have lost in recent weeks and finish the season on top of the Beazer Homes League.

With the supporters and board all desperately wanting to win back the club's rightful place in the GM Vauxhall Conference at the first attempt, a succession of injuries and non-availability has wrecked Stones' hopes of opening up an early lead at the top of the premier division.

Jennings has pruned his squad in recent weeks, releasing midfielder Mark Lawrence and defender Lance O'Brien.

But he has not replaced them and with injuries keeping out Steve Browne, Alan Risk and Chris Wright, Jennings is now down to a mere 13 players, some of whom are not the long-term answer anyway.

Chairman Alan Clifton said this week that money is available for his manager to strengthen the squad, and Jennings must move fast if confidence is not to evaporate with more dismal performances like those on Saturday and Tuesday.

In defence, Dennis Byatt has been rushed back into action too early because of the injury to Alan Risk, and has struggled in his first two games. Alongside him, Solomon Eriemo is a good squad player but lacks the consistency needed in such a vital position.

In midfield, normally-dependable skipper Ev La Ronde has been sadly lacking

in form, the excellent Steve Browne has not yet been regularly available, while Paul Morris is about to serve a three-match suspension.

Danny Bailey has been the team's most consistent player so far, but he needs regular support, and using strikers Corey Browne and Samson Olaleye alongside him will just not do.

Up front, a regular goalscorer like Mark Graves or Tommy English is desperately needed to add consistency to the undoubted skills of Tony Lynch, Olaleye and Alan Cordice, and the rich promise of young Corey Browne.

Without buying, Wealdstone will stay in the hunt for honours, and with a full first eleven, would probably already have the ammunition to pip Dartford for the league title.

But they have not yet been able to play that full first eleven, and just missing out would be a tragedy when it would take such little action to build a squad capable of going up.

Tony Jennings has already performed miracles in turning the team from certain losers to potential winners. Now he must build further on his already considerable achievements.

Sadly, in these mercenary days, it means paying for quality, and probably paying a lot. But his chairman is prepared to back him, and he must bring in players of Conference standard - and sooner rather than later.



● Tony Jennings - time to buy.

## Steve on the move

STEVE Emmanuel, Harrow Borough's longest-serving player, joined local rivals Hayes this week for a fee approaching £3,000.

Emmanuel, who was assistant manager to Keith Chamberlain until the appointment of Alan Mayes as boss earlier this season, was being chased by several clubs, including Wokingham. But he joins up with former Borough stalwart Harry Manson, who is now manager of the Church Road club, which was knocked out of the FA Cup first round at Aldershot two weeks ago.

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## Don't miss stars on Friday

OSSIE Antiles is expected to return to Wembley seven years after his famous appearance at the twin towers when his current club, first division Queens Park Rangers, send a strong side to Vale Farm for Friday night's Middlesex Charity Cup tie with Wembley FC.

The Lions reached the final at the Mecca of football last season, only to lose to Hendon. But the QPR side is also due to include Nicky Johns, Dean Coney, David Kerslake and Gavin Maguire, so they will have their work cut out before what promises to be a bumper crowd.

Wendesside are without a game on Saturday, but travel to Hendon in the county cup on Tuesday night. Note also that Wednesday's Capital League game with Barnet is now at Lower Mead, not away as previously advertised.

Harrow Borough kick off their FA Trophy campaign with a third qualifying round tie against fellow premier division outfit Windsor and Eton at Earlsmead. Manager Alan Mayes

could well keep faith with the side that earned him his first league win on Saturday.

Kingsbury Town hope to extend their lead at the top of the Vauxhall-Opel League division one with a home match against Boreham Wood, Centre half Paul Shields, the former Town and Wembley player, has now re-joined Alan Dafforn's side and could make his debut after coming through a reserve game last week. But striker Dwight Marshall is still struggling to shake off a knee injury.

Rayners Lane boss Don Darlin will be without Alan Williams and Paul Abell as his side play a quick return at Penhill, the side that beat them at Lucas Avenue on Saturday.

Edgware Town face a local derby against table-topping Northwood, managed by ex-Harrow Borough reserve team boss Alan Merison. Wares should be at full strength for what promises to be an epic battle.

## Soccer fixtures

<b>Friday, December 2</b>	(Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm).	<b>Tuesday, December 6</b>
Russell Grant's Middlesex Charity Cup: Wembley v QPR (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).	Federated Homes League Premier division: Penhill Sports v Rayners Lane.	Aneatprint Middlesex Senior Cup round one: Hendon v Wealdstone; Harrow Borough v Bedfont (Earlsmead, 7.30pm); Wembley v Yeading (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).
<b>Saturday, December 3</b>	Greene King Spartan League premier division: Northwood v Edgware Town.	<b>Wed, day, December 7</b>
FA Trophy 3rd qualifying round: Harrow Borough v Windsor and Eton (Earlsmead, 3pm).	<b>Monday, December 5</b>	WF Capital League: Wealdstone v Barnet (Lower Mead, 7.30pm).
Vauxhall-Opel League division one: Kingsbury Town v Boreham Wood.	Aneatprint Middlesex Senior Cup round one: Hounslow v Kingsbury Town.	

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