

observer SPORT

Leaders let Boro' off lightly

Farnborough Town 2 Harrow Borough 0
THE final scoreline may well suggest respectability in defeat for Borough against the League leaders on Monday, but such was not the case for they were fortunate indeed not to suffer the proverbial good hi-

ding, writes John Comfort. Apart from a bright opening 15 minute spell when Borough flattered sufficiently to indicate the merest hint of an upset, it was all Farnborough. They continually threatened to take the visitors to the cleaners and it was only their inade-

quate finishing that prevented them from actually doing so. On the day Farnborough found a notable ally in a Borough side that has become too nice for its own good. Their ultra pleasant defensive qualities were directly responsible for both goals and a killer

instinct is fast required if they are to have any hope of dragging themselves clear of the relegation mire.

Borough's striking capabilities were also notable by their absence. In the opening exchanges Richard Evans was just off target with a firm header and Jimmy Bolton hit a half volley at keeper Howells but thereafter the Farnborough goal was not troubled again until a few minutes from time when Payne put Evans clear only for him to lose control before he could get a shot in.

Farnborough by contrast appeared likely to score with every attack and the only real surprise was that it took them 44 minutes before they finally netted. Horton was allowed far too much room in a jinking run on the right and the pinpoint cross which followed left Brathwaite with a clear header past Lee Bozler.

The second half followed a similar pattern and a second goal 10 minutes from the restart sealed Borough's fate.

There seemed little danger when Brathwaite picked up a loose ball 30 yards out, but he ghosted past a host of non-existent tackles into the box and Bozler was beaten by a low shot.

Borough were lucky that more goals didn't follow. The crossbar later denied Read and when Brathwaite again beat Bozler, Steve Bateman came to the rescue with a goalline clearance.

VAUXHALL OPEL LEAGUE Premier Division

Farnborough	23	16	5	2	53
Slough	22	14	2	6	44
St Albans	24	12	2	9	41
Leytonstone	21	11	7	3	40
Hendon	22	9	10	3	37
Carshalton	21	7	7	5	34
Leyton-Wingate	22	8	9	5	33
Kingsfornham	20	8	6	6	30
Wokingham	22	7	8	7	29
Barking	20	7	7	6	28
Dagenham	22	7	6	28	
Grays	17	7	6	4	27
St Albans	21	7	6	8	27
Hale	19	7	7	7	26
Stratford	23	6	8	9	26
Bognor	18	7	3	8	24
Wokingham	22	6	8	9	22
Wokingham	22	6	3	13	21
Harlow	22	4	7	12	19
Grays	22	1	7	14	10
Marlow	21	1	5	15	8

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Premier Division

Dartford	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge C	23	9	8	6	38	24	35
VS Rugby	20	10	5	5	26	20	35
Bath City	22	9	6	8	43	33	33
Dover	16	9	4	3	33	17	31
Gosport	17	9	4	4	33	21	31
Worcester	19	7	6	5	26	29	31
Corby	21	8	6	7	26	29	30
Bromsgrove	19	7	8	4	36	29	29
Ashford	18	8	5	5	30	28	29
Avechurch	20	8	5	7	29	29	29
Wexham	18	8	4	7	32	28	28
Barton	22	7	8	34	31	28	28
Dorchester	18	8	4	6	23	26	28
Fareham	20	8	2	10	23	31	26
Hayes	18	6	7	6	26	25	25
Merthyr	17	7	3	7	38	26	24
Moor Green	19	7	2	10	29	24	24
Widnesville	18	6	5	8	29	35	23
Leicester Utd	21	3	6	12	24	38	15
Redditch	18	2	3	13	11	47	9
Beworth	19	1	2	16	15	45	5

Uneasy peace at the Boro' is broken

BOLTON GOES ON THE LIST



BY JOHN COMFORT

THE uneasy peace between Harrow Borough manager Alan Mayes and his leading goalscorer Jimmy Bolton was abruptly ended on Monday when the £4,500 striker was slapped on the transfer list.

After Borough's defeat at Farnborough on Monday Mayes announced: "I am putting Jimmy Bolton on the transfer list.

"I had been expecting more of him but he has just not been doing the business."

That Bolton and the Borough boss have not seen eye to eye since Mayes was appointed to take over in November from Keith Chamberlin - the man who signed Bolton from Farnborough 11 months ago for a club record fee - has been an open secret at Earlsmead.

Their differences of opinion have been well aired and on several occasions have erupted into heated dressing room confrontations.

Bolton is known to be unhappy with the style of play adopted by Mayes which demands total fitness. And it has been reflected

in some lethargic and unimpressive performances, although he has still managed 11 goals to top the Borough scoring list.

But Mayes will not be swayed on tactics and the pairs' differences surfaced publicly a month ago when Bolton was substituted in a match against Tooting, the third successive game in which he had been pulled off. He angrily threw down his shirt, headed straight for the dressing room and promptly left the ground vowing never to play for the club again.

Mayes later played down the incident and poured cold water on suggestions of a rift between himself and the player. But clearly he was only papering over the cracks and delaying the inevitable.

The workrate demanded by Mayes from Bolton failed to materialise and the split between the two became a chasm on Friday when the player was substituted against Leyton-Wingate and again showed his displeasure.

Borough will be looking for a substantial fee for Bolton, but recouping their outlay would seem unlikely.

League title chasers Slough Town are expected to be among the front runners for his signature.

Midfielder Phil Dicker has also been put back on the transfer list after being taken off three weeks ago but additions to the Borough squad are on the horizon this week with Mayes expecting to sign "an aggressive midfielder" and possibly a striker.

And there was good news for the manager from Wycombe who are to allow the loan period of Kevin Day to run to the end of the season and although Conference club Aylesbury have expressed an interest in him, Day says he is content to stay at Earlsmead.

Bobby ends the famine

Bracknell Town 0 Wembley 1

BOBBY Hutchinson's 47th minute winner ended Wembley's recent goal famine and also secured their first league win since Nov 26th, writes Richard Markiewicz.

It was a scrambled effort but a more than welcome one. A Stevie Smith corner reached Bryan Kearns on the edge of the Bracknell goal area. Kearns lobbed the ball into the middle to Paul Janaway who out-jumped the advancing keeper to head the ball goalwards. Bracknell defender Paul Mulvaney fluffed a clearance opportunity allowing Hutchinson to bundle the ball over the line.

Both sides had chances during a blank first half. Bracknell's Rob Thorpe hit the crossbar with a shot from the left wing in the seventh minute, and Hutchinson was denied by keeper Alan Henley four minutes later after a promising break through the Bracknell defence.

But the best chance of the half occurred in the 41st minute when Paul Bryan received a sliced clearance and broke free. But with only the keeper to beat he hammered the ball well wide of the target.

Once Wembley took the lead early in the second half, confidence which was sadly lacking in previous matches suddenly returned and they should have added to the total. As it was a single goal was enough for their first victory in five matches.

Wembley: Fanner, Kearns, Charles, Walsh, Janaway, Bryan, Smith (Phillips), Brown, Doling, Hutchinson (McLeod), Palfrey.

Fightback just fails to earn a point

Ashford Town 3 Wealdstone 2

A SPLENDID Wealdstone comeback from three goals down almost gave them a well deserved point against Ashford on Monday, writes Steve Marshall.

Despite applying much pressure on Ashford in the first half, Wealdstone trailed 1-0 at the break, the goal coming after nine minutes when a cross by Ross was powerfully headed in at the near post by Arter.

Pedlar had an effort blocked and Cordice fired just over from 18 yards as Stones piled on the pressure, then Cordice badly miscued when well placed after being set up by Steve Brown.

Stones had plenty of problems at the other end with a linesman who twice allowed Carlton

through when he was clearly yards offside. His first effort hit the outside of the post and Williams saved well on the second occasion.

The arrival of Chris Wright, on for the injured Corey Browne sparked off an excellent spell for Wealdstone up to the break but the closest they came to an equaliser was when the excellent Mark Harrison had a powerful header kicked off the line.

Ashford stretched their lead six minutes into the second half when Ross's cross clipped Risk's outstretched leg and deceived Williams allowing Arter to bundle the ball home.

Disaster struck again in the 56th minute when Ross broke down the left and his cross to Carlton was intercepted by La Ronde only for

the ball to fly over the stranded Williams into the net.

The Wealdstone revival began just five minutes later when Cordice was tripped in the area and Harrison coolly scored from the spot.

12 minutes later a quickly taken free kick led to Cordice crossing and when the Ashford defence failed to clear, Pedlar hooked home the loose ball to make it 3-2.

Stones continued to dominate and had Wright shown more composure in the final minute before shooting over they could have been celebrating a well earned point.

Wealdstone: Williams, Risk, Harrison, Byatt, Corbin, La Ronde, C.Browne (Wright), Pedlar, Cordice, Olaleye, S.Browne. Sub: Morris.

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Injury crisis forces Jennings to take out a loan

WITH his injury problems mounting by the week, Wealdstone boss Tony Jennings says he will be looking to take a couple of players on loan to enable him to field a side for Saturday's home match with Dorchester.

Jennings has top scorer Tony Lynch out for at least a month with knee ligaments trouble sustained against Bath and Corey Browne's head wound which he collected at Ashford could sideline him.

Paul Wilkins with an ankle

injury and Paul Morris who has back trouble are also doubts and even if they start they will do so at less than full fitness.

Stones have slipped sadly to 12th place in the Beazer Homes League table over the past month. "It has been a very disappointing month," said Jennings. "We badly need to steady things up again."

Harrow Borough boss Alan Mayes hopes to have centre back Kevin Day fit to face St Albans after missing

Monday's match with Farnborough with a groin injury.

Steve Smith and Bobby Hutchinson both took knocks against Bracknell but are expected to be fit for Wembley's home match with Lewes on Saturday. But there are doubts about Steve McGrath and Harry Hutchinson who both have flu.

Having lost their top spot over the holiday period to Staines, despite a good 2-1 win over Uxbridge on Monday, Kingsbury Town will be looking to renew their title challenge when they take on Bracknell. Manager Alan Dafforn has no injury problems.

Ron Tully misses Edgeware's crucial game with Southgate on Saturday with a hamstring injury but Mark White is expected to be fit after a bout of flu.

Manager Don Durkin has a full squad to select from for Rayners Lane's visit on Saturday to Bicester Town.



● Tony Lynch - out for a month with a knee ligament injury.

Pitch problem

HARROW Borough manager Alan Mayes is anxious to find a training pitch for use on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

With the Earlsmead pitch ruled out for training purposes, the squad currently lacks adequate facilities and Mayes is desperately seeking a floodlit grass or all weather pitch in the Harrow area on which to knock his squad into shape.

If anyone knows of a suitable pitch Mr Mayes will be delighted to hear from them on 0494-451044.

Soccer fixtures

Saturday January 7

Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Wealdstone v Dorchester Town (Lower Mead, 3pm).

Vauxhall Opel League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v St Albans City (Earlsmead, 3pm).

Vauxhall Opel League Division One: Kingsbury Town v Bracknell Town (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm); Wembley v Lewes (Vale Farm, 3pm).

Greene King Spartan League Premier Division: Edgeware v Southgate Athletic (White Lion Ground, 3pm).

Federated Homes League Premier Division: Bicester Town v Rayners Lane.

Tuesday January 10

Middlesex Senior Cup: Hendon v Wealdstone.

AC Defoe Cup replay: Harrow Borough v Kingsbury Town (Earlsmead, 7.30pm).

Vauxhall Opel League Division One: Woking v Wembley.

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