

SPORT

Kingsbury beaten in County Cup Final
Full report and pictures - pages 54, 55

Stones are just too close for comfort

Hovering on the brink of disaster

WITH the spectre of relegation hovering ominously close, Wealdstone have only nine games left in which to save themselves from the horrific prospect and total ignominy of dropping dramatically from the Vauxhall Conference to the Beazer Homes League's First Division in successive seasons.

Four clubs are destined to fall this season, and the threat to Stones' Premier Division status is all too obvious. For although Bedworth, Redditch and Leicester have lost touch with the pack and already appear doomed, the fourth relegation spot is still up for grabs and could be unwelcomely claimed by any one of some eight clubs - and Wealdstone are uncomfortably amongst them.

Fareham are at present holding that fourth drop out place but Stones are just five places and a slender four points above them.

Given their totally unpredictable form, not to mention a run in which sees them take on league leaders VS Rugby, second placed Darford, as well as other championship hopefuls in Merthyr Tydfil and Dover in their last four games, Wealdstone's position is hardly cause for cheer in the unhappy Lower Mead camp.

Manager Tony Jennings is only too aware of the position but does not share the fans' view of doom and gloom. "Although our run in looks difficult it is not necessarily so," he said. "We are capable of getting results and it would be no more difficult if we were facing the likes of Bedworth and Redditch, bearing in mind our lack of consistency.

"We have got a squad capable of giving any team a game but they are struggling to find their form and sadly suffering from a lack of confidence. And while we could lose every game on the

run in, we could just as easily win every game."

The fickle fans are crying out for new players to ensure Stones' safety but that is easier said than done said Jennings, particularly after the recent £40,000 transfer of Gary Abbott from Barnet to Enfield which has given non-league clubs considerably inflated ideas of transfer fees.

Jennings has made exhaustive enquiries for new players without success. "I share everyone's frustration," he said. "But better players are of a premium and frankly there is no point in buying if players are only as good as what we've got."

So unless Jennings can come up trumps before tomorrow's transfer deadline it seems that the same players will see out of the remainder of the season and hold the key to the club's Premier Division future.

"And I feel it should go down on record that those players deserve some credit, contrary to what a section of the fans believe," said Jennings. "They don't know the medical situation and some of those players are playing when it would be better for them not to in their endeavours to help the club out."



BY JOHN COMFORT

Wealdstone honour Alan



Alan Cordice (left) receives a silver salver from Wealdstone chairman Alan Clifton to mark his testimonial match against Yeovil.

WEALDSTONE FC paid tribute to Alan Cordice at Lower on Wednesday but the apathetic soccer fans of Harrow were sadly noticeable by their absence on the popular striker's big night.

Even allowing for it being a damp and cold evening, the meagre crowd of 200 was a disappointing one for a player who has been a loyal servant to the club for the past nine years during which time he has helped them to every top honour in the non-league game.

The stay away fans missed out on the return to Lower ahead of many former Stones fixtures in a testimonial match which saw a Wealdstone XI take on Yeovil Town who are managed by Brian Hall, the man who led Stones to their league and FA Trophy double in 1985.

Outstanding Wealdstone were Paul Bowgett, who skippered the double winning team, as

well as Mark Graves and Roy Davies who also figured in that triumph. Yeovil paraded three of that "double" side in goalkeeper Bob Lee, Gary Donnellan and Alan Cordice's brother Neil, as well as other ex-Stones Steve Ruter and Steve Tapley.

Wealdstone opened the scoring with the best goal of the night when a superb Davies crossfield pass put John Margerison away on the right and when his centre rebounded off the crossbar, Tony Lynch followed up to score with a diving header.

Goals from Paul Randall and Guy Whittingham saw Yeovil ahead before half time and with Stones disadvantaged by the inclusion of the portly duo of manager Tony Jennings and his assistant Norman Ikin in their ranks after the break, further goals from Randall and Whittingham followed to give the visitors a 4-1 victory.

Olaley's goal is not enough to save Stones

Cambridge City 2 Wealdstone 1
FOLLOWING their win over Ashford, Wealdstone were a great disappointment on Monday when they were defeated by Cambridge, writes Steve Marshall.

They took time to settle on a bone hard pitch and in the 8th minute had a lucky escape when Paul Wilkins was forced to hook the ball clear after Foster dropped a corner.

Two minutes later Foster saved well from Keith Wilkins' volley, then the ever-dangerous Grogan sent an overhead kick just wide. Wealdstone's first real effort came after

22 minutes when Lynch's cross was met first time by Wilkins but the big striker fired well over.

Grogan should have done better when he headed over and then Foster excelled in clutching a dangerous cross from Lockhart.

Wealdstone's best spell came in the few minutes before half time. Margerison sent Lynch away and his drive was blocked by Murray, then Margerison's 25 yard free kick was fisted over by the keeper. Alan Risk headed just over from a corner and soon after the interval a Goyette free kick

took a deflection and Murray only just managed to keep the ball out.

The deadlock was broken in the 52nd minute when Cambridge took the lead. Kevin Wilkins got past the Stones' centre backs and coolly lobbed.

Four minutes later it was 2-0. Foster pulled off a stunning save from Low's header but the resultant corner wasn't cleared and Lockhart hooked the ball into the roof of the net from 10 yards.

Mark Harrison replaced Kirk Corbin as Wealdstone looked to get back into the

match and they reduced the deficit in the 77th minute when Goyette's through ball put Lynch away and his low cross was tapped in by Olaley. Cambridge claimed that both Lynch and Olaley were offside, but the goal was allowed to stand.

But for Wealdstone it wasn't enough and another away defeat still leaves them hovering just above the relegation zone.

Wealdstones: Foster, Corbin (Harrison), Olaley, Risk, Morris, La Ronde, Bailey, Margerison, Wilkins, Goyette, Lynch. Sub: Byatt.

League tables

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE							
Premier Division							
	P	W	D	L	Pts		
VS Rugby	30	12	7	5	44	25	61
Darford	31	17	7	7	57	27	58
Cambridge City	36	16	9	11	60	48	57
Bromsgrove	35	14	14	7	64	43	58
Merthyr Tydfil	30	16	6	8	68	43	54
Worcester	34	14	12	8	55	43	54
Dover	34	10	6	18	52	41	53
Gosport Boro	30	14	9	7	59	42	51
Burton Albion	33	13	10	10	62	53	49
Dorchester	32	12	13	7	40	41	48
Corby Town	33	13	8	12	46	45	47
Moor Green	33	12	9	12	49	45	45
Crawley Town	35	10	14	10	44	39	44
Wealdstone	33	11	10	12	46	42	43
Ashford Town	33	11	10	12	50	41	43
Bath City	34	10	11	13	46	41	41
Alvechurch	34	11	8	15	45	49	41
Waterlooville	34	10	10	14	48	40	40
Fareham Town	33	11	8	16	43	51	38
Leicester Utd	34	6	8	20	39	59	26
Redditch Utd	34	4	6	24	26	83	18
Bedworth	35	5	9	21	33	73	17

VAUXHALL OPEL LEAGUE							
Premier Division							
	P	W	D	L	Pts		
Farnborough	37	23	8	6	69	42	77
Leytonstone	35	22	9	4	65	35	75
Slough Town	30	15	12	3	53	37	65
Grays Ath	35	17	9	9	54	41	60
B Stortford	36	18	4	14	61	46	58
Kingstonian	34	15	9	10	39	29	54
Barking	36	14	12	10	40	35	54
Bognor Regis	34	15	9	10	29	37	54
Carshalton	30	14	10	6	41	24	52
Hayes	35	13	11	11	50	42	50
Hendon	35	12	14	9	44	49	50
Leytonstone	35	11	8	17	48	49	47
Wokingham	32	12	10	11	43	37	46
Windsor	36	12	9	15	52	48	45
Bromley	35	10	13	12	40	42	42
St Albans	35	11	8	16	45	47	41
Dagenham	36	9	12	15	43	57	39
Dulwich Hamlet	35	10	8	17	48	49	38
Harrow Boro	36	7	11	18	43	70	32
Tooting & M	34	8	4	22	32	66	28
Marlow	35	5	9	21	33	73	24
Croydon	36	4	9	23	20	60	21

Division One							
	P	W	D	L	Pts		
Staines Town	33	22	8	3	67	22	74
Basingstoke	34	21	8	5	74	31	71
Hitchin Town	33	18	7	7	52	29	63
Barnet	32	16	9	6	51	45	60
Woking	30	16	9	5	54	25	57
Wingate	33	17	6	10	56	36	57
Wivenhoe	32	15	8	9	49	31	55
Kingsbury	32	15	7	10	49	29	52
Braham Wood	33	14	9	10	50	41	51
Chalfont St Giles	35	11	8	16	44	44	47
Leatherhead	33	13	6	14	47	44	45
Wembley	31	12	4	15	32	52	40
Net Pottery	35	11	15	9	38	55	39
Chesham Utd	32	9	7	16	38	55	34
Southwick	30	7	11	12	36	42	32
Chalfont St Giles	35	11	6	18	44	44	32
Collier Row	32	7	7	19	31	66	28
Hampton	32	5	12	15	32	51	27
Worthing	35	6	17	19	39	47	27
Bracknell Town	32	6	6	20	25	48	24
Basildon Utd	32	5	6	21	26	57	21

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Borough's bid for safety is rocked by injury crisis

Soccer fixtures

Saturday April 1
Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Dorchester Town v Wealdstone.
Vauxhall Opel League Premier Division: Dagenham v Harrow Borough.
Vauxhall Opel League Division One: Hitchin Town v Wembley.
Greene King Spartan League: Edgware Town v Beckton Utd (White Lion Ground, 3pm).
Federated Homes League Premier Division: Rayners Lane v Abingdon Utd (Lucas Avenue, 3pm).
Tuesday April 4
Capital League: Enfield v Wealdstone.

WITH their Premier Division safety still not assured, Harrow Borough visit fellow strugglers Dagenham on Saturday with a side that has been torn apart by injuries and illness.

Striker Duncan Hardy is out for two weeks with ankle ligament trouble sustained against Wokingham while midfielder Francis Cassidy has not yet recovered from a bout of tonsillitis and defender Rory Gleeson is also suffering from a bug.

To cap manager Keith Chamberlin's problems, his attempt to sign Swansea striker Andrew Legge went up in smoke on Monday.

Agreement had been reached to get him on loan for the remainder of the season but he was injured in a match against Torquay and will be out for three weeks.

Chamberlin, who said he was "absolutely gutted" over Legge's injury, has now got a month's extension on the loan of Warren Gravette from Maidenhead to get him over the selection crisis.

Wealdstone go to Dorchester on Saturday looking to pick up vital points. Both Mark Harrison and Everal La Ronde are expected to be included in manager Tony Jennings' line-up, despite carrying injuries.

But John Margerison will be missing as he starts his two match suspension for being sent off at Bath.

Wembley face a tough task when they visit in form Hitchin Town on Saturday.

Town, who are skipped by former Wembley player Ian Whitehead, are currently third in the table and have won their last seven matches. Wembley manager Tony Waugh has no injury problems.

After their Middlesex Senior Cup defeat, Kingsbury Town have no league match this week and take a rest from the action.

John Mangan with a pulled thigh muscle is Edgware's only doubt as they take on Beckton in the Spartan League on Saturday.

Striker Ron Tully could be in contention for a place after being unavailable over the holiday weekend.

Steve Brian is available after completing his suspension as Rayners Lane take on Abingdon United at Lucas Avenue.

Manager Don Durkin has a full squad to select from with the exception of the injured Tony Kiely.