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Atkins' boob is a killer for Kingsbury

Kingsbury Town 0 Boreham Wood 1

STUART Atkins drove another nail into Kingsbury's relegation coffin with a suicidal back pass that allowed three more vital points to slip away on Tuesday night, writes John Comfort.

There was no immediate pressure on the mid-fielder when he came back into his own half in the 12th minute to claim the ball out on the touchline, but inexplicably he drilled it back across the face of his own penalty area and the grateful Mark Lincoln duly accepted the gift and fired past Fred Smart.

Ironically just a minute earlier Lincoln had declined a similar present when Brian Kearns was equally lax with a back pass. On that occasion Lincoln miskicked and the ball went harmlessly wide.

Despite the introduction of new signing Tony Simpson from neighbours Wembley, Kingsbury were clearly shaken by that early setback and showed little sparkle up to half time.

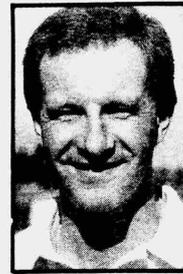
Things improved after the break but not before Boreham Wood had missed a couple of golden opportunities to stretch their lead as ex-Town striker Henry Clarke shot weakly at Fred Smart from only 10 yards and then Smith headed wide with the goal at his mercy.

Town came good in the final quarter and only excellent goalkeeping from Wood's ex-Wealdstone keeper Alex Welsh denied them a point. He somehow held a Paul Shields header from Rod Findley's free kick that was destined for the top corner of the net and when Paul Bhatia's shot took a deflection following a Kearns free kick and was heading for the same spot, the keeper superbly clawed it away to safety.

Kingsbury: Smart, Bhatia, Augustin, Murphy, Shields, Kearns, Halloran, T. Simpson, C. Simpson, Atkins (Marshall), Findley. Sub: Surridge.

Dafforn resigns

'I've had enough' says boss of troubled Town



Alan Dafforn.

THE trials and tribulations of being manager of relegation haunted Kingsbury Town finally took their toll for Alan Dafforn on Tuesday night when he resigned after the 1-0 home defeat against Boreham Wood.

With Kingsbury precariously hanging onto their Vauxhall League Division One status, Dafforn threw in the towel with an icy blast for the club.

He said: "I'm no quitter, I wanted to see it through to the end, but things I've asked for just haven't happened, and I've had enough."

Dafforn said his problems began before the season and have gradually got worse. They included having no groundsman for a pitch which he described as "diabolical," lack of match balls, transport to matches and kit continually being late for games, and sometimes not arriving at all.

On the field of play injuries, including the long term absence of both Paul Bhatia and Steve Lucas, failed to help, but the real turning point for Dafforn came when the committee decided at Christmas to cut the wage bill.

Dafforn lost players to clubs who made offers that he was unable to match. "I couldn't compete. My hands were tied," he said. "I should have seen the writing on the wall then but decided to stay loyal and not desert a sinking ship. But it re-



BY JOHN COMFORT

strict of any deals I wanted to make at what was a critical time."

Dafforn said he had spoken to 50 players this year in an effort to strengthen his squad. "But it's difficult to get them to come because they think the club is just a drinking club and is a shambles. And I have to agree there's a degree of truth in it."

With no sign of any change, Dafforn made up his mind at the weekend that win or lose he would resign after Tuesday's game.

"I was just not prepared to put my reputation on the line any longer for those who did not have faith in my ability. I've looked at myself and gi-

ven the insurmountable problems I've had I don't think anyone could have done any more in my position."

Dafforn took over as Kingsbury boss two seasons ago following the sacking of Terry Dyson. Previously he spent eight successful years as player and then manager of neighbours Wembley, taking them to a cup double of Middlesex Senior and Middlesex Charity Cup in 1987. He took Kingsbury to the final of both those competitions last year, but Town lost them both.

Kingsbury chairman Chris Larkin said that the club would not be looking for a new manager until the end of the season. In the meantime he

and youth team manager Frank O'Brien would run the side.

Said Larkin: "I'd like to thank Alan for what he's done for the club. He's been a good manager and has done well for us with limited resources, but I think he's been let down by players who he has stood by."

Dafforn's departure could well signal an exodus of players from Silver Jubilee Park.

Goalkeeper Fred Smart, once assistant manager, was thought unlikely to stay while Spud Murphy, who came out of retirement to help Dafforn out, definitely won't. There are also doubts about Rod Findley and new signing Tony Simpson.

Chairman Larkin said: "Obviously we'll be disappointed if any of the players go but I hope they will stay with us to the end of the season and fight to keep us up. If they don't we'll just have to make up the team with reserves and others we can sign before the deadline."

Morris is back for Stones

PAUL Morris returns to the Wealdstone side for Saturday's visit to Atherstone after missing the Bath match through suspension.

Steve Browne is not totally fit after his long term injury but is expected to play. Otherwise manager Alan Gane has no injury problems.

Bromley are Harrow Borough's opponents at Earlsmead on Saturday. Although bottom of the table, Bromley are staging something of a revival, which Borough certainly are not.

Colin Payne's hopes of consideration for a place in the side were dashed on Tuesday when his shoulder injury saw him taken off in the reserve team's 1-0 defeat against Kingstonian.

Manager Tom McAlister has no injury problems. Sean Priddle has a blistered foot but is expected to be fit to face Bromley.

Kingsbury Town face two critical matches this week at home to Whyteleafe on Saturday and away to Croydon on Monday. Six points are essential in their battle to avoid relegation.

Following the departure of Alan Dafforn, chairman Chris Larkin and youth team boss

Frank O'Brien will be picking the side.

Keeper Jeff Fanner hopes to return after injury for Purlfeet on Saturday, but John Walsh is definitely out. Paul Janaway's gashed ankle has become infected and he is doubtful.

Edgware face a difficult game away to Walthamstow Pennant as they look to strengthen their Spartan League top of the table placing.

Manager Brian Rider has injury doubts over Jim Davey, who has a hamstring injury and John Coleman with a groin injury, but he hopes to have both fit to play. But Lee Rider is still sidelined with a knee injury.

Rayners Lane meet Fairford at home on Saturday, looking to avenge their early season defeat when they lost 4-0 but had to play with only 10 men for 75 minutes after having Manny Fall set off.

Manager Don Durkin is likely to make changes with Stuart Howard, Chris Cockram and Robert King all in contention for places.

Soccer fixtures

- Saturday March 31: Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Atherstone Utd v Wealdstone. Vauxhall League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Bromley (Earlsmead, 3pm). Vauxhall League Division One: Purlfeet v Wembley; Kingsbury Town v Whyteleafe (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm). Greenes King Spartan League: Walthamstow Pennant v Edgware. Federated Homes League: Rayners Lane v Fairford Town (Lucas Avenue, 3pm). Monday April 2: Vauxhall League Division One: Croydon v Kingsbury Town. Tuesday April 3: Vauxhall League Premier Division: Grays Ath. v Harrow Borough. Capital League: Wealdstone v Brentford (Lower Mead, 7.30pm).

Waddock joins exodus to Southall

ANDY Waddock is the latest player to join the exodus of Harrow Borough players linking up again with former Borough boss Keith Chamberlin at Southall.

Wesh duo Martyn James and Ray Pennock were the first to be signed by Chamberlin after they had been released by Borough and striker Steve Fraser soon followed. And on Friday defender Waddock also moved to Western Road, unhappy at losing his place in the Borough side.

Waddock, a non-contract player, was signed for Borough by Chamberlin a year ago after returning from a spell in Australia. He had previously been with Hendon and has also played for Queens Park Rangers, Wealdstone and Hounslow.

Borough boss Tom McAlister also last his assistant manager this week following the decision by Steve Hawkins to quit, but Hawkins denied that his decision had resulted from friction between the two.

"It's no big deal," he said. "My job was to get the team going but now Tom has stopped playing he's been doing it and I've not really been contributing."

"I've agreed with everything he's been saying so I've not been able to contribute anything. I wasn't getting any fulfillment out of it and I didn't want to leave so I thought it best if I went back to playing."

He played for the reserves in their 2-0 defeat against Hendon on Saturday and until the end of the season will also manage the side - the job that he was originally brought to Earlsmead to do by Keith Chamberlin before being made first team assistant manager.

Following Hawkins' resignation, Borough reserve team boss Dave Anderson has now been promoted to McAlister's assistant.

Late goals beat Boro'

TWO late goals saw Harrow Borough beaten 3-1 at Redbridge on Wednesday.

Harrow went ahead when Martin Gurney's right wing cross was fumbled in by keeper Baker but soon after Beggs blasted a penalty wide after Gurney had been felled.

Observers qualified for Forest and late goals from Bensted and Ashford saw them to victory.

How the locals stand in the latest league tables

Table with 4 columns: BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Premier Division, VAUXHALL LEAGUE Premier Division, VAUXHALL LEAGUE Division One, GREENE KING SPARTAN LEAGUE Premier Division. Rows list various clubs and their league positions.

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