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Shot-shy Stones lack the killer touch

Wealdstone 0 Bromsgrove 0 "I DON'T think we'd have scored if we'd stayed out there all night," was manager Alan Gane's verdict as Stones played out a drab draw with Bromsgrove on Tuesday, writes John Comfort.

Certainly there was a decided lack of attacking flair from both sides, but Stones were not without their chances and were denied a perfectly good goal late in the game when referee Bargery ludicrously ruled that Glenn Price had fouled a defender as he turned to fire home a Steve Browne cross.

10 minutes earlier Bromsgrove keeper Moran had fumbled a fierce Mark Harrison free kick and most thought it had crossed the line before he retrieved it. Unfortunately Mr Bargery was not among them.

Glenn Price could have had a hat-trick in the first half. He missed a Smart cross in front of an open goal and also fired against Moran from close in. But he was unlucky in the 35th minute when he rounded Moran and then had his shot headed off the line by Richardson onto the crossbar and was to safety.

Stones had a let off in the 24th minute when Hanks fired home a Cooper cross only to be ruled offside. Bromsgrove had both Treweek and Stott booked for hotly disputing the decision, having earlier had Cunningham booked for kicking the ball away. Stones had both Browne and Paul Gbogidi cautioned by a referee who matched the game - bad.

Wealdstone: Williams, Smart, Harrison, Tapley, N. Price, Gbogidi, Browne, Goyette, Eccles, G. Price, Lynch. Subs: Margerrison, Risk.

Wembley worth more than a point

Worthing 2 Wembley 2 BATTLING Wembley deserved more than just the single point they obtained in their quest to avoid the drop, following a tremendous display at Worthing, writes Richard Markiewicz.

After two successive defeats, Wembley exhibited a new fighting spirit, perhaps due to manager Tony Waugh threatening to make a comeback, and they dominated the entire match.

Bobby Hutchinson wasted their best chance in the first half when he blasted over with only keeper Read to beat and it was Worthing who took the lead against the run of play in the 44th minute with a dubiously awarded penalty, given after Searle fell mysteriously to the ground. Dunk converted the spot kick.

Wembley levelled in the 56th minute when Paul Bryan intercepted Elliott's dreadful back pass and was

upended by Read. Robert Larkin thumped home the penalty to record his first goal for the club.

Wembley thought they had secured three vital points when they scored a second goal in the 80th minute, Guller helping on Derek Gwynne's through pass for Sylvester Williams to burst through and beat the diving Read with a low angled drive.

But the celebrations were short-lived as 60 seconds later Searle out-jumped the Wembley defence to head goalwards and although Fanner brilliantly pushed the ball away, Hunter followed up to score an undeserved equaliser.

Wembley: Fanner, H. Hutchinson, Cummings, Johns, Larkin, Graham, Williams, Brown, Bryan, B. Hutchinson, Guller. Subs: Palfrey, Murphy.

Priddle pounces for Boro'

Barking 1 Harrow Borough 0

WITH their resources being stretched to the limit and players defying injury to turn out, Borough battled well to earn a point at relegation threatened Barking, writes Tony Booth.

With play swinging from end to end, Sean Griffin performed admirably, diving to save Quill's header and touching away a shot from Gammons. At the other end Beggs twice shot just off target.

Borough enjoyed their best spell either side of the break with Hopson forcing Bruce to save, then Ripley and Haynes having shots just off target.

Paul Barrowcliff hit the bar in the 56th minute but 16 minutes later it was Barking who went in front when Ray out-paced Bennett and crossed for Gammons to turn it home at the far post.

Barking thought they had done enough to complete their perennial recovery, especially when ex-Borough striker Holmes nearly doubled their lead, but they hadn't counted on Sean Priddle's commitment.

After seeing a shot deflected wide, then a header and shot blocked in the area, he conjured up Borough's 92nd minute equaliser when he got on the end of Hopson's free kick and turned to fire home from 12 yards.

Harrow Borough: Griffith, M. Bennett, Beggs, Rogers (Hawkins), Priddle, O'Connor, Hopson, Haynes, Gunney, Ripley, Barrowcliff. Sub: D. Bennett.

Gane to retain the lot

THE anticipated dismantling of the Wealdstone squad in readiness for a serious assault on the Beazer Homes League championship next season was 'put on ice' on Tuesday when manager Alan Gane announced that he is to retain all his players.

But there is a method in Gane's apparent madness for with no money to spend on new players he is faced with having to sell before he can buy to make any wholesale changes to his squad.

"The situation is that I'm looking to strengthen the squad dramatically, and that will definitely happen," said Gane. "What that means is that I will be keeping some players and eventually letting some go - but I'm not letting anyone go free."

"I haven't got the money to spend so I've got to sell to buy. A lot of money has been spent in the past and I've got to get back as much as I can to finance improvements."

That was confirmed by club chairman Alan Clifton. "What has stunted our progress is a lack of available money," he said. "As much as we would like the manager to buy, the money just isn't there, so he



BY JOHN COMFORT

will have to sell first."

With Gane unwilling to name names of those who figure in his plans for next season, that effectively puts every player on the transfer list.

Officially only Steve Tapley, who cost Stones £7,500 from Yeovil at the start of this season, Tony Kelly, a club record £10,000 signing from Hayes, Paul Wilkins and Samson Olaleye, are listed.

Of those, Tapley could yet earn a reprieve from Gane after some outstanding performances since returning from a loan spell at Harrow Borough, but it

No wholesale changes yet as Wealdstone manager is forced to sell before he can buy

seems unlikely that Kelly, Wilkins and Olaleye figure in his future plans.

And there must also be question marks over the future of defenders Alan Risk and Paul Morris, who are both currently out of favour, together with striker David Flint and midfielder John Margerrison, who are also out of the team.

Only player who seems secure at Lower Mead is midfielder Paul Goyette. He still has another year of his contract to go but Gane is looking to sign him on a long term contract of probably three years.

Stones have confirmed that they will be running a reserve team next season and Roy Davies, a member of Wealdstone's double winning side, has been named as their manager.

Said Mr Clifton: "I had a great respect for him both as a player and more recently as a coach, and I'm sure he is the right choice for us."

Youngsters from Belmont United FC are likely to form the basis of the reserve side and three of them, Mark Culverhouse, Pat A'Mara and Mark Kelly, proved their worth on Monday in Wealdstone's Capital League match at Enfield. "I was absolutely delighted with them," said Gane.

Janaway out for the season

WEMBLEY captain Paul Janaway has entered hospital for a knee operation and will miss the rest of the season, starting with the Lions' six-pointer relegation crunch match at Croyd on Saturday.

Steve Sailsman is doubtful after having treatment for a dead leg but John Walsh could be added to the squad after testing his fitness in a couple of reserve team games.

Ian Rogers is again doubtful for injury hit Harrow Borough's home game with Leyton Wingate on Saturday. He was back in action at Barking on Tuesday and played well until a recurrence of his injury forced him off.

Borough defender Phil Dicker is back in hospital again after complications set in following surgery to cure his pelvic problem.

Peter Augustin is likely to be fit after an ankle injury for Kingsbury's final home game against Tooting on Saturday, but Jason Dale, who suffered a badly sprained ankle against Met Police is doubtful.

Wealdstone have a Capital League game at Colchester tonight (Thursday), but are without a fixture on Saturday. On Tuesday they play Dorchester at home in the Beazer Homes League.

Raysers Lane will be looking to extract revenge in their home game against Pegasus Juniors on Saturday and at Headington Amateurs on Monday, having lost to both clubs earlier in the season. Stuart Howard is unavailable due to work commitments, otherwise Lane boss Don Durkin has a full squad to choose from.

Soccer fixtures

Thursday April 26
Capital League: Colchester Utd v Wealdstone.

Saturday April 28
Vauxhall League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Leyton Wingate (Earlmead, 3pm).

Vauxhall League Division One: Croyd v Wembley; Kingsbury v Tooting (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm).

Federated Homes League: Raysers Lane v Pegasus Juniors (Lucas Avenue, 3pm).

Sunday April 30
Federated Homes League: Headington v Raysers Lane.

Tuesday May 1
Beazer Homes League: Wealdstone v Dorchester (Lower Mead, 7.30pm).

Vauxhall League: Harrow Borough v Marlow (Earlmead, 7.30pm).

How the locals stand in the latest league tables

Table with 4 columns: League Name, Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Includes Beazer Homes League, Vauxhall League, and Greene King Spartan League.

Late goal thwarts Stones

Enfield 2 Wealdstone 1 A GOAL three minutes from time denied Stones a point in this Capital League match at Enfield on Monday, writes Graham Smith. Enfield opened the scoring after seven minutes when Alan Risk miskicked to Lilley who fired past Kevin Foster but Stones levelled in the 39th minute when a decisive tackle by impressive Belmont player Patrick A'Mara won the ball and he found Dave Flint whose cross was headed home by Paul Wilkins.

Just before half time Cole hit the bar for Enfield with a 20 yard free kick. Steve Smart, John Margerrison and Flint all missed good chances of putting Stones ahead in the second half but the visitors seemed set to claim a draw until Lilley fired past the helpless Foster in the 87th minute to give the home side their winner. Wealdstone: Foster, Watson, A'Mara, Risk, Lynch (Smart), Margerrison, Campbell, Culverhouse, Flint, Wilkins, La Cumbre (M. Kelly).

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