

# HALL QUILTS

## Wealdstone boss heads for Yeovil

WEALDSTONE manager Brian Hall has resigned, to take up the vacant manager's post at Vauxhall-Opel side Yeovil.

Hall announced his resignation yesterday (Wednesday), ending a six-year association with the club. The Yeovil offer, he said, was one he could not refuse, writes *William Bull*.

Yeovil, the best supported and one of the biggest non-League clubs in the country, see Hall as the man to lead them into the Football League.

### *'I'm looking forward to a new challenge'*

Their manager, Garry Gow, resigned on Boxing Day for personal reasons and Hall, a long-time admirer of Yeovil, was approached to take over.

"It was a tough decision to make," said Hall, who was 47 on Tuesday. "But you have to look to the future and Yeovil have made no secret of their ambitions.

"They are an extremely ambitious club, they are a very fashionable club and they are one of the biggest clubs in non-League football.

"They very badly want to get into the Football League and I am relishing the challenge of taking them there."

The biggest bonus for Hall is that Yeovil have the resources to back their ambitious plans and that he will not face the financial restraints that dogged his career at Lower Mead.

Hall came to Wealdstone with Allen Batsford in 1980 and brought the club out of the Southern League in a blaze of glory.

He took charge in 1983 following Batsford's dismissal and took Stones to further glory, clinching the Gola League and FA Trophy double in 1985, as

Wealdstone became the first club in history to do the non-League 'Double'.

"That was obviously the highlight of my time with Wealdstone," said Hall. "It is a terrible wrench to leave and I really had to search myself.

"I will be going with a lump in my throat but life must go on. Wealdstone have been very good to me and I have always been treated with the utmost respect there.

"It is a true family club and I have made a lot of friends and hope that I will always be welcome back.

"But Yeovil have offered me one hell of a challenge and that appealed to me."

Hall, who says no moves have yet been made to appoint his successor at Lower Mead, will take the Yeovil job on a part-time basis.

He will commute to the West Country from his London home and will continue his full-time job with the police, for the time being.

He will take over a Yeovil side that looks to have blown its chance in the Vauxhall-Opel Premier title race, for the second season running.

After missing out on promotion to Sutton last season, Yeovil have slipped behind Wycombe this season and may have to wait another year in their bid to regain GM Vauxhall Conference status.

"I am not going there as their saviour," says Hall. "They are facing problems at the moment in trying to win their league and the people there are realistic enough to know that I am going as part of a long-term plan.

"I do not want to go in there with a bang. I will sit back for a while, see what is there and implement my own ideas gradually."

### *'He will be sorely missed'*

CLUB press officer, David Free, speaking on behalf of the Wealdstone board, said: "Brian Hall was a wonderful manager and a tremendous servant to the club. It was a pleasure to work with him, he will be sorely missed and we wish him all the best in his new position."

Supporters' Club secretary Nick Dugard said: "We are saddened, shocked and surprised that this has happened. We have a great deal of respect for the manager and are extremely sad to see him, and his assistant, go at what is a very difficult time."

Coach Les Read is also leaving Lower Mead, to take up a full-time position with the Football Association.

Hall's resignation and the future of the club will be discussed at the Supporters' Club annual meeting on Monday night. Open to all paid-up members of the club, it starts, at the club, at 7.30 pm.

Stones Chairman David Morrilt is in Spain and unavailable for comment.



HAPPY DAYS: Hall celebrates Wealdstone's Trophy triumph



DEPARTING Stones boss Brian Hall will enter a different footballing world when he takes over at Yeovil Town on Monday.

The Somerset club's average gates are almost four times that of Wealdstone. And their large army of fans are thirsty for success writes *Simon O'Neill*.

Crowds of more than 2,000 are merely average at Huish and there is usually double that number for big games.

Not surprisingly, Hall will find himself under pressure from the start. But Yeovil Chairman Gerry Lock is convinced he has picked the right man for the job.

Lock broke with tradition to appoint Hall. For Yeovil have had a policy of taking on big names like Malcolm Allison and Gerry Gow — whose resignation created the vacancy — in the past. In fact, former England striker Mick Channon was interviewed for the job but was passed over in favour of Hall.

Gow, the former Bristol City and Manchester City midfielder, quit after the game at Harrow Borough on Boxing Day.

He claimed the decision was forced on him by a vendetta of hate against himself and his family.



TERRY DYSON: Returning to Lower Mead?

## Who is going to take over?

MANAGERLESS Wealdstone will be keen to quickly fill the gap left by Brian Hall's departure.

For the club has entered a crucial stage of its battle against relegation from the GM Vauxhall Conference.

Stones have lifted themselves out of the bottom three with three wins and a draw from their last four matches.

They now lie 16th with 31 points from 28 games — but are not out of the woods yet.

In their last 14 fixtures, they must

meet the clubs filling the top nine places in the Conference and end the season with tough derbies at home to Enfield and title chasing Barnet.

The vacant manager's post will be advertised and there should be no shortage of applicants.

Speculation is already rife about possible replacements. Kingsbury Town boss Terry Dyson is one man who could stake a good claim if he decides to apply.

Dyson, the former Spurs winger, played for Wealdstone towards the end of his career and has a sound record in non-league management,

albeit in the less testing Vauxhall-Opel League.

Former Stones boss Allen Batsford is out of work after being sacked by Dulwich Hamlet as part of an economy drive.

But he is unlikely to be considered as he was sacked by Stones Chairman David Morrilt and replaced with Hall in January 1983.

Another likely contender could be Wembley manager Alan Dafforn, another ex-Wealdstone regular.

Dafforn has once again guided his side into the Vauxhall-Opel Division One promotion frame.

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