Morritt comforts new Wealdstone boss by giving the go-ahead to buy players

Looking to the future — Wealdstone chairman David Morritt with new manager Colin Meldrum (right)

Meldrum is set to cash in at Lower Mead

WEALDSTONE'S new manager Colin Meldrum will have something his predecessor Brian Hall never had — ready cash to buy new players.

That was the promise made this week by chairman David Morritt as the much-travelled Meldrum settled into the Lower Mead hot seat.

Hall, who quit last month to take over Yeovil Town, operated on a shoestring budget during his four-year reign, paying out a paltry £500 in transfer fees. But Morritt, who has announced plans to move Wealdstone to a new stadium within two years as part of a bid to land the club a Football League place, says the time is now right to make money available.

"Our ground is not up to league standard now," he explained. "So what was the point in the past of me paying out a lot of money to buy players and strengthen our squad when there was nothing at the end of the tunnel? Now I am hell bent on getting this club into the league and because of this there will be money to buy."

Morritt's about-turn stems from his confidence that Wealdstone will occupy a new purpose built stadium in the borough by 1989.

And he sees 45-year-old Meldrum as the man to take the club back to the top.

The two men on the shortlist for the job, caretaker boss Barry Neville and Southend coach Freddie Banks, were both passed over in favour of the former Arsenal, Watford, Reading and York City player.

Neville immediately walked out after refusing an offer to stay on the staff. He had the support of a number of players and is said to be privately seething at the way his application was handled by Morritt.

Disappointed

But he chose his words carefully as he said: "I am very disappointed to leave Wealdstone, its supporters and most of all Peter Braxton and a superb set of players.

"The chairman, David Morritt, has made what he feels is the right decision and only future results and events will say if that is true."

Morritt replied: "Barry Neville was offered the chance to stay on and help but he did not fancy that at all."

Softly softly start

COLIN MELDRUM says he will adopt a softly softly approach in his first few weeks at Wealdstone.

And he promised that all the current playing staff will get the chance to prove themselves before any changes are made.

The 45-year-old Scotsman will continue to live near Blackpool, but will be based in Harrow from Tuesday to Saturday at a house provided by the club.

He has coaching and some managerial experience at clubs like York City, Hull City, Swansea, Workington, Stafford Rangers, Scarborough, Frickley and Barnet.

Meldrum, who started his career at Arsenal and went on to make 300 plus appearances for Reading, will not be taking on an assistant.

"I do all my own coaching," he said. "I will treat the players the way I would expect to be treated but I also expect hard work and commitment from them."

American dream boy

Harrow Borough 2
Bishops Stortford 1

ALL American boy John Kerr made a stunning debut as Harrow Borough's revival continued at Earlsmead on Tuesday night.

The 21-year-old US International made one goal and scored the second half winner as bubbling Boro at last brought their impressive away form home with them, writes *Tony Scott*.

Delighted boro boss Keith Chamberlin, who rested Mark Adams and kept his other new signing Tony Guard on the bench, now faces a welcome selection problem.

"It was obviously a fair result and we thoroughly deserved it," he said. "The results over the last few games speak for themselves and there is now a bit of competition for places."

He added: "John and Tony have been like a breath of fresh air and I have a nice problem at the moment as all 16 players in the first team squad are available for Saturday."

Tuesday's win moved Boro up to ninth place and stretched their unbeaten run to five matches.

Kerr, who is in the UK on a scholarship until May, has played for his country in the World Cup against the Elites of Costa Rica and Trinidad.

And someone really should have told John Radford's Stortford that the Yanks were coming.

For after just 23 minutes Wickenden felled Kerr in the box and Steve Emmanuel rammed home the spot kick.

Weddell restored the balance against the run of play with a well struck shot in the 44th minute.

But this was Boro's night — and they got their noses in front again on the hour

Bateman's astute pass split the Stortford defence, Loddy rode a high tackle to leave his marker trailing and Kerr raced in to sweep the winger's perfectly timed ball into the net.

Harrow Borough: MacKenzie, Payne, Johnson, Hoar, Bateman, Dell, Emmanuel, Holmes, Kerr, Morris, Loddy, Sabir. Adams, Guard (not used).

Damian's delighted

TEENAGER Damian LoCascio will compete in four events for the Scottish Esso Youth Squad at the Carnevale Meet in Viareggio, Italy this weekend.

Damian, 16, who swims for Harrow and Wealdstone, will go in the 100m freestyle, backstroke and butterfly, and the 50m butterfly.

He was selected for his recent performance at the Winter Short Course event in Dunfermline.

Lions roar

Wembley 2, Raidip Manor 1

GOALS from Lance Cadogan and Don Lucas propelled Wembley into the semi-finals of the Middlesex Charity Cup at Vale Farm on Tuesday.

Manor, who had seven former Lions players in their line-up, replied in the 44th minute through Charlie Turtunch.

Lions are also in the semis of the Middlesex Senior Cup, where they are due to meet Enfield at Southbury Road.

Davies doubt

FULL BACK Huw Davies is doubtful for Wasps' John Player Cup fourth round clash with Nottingham at Sudbury on Saturday.

Wasps will be hoping to put last week's 20-7 home defeat by Moseley behind them as they bid to reach the final for the second year in a row.

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Dyson's despair!

Kingsbury Town 0, Bracknell Town 5

THE USUALLY mild mannered Terry Dyson blasted his Kingsbury players after they had crashed to their heaviest defeat of the season at Silver Jubilee Park on Tuesday.

Town were 3-0 down at half-time and were polished off from two second half set pieces as Bracknell ran riot.

"They are quite a good side," said Dyson. "But they are not that good. We were giving the ball away all over the place and not too many of my players came out of the game with any credit. It was embarrassing."

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