

SPORT

Lower Mead stay of execution?

WEALDSTONE'S Lower Mead ground could be granted a temporary reprieve — not by safety officers, but by the club itself.

It would mean the ground, which has been used by Wealdstone since 1922, would not stage its final game of football until 1990.

But there is still no question of the GM Vauxhall Conference club staying there permanently.

Club secretary Peter Braxton admitted this week that the club could be forced to stump up the money to stay at Lower Mead for another two years.

"We have made it clear that we want to move to a new ground, and that is still true," he said.

Club may provide cash for repairs to doomed stadium

"But there is no way we will allow this club to go the way of Nuneaton Borough and be thrown out of the league.

"If we have to leave Lower Mead at the end of the season, we will have to ground share, but there is no way our league would allow us to do so for two whole seasons.

"So, if no new ground is ready, we would have to spend the money needed to enable us to stay at Lower Mead."

Lower Mead is deficient in some

areas under the Safety at Sports Grounds Act, and will have to close at the end of the season if work is not carried out.

"The fire department passed us as safe — we are not a fire risk," said Mr Braxton.

"But the local authority's safety committee did pin-point areas that need work, such as the terracing, especially in the Elmslie Stand, the perimeter fencing around the pitch, and the stairs leading up to the stand.

"We may have to review the situation at a later date, and do the work needed if we have to stay here temporarily — even though it would mean spending dead money for us."

SOCCKER FIXTURES

Saturday Aug 1: Hanwell Town v Harrow Borough; Edgware Town v Charlton Athletic (White Lion, 3); Sudbury Town v Wembley; Rayners Lane v Wealdstone (Lucas Avenue, 3).

Tuesday, Aug 4: Wealdstone v Arsenal (Lower Mead, 7.30); Rayners Lane v Welwyn Garden City; Berkhamstead v Harrow Borough; Leyton Wingate v Wembley.

Wednesday Aug 5: Edgware Town v Kingsbury Town.

Thursday Aug 6: Rayners Lane v Wembley (Lucas Avenue, 7).

Five pages this week

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MAYOR OF HARROW'S KNOCKOUT

Stage is set for another classic

STANMORE and Starlight stage a repeat of last year's thrilling showdown in the Mayor of Harrow Knockout final today (Thursday).

The teams battled through this week after the longest running competition ever.

Stanmore reached their fifth consecutive final by beating Harrow Town by eight wickets.

Stanmore bowled out an apparently nervous Harrow Town for just 77, with Peter Nicholls taking 4-7, and then made 78 for 2 with three overs to spare, Steve Barrett making an unbeaten 32.

AARON GRANSBY previews tonight's big cricket final.

Starlight made short work of Harrow St Marys in their semi-final, winning by 65 runs.

They made 114 for 7, with opener Devan Plummer leading the way with 41, and St Marys could only manage 49 for 9 in their 20 overs.

Now the two giants meet again for the third time in four years.

Stanmore, who have won the final for the last two years, and were beaten in it in 1984 by Starlight, start as favourites.

Skipper Graham Pauncelfort says: "We are always confident, but it is always close against Starlight and they'll be out for revenge after last year."

Last year's final was the most exciting ever.

Starlight made 115 for 8 in their innings and with one over remaining, Stanmore needed ten runs to tie, and win

the match by virtue of losing fewer wickets.

On the penultimate ball, Peter Kirby hit the all-important two runs, before being bowled on the last ball, leaving their score at 115 for 6.

But this year, Kirby, who was named as man of the match, is away and unavailable for the final.

And he is just one of a long list of Stanmore players who are destined to miss this match.

Stanmore's four Middlesex players, Angus Fraser, Andy Miller, Andy Needham and Mark Ramprakash are all cup-tied, and Alastair Fraser and Neil MacLaurin are set to play for Middlesex II.

Peter Edwards could also be unavailable, he is still hoping to get back in time to play after being away.

Starlight too have problems with their team.

"Two or three of our players will be unavailable as they won't be able to get off work," says skipper Fitzroy Sterling.

"But we have a strong enough squad, and we haven't fielded our best side in the competition once yet.

"We are pretty confident, if we get it together on the day Stanmore will be no problem.

"The boys are more mature now. Last season, we had a young side and nerves killed them, but now they have another season's experience behind them."

The final of this 30th Mayor of Harrow Knockout begins at 5.30pm at Kodak Sports Ground, Harrow View, Harrow. Stanmore will be bidding to win the competition for the 12th time, with Starlight looking to add to their five previous wins.

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Bessborough celebrate

BESSBOROUGH celebrate the official opening of a new extension to their pavilion on Sunday.

The North Harrow-based club has spent more than £70,000 on a new changing room complex at its ground at Headstone Manor in Pinner View.

To mark the opening, Bessborough entertain a Select XI, which will include former player Mark Ramprakash, now with Stanmore and

Middlesex. The match begins after the opening ceremony, which is at 11am.

Paul Hainge smashed Sudbury Court's club record score with a remarkable 203 not out.

Hainge, the 4th XI vice captain, smashed 11 sixes and 24 fours — a total of 162 runs in boundaries, as he contributed to a team score of 260 for 2 against North London IV on Sunday.

The club intends to re-write the score book and frame it.

Khan slips up in Oz

WEMBLEY based World squash number one Jahangir Khan slumped to only his second defeat in six years at the Sydney Grand Prix in Australia.

Khan took a two game

SQUASH

lead against Australian number two seed Rodney Martin, only to be overhauled in a 90 minute battle by 7-9, 4-9, 9-7, 10-8, 9-6.

Lasers beaming again

London Lasers 22, Chingford Centurions 15

LONDON Lasers won their final match of the season on Saturday, beating Chingford Centurions in the very last minute.

Centurions began well, moving swiftly into a 6-0 lead, and extending it to 12-0 in the second quarter.

Paul Gordon scored Lasers' first touchdown and Tony Paul swept left for the two-pointer to reduce the half-time deficit to 12-8.

Martin Dean darted up the middle to put Lasers 14-12 ahead in the third quarter, but after Centurions hit back, their victory seemed certain.

Only 15 seconds remained when Julian Cumberbatch smeared over for the winning score and Martin Dean sealed the win with two points, to end a dismal run of Lasers results.

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