

SPORT

Point taken by Walton

Wealdstone 1 Macclesfield 1

TERRY BURTON and Tommy Coleman got their first taste of the GM Vauxhall Conference on Saturday, as their Wealdstone side battled its way to a point at Lower Mead.

And while the 685 fans must have been happy with the work-rate they saw, the new manager warned them not to judge the team just yet.

"Although we realise that you have to win your home games, we would have settled for a point before the start of the game," he said.

"When new people come in to a club, it seems to spark off something, but we still want to work very hard on the players' fitness and organisation and we hope then that they will begin to show some improvement."

The Stones players certainly did all they could to put on a show for their new boss against Macclesfield. Byron Walton in particular threw himself at every ball.

Misling skipper Dennis Byatt with a recurrence of an old thigh injury, Stones had Neil Cordice at left back and Paul Bowgett in the centre.

But it was striker Walton who stole the show. His tenacious chasing for every ball was one of the most encouraging aspects of Wealdstone's gutsy display, although he toned it down a little after being booked for leaving Eilyn Edwards writhing on the ground.

He was rewarded for his work with a goal on the stroke of half-time. Neil Cordice's cross was headed goalwards by Mick Ferguson and Walton climbed high above two defenders to direct the ball over keeper Alan Zelen.

The goal equalised Macclesfield's opening strike just four minutes earlier when Steve Burr shot home despite a desperate last-ditch tackle by Steve Hatter.

The second half saw Robbie O'Keefe stretchered off after colliding with the perimeter fencing around the pitch, but his injury is more of a knock than anything more permanent.

Mick Perry set up Stones' best chance of the second half in the 61st minute. He put Byron Walton through, but his shot was diverted from goal by Zelen's outstretched foot and two follow-ups were blocked before the ball was finally cleared.

Coventry referee Larry Watson made his own impact on the game, by booking seven people, six from Macclesfield, including their manager Peter Wragg for dissent.

Wealdstone: Welch, McCarthy, Bowgett, Meadows, Hatter, Wainwright, Perry, O'Keefe (M. Hirst), Ferguson, Walton, Cordice. Other sub: Cross.



● **DOUBLE ACT** — assistant manager Tommy Coleman (left) and manager Terry Burton.

STONES GO FOR BURTON

Lower Mead board pin hopes for future on ex-Arsenal pair

Report by Aaron Gransby and Simon O'Neill

FORMER Arsenal first team coach Terry Burton took over as manager of Wealdstone last Thursday — just two days after the sacking of Colin Meldrum.

Burton, 34, immediately strengthened the Gunners connection by naming another ex-Arsenal man, Tommy Coleman, as his assistant.

And, after announcing their appointment, Stones vice-chairman Alan Clifton said: "We believe we have got the right men for the job."

Clifton, who admitted that sacking Meldrum was a "painful task", said money would be made available for the new management team.

Burton spent eight years at Highbury, where he coached the youth, reserves and first teams.

He started his playing career at Arsenal, before moving into non-league soccer with Folkestone, Hayes and Epping.

After going into coaching at Leytonstone-Ilford, he returned to Highbury, where he stayed until being axed by George Graham in June.

Coleman was an apprentice with Spurs and also played for Orient.

The 44-year-old later went on to manage Walthamstow Avenue and Barnet in their Southern League days.

Burton said his main objective will be to im-

prove the players fitness and organisation over the next few weeks.

And he promised that everyone at the club will be given a chance to prove themselves.

"It will take us about a month to put our ideas over properly and in that time it is just important that we don't get beaten."

He added: "I am very impressed with what I have seen at the club."

Meldrum in a fury

AXED Wealdstone boss Colin Meldrum was still fuming this week over his sacking by the club.

"It was a ridiculous decision. I helped keep the club in that league last season and the team was badly hit by injuries and suspensions this time," he said.

But Stones' vice-chairman Alan Clifton said: "He just didn't rise to the heights we want to reach. The money made available wasn't used in the way we expected."

But it was not Alan Clifton who

Meldrum kept his strongest words for. It was chairman David Morritt, who was in America when the sacking was made.

"I have been betrayed by the chairman of Wealdstone right down the line. He was not even man enough to face me, he got others to do his dirty work for him," he said.

"In all the private discussions I had with him at Wealdstone, he agreed with everything I said and did. But now he hasn't even had the decency to contact me."

More sport on pages 20-23

Boro

Harrow Borough 1 Grays 2

PRESSURE on manager Keith Chamberlin increased on Tuesday night after Borough's AC Delco Cup first round exit at home to first division Grays Athletic.

It was an embarrassing defeat for Boro, who had dominated the first half but scored only one goal, and went on to lose to the stronger side in extra time.

Trevor How hit the bar with an early header before Lawrence Holmes put Boro ahead in the 15th minute. Paul Morris headed down Ray Duffy's cross and Holmes was on hand to shoot home.

Grays equalised four minutes into the second half when Crown crossed for Mahony to force in a close range shot. The decisive strike came in the 112th minute, when Crown beat two defenders before shooting past MacKenzie.

● Robbie Johnson, Borough's left-back, has joined the growing injury list after receiving a groin injury against Grays.

Hemel Hempstead 0 Wembley 2

WEMBLEY moved safely through to the second round of the cup with an easy win over Hemel Hempstead.

The Lions gave a competent display in a four game. They went ahead after just 12 minutes when Paul Janaway set up Lance Cadogan from Paul Bhatia's deep cross.

Substitute Sylvester Williams engineered their second goal. He shrugged off two defenders before freeing Steve Lucas. Lucas's cross was cleared to Eamonn O'Connor who thumped the ball in.

Hornchurch 0 Kingsbury Town 1

Kingsbury Town eased their way through to the second round for the first time ever, although it surprisingly took an extra-time goal from Paul Goodison with a superb solo effort to give them the win.

Fixtures

Saturday Sept 26

9.30 Vaux Coach: Runcorn v Wealdstone, FA Cup 2nd Qual; Burnham v Harrow Boro; Wembley v Ruislip Manor (Vale Farm, 3); Harlow Town v Kingsbury Town, Herts League; Wellesley: Raynes Lane v Abingdon Town (Lucas Avenue, 3); Greeno King Spartans: Waltham Abbey v Edgware Town, Middlesex County; Harrow 94 Harp's v Brook House (H&S Wainwright sports ground, 3).

Tuesday Sept 29

9.30 Vaux Coach: Wealdstone v Dagenham (Lower Mead, 7.30); Middlesex Senior Cup 1st Round: Welwyn Garden City v Edgware Town.

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