

SPORT

Sport on seven pages

Page 30

- Squash scene
- Basketball
- Hockey

Page 31

- Youth, junior and schools soccer round-ups

Page 32

- The weekend soccer action
- Soccer preview

Page 33

- More soccer
- Canoeing
- Acrobatics

Page 34

- Complete rugby round-up
- Pool League

Page 35

- Results round-up
- Athletics
- Snooker League
- Swimming

Wealdstone seek a move to Earlsmead

Talks open with Boro' on ground sharing next season

Observer Sport Exclusive by Aaron Granby

WEALDSTONE and Harrow Borough have opened discussions on sharing Borough's Earlsmead ground next season.

Stones chairman David Morrith wants to move in with Borough for a year while he builds the club's new stadium, but Stones have also approached Barnet.

Club secretary Peter Braxton this week confirmed that negotiations are underway for the move, which is sure to shock supporters of both clubs.

"We have made an approach to Harrow Borough in the form of a letter from myself to the secretary of Borough and discussions have taken place. We hope to move there next season," he said.

"As we are gearing ourselves to leave here at the end of this season, we are looking for a ground share situation, while our new ground is being built."

"We think the new stadium will take nine months from start to finish. If we moved from Lower Mead at the end of this season and shared for a further year we would give ourselves enough time. We might even be in the new ground by the end of season 1988-89."

Harrow Borough press director Steve Williams confirmed: "We have been asked to ground share by Wealdstone. They wrote us a letter asking us to consider it for one season until their new premises are located and built."

"We wrote back to Wealdstone confirming our agreement in principle, but we have heard nothing from them since. That was about two months ago. It needs to be sorted out quickly because if they do not do anything by the end of the year we

would have to be talking about the season afterwards instead."

Borough have to confirm their ground details and enter teams in the Vauxhall-Opel League and Suburban League by the end of January, so any further hold-up would rule them out of an agreement for next season.

Peter Braxton said the hold-up was not intentional. "We have a problem at our end which means we cannot do anything right now. It is a technicality we have to overcome, but if everything goes according to plan within the next couple of months we will be able to go ahead again."

"If not, there would have to be a re-think and it might mean staying here for another season."

Borough's Steve Williams has promised his club's supporters that a ground-sharing move will not be the prelude to anything more drastic.

"We would make it clear that any move will only be for one season, anything longer than that can get too comfortable and before you know where you are the two clubs are merged. That will not happen, we want to keep our separate identities."

But Wealdstone are still pressing ahead with plans for a completely new ground, so any merger scheme seems unlikely.

Vice-chairman Alan Clifton said: "We are still looking at four or five sites. They are all in the London Borough of Harrow, there is no way we will move out of the borough. But although we have come to



● Earlsmead — Wealdstone are aiming to share the ground with Harrow Borough next season

some sort of agreement with Harrow Borough, if we have not found a new site by the end of the season we will stay a Lower Mead for another year."

Wealdstone have also written to GM Vauxhall Conference rivals Barnet to discuss sharing their Underhill ground.

"Barnet are willing to talk to us but no firm discussions have taken place," said Peter Braxton. "We don't really want to go there. We want to stay in Harrow for our supporters."

I understand that the technicality that is currently holding up further negotiations between Wealdstone and Borough regards the selling of Lower Mead. A development is expected this week, and if things go according to plan, discussions could begin again between the clubs by the end of this year. If that happens, it could be full steam ahead for the sharing plan.

Many hurdles will have to be overcome. Providing Stones are not relegated, the two clubs will have to seek an inter-league agreement between the Conference and the Vauxhall-Opel League to decide which club's fixtures take priority in the event of a clash. The move would also have to be sanctioned by the FA.

Borough's reserve team would have problems too. It would be totally impractical to have three sides using one pitch, so the reserves would have to play elsewhere or disband.

Earlsmead would have to meet the Conference's stringent ground grading system. It currently has an A grade from the Vauxhall-Opel League, but improvements would need to be made before it is suitable for Conference football.

If an agreement is signed, the Conference's grading committee will inspect Earlsmead and make recommendations about work to be carried out. Another problem would be who would pay for the work.

"All these details will be the basis of further discussions," said Wealdstone's Peter Braxton.

Should the agreement go ahead, it will be a reciprocal move for the clubs. In 1973, while Borough's Earlsmead ground was being virtually rebuilt, they played at Lower Mead for a time.

"Wealdstone are our neighbours and they helped us out before, so we felt we should try and help them. But the scheme also makes good mathematical sense and the logic behind it is good," said Borough's Steve Williams.

It's another away day for Borough

By **John Comfort**

HARROW Borough manager Keith Chamberlin knew exactly where to look for his club's name when the draw for the third qualifying round of the FA Trophy was made on Monday.

"I looked straight down the list and studied the away teams first," he said "and sure enough there we were."

It was an away tie against fellow Vauxhall-Opel League Premier Division rivals Dulwich Hamlet, and that didn't surprise the Borough boss in the slightest.

"We've not had a home draw in the Trophy since I've been in charge," he said. "Obviously it's disappointing to be drawn away, but if it had to be anyone it might just as well be them because they're not very strong."

And by a strange coincidence Borough won't have to go out of their way to give Dulwich the "once over" before the tie, which is scheduled for Saturday November 21. For the previous Saturday Borough are away to the Champion Hill club in a league fixture.

Kingsbury Town's reward for their fine second qualifying round win over Billericay on Saturday is an away trip to face Tooting and Mitcham.

"They're a premier division side and it won't be easy," said Kingsbury manager Terry Dyson, "but we must have a chance if we go there and perform."

"I'm pleased we're not playing anyone from our league. We already have to play these teams twice a season so it's good not to have them in the Trophy."

Stones secretary Peter Braxton said: "The FA are changing Tamworth with offences against FA regulations regarding crowd control, but have said there will be no replay."

"The referee's report did not give the impression that the trouble interfered with the game sufficiently to warrant a replay, and the report is what the FA base their decisions on."

No second chance for Stones

WEALDSTONE'S troubled FA Cup tie at Tamworth will not be replayed, the Football Association decided this week.

Stones secretary Peter Braxton said: "The FA are changing Tamworth with offences against FA regulations regarding crowd control, but have said there will be no replay."

"The referee's report did not give the impression that the trouble interfered with the game sufficiently to warrant a replay,

and the report is what the FA base their decisions on."

However, Wealdstone have been warned to stand by for a possible appearance at an inquiry into events off the field at the fourth qualifying round tie on October 24.

Tamworth have already been told by local police that if their first round match at Colchester United ends in a draw, the replay will not take place at their Lamb ground.

PRATTS MOTOR INSURANCE

CAN WE SAVE YOU MONEY?

ASK US TO QUOTE

Open 9 am-9 pm Mon.-Fri.
Open 9 am-5 pm Sat.

Established over 50 years

IMMEDIATE COVER FROM OUR OFFICE AT

40 LONG LANE HILLINGDON

Telephone: UXBRIDGE 32212
(STD code 0895 from London)

Keith is new league boss

KEITH Chamberlin has accepted an offer to become the new manager of the Vauxhall Opel League's representative team.

The Harrow Borough boss was given the job for the League's match against the British Police at Imber Court last week and guided them to a 2-0 success.

Afterwards he was invited to take on the job permanently. "Naturally enough I've accepted," said Keith. "It's a nice little honour for the club."

Soccer fixtures

Saturday November 7	Suburban League: Yeading v Harrow Borough reserves.
GM Vauxhall Conference: Wealdstone v Telford United (Lower Mead, 3pm).	Tuesday November 10
Vauxhall-Opel League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Windsor and Eton (Earlsmead, 3pm).	Vauxhall-Opel League Premier Division: Leyton-Wingate v Harrow Borough.
Vauxhall-Opel League Division One: Chesham v Kingsbury Town; Uxbridge v Wembley.	Vauxhall-Opel League Division One: Staines Town v Kingsbury Town.
Middlesex League Premier Division: Abingdon United v Rayners Lane.	Capital League: Wealdstone v Wimbledon (Lower Mead, 7.30pm).
Middlesex League: Harrow St Marys v Pishanger; Dynamos (Pinner Road, 3pm).	Suburban League: Harrow Borough reserves v Edgware Town reserves (Earlsmead, 7.30pm).

CAR INSURANCE

WHY PAY MORE THAN YOU SHOULD?

IMMEDIATE COVER BEST RATES, substantial occupational discounts over and above any no claims discount
Special RAC members rates

CRESCENT INSURANCE
12 BONNERSFIELD LANE, CENTRAL HARROW
(off Station Rd., near Granada Cinema)

01-863 0033