

Sport

Robin is on the ball



WEALDSTONE'S Robin Wainwright is presented with a ball autographed by the England team that beat Yugoslavia earlier this month, by Middlesex county FA secretary Mr Stuart Bowen.

It's Weymouth again for Boro'

COINCIDENCE continues to reign supreme for Harrow Boro' in FA Challenge Trophy, writes John Cosford.

On Saturday they defeated Dulwich in the third qualifying round, a week after facing the same side in a league match.

Now the draw for the first round has paired them at home to leading GM Vauxhall Conference Club Weymouth on Saturday December 19 - just three days after they visit Weymouth in the GMAC Cup. Having never played each other before the clubs now amazingly meet twice within a matter of days.

Said Boro' boss Keith Chamberlin "It's an amazing coincidence and they don't come much tougher. But at least it's at home, the first time we've had home game in the Trophy since I became manager. It's a one off situation, so who knows".

Wealdstone face an uncomfortable trip to meet Beazer Homes Midland Division club Banbury. They will be favourites to win but as their FA Cup debacle at Tamworth proved, the unexpected often transpires.

● A GOAL in each half was enough to stretch Edgware's lead at the top of the Spartan League on Tuesday night when they defeated Corinthian Casuals 2-0.

Miles Milton headed home Martin Kidd's cross on the half hour and John Walsh converted a penalty 15 minutes from time after Ronnie Tully had been brought down. Edgware Town: Whelan, Milton, R. Mangan, Smith, Baldwin, Charalambous, Walsh, Derities, Kidd, Tully, Murphy. Subs: Buckner, Allen.

Borough duo get the green light

HARROW Boro' boss Keith Chamberlin received a boost when Mark Adams and Richard Evans both passed fitness tests on Tuesday evening and will play in Saturday's game at Croydon.

Steve Scott however is still struggling, but there is every chance that he will be fit for Boro's Middlesex Senior Cup tie at Harfield United on Tuesday evening.

Wealdstone have injury problems for their visit to GM Vauxhall Conference league leaders Barnet on Saturday, but they hope to have Francisco Rivero, Dennis

Byatt and Mick Pittaway all fit for selection. Barnet also have their problems. Herbie Smith, Keith Alexander and Noel Ashford are all doubtful.

On Monday Stones take on Vauxhall Opel League Division Two south leaders Yeading at Lower Mead in the Middlesex Senior Cup.

Wembley are hoping to have both Paul Janaway and Steve Lucas back after injury for their important home game with league leaders Grays - a match Lions need to win to keep alive their promotion hopes.

On Tuesday they are engaged in the Middlesex Cup, at home to Brimsdown.

Defender Logan Lewis has rejoined Kingsbury after two months out of the game and is in Terry Dyson's squad for the visit to Walton on Saturday. On Wednesday Town are at home to Hampton in the Middlesex Senior Cup.

Rayners Lane visit Fairford Town in the Hellenic League with manager Don Durkin hoping to have Tony Verni fit after missing last week's match with a groin strain.

Who's next for the hot seat?

An appointment is imminent say Stones

By Aaron Gransby

WEALDSTONE hope to appoint a new manager to succeed Terry Burton in the next few days.

Vice chairman Alan Clifton confirmed yesterday (Wednesday) that a decision was imminent. "We have made an official approach to somebody currently engaged at another non-league club who has considerable experience at this level," he said.

He insisted the club has not been rushed into making a quick decision. "We are not going to be panicked into appointing somebody. We must get it right."

Names mentioned as possibles for the job include Staines manager Alan Gane, who quit Wycombe Wanderers after taking them back into the GM Vauxhall Conference last season, and Wembley boss Alan Dafforn, a former Wealdstone player.

But Dafforn's loyalty to Wembley has almost certainly lost him any chance of the job. Another name ruled out by Wealdstone is the charismatic Ted Hardy, currently out of the game after successful spells with Enfield Dagenham and most recently, Hendon.

Clifton would not be drawn on the identity of the man he is chasing. "I cannot say anything that might prejudice the situation," he said.

"But we are looking for long-term stability - a commitment from a manager to bring back the stability this club had for six years before now."

Whoever he is, the new Wealdstone manager faces a tough challenge. He will be the club's third boss this season, and Alan Clifton is promising supporters: "Our sights are still firmly fixed on the football League."

Burton throws in towel on his nine week reign

TERRY Burton and Tommy Coleman have quit as manager and coach of Wealdstone after just nine weeks at Lower Mead, writes Aaron Gransby.

They were in charge for 13 games, during which Wealdstone failed to win once, and leave the club second bottom of the GM Vauxhall conference and facing their third manager in three months.

They offered their resignations to the club's vice chairman Alan Clifton after Wealdstone's humiliating 4-1 home defeat by Cheltenham Town last Tuesday, but the official announcement was not made until Thursday.

Clifton, who had been instrumental in bringing the pair to Lower Mead to replace the sacked Colin Meldrum, said he was totally surprised at their decision. "I wasn't expecting it and at the end of the day I am surprised and disappointed that it hasn't worked out," he said.

"When we took them on, I thought they would be the answer to our prayers but unfortunately it just didn't happen. I think they probably found it hard to adjust to the non-league scene after coming from a first division club."

"They said that bearing in mind their results, they both felt it would be in the best interests of the club if they resigned."

"I think personally that if they had stayed longer, they could have succeeded. I asked them to think it over again, but if someone does not want to stay it is no use trying to keep him."

Burton, a 34-year-old former Arsenal first team coach, said he now regretted taking the job in the first place.

"I regret taking the position. I don't think anything about it was a good experience for me and I certainly won't be looking for any other non-league jobs," he said.

"My skills lie in coaching players to improvement, and in Wealdstone's players I saw no improvement except for one or two. The players' effort and commitment was first class, but it just didn't happen for them."

"The next step was to bring in other players, but my attempts to bring in quality players failed. The job needs someone who knows the non-league scene, knows the players and other managers. It demands something that I could not give it."

"I felt I was taking one step forward and two steps



Fallen heroes... Tommy Coleman (left) and Terry Burton at the start of their nine-week Wealdstone careers.

back all the time. I knew where I wanted to go, but I could not get there. If I thought I could get the players I wanted, I would have stayed, but there was no daylight at the end of the tunnel."

Wealdstone supporters Club secretary Nick DuGard said: "I think on the face of it the club has been let down. It has come at a bad time, and I just don't understand it."

Burton and Coleman were appointed by Alan Clifton on September 17,

two days after the sacking of previous boss Colin Meldrum. During their two months in charge, Wealdstone played 13 competitive games. They lost eight of them and drew just five.

Not even during Colin Meldrum's 18-match reign did Wealdstone go through such a poor period of results. Although Meldrum won just twice with Wealdstone, his longest period without a win was ten games, immediately prior to his dismissal.

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Worthing get the Lions share

Wembley 1 Worthing 2 IT WAS another hard luck story for Wembley on Tuesday night. They deserve to share the points but a familiar performance saw them unable to defeat mediocre opposition.

Wembley went behind in the 5th minute when Pat David drilled home from a Somers' cross and seven minutes later Paul Bennett tucked away Worthing's second.

Peter Shodeinde hit the post and Adrian Smith found the crossbar but it was not until the 62nd minute that Wembley opened their account when Lance Cadogan hooked home Brown's looping cross but despite intense pressure until the final whist Lions were unable to find an equaliser.

Wembley: Smart, Flaherty, Bhatia, Smith, Williams (Pacquette), Brown, Shodeinde, Cadogan, Waugh.

Darts draw

THE full draw for the first round of the Middlesex Darts pairs Championship will be published in Observer Sport next week.

The tournament, which boasts £1,000 in cash prizes is being sponsored by the Observer's publishers, Middlesex County Press Ltd.

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Soccer fixtures

Saturday November 28
GM Vauxhall Conference:
Barnet v Wealdstone.
Vauxhall Opel League Premier Division:
Croydon v Harrow Borough.
Vauxhall Opel League Division One:
Walton and Hershaw v Kingsbury Town; Wembley v Grays Ath. (Vale Farm, 3pm).
Spartan League:
Edgware Town v Wandsworth and Norwood (White Lion Ground, 3pm).
Hellenic League:
Fairford Town v Rayners Lane.
Middlesex League:
Troy Albion v Harrow St Marys.

Monday November 30
Middlesex Senior Cup:
Wealdstone v Yeading (Lower Mead, 7.30pm).

Tuesday December 1
Middlesex Senior Cup:
Harfield Utd v Harrow Borough; Wembley v Brimsdown Rovers (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).

Wednesday December 2
Representative matches:
Middlesex FA v The Army XI (Lower Mead, 7.30pm).
Middlesex Senior Cup:
Kingsbury Town v Hampton (Silver Jubilee Park, 7.30pm).