

Sport

Ground-sharing: No agreement

Wealdstone's relegation fears eased

Dagenham 1, Wealdstone 2
WEALDSTONE eased their relegation fears by taking four points from a possible six over Christmas and extending their unbeaten run to five games — including their first four under Tony Jennings.



● Tom English — in the goals.

They produced their first away win of the season on Boxing Day, beating Dagenham, the club Jennings quit before taking over at Lower Mead, writes Jeremy Albert.

And it was Alan Cordice, the star striker brought out of retirement, who scored the winning goal 15 minutes from time.

He was the first to react after keeper Williams could only parry Gerry Solomon's shot and drive the ball into the net.

It was a tremendous win for Wealdstone, who had to play for most of the match without influential centre back Paul Bowgett, who went off injured.

They opened the scoring after 41 minutes when Tom English burst through the Dagenham defence and followed up his first shot to net the rebound and beat Williams at the second attempt.

Dagenham equalised through Phil Stacy seven minutes later after the break, but Cordice had the last word.

Wealdstone 1 Boston United 1
 A FINE first half performance earned Stones a point on Monday, but a lack of defenders in the second half left them glad to hang on at the end.

Tom English was again the Wealdstone scorer, scoring in almost identical fashion to Saturday. He received a Tony Lynch through ball, shrugged off a challenge and netted the rebound after his first shot was saved.

But the second half was all Boston after Everal La Ronde went off at half time with an injury, and they eventually equalised in the 72nd minute when Warren Ward headed home.

Wealdstone: Welsh, Pittaway, La Ronde (Stagg), Hirst, Olaley, Wainwright, McCarthy, Rivero, Cordice, English, Lynch. Other sub: Isaacs.

WEALDSTONE and Harrow Borough are moving closer to an agreement to share Borough's Earlsmead ground next season as Wealdstone admit they now have one firm site in mind for their new stadium.

But contrary to reports in the national press last week, there has been no definite deal made yet. And Harrow Borough are stressing that there are still considerable obstacles to overcome.

Members of Borough's board of directors met with Wealdstone vice-chairman Alan Clifton and secretary Peter Braxton for more preliminary discussions two weeks ago. Wealdstone say talks went quite well, Borough say nothing much was discussed.

The GM Vauxhall Conference grading committee also visited Earlsmead and has told Wealdstone that the league are happy for them to use the South Harrow ground, as long as minor improvements are carried out.

But neither club has yet been told exactly what these improvements are, or what they specifically cost.

Earlsmead gets thumbs up from Conference

By Aaron Cranley

Wealdstone's Alan Clifton told the Observer: "The league grading committee are happy for us to go to Borough for one season. We have had discussions with Borough and they are happy for us to go, and we are happy to go there for 1988-89."

"We will move there in the event that we secure a new site. If we do not secure a new site, we will stay where we are next season. We are now hoping to have a new site by the third week in January."

Peter Braxton added: "In theory we have reached an agreement with Harrow Borough, but there is still a lot of hard talking to be done."

Steve Williams, Harrow Borough's press director, still feels that the time factor is the biggest single stumbling block in the deal's way.

"We have to register our teams by the end of January with the Vauxhall-

Opel League, so that is still the deadline. Yet I personally feel that we are at least a month away from any deal."

Borough hold a board meeting on January 4 to discuss the situation and then meet with their solicitor two days later to put together a legal package.

But the many hurdles still to overcome, according to Mr Williams, include:

- Whose fixtures take priority;
- A council restriction that forbids Sunday matches at Earlsmead;
- A restriction on floodlight usage of three times a week;
- Who takes bar receipts;
- Who trains when;
- What happens to Borough's reserves.

The two clubs hope to meet again early in January to discuss the situation further. But Wealdstone have to secure a new site and sell Lower Mead by the end of January, even before any real talking takes place.

It's tough at top

Beaconsfield 1 Edgware 1
EDGWARE found life tough at the top when they visited Beaconsfield on Saturday and had to settle for a draw against a side that on paper they should comfortably have accounted for.

Beaconsfield raised their game for the Spartan League leaders and had Wares under pressure for long spells in the first half, but despite this few chances were created.

However, within a minute of the restart Beaconsfield took the lead. A telling Edgware defence wanting and a Beaconsfield forward brushed past several half hearted challenges before shooting home.

That setback brought Edgware to life and for the last half hour they totally dominated the game and with 15 minutes to go they levelled. Lee Rider won the ball on the left and his cross was flicked on by Ronnie Tully for Johnny Walsh to nod home.

Edgware: Whelan, Smith, Mangan, Deritis, Allen, Charalambous, Walsh, Baldwin, Kidd (sub: Rider); Tully, Murphy. Sub: Smoothery.

Lane see off rivals

Rayners Lane 3 Viking Sports 1

RAYNERS Lane extended their recent good run with an important win over local rivals Viking Sports.

Both defences were in holiday mood and Lane took their chance after 15 minutes when Steve Bocking found Danny Mills and he gave the keeper no chance from the edge of the box.

Lane went further ahead when Duncan Ferguson broke clear and rounded the keeper to score from an acute angle, but further chances were missed by Ferguson, Bocking and Tony Verri.

The third goal was a belated Christmas gift from Viking when a poor back pass let Ferguson in to score again. A late consolation was all Viking could earn, despite pressure which saw them twice hit the woodwork.

Rayners Lane: Randall, Wilbraham, Kiely, Clements, Cockram, Verri, Meaney, Dempsey (Mitchell), Ferguson, Mills, Bocking.

Soccer fixtures

Saturday, January 2

GM Vauxhall Conference: Fisher Athletic v Wealdstone.

Vauxhall-Opel League Premier Division: Egnor Regis Town v Harrow Borough.

Vauxhall-Opel League Division One: Kingsbury Town v Woking (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm); Wembley v Billericay (Vale Farm, 3pm).

Spartan League: Southgate Athletic v Edgware Town (2pm).

Hellenic League: Penhill v Rayners Lane.

Hutchinson gives Kingsbury a lift

Stevenage Borough 1 Kingsbury Town 2

DESPITE starting the game with ten men and without a goalkeeper, Kingsbury were still too good for Stevenage on Boxing Day, earning a win that shoot them up into a mid-table position in division one of the Vauxhall-Opel League.

Dave Silman was forced

to start in goal as Mick McDonough arrived late after a mix-up over who was to take him to the match.

And soon after McDonough had arrived he found himself picking the ball out of the back of the net as Stevenage took the lead.

The equaliser came from Paul Goodison before the break, as he smashed in a

shot from close range following a Bobby Hutchinson cross.

The second half was all Kingsbury as Mark Lincoln and Paul Goodison both hit the bar and Bobby Hutchinson hit the post before Hutchinson finished off a Goodison corner two minutes from time.

Kingsbury Town: McDonough, Hill, Silman, Redding, Fitzgerald, Hutchinson, Zacharia, Atkins, Coleman, Goodison, Lincoln. Sub: Barr.

Kingsbury's Silver Jubilee Park ground should be re-opened in time for their Vauxhall-Opel League match with Woking on Saturday.

Work on the ladies' toilets — the cause for the closure of the ground — is expected to be finished in time.

Borough boxing clever

Basingstoke Town 1 Harrow Borough 3

HARROW Borough celebrated Boxing Day in the best possible fashion — with their seventh win in their last eight away games.

Driving rain and a gale-force wind made life difficult for both sides, but Borough handled the conditions better.

Borough defended well in the first half and had two chances to go ahead themselves, both falling to Mark Adams. But Basingstoke took the lead a minute before half time when Budden rounded Stuart MacKenzie and Lucas shot home.

Almost constant Harrow pressure in the

second half paid off in the 57th minute when Robbie Johnson's corner found Phil Dicker whose header was parried and Lawrence Holmes struck.

Dicker continued his fine form with a header and a shot narrowly wide before setting up Steve Emmanuel to run through and score in the 65th minute.

Six minutes from time Andy Dale and Mark Adams set up Johnson for a cross which Richard Evans met with a fierce shot into the back of the net.

Harrow Borough: MacKenzie, Dicker (Dale), Johnson, How, Bateman, Duffy, Emmanuel, Holmes, Evans, Tate (Ripley), Adams.

Trophy ties tough

BOTH Wealdstone and Harrow Borough have landed difficult ties in the second round of the FA Trophy.

Stones entertain fellow GM Vauxhall Conference side Telford United, with whom they have drawn twice this season, while Harrow Borough face a marathon trip to County Durham to face Northern League side Spennymoor United.

Both games take place on Saturday January 23.

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