

Sport

Vital clash for the Stones

WEALDSTONE entertain Wycombe Wanderers in a vital GM Vauxhall Conference relegation battle on Saturday.

Tony Jennings hopes to have Everalld La Ronde fit to play alongside new loan signings Bert Davies and Ian Bowyer. But he will still be without Paul Bowgett and Dennis Byatt.

Harrow Borough go to Bishops Cleeve for a full squad and no injury problems. "We've been out of action since playing Basingstoke," said manager Keith Chamberlin "and we're anxious to get the show back on the road."

Wembley visit lowly Lewes, a team they always find it difficult to overcome, without one of their top strikers, Lance Cadogan.

He is on holiday for five weeks, but the good news for manager Alan Daffora is the return of both keeper Jeff Farmer and centre back Paul Janaway.

On Monday night, the Lions travel to near-neighbours Ruislip Manor in Russell Grant's Middlesex Charity Cup. Manor are managed by former Wembley pair Micky Schools and Alan Witham and include many former Vale Farm players in their team. Earlier this season, Wembley beat them 5-0 in an FA Cup replay after being held at home.

Kingsbury Town have switched their home match with Walthamstow to their opponents' ground to avoid another conflict with the Vauxhall-Opel League. Boss Terry Dyson is still sweating over the fitness of Bobby Hutchinson and Stuart Atkins who both picked up injuries on Feltham's plastic pitch last week.

Edgware Town face Hanwell in the quarter final of the Spartan League Cup with a fully-fit squad, a luxury that Don Durkin also has for Rayners Lane's home match with Sharpness Town, who are just one place above Lane near the foot of the Hellenic League.

Borough six in rep team

SIX Harrow Borough players are in the squad of 18 which will contest a representative match for the Vauxhall Opel League against an FA XI at Kingstonian FC on Wednesday.

The six are Stuart Mackenzie, Robbie Johnson, Steve Batesman, Paul Morris, Lawrence Holmes and Mark Adams. The League side is managed by Borough boss Keith Chamberlin.

An incentive for the Borough men to play well will be the presence of England non-league manager Keith Verity who is shortly to name his squad for the season.

On the mark

HARROW Borough manager Keith Chamberlin has shown an interest in Maidstone's transfer-list left back Mark Harrison.

Harrison, 26, was formerly with Borough's rivals Hayes, and Borough have made bids for him in the past. He joined Maidstone for £1,000 at the start of the season.

Keith goes on Spennymoor spying mission



Keith Chamberlin — going spying

HARROW Borough boss Keith Chamberlin misses his side's Vauxhall Opel League match at Bishops Cleeve on Saturday to journey north for a spying mission on FA Trophy opponents Spennymoor United.

Chamberlin should have watched Spennymoor last Saturday but their game — like Borough's match at Bognor — fell victim to the weather.

A question mark hangs over their Northern League fixture with Billingham this week, but

By **John Comfort**

if that also falls by the wayside, Chamberlin will not be going into the Trophy clash totally blind.

"I have contacted several northern managers so I've already got a good insight into Spennymoor," he said. "Now I want to top it up by seeing them."

Chamberlin knows Borough has a tough task on their hands.

"When you get to the last 32 of the Trophy you've got to respect any side," he added. "But like most northern clubs I don't expect them to play, they'll just battle away."

Spennymoor's impressive record last season saw them finish in third place in the Dryborough's Northern League and win the League Cup. They are again in contention for honours this season and reached the first round of the FA Cup before going out to fourth Division Trammere.

They recently signed winger mark Wilson from Newcastle to bolster their squad and he will be facing Borough in the big Trophy clash on January 23.

But while Borough have reason to be wary of Spennymoor, the same must be said of the northerners. "Few people expected us to win our replay at Weymouth," said Chamberlin.

That they did will surely be cause enough alone for Spennymoor to fear Borough's visit.

'We can still avoid drop' says Jennings

WEALDSTONE manager Tony Jennings believes there is still time for the club to avoid relegation this season.

Jennings, who suffered his first defeat in his fifth game in charge at Fisher Athletic on Saturday, also says his buying of new players is by no means over.

"I am optimistic that we are not going to go down, because for a side that is the equivalent of bottom of the league, we are not being slaughtered. That should give the players some faith in themselves."

"The players I keep on have got to improve and maintain a standard that I think they are beginning to believe they are capable of. What we need is three or four consecutive results — they would make a difference to any team, no matter where it was in the league."

"Although statistically, it looks bad for us and you would have to say it looks like we are

By **Aaron Granaby**

going down. I really believe that there is more to come from the players of Wealdstone. Either way I think we will know our fate, realistically, by the end of January."

Jennings, who joined the club from Dagenham three weeks ago, became the first Wealdstone manager this season to earn a win, when 'Stones beat Banbury in the FA Trophy. The team's only previous victory, against Enfield, was when they were between managers.

His refreshing attitude has already become imprinted on Wealdstone and he has wasted no time in sorting out his team.

This week he has made more signings. Right back or centre half Bert Davies has been signed on loan from Fisher Athletic and trained with Stones on Tuesday night, with a view to signing

permanently if the move works out.

He is also hoping to sign 28-year-old centre half Ian Bowyer from Banbury United, Stones recent opponents in the FA Trophy. The move should go through in time for Saturday's clash with Wycombe, although initially it too could be a loan move to see if Bowyer can make the step up to Conference football.

Both Dennis Byatt and Paul Bowgett will be out for around three weeks. Byatt with a knee injury and Bowgett with a broken nose, so the signings have come at exactly the right time.

Striker Mick Ferguson, the former Coventry and Brighton centre forward, was this week released by Jennings.

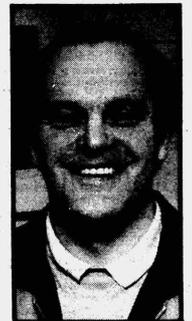
Left back Everalld La Ronde, one of Jennings' first signings from Dagenham, was cancelled near the end of the Fisher match last Saturday, and suffered a

fractured nose. Jennings says: "We don't yet know how it will affect him, he could play on Saturday or he could be out for a few weeks."

But despite being fairly pleased with the way things have gone recently, Jennings says he will still make more signings.

"We will have a look at our two loan players and see what they can do, but we have also been enquiring after several players with a view to strengthening the team."

And he has a special message for the club's fans. "The support has been really marvellous since I came here. It is very encouraging that the supporters have travelled to games and outwitted their opponents. It would be nice to think that, although we lost at Fisher, we will soon be able to give them something to cheer about."



Tony Jennings — confident Stones can beat the drop

League tables

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE														
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	VAUXHALL OPEL LEAGUE						
Barnet	22	15	5	2	59	20	50	Premier Division						
Lincoln C.	23	15	3	5	47	29	48	Windsor	22	12	6	5	38	42
Stafford W.	26	13	7	6	32	46	46	Slough Town	22	12	4	6	43	20
Wokingham T.	25	14	3	8	40	29	45	Bromley	19	12	2	5	34	17
Weymouth	20	13	3	4	29	9	42	Farnborough	19	11	2	6	37	25
Telford Utd	26	12	6	4	30	28	42	Wokingham	18	11	2	5	29	19
South Utd	23	9	9	5	43	27	36	Weymouth	20	10	4	6	31	26
Chesham	24	9	6	3	37	32	36	Farnham	18	10	3	5	29	17
Maidstone Utd	23	10	5	4	46	35	35	Wokingham	18	10	3	5	29	17
Mackenzie	22	10	5	7	37	30	35	Wokingham	18	10	3	5	29	17
Kidderminster H.	23	10	5	8	43	42	35	Wokingham	18	10	3	5	29	17
Runcorn	23	8	7	30	29	32	32	Wokingham	18	10	3	5	29	17
Boston Utd	24	8	6	10	33	37	30	Wokingham	18	10	3	5	29	17
Enfield	24	8	6	10	37	44	30	Wokingham	18	10	3	5	29	17
Fisher Ath	23	7	7	9	27	38	28	Wokingham	18	10	3	5	29	17
Altrincham	24	8	4	12	29	35	28	Wokingham	18	10	3	5	29	17
Welling Utd	20	7	2	11	29	36	23	Wokingham	18	10	3	5	29	17
Wycombe Wander	25	5	14	16	36	35	21	Wokingham	18	10	3	5	29	17
Dagenham	26	4	6	16	27	59	18	Wokingham	18	10	3	5	29	17
Walthamstow	28	2	11	12	48	17	11	Wokingham	18	10	3	5	29	17
Walthamstow	28	2	4	14	22	42	16	Wokingham	18	10	3	5	29	17
South City	19	2	6	11	17	34	12	Wokingham	18	10	3	5	29	17
Northwich Vic	22	2	6	11	17	34	12	Wokingham	18	10	3	5	29	17

Soccer fixtures

Saturday, January 9		Hellenic League: Rayners Lane v Sharpness Town (Lucas Avenue, 2.30pm).	
GM Vauxhall Conference: Wealdstone v Wycombe Wanderers (Lower Mead, 3pm).		Middlesex Premier Cup: Harrow Borough Reserves v Enfield (Earlsmead, 3pm).	
Vauxhall-Opel League Premier Division: Bishops Cleeve v Harrow Borough.		Middlesex County League: Harrow St Marys v Technicolor (Pinner Road, 2pm).	
Vauxhall-Opel League Division One: Lewes v Wembley; Walthamstow Avenue v Kingsbury Town.		Monday, January 11 Russell Grant's Middlesex Charity Cup: Ruislip Manor v Wembley.	
Spartan League Cup Quarter Final: Edgware Town v Hanwell Town (White Lion ground, 3pm).		Wednesday, January 13 Vauxhall-Opel League Division One: Kingsbury Town v Southwick (Silver Jubilee Park, 7.45pm).	

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Meet the Observer sports team

Sports editor John Comfort

Sports assistant Aaron Granaby

The Observer offers a comprehensive sports service unrivalled in North West London.

Our coverage is provided by sports editor John Comfort and Aaron Granaby. As well as their professional knowledge of the local sports scene, both are also active participants in it.

John is a qualified football referee and runs a youth soccer team. He also plays for Hayes Cricket Club.

Aaron is chairman of West Harrow Football Club and plays in the Harrow Sunday Challenge league.

Their aim is to keep you fully in touch with all the news from both on and off the sports field.

But if your club or team isn't sending in results then drop them a line to Harrow Observer, 34 Greenhill Way, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 1YT.

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