

Sport on five pages



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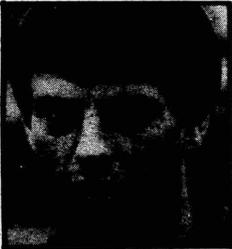
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Stones to splash out £4,000 on Harrison



● Mark Harrison

MARK Harrison will become Wealdstone's record signing today when he signs for the club for a fee of £4,000.

The 25-year-old defender agreed terms with Stones boss Tony Jennings after being transfer-listed by Conference rivals Maidstone United.

Signed by Maidstone for £1,000 from Hayes in the close season, Harrison is a left back who can also double as a central defender.

The fee, the largest Wealdstone have ever paid for an individual player, smashes the previous record of £2,000 for Tony Lynch.

Tony Jennings confirmed: "The paperwork should go through on Thursday and we hope he will play on Saturday."

"I can see Mark in a variety of positions, but I have been pleased with Emerald La Ronde's consistency at left back. I will be speaking to the players to work out which position I can fit him into."

Meanwhile, Jennings has been busy assessing his existing squad and this week released five players.

Striker Byron Walton, who was loaned to Hounslow last week, has definitely left Lower Mead, as have Gerry Solomon, Tony Isaacs, Tom Meadows and Mark Devlin.

Morritt gets a 'No' from Elton

Watford takeover attempt is off

By Aaron Grassby

DAVID Morritt's audacious bid to take over first division Watford from Elton John has ended in failure.

The rock superstar appeared to pull the plug on the Wealdstone chairman's ambitions after the Observer's exclusive story hit the national headlines at the end of last week.

His brokers for the sale, city-based Hanover Druce, were instructed to withdraw from all negotiations concerning the £2m deal.

But Hanover Druce admitted it could just be a temporary move while media interest dies down. And there is no reason why David Morritt should not try again if Watford do come back on the market.

Paul White, spokesman for the company, has now admitted for the first time: "I did meet with David Morrirt and spoke to him on the

telephone on other occasions." Meanwhile, Wealdstone face the prospect of a further season at Lower Mead.

Vice chairman Alan Clifton said: "We still don't know where we will be next season. We are still negotiating for a new site in Harrow."

"When we have a firm answer, we will go back to Harrow Borough and talk seriously to them about ground-sharing."

But Borough, who set a deadline of the end of January for any agreement, do not believe it will happen.

Press secretary Steve Williams said: "We feel it will be a case of As You Were for Harrow Borough next season."

"We had a board meeting on Monday and decided we shall do

absolutely nothing, but wait for Wealdstone to contact us.

"It is not us who wants to ground-share, it is Wealdstone, and they will have to come to the negotiating table."

"All we have agreed to do is sit down and listen to the proposal, there is no agreement. We are still at least two months away from any deal."

Borough have confirmed their intention to run a reserve side next season. If they were to share with Wealdstone, they would face a hefty fine from the Suburban League for pulling their side out, or large ground fees to find them an alternative home.

But Wealdstone's Alan Clifton said he was hopeful that a way could be found round the situation.

"We still hope to share with Harrow Borough and move to a new ground the season after," he commented.



● David Morrirt — Watford bid thwarted.

Plan to axe 44 clubs is scrapped by League

THE Vauxhall-Opel League has dropped its proposals to axe its entire second division, but a new Middlesex senior league could still be formed, writes Aaron Grassby.

At a meeting last Friday, the league's management committee discussed the plan to axe the 44 clubs.

Chairman Alan Turvey emerged to say: "Having heard the views of all the clubs it is proposed that no further action be taken in relation to changing the structure of the league."

But the Middlesex County Football Association says the move will not mean the end of

its hopes to start a new county league.

Secretary Peter Clayton said: "We are very happy that the Vauxhall-Opel League is to continue its second division, as it is the best option for our clubs. But our plan is still alive."

"We still want to have a senior league, the only difference is we won't have such a great number of clubs coming in at one time."

"We are still looking for senior clubs with floodlights, or those with senior status and potential."

Those clubs already in Division Two of the Vauxhall-Opel League will be certain now to

remain there, but clubs in other feeder leagues may be tempted by the Middlesex offer.

Peter Clayton said he hopes that the new league would become a feeder to the Vauxhall-Opel League within the pyramid system. It would then be on a par with the Spartan League.

Edgware Town, who currently play in the Spartan League, have just applied to the Vauxhall-Opel for next season as they are currently league leaders.

But their chairman John Cook said: "If we don't get in, we would be interested in the Middlesex league, depending on

the standards of the clubs, the grounds and the number of clubs."

And Tom Lynn, the chairman of Hellenic League Rayners Lane, who were ready to join the aborted Athenian League last season, said: "We always have a provisional interest in these things. But it would depend on the standard and the number of the teams."

Middlesex Volkswagen dealers, Contim Motors, who had agreed to sponsor the new county senior league to the tune of £9,000, may still invest in a smaller new league.

Latest league tables

ON VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Darvel | 24 | 16 | 8 | 2 | 63 | 23 | 54 |
| Lincoln City | 25 | 17 | 3 | 5 | 54 | 30 | 54 |
| Stafford Rangers | 27 | 14 | 7 | 6 | 47 | 32 | 48 |
| Telford Utd | 28 | 7 | 6 | 17 | 32 | 48 | 48 |
| Kettering | 27 | 14 | 5 | 8 | 43 | 32 | 47 |
| Weymouth | 20 | 13 | 3 | 4 | 29 | 19 | 42 |
| Macclesfield | 21 | 5 | 13 | 5 | 38 | 30 | 38 |
| Kidderminster H | 24 | 11 | 5 | 8 | 45 | 43 | 38 |
| Chalfont | 25 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 41 | 36 | 37 |
| Sutton Utd | 24 | 9 | 8 | 43 | 28 | 36 | 36 |
| Runcorn | 25 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 33 | 31 | 36 |
| Maldenstone (W) | 24 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 48 | 40 | 35 |
| Exeter | 27 | 9 | 7 | 11 | 43 | 51 | 34 |
| Boston Utd | 25 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 35 | 40 | 30 |
| Fisher Ath | 27 | 6 | 11 | 10 | 30 | 35 | 29 |
| Leysleicester | 22 | 8 | 4 | 13 | 31 | 38 | 29 |
| Wycombe Wander | 27 | 6 | 7 | 14 | 31 | 62 | 25 |
| Welling Utd | 22 | 7 | 2 | 13 | 30 | 42 | 23 |
| South City | 24 | 5 | 14 | 5 | 43 | 42 | 20 |
| Wareham | 28 | 4 | 6 | 18 | 21 | 46 | 18 |
| Hatfield | 28 | 4 | 6 | 18 | 29 | 64 | 18 |
| Hatfield Vic | 20 | 2 | 7 | 11 | 17 | 34 | 13 |

VAUXHALL-OPHEL LEAGUE

Premier Division

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Bromley | 23 | 15 | 3 | 5 | 40 | 17 | 48 |
| Widnes | 25 | 13 | 6 | 6 | 40 | 24 | 45 |
| Slough | 25 | 13 | 5 | 7 | 47 | 27 | 44 |
| Farnborough | 23 | 12 | 4 | 7 | 43 | 30 | 40 |
| Leysleicester | 22 | 8 | 4 | 13 | 31 | 38 | 29 |
| Wycombe Wander | 20 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 34 | 19 | 39 |
| St Albans | 25 | 12 | 3 | 10 | 43 | 38 | 39 |
| Wellingham | 20 | 12 | 2 | 5 | 31 | 23 | 37 |
| Harlow Town | 24 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 32 | 37 | 27 |
| Slough's Star | 23 | 11 | 3 | 9 | 34 | 31 | 36 |
| Carshalton | 21 | 10 | 4 | 7 | 35 | 29 | 34 |
| Harlow Rovers | 23 | 7 | 4 | 13 | 35 | 36 | 29 |
| Bognor Regis | 20 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 27 | 28 | 30 |
| Kingsthorpe | 27 | 8 | 10 | 13 | 31 | 41 | 28 |
| Hendon | 24 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 33 | 41 | 28 |
| Totting & M | 18 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 22 | 27 | 25 |
| Leyton-Wingate | 19 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Soydon | 24 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 34 | 41 | 25 |
| Barking | 23 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 34 | 41 | 16 |
| Beaumont | 23 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 35 | 45 | 16 |
| Dulwich Ham | 24 | 3 | 6 | 14 | 24 | 16 | 16 |
| Hitchin | 22 | 2 | 4 | 16 | 18 | 46 | 10 |

Division One

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Grays Ath | 25 | 19 | 6 | 1 | 47 | 14 | 63 |
| Maiden | 23 | 18 | 3 | 2 | 63 | 24 | 57 |
| Woking | 25 | 16 | 2 | 7 | 58 | 31 | 50 |
| Welling | 25 | 16 | 4 | 6 | 58 | 31 | 50 |
| Slough | 23 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 41 | 30 | 39 |
| Leatherhead | 24 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 41 | 33 | 37 |
| Barnet | 22 | 11 | 5 | 8 | 33 | 27 | 36 |
| Oxford City | 25 | 8 | 7 | 10 | 43 | 47 | 31 |
| Worthing | 23 | 8 | 3 | 11 | 43 | 41 | 29 |
| Waltham | 22 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 30 | 32 | 30 |
| Hampstead | 24 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 30 | 37 | 30 |
| Walthamstow Ave | 24 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 29 | 34 | 29 |
| Uxbridge | 22 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 21 | 18 | 28 |
| Widnes & H | 24 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 30 | 37 | 28 |
| Kingsthorpe | 24 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 27 | 44 | 28 |
| Slough | 22 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 24 | 29 | 27 |
| Widnes | 25 | 7 | 6 | 11 | 24 | 29 | 27 |
| Leaves | 25 | 10 | 10 | 4 | 42 | 25 | 25 |
| Southwick | 19 | 6 | 6 | 14 | 34 | 30 | 23 |
| Beaconsfield | 24 | 6 | 5 | 13 | 31 | 37 | 22 |
| Chesham U. | 24 | 6 | 4 | 14 | 25 | 26 | 22 |
| Wolverton | 24 | 2 | 0 | 22 | 16 | 81 | 6 |

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Debut hope for Stones' signing

WEALDSTONE hope to have new defender Mark Harrison available for Saturday's home GM Vauxhall Conference clash with high-flying Stafford Rangers.

On-loan centre back Ian Bowyer could also make his league debut, after showing up well in last week's Capital League defeat at Wycombe.

Alan Cordice should have recovered from flu and Tony Lynch is also likely to be fit after his groin problem. Harrow Borough take on Vauxhall-Opel League leaders Bromley at Earlsmead, with only long-term injury worries Steve Scott and Matt Luddy missing. On Tuesday they visit giant-killing Yeading in the Middlesex Senior Cup.

Wembley travel to Leatherhead in division one of the Vauxhall-Opel League. Tony Waugh will certainly be out. He was this week confirmed to have broken his leg and will almost certainly miss the rest of the season.

Next Tuesday Lions visit Finchley in the County Cup.

Kingsbury Town will be without Dave Silman, their influential centre half, for their trip to Uxbridge on Saturday. He starts a two-week suspension.

Johnny Coleman will also miss Saturday's game as he is away, but he may be back for Tuesday's home match with Staines in the cup.

Rayners Lane will be without Tony



● Tony Waugh of Wembley — will miss the remainder of the season with a broken leg.

Kieley and Reg Barton who are both suspended, for their Hellenic League match at Bicestor Town. But Paul Abell should have recovered from flu and Steve Bocking from bruised ribs to play. Edgware Town face a stiff task against Redhill as they bid to open up a larger gap at the top of the Spartan League. Prolific striker Ronnie Tully will be gunning for more goals, before he starts a suspension on Sunday.

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