

Sport

Stones protest after Weymouth shocker

WEALDSTONE have made an official complaint to the GM Vauxhall Conference about Bristol referee A. V. Stone following some shocking scenes in their defeat by Weymouth last Wednesday.

Mr Stone played an incredible 17 minutes of injury time in which Weymouth scored the winning goal with the last kick of the game. He also missed several off-the-ball incidents, one of which saw Dennis Byatt headbutted to the ground.

Wealdstone also had keeper Alex Welsh stretched off with concussion after a late tackle by Andy Rowland.

Violence then erupted between about a dozen players at the final whistle. Mr

Stone took no action but it led to a war of words between the rival managers.

Weymouth's Stuart Morgan blamed the entire incident on Wealdstone, accusing players of indiscipline, and made a protest to Stones boss Tony Jennings.

Jennings responded: "My players certainly were not innocent, but let's put it this way: It wasn't one of their off the ball, and it wasn't their goalkeeper taken off with concussion after collecting the ball and being kicked in the head."

He also reserved some strong words for referee Stone. "I am saddened by

the way the game was refereed. There is no way he could justify 17 minutes of injury time.

"The Welsh incident was about six minutes long. His performance certainly left a bit to be desired." Wealdstone secretary Peter Braxton, who this week made the official protest, said: "We are unhappy with the way he refereed the game, the second half in particular, and we would question his timekeeping. You just don't get stoppages of 17 minutes."

The period added on is believed to be a Conference record.

On the pitch, Weymouth took the lead after 40 minutes through Rowland,

Tony Lynch equalising in the 54th minute with a cross that somehow found its way into the net.

When the late, late winner went in, Wealdstone fans had to be physically restrained from invading the pitch to attack the referee.

Supporters Club secretary Nick DuGard has written a letter of protest to Conference secretary Peter Hunter this week.

He said: "The situation was completely disgraceful and I have never, ever seen anything like it. It was crazy and absolutely shattering."

Ref is spot on to put Lions through

Wembley 1 Finchley 0

A LARGE slice of generosity from Uxbridge referee Mick Burrell helped book Wembley's passage into the semi finals of the Middlesex Senior Cup — and a tilt at neighbours Harrow Borough — writes John Comfort.

This replay seemed to be heading for another goalless draw when Finchley defender Newing's lofted back pass put keeper Griffiths in trouble. Peter Shodeinde beat him to it, heading over him, but with the ball going out of play, the Wembley striker stumbled to the ground as the two players brushed each other.

Referee Burrell immediately pointed to the spot and then had to endure the inevitable Finchley protests before Charlie Flaherty was permitted to net what proved to be the match winner.

But while the decision that put them through was a little harsh, there was little doubt that Wembley deserved their semi final place.

In their first match under new bosses Tony Waugh and Ernie Ford, they played some excellent football and had Finchley panned in their own half for long spells, but the final pass to some fine approach work was too often missing.

Boro' line up baffler

Harrow Borough 0 Leyton-Wingate 1

THE two questions Borough fans must be asking themselves after this appalling performance on Tuesday are: Why wasn't Richard Evans in the squad and why did Steve Scott only play the last 25 minutes, writes Aaron Gransby.

Evans' absence was only too noticeable up front and Borough only began to play once Scott had been brought on for the transfer-listed Colin Tate.

Before then, Borough had hardly had an attack of note and had struggled against lowly Leyton-Wingate, who looked far more enterprising.

Scott's appearance rejuvenated hapless Borough. He curled a shot just over, set up Lawrence Holmes for a fierce effort that was charged down and freed Ray Duffy for a cross that Holmes volleyed over.

Leyton-Wingate's winner came two minutes from time, when Steve Robinson's long ball was finished off by former Wealdstone midfielder Lee Holmes.

See Higgins with Observer
SNOOKER'S favourite son Alex Higgins is appearing at the North Harrow snooker centre next month. For details of how to win free tickets to see the flamboyant star see next week's Observer.

Dyson is sacked by Kingsbury



● Terry Dyson — sacked by Kingsbury.



● Alan Dafforn — Kingsbury's new boss.

TERRY Dyson has been sensationally sacked as manager of Kingsbury Town and Alan Dafforn has quit Wembley to take his place.

And Dyson — the most successful manager in Kingsbury's history — immediately launched a scathing attack on club chairman Mark Hart, who told him of his decision last Friday.

"Hart told me he was changing the management because he did not think that we would get promotion next season — and that has to be the most diabolical reason I have ever heard in my life," blasted Dyson.

"But I think the real reason is that I would not let him interfere with the running of the team. He always wanted a say in picking the side.

"Mark Hart is a novice at this level, but he thinks he knows it all. He is just a frustrated manager."

In his two and a half years at Silver Jubilee Park, Dyson has taken the club from the foot of the Vauxhall-Opel second division to being genuine contenders for a premier division spot.

"I am very disappointed, they have a short memory at Kingsbury, after all I have done for the good of the club," said Dyson.

"I took them from nothing to being a feared and respected club. I won promotion in my first season, and then won the Middlesex Charity Cup. Before that they had never won as much as an eggcup.

"I have turned down a couple of offers in the past because I thought I had started something good there and wanted to see it through.

"Even this season, we are in the top half of the league and still in two cups, as well as reaching the last eight of the AC Delco.



BY AARON GRANSBY

"Originally, Hart told me he would be happy to finish in the top half, and we could not have gone up this season because our ground is not good enough. I think he has sacked me because I would not let him interfere with the team."

But Kingsbury chairman Mark Hart said he had done what he thought was best for the club.

"Terry has done a good job for the club, but I decided a change of manager may be the answer to some problems we have had.

"Over the last 12 months we have lost key players who have not been replaced and our performances have been inconsistent.

"In the light of this, I felt that Terry would not be able to produce a side capable of winning promotion next season, which is our aim.

"I could have left the decision until the end of the season but I felt we needed to get someone new in now so he would have time to sort things out."

He approached Wembley chairman Eric Stringer for permission to speak to Alan Dafforn on Sunday, February 14 — five days before he told Dyson he was out. Ray Brandon, Dyson's assistant has also gone.

Dafforn took just three days to make up his mind to take the job after being asked last Wednesday. He announced his decision to the Wembley committee and players after Saturday's win over Southwick.

'My promotion dream'

A BURNING desire to gain promotion is the reason behind Alan Dafforn's shock decision to leave Wembley after nine seasons as manager to take over at Kingsbury.

For the last four years, Dafforn has been agonisingly close to his dream, finishing third twice and never outside the top five. And this season, the Lions are set to miss out again.

"This year I was really hoping for promotion and if we had looked like getting it, it would have been a different story," Dafforn admitted.

"But it wasn't going to happen and I think it would have been the same position

again next time round if I had stayed. I want to go up badly, and I could not see it happening for me."

Dafforn has turned down good job offers in the past, from premier division clubs like Hendon, so his decision to move to local rivals Kingsbury was a surprise.

"I've always considered other offers but have turned them down in the past because of the good working relationship I have had with the Wembley board," he said.

"They are ideal for letting you work with the players and just get on with it your way. I have often felt that might be difficult to find elsewhere.

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WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR

Soccer fixtures

| | |
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| Saturday February 27 | Tuesday March 1 |
| GM Vauxhall Conference: Boston United v Wealdstone. | Vauxhall-Opel League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Tooting and Mitcham (Earlsmead, 7.30pm). |
| Vauxhall-Opel League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Slough Town (Earlsmead, 3pm). | Vauxhall-Opel League Division One: Wembley v Billericay Town (Vale Farm, 7.45pm). |
| Vauxhall-Opel League Division One: Southwick v Kingsbury Town; Walthamstow Avenue v Wembley. | Wednesday March 2 |
| Greenwich King Seaside League: Edgeware Town v Beckton (White Lion Ground, 3pm). | Vauxhall-Opel League Division One: Kingsbury Town v Hampton (Silver Jubilee Park, 7.30pm). |
| Hall's Brewery Hellenic League: Sharpnose Town v Rayners Lane. | Capital League: Leyton Orient v Wealdstone. |

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