



● THE picture that says it all... Alan Clifton and David Morrilt in the directors' box at Wealdstone on Saturday. Picture: Peter Wilson.

THE battle for the chairmanship of Wealdstone is set to plunge the club into its biggest constitutional crisis ever.

An incredible anomaly in the club's rules means that Wealdstone could find itself in a situation where nobody knows who is in charge.

And the only solution to the problem may be a long and bitter legal dispute.

Alan Clifton could become chairman of the football club on Monday March 28, when an extraordinary general meeting of the club members takes place.

But David Morrilt will call an EGM of the limited company that operates from Lower Mead, where he is certain to win a vote of shareholders.

And in that event, no-one knows who will have power.

The problem dates back to early 1970s. Wealdstone FC used to be run by a committee, but in 1973 it became a limited company to raise finance.

When this happened, the new board of directors that was formed to run the limited company took over all the functions of the old committee, which involved the run-

Who's sitting in my chair?

ning of the football business of the club.

But nothing was ever written down saying that this should always be the case. And now, the EGM on March 28 is seeking to resurrect the old committee.

If it is formed, as seems likely, the elected committee, of which Alan Clifton with his substantial grass-roots support will become chairman, will approach the board to discuss its powers.

Theoretically, the board controls the finances and provides the money for the football club, to carry on its business. In this instance, Alan Clifton and his committee would run the football side, and would have powers including the appointment of a manager.

Even more importantly, the new committee would also have the power to dispose of the club's assets, ie Lower Mead.

David Morrilt rejects this suggestion. "I don't think the new

committee, if it is formed, will have any power at all."

Alan Clifton said: "I hope the situation doesn't come to this. David Morrilt will see that the majority view is against him and he should then do the decent thing and resign."

But if Mr Morrilt can come to terms with his unpopularity, there is no way he can be forced out.

Only if he lost a shareholders' vote too would he have to resign as chairman of Wealdstone Football Club Limited.

The football members' EGM will be held on Monday March 28 at the club, starting at 7.30pm. To attend and vote you must be a season ticket holder, a vice-president or a life member.

This Monday, March 21, the vice president's club have their own meeting to discuss the situation. It starts at 7.30pm in the VPs lounge.

Hooligan's club saved from chop

A SUNDAY football club has survived an attempt to expel it from a local league after one of its players bludgeoned an opponent with a lump of wood after a match.

St Joseph's Social FC, who play in the second division of the Harrow Sunday Challenge League, had been recommended for expulsion by the league's committee—but escaped without as much as a fine.

Although the league's clubs voted 19-18 to expel them on Tuesday night, a two-thirds majority—28 votes—was needed to carry the motion, so St Joseph's stayed in.

The committee had decided at an earlier date not to impose a fine, because it was confident of winning the final vote.

The incident occurred after a match with Harrow Athletic FC on February 7. Harrow won the match 3-2 and in the dressing room, a St Joseph's player reacted to a verbal threat from one of the Harrow players by attacking him with a lump of wood.

The referee did not see the incident as he was not in the dressing room at the time. The police were called and the injured player was taken to hospital.

St Joseph's Social later expelled the player involved in the incident from their club, but it is not the first time they have been involved in controversy over violence.

In November last year, their match with Spartan FC was abandoned after a full-scale brawl in the middle of the pitch during the second half.

There were angry scenes during the meeting as St Joseph's Dave Stone fought to keep his club in the league.

"Two players who were upset with each other throughout the match settled their differences after the game," he said.

"We don't believe our club should be held responsible for the actions of this one player."

But league chairman Jack Walker said: "The management of St Joseph's are responsible for their team's conduct."

And committee member Grant Nivett added: "Nobody wants to throw a club out, but we don't really want hooligans playing in your league. And if you've got hooligans in your team, something is wrong somewhere."

The final vote was another slap in the face for the league's committee, which narrowly lost a similar vote at the end of last season.

In 1986, Harrow Town FC also survived a motion for their expulsion, after another violent incident during a match.

Final is at home

WEMBLEY and Kingsbury Town players have a new incentive to reach the final of the Middlesex Charity Cup—it is being played at Wembley Stadium!

The astonishing news was revealed this week by astrologer and Middlesex campaigner Russell Grant, who is sponsoring this season's competition.

A provisional date has been set for June 2, but the Middlesex County Football Association are hoping to bring it forward because players will no longer be in contract with their clubs by that time.

MCAFA secretary Peter Clayton said: "We are very excited at the prospect. Wembley is our county's premier stadium and it is fitting that we should play the cup final there."

And committee member Grant added: "It certainly adds a lot of prestige to the competition. It is a return for us too because the final was played there during the war when it was known as the Red Cross Cup."

Kingsbury and Wembley will meet in the semi final for a place on the hallowed turf if Kingsbury can first overcome Brentford's full first team, which visits Silver Jubilee Park next Wednesday.

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Where's the action?

Saturday March 19
GM Vauxhall Conference: Wealdstone v Barnet (Lower Mead, 3pm).

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

Greene King London Spartan League: Edgware Town v Southgate Athletic (White Lion Ground, 3pm).

Hall's Hellenic League: Rayners Lane v Abingdon United (Lucas Avenue, 3pm).

Suburban League: Harrow Borough reserves v Hendon (Earlsmead, 3pm).

Tuesday March 22
GM Vauxhall Conference: Macclesfield Town v Wealdstone.

Vauxhall-Opel League Premier Division: Windsor and Eton v Harrow Borough.

Vauxhall-Opel League Division One: Wembley v Marlow (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).

Wednesday March 23
Russell Grant Middlesex Charity Cup quarter final: Kingsbury Town v Brentford (Silver Jubilee Park, 7.30pm).

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