

observer SPORT

Clifton names his board team

WEALDSTONE'S acting chairman Alan Clifton has announced the names of the four men he wants to serve on the club's new board of directors.

All four are club men. They are: Nick DuGard, Toby Jackson, Eric Fletcher and Peter Braxton.

Nick DuGard is currently the secretary of the Wealdstone Supporters'

Club. Toby Jackson would provide financial expertise, for he is the Wealdstone company secretary.

Eric Fletcher is the chairman of the Vice Presidents' Club, while Peter Braxton is club secretary.

They have all been nominated by Mr Clifton, who hopes they will be elected as directors at the extraordinary general meeting to be held on May 3.

Initially, if elected, the four will serve until the club's annual general meeting, to be held later this year. Then, they could be re-elected.

"I feel that they are representative of all the members of the club. They are all shareholders and have been with the club for a number of years. They attend matches and have footballing expertise," said Mr Clifton.

GOING DOWN!

Wealdstone 2 Northwich Victoria 2

WEALDSTONE now need nothing short of a miracle to keep them in non-League football's top flight after Tuesday night's draw with Northwich Vics.

Stones must win their last three games and hope Welling United lose all their last five to climb out of the relegation zone.

And with Welling due to meet Telford United last night (Wednesday), Wealdstone's fate could already be settled by the time they take on Fisher Athletic on Saturday.

Their only other faint hope is to overtake Bath City, third from bottom, and rely on the Football League's bottom club, Newport County, declining to take up their Conference place.

There is a real danger of the Welsh club going out of business in the summer, or even moving into the Welsh League.

But even this escape route is unlikely, Bath having beaten Lincoln City, second from top of the table, 2-1 on Tuesday.

An air of resignation settled around Lower Mead at 9.15pm on Tuesday, after a controversial goal four minutes into injury time denied Stones the victory they deserved.

They had started brightly, playing some entertaining foot-

Now Stones need a miracle to survive

BY AARON GRANSBY

ball, with winger Tony Lynch making several teasing runs down both flanks.

In the second minute, he cut inside from the right before unleashing a powerful drive that was no more than six inches over the top.

Against the run of play, Stones found themselves a goal down after 24 minutes. Steve McNeilis won the ball in the middle of the park and laid an intelligent pass through to Alan Crompton who shot through Kevin Foster's legs.

Six minutes later, Samson Olaleye tested veteran keeper Dave Ryan with a long-range header and Lynch hit a hard, low shot that Ryan failed to hold.

A minute into the second half, Wealdstone deservedly drew level with one of the best goals seen at Lower Mead since the days of Andy Graham.

Tom English received the ball from Danny Bailey fully 30 yards from goal. He controlled it once before turning and thumping a memorably shot past the flying Ryan and in off the post.

After Paul Bowgett had flashed a shot wide and Samson Olaleye had hit the post with a fine header from Lynch's pinpoint cross, Wealdstone finally went ahead in the 69th minute.

Mark Harrison took a free kick from the centre circle and Bowgett ran into space in the box to glance a smart header beyond Ryan.

Sensing a rare win, the 592 crowd got behind the team even more, but they were to suffer two major disappointments.

In the 80th minute, the influential Everal La Ronde, who worked wonders with Paddy McCarthy and Danny Bailey

in the midfield, was stretched out with a knee ligaments injury after falling awkwardly.

And four minutes into injury time, Steve McNeilis looking suspiciously offside, silenced Lower Mead by shooting past the exposed Kevin Foster from a through ball by Crompton.

Wealdstone: Foster, Davis, Bowgett, La Ronde (Zacharia), Harrison, McCarthy, Bailey, Pittaway, Olaleye, English, Lynch. Sub: Rivero.

How they stand

NON-VOLUNTARY CONFERENCE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Darvel	38	22	10	7	88	42	78
Lincoln	38	22	9	7	81	44	75
Kettering	38	21	9	8	86	42	72
Shefford	38	19	9	10	70	47	68
Kidderminster	38	18	12	9	72	63	66
Telford Utd	37	18	9	10	58	42	63
Salisbury Utd	38	18	9	11	72	42	63
Ramsgate	38	17	11	10	60	65	62
Weymouth	37	17	8	12	46	54	59
Northwich	38	16	14	8	53	57	58
Malvern Utd	37	15	8	14	57	53	52
Wokingham	38	15	14	9	61	72	49
Chalfont	37	10	17	10	58	67	46
Altham	38	12	9	17	49	57	45
Worcester Wander	4	10	12	17	48	74	43
Boston Utd	37	12	9	15	51	63	42
Northwich	37	8	15	14	26	53	39
Wicham Utd	38	8	12	18	38	58	38
Bath City	38	8	9	22	48	74	38
Wealdstone	38	4	16	18	38	72	28
Depoyham	40	5	6	29	38	95	21

Lions put their faith in Waugh



● Tony Waugh.

TONY Waugh was this week officially confirmed as Wembley's team manager.

Eric Ford, who has been doing the job jointly with Waugh for the two months since Alan Dafford's sensational departure for neighbours Kingsbury Town, becomes general manager.

Wembley chairman Eric Stringer said: "Tony and Eric have got the players behind them and their recent results speak for themselves. They have won four and drawn one of their last five games."

"We want promotion next season and hopefully Tony will be able to maintain the high standards he has set so far."

Mr Stringer revealed that there had been other applicants for the manager's job, which was never advertised.

"We have had a few people applying for the post, but we like to promote through the club if at all possible. Most of all, we want someone who is keen to do the job and we have that."

Tony Waugh said he was surprised by the decision, announced on Saturday after Wembley had thrashed Bracknell 5-2 away from home.

"I never expected this, I am really in it for the long run and I will have to learn fast," said 31-year-old Waugh.

"Next year is going to be a challenge but I can't say we will definitely get promotion because I still face a difficult job in keeping the side together."

"However, I do have a feeling that we will have a successful season."

Waugh, and Ford, 36, will continue to work closely together in their new posts. Waugh will be in charge of the team, but says the duo will pick the final side together.

Ford's major role will be the administrative side of the team affairs, although he will still be involved in coaching.

"To complete the game."

East Enders stars turn out for Dennis



● Dennis Byatt

POPULAR, long-serving Wealdstone defender Dennis Byatt enjoys a star-studded testimonial on Tuesday.

Byatt's own select XI will play the Eastenders, who will play under the team name of Walford Boys Club. Stars on view will include TV characters Wicksy, Lofty, Dr Singh and Ian Beale, to name but a few.

Byatt, 29, joined Wealdstone in 1981, playing a handful of Alliance Premier League games before Stones were relegated. He has stayed with them as they won the Southern League, Gola League and FA Trophy.

He formed a feared partnership with fellow-stalwart Paul Bowgett at the centre of defence and is now club captain.

He has played a total of 320 games for Stones, scoring 23 goals, two of which were spectacular efforts from the half way line on Yeovil Town's famous sloping pitch.

This season, due to injuries and suspensions, he has played only 18 games, plus two as substitute, scoring twice.

The select squad for next week's game will include former Stones Fred Barwick, John Margerison, Brian Greenaway

Steve Perkins and Derek Doyle, as well as current players Paul Bowgett and Robin Wainwright.

Other famous footballing names will be Jimmy Neighbour, Terry Bullivant, Ray Lewington and Mick Leach.

The game kicks off at 7.30pm at Lower Mead. Admission will be £2 (concessions £1) and a special souvenir programme is being produced.

Dennis Byatt is hoping for a big crowd and his own personal wish, bearing in mind his two recent sendings-off, is simply: "To complete the game."



● Spud Murphy

WALTON 0 WEMBLEY 0

WEMBLEY skipper Spud Murphy made his 500th appearance for the club against his former club Walton and celebrated with a typically dynamic performance as well as a booking for deliberate handball.

The persistent rain made it difficult for both teams and neither were able to adapt to the conditions.

Wembley were unlucky just before half time when they had Walton under intense pressure. Sylvester Williams had a close range volley saved by Collier with a reflex save and Steve Smith's shot through a crowded area was backed off the line by Dear.

With the last kick of the half Adrian Smith hit the bar with Collier well beaten. Wembley were unable to maintain the pressure after the break.

Walton were only dangerous on the break and found Jeff Fanner in sound form, but they almost stole the points when Thornton clearly controlled the ball with his hand to pass a defender and have only Fanner to beat. But justice was done when he sliced his shot wide.

Title is up for grabs

THE destination of the Spartan League championship could be decided on Saturday as leaders Edgware Town travel to play second placed Southgate Athletic for the second time in two weeks.

Edgware manager Brian Rider slated Southgate's strong-arm tactics in the last game, which ended as a 1-1 draw.

If Edgware win this time they are virtually assured of the championship, and with it, promotion to the Vauxhall-Opel League. They have only mid-table Beckton left to play, and

will be seven points clear of Southgate having played two games more.

Although Stuart Baldwin is still out with a knee injury, Brian Rider anticipates no other injury problems.

Wealdstone continue their battle against relegation with a home match against Fisher Athletic on Saturday at Lower Mead.

Stones boss Tony Jennings expects to be without striker Alan Cordice, who has a knee ligament injury. But centre back Dennis Byatt will be available after suspension.

Harrow Borough have a say in the battle at the foot of the Vauxhall-Opel premier division relegation battle on Saturday when they entertain struggling Dulwich Hamlet at Earlsmead.

Dulwich will be needing a victory, but Borough boss Keith Chamberlin expects to have a full strength squad available, with the exception of long-term injury victim Robbie Johnson.

Midfielder Steve Emmanuel, who was a half-fit substitute last week, should be back in time for the game, and Tuesday's home match with Farnborough.

Wembley entertain Walthamstow on Saturday and on Tuesday are away to Leatherhead.

Rayners Lane travel to Hellenic League Leaders Yate Town on Saturday, with relegation-threatened Lane's boss Don Durkin admitting: "We will be well satisfied to get a draw."

Durkin may be without the injured Alan Williams (knee), Steve Wilbraham (strained stomach muscle) and Darrell Clements (calf).

Soccer fixtures

Saturday April 23	Middlesex County League:
GM Vauxhall Conference: Wealdstone v Fisher Ath (Lower Mead, 3pm).	Harrow St Marys v Troy Albion (Pinner Road, 3pm).
Vauxhall Opel League Premier Division: Harrow Goro v Dulwich Hamlet (Earlsmead, 3pm).	Tuesday April 25
Vauxhall Opel League Division One: Wembley v Walthamstow Avenue (Vale Farm, 3pm); Lewes v Kingsbury Town.	Vauxhall Opel League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Farnborough (Earlsmead, 7.30pm).
Spartan League: Southgate Ath v Edgware.	Vauxhall Opel League Division One: Leatherhead v Wembley.
Hellenic League: Yate Town v Rayners Lane.	Dennis Byatt Testimonial: Dennis Byatt Select XI v Eastenders (Lower Mead, 7.30pm).

FRED PERRY ● PETER STORM ● BEN SHERMAN ● GABICCI ● TERN ● PAKNAVICK ● RECALITA ● TOBI ● LOIS ● PIERRE CARDIN ● FARRAH ● WRANGLER ● LEE ● LEVI ●

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CASUAL WEAR AND CAMPING

CASUAL WEAR FREE SHIRT AND TIE WITH EVERY SUIT PURCHASED IN APRIL

HARTEX

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FALMER ● LE SHARK ● FRED PERRY