

Observer SPORT

Pegler stands down



David Pegler — relinquishing the captaincy.



BY JOHN COMFORT

WASPS Rugby Club will be seeking a new captain for next season following the shock announcement this week that flanker David Pegler is to step down from the post.

The 26 year old former England under-23 interna-

tional has skipped the club through one of the most successful periods in its 121 year history, and one in which they have been rightly recognised as one of the top three sides in the country.

Last season he led Wasps to the final of the John Player Cup for the second successive season and this year he took them to the brink of the Courage Championship in its inaugural season, as well as the John Player semi-finals.

His decision to quit was a direct result of the pressures of the job.

"I've done it for two years and I've thoroughly enjoyed it," he said "but it has required a tremendous amount of time and commitment, particularly off the field.

"Now I just want to pursue my own career."

A change of captain he felt would be good for the team. "Hopefully it will give them a new lease of life," he said.

And hopefully, he added the disappointments of this season could be put right.

"We set two aims this season, winning the John Player Cup and the Courage League. It was disappointing to miss out on both. They were within our grasp but it was down to our own failings that we didn't achieve them.

"I hope that we can rectify that next year."

The big question mark at the Sudbury club now is who will step into the void left by Pegler.

A decision on his successor will be made within the next two weeks and the favourites for the job are club vice-captain Rob Andrew, the England fly half, and ex-England centre Rob Lozowski.

Dicker comes to Boro's rescue

Harrow Borough 1 Farnborough 1
SUBSTITUTE Phil Dicker saved Borough a point on Tuesday night when they seemed destined to pay for a lack lustre end of season display, writes John Comfort.

Borough were a goal down when Dicker replaced the injured Steve Emmanuel in the 67th minute and it took him just five minutes to make his mark. Good work by Steve Scott

and Lawrence Holmes set up the chance for Steve Long whose shot was blocked by keeper Riley but Dicker pounced quickly to fire in the loose ball for the equaliser.

Borough's other substitute Colin Tate should have bagged the winner 10 minutes from time when a Mark Adams cross found him bearing down on goal. But from 10 yards the transfer listed striker fired wide.

Farnborough had the better of the early stages of the game and took the lead after six minutes when a deceptive high ball from Fielder caught the Borough defence on the hop and Read lobbed past the, helpless MacKenzie.

Harrow Borough: MacKenzie, Payne, Duffy (Tate), Scott, Bateman, Evans, Emmanuel (Dicker), Holmes, Long, Morris, Adams.



GOALS galore marked Wealdstone skipper Dennis Byatt's star-studded testimonial against the Walford Boys Club — the cast of EastEnders — at Lower Mead on Tuesday night.

The EastEnders side, sporting stars Nick Berry, Tom Watt and Gary MacDonald amongst others, eventually

won 6-5 in an action-packed game. Dennis Byatt fittingly scored from the spot and ex-Stones favourite Fred Barwick scored the goal of the night with a superb falling volley from 20 yards.

It was excellent entertainment for the crowd, which numbered well over

1,000 in the second half. And while Nick Berry was the darling of the autograph hunters, there was little doubt in the crowd's mind as to the hero of the evening — a certain Dennis Byatt.

● Pictured above, Dennis Byatt (centre front row) with the EastEnders team.

Shot-shy Wembley fail to cash in

Leatherhead 0 Wembley 0
WEMBLEY played out another dire end of season match at Leatherhead on Tuesday and it was fairly obvious that their minds were on tonight's Charity Cup clash at Brentford.

They gave a lethargic display and even failed to take advantage of having an extra man for most of

the second half when Leatherhead's skipper Gary Richards was sent off following a very late over the top tackle on Charlie Flaherty.

Neither side looked very threatening and both suffered from an inability to find the target.

Paul Bhatia had Wembley's best chance of the

first half from an Adrian Smith cross but he shot straight at Caswell when well placed, and he squandered a good opportunity early in the second half when he fired miserably wide with only the keeper to beat.

The Tanners were down to 10 men in the 51st minute with Richards' sending off, but Wembley failed

to exert any pressure on the ten men until a brief period late in the game when Dolling and Williams were both thwarted by Caswell.

Wembley: Fanner, Flaherty, Simpson, Murphy, Janaway, A Smith, Bhatia, S Smith, Dolling, Cadogan, O'Connor (Williams). Other sub: Ford.

Rider in cup final injury sweat

EDGWARE boss Brian Rider is sweating on the fitness of sweeper Vince Derrits with only four days to go to the club's Sparta League Cup Final against Brimsdown at Pennant FC on Monday.

Derrits has a knee ligaments injury and it will be touch and go whether he makes the big match or not. If he misses out Rider is likely to push striker Paul Buckner into defence as cover.

Wares have beaten Brimsdown 5-0 and 2-0 in the league this season but Rider knows it will be no armchair ride in the final. "Brimdown are one of the strongest sides in the league,

and it won't be easy," he said.

Harrow Borough manager Keith Chamberlin will give 18 year old reserve team striker Andy Linsell his first game for the first team on Saturday when Borough visit high flying Leytonstone.

Another likely to get a game is midfielder Steve Scott who has been out of favour recently.

Borough conclude their season at Earlsmead on Wednesday when champions elect Yeovil are their visitors. "If the title still hasn't been decided it could be one hell of a game," said Borough boss Chamberlin. Relegation doomed Wealdstone

have no game on Saturday but on Monday they journey to Northwich endeavouring to avenge the 2-2 draw that the Vics snatched at Lower Mead last Tuesday which put Stones down.

Defender Everal La Ronde was carried off with a knee ligament injury in that game and he will miss the rest of the season.

Alan Williams is still injured and Darren Colwill is unavailable as Rayners Lane continue their battle against relegation with a home match against fellow strugglers Supermarine on Saturday.

Twin towers beckon Lions

WEMBLEY have lived within the shadow of the twin towers of soccer's Mecca since their foundation in 1946. But they have yet to play there.

However, their chance to do so is just one game away tonight (Thursday) when they face Third Division Brentford at their Griffin Park ground in the semi-finals of the Russell Grant Middlesex Charity Cup.

Observer astrologer and Middlesex campaigner Russell has boosted the compe-

dition's standing with his sponsorship this season and his trump card has been to obtain the famous stadium for the final on Thursday June 2.

Hendon are already there and Wembley's chance of joining them would have been greater had Brentford stuck to a verbal agreement to concede home advantage in their matches in the competition to give their opponents a chance of added gate revenue.

However, since the stadium was confirmed as the final venue Brentford have opted to play this semi final at home as they were drawn out of the hat first. Bees manager Steve Perryman is likely to field a strong reserve team for the match but Wembley are confident they can cause an upset. And they will be boosted by the achievement of neighbours Kingsbury who came back from five goals down against Brentford in the quarter finals to force extra time before losing 7-5.

Soccer fixtures

Thursday April 28	Monday May 2
Middx Charity Cup semi-final: Brentford v Wembley (Griffin Park, 7.30pm).	GM Vauxhall Conference: Northwich Victoria v Wealdstone.
Saturday April 30	Spartan League Cup Final: Brimsdown Rovers v Edgware Town (Pennant FC, 3pm).
Vauxhall Opel League Premier Division: Leytonstone v Harrow Borough.	Suburban League: Harrow Borough Res. v Wokingham (Earlsmead, 3pm).
Vauxhall Opel League Division One: Kingsbury Town v Watton (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm).	Wednesday May 4
Marlow Town v Wembley.	Vauxhall Opel League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Yeovil Town. (Earlsmead, 3pm).
Hellenic League: Rayners Lane v Supermarine (Lucas Avenue, 3pm).	

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