

# observer SPORT



● Robbie Johnson

## Johnson goes on the list

HARROW Borough manager Keith Chamberlin this week transfer-listed left back Robbie Johnson, but immediately denied reports of an internal bust-up.

"We have just decided to change the full back and the decision of the club is to put Robbie Johnson on the transfer list," said Borough boss Keith Chamberlin.

Harrow are looking for a four-figure fee for the left back they first signed from

Hayes four years ago. Johnson had previously played in the Football Combination for Arsenal and made two Football League appearances for Brentford.

He was released by Borough after a year by retiring manager Mike Tomkys, but re-signed by Keith Chamberlin when he took over. Since then, he has gained Vauxhall-Opel League representative honours and made 230 appearances for Borough, scoring 21 goals.

## Russell's bumper Festival forecast is spot on



● Russell Grant

ASTROLOGER and Middlesex campaigner Russell Grant has confirmed his sponsorship of the Middlesex Charity Cup after a bumper crowd turned up at Wembley Stadium for the final of the competition between Wembley and Hendon on Thursday.

Russell indicated that he could well pull the plug on his interest in the competition if the event did not attract sufficient support but a gate of 3,715 paying customers, boosted by a generous contingent of guests and officials, brought the final crowd figure to a marvellous 4,500 — well above the 4,000 Russell had been hoping for.

And the buoyant star gazer couldn't have been more delighted. "I said I wanted between 4-5,000 and I was almost spot on," he said. "It was beyond my wildest dreams and even I couldn't have forecast that we



BY JOHN COMFORT

would get such tremendous backing. "It has left me with a great feeling of pride about the whole evening."

Now he is looking ambitiously forward to next season and expanding the competition to include at least 32 clubs with the likelihood of Football League clubs Tottenham, QPR and Chelsea competing.

"I never thought that in our first season we would have such a tremendous response and I think we can build on this," said

Russell. "We want it to become more of a community cup with more senior clubs balanced with more junior clubs to incorporate all that's best in Middlesex soccer."

The draw is expected to be made at the Middlesex Show on June 26. Preliminary rounds will start in August and hopefully the final will again be at Wembley Stadium next June.

The Wembley authorities have yet to confirm it but Russell is hopeful that the country's premier stadium will welcome them back. "We just hope now that Wembley's generosity will spill over and allow it to be a regular fixture. It's up to them to give a yes or nay but I'm quite sure that with the success of Thursday they will," he said.

"A bad gate could easily have made them turn round and say there is a lack of interest. But they said we had a marvellous turnout and they even ran out of tickets for supporters paying at the gate."

The Charity Cup Final was the climax of the first ever Middlesex Football Festival at the stadium.

The evening's action began with the Middlesex under-11 Cup Final between Ridgeway Rovers and Princes Park and included a penalty shoot out with Wembley's Dave Beasant in goal before a cavalcade of mascots in the colours of 22 clubs who competed in this season's Charity Cup competition led the finalists onto the pitch for the big match.

# Stones go for Morris



● Paul Morris

WEALDSTONE manager Tony Jennings has swooped for transfer-listed Harrow Borough midfielder Paul Morris.

Morris, 25, was put on the list three weeks ago because he wanted to play in the GM Vauxhall Conference. But undeterred, Jennings made an enquiry and has spoken to the player.

"Paul Morris is a player I believe would fit in with those I intend to keep. I think he would do well for us," confirmed Jennings.

But the Stones boss is likely to miss out, as both Sutton United and Aylesbury have shown an interest in the Borough midfielder.



BY AARON GRANSBY

Sutton United manager Barrie Williams told the Observer: "We are interested in him, but we have not made an official approach yet."

Williams is a long-time admirer of Morris, having picked him to play for the Vauxhall-Opel League representative side in the past. But Aylesbury, just promoted to the Conference after winning the Beazer Homes League last season, have also shown an interest.

Harrow Borough manager Keith Chamberlin said: "There have been no firm offers for Paul yet and the current situation is that he is still a Harrow Borough player."

Jennings' re-shaping of Wealdstone into a promotion-winning force began in earnest this week when he paid a substantial fee to Barnet for the 22-year-old former Dagenham goalkeeper Darren Williams, and then financed the move by selling midfielder Paddy McCarthy to Weymouth on Monday.

Jennings originally wanted to take the highly-rated Williams with him when he joined Wealdstone from Dagenham last season. But as he had already signed former Daggers Samson Olaleye and Everald La Ronde, he had no luck.

"He then went to Barnet at the end of the season, but they decided

to let him go as they had three registered keepers on their books," explained Jennings.

Williams, who was the subject of Football League club interest after displacing John Jacobs at Dagenham, has signed a two-year deal with Stones, for a large, four figure fee.

But Paddy McCarthy, the joint players' player of the year, has left Lower Mead to join Weymouth for another four-figure fee.

Jennings is likely to sign big striker Paul Wilkins from Chelmsford in the next week. Wilkins has been with the Essex club for two years after a spell with Fisher, but his transfer is dependent on a medical.

He has also invited centre back Terry Baker down to start training at Lower Mead. Baker was previously with Billericay and Colchester before being granted a free transfer.

Of those players left over from last season's squad, Jennings has definitely retained Mark Harrison, Tony Lynch, Everald La Ronde, Samson Olaleye, Dennis Byatt, Danny Bailey and goalkeeper Kevin Foster.

But midfielder Greg Zacharia, who was signed in a double deal with Bailey from Kingsbury Town, is set to leave Stones. He has found the travelling from his Bedford home difficult and also has trouble getting time off work.

No decision has yet been made on defender Paul Davis' future, and mystery surrounds the intentions of comeback striker Alan Cordice.

## Beaten—but Spud is a winner with Gary



THE Lions may have just been beaten 2-0 by Hendon in the final of the Middlesex Charity Cup at Wembley Stadium but their skipper Spud Murphy was still a Wembley winner with his young son Gary after the match.

Full match report and pictures of the final and of the Middlesex Football Festival, page 63.

Picture by Peter Burrin

**CAR INSURANCE**  
WHY PAY MORE THAN YOU SHOULD?  
Immediate cover, best rates, substantial occupational discounts over and above any No Claims Discount.

**CRESCENT INSURANCE**  
12 BOMBERFIELD LANE, CENTRAL HARROW  
(off Station Rd, near Granada Cinema)

01-863 0033

**PRATTS  
MOTOR  
INSURANCE**

**CAN WE SAVE  
YOU MONEY?  
ASK US TO QUOTE**

Open 9am-9pm Mon-Fri  
Open 9am-5pm Sat

Established over 50 years

**IMMEDIATE COVER  
FROM OUR OFFICE AT  
40 LONG LANE  
HILLINGDON**

Telephone: UXBRIDGE 32212  
(STD code 0895 from London) XJHE

## League reject Wares

EDGWARE Town manager Brian Rider may resign after the club were dramatically refused entry to the Vauxhall-Opel League Tuesday night, writes Aaron Gransby.

Rider led his young team to the Spartan League and Cup double last season and expected the election into the VOL second division to be a formality.

But when Edgware's representatives arrived at the Russell Hotel they were told they were not being recommended for promotion and would not be admitted to the league's annual general meeting. The league said Edgware's White Lion Ground was not up to the standard required. Edgware countered that all the work needed to be done to improve it was ready to start and would be completed by August 1.

And the news forced dejected

manager Brian Rider to admit yesterday to the Observer: "I just don't know what I am going to do, I am not sure I can motivate myself to do it again in the Spartan league."

He is already resigned to losing almost his his entire promising young team. "I would not expect more than three or four of the players to stay under the circumstances they have done all that was asked of them and won the league. I think all the young players will want to go.

"I have spoken to some of them already and they have indicated that they won't stay. And the way I feel, I think I have got to consider my own position.

Edgware chairman John Cook said: "Some of the players were going to leave at the end of last

season, but Brian persuaded them to stay and try and get us out of this league. They have done what they were asked.

He added: "We are gutted by the league's decision. We had gone to the meeting believing it was all out and dried and the only question to be answered was which division we would be going into.

"The league told us what work needed to be carried out to bring our ground up to standard. We have the money and a builder was ready to start work on Wednesday to complete it all in time. We gave the league a written guarantee.

It is disappointing, it is the fourth time that we have been turned down by the Vauxhall-Opel League now. It is getting a bit monotonous."

## Rez is champ

WEMBLEY athlete Rez Cameron took the UK Triple Jump championship on Sunday with a career best performance.

In the preliminary rounds of the championships at Moorways Stadium, Derby, Cameron, a member of Thames Valley Harriers, achieved a personal best of 15.19m.

But in the final rounds he improved on that, leaping 16.20m to win from Belgrave's F Abejide and W Green of Longwood who both achieved 15.86m.