

observer SPORT

Boro' glamour games

HARROW Borough have attractive matches against West Ham and Fulham among pre-season friendly fixtures that have been arranged.

Borough start their build up to the new season with an away match at Wycombe Wanderers on August 6 with the Fulham game scheduled for Earlsmead on August 9.

A match against FA Trophy winners Enfield has been provisionally fixed for Saturday August 13 and the match against West Ham takes place at Earlsmead on Tuesday August 16.

Rejected Wares are to appeal

County stage sixes

THE first-ever Middlesex six-a-side competition takes place on Sunday June 26 at the Middlesex Show.

Top local clubs Wealdstone, Harrow Borough, Wembley, Kingsbury Town and Edgware Town will all take part, along with the cream of the county's soccer teams.

Kingsbury and Edgware are in the northern group, along with Finchley, Hendon and Potters Bar Crusaders. Stones, Borough and Wembley are in the central group, along with Hayes and Yeading.

The other two qualifying groups are the western and the southern, each comprising five teams, making a total of 20. Each club plays each other once on a group basis, with the top two going on to the quarter finals.

Russell Grant's Summer Trophy, donated by astrologer Russell Grant, will be the prize for the winning team and there will also be trophies for the player of the tournament and the highest scoring team.

Tickets for the show include admission to everything, including the soccer tournament. It commences at 12 noon, and finishes at 7pm, at Park Road, Uxbridge.

Advance tickets are £2.50, or 50p for children under 16, senior citizens and the disabled.

EDGWARE Town are fighting to the last to keep their team and their manager by appealing against the decision not to admit them to the Vauxhall-Opel League.

The club's match secretary Barry Boreham went to the Spartan League's annual general meeting on Tuesday night to instruct the management committee to appeal on Edgware's behalf and received unanimous support from member clubs.

Meanwhile, work on improving the White Lion Ground, which was the official reason for the club's rejection, has begun at great pace. Railings around the pitch have been dug up and replaced, a ticket turnstile is being put in and a new walkway is being laid.

Edgware had been waiting to start the improvements until they had been accepted by the Vauxhall-Opel League, believing they had until August 1 to get the work done.

But the league's ground grading committee visited the ground, saw the work had not been started, and refused to recommend them for promotion. Now, as a result, the club is set to lose most of its promising young players.

Vauxhall Opel League secretary Nick Robinson said that Edgware had been aware for years what work needed to be done and they had not done it.

He said the league had told Edgware the work had to be completed by the



BY AARON GRANSBY

time the election was due to take place last week.

But Edgware chairman John Cook said that was not true. "At no time were we told that. In fact we were led to believe that we had until August 1."

Essex League champions Purfleet had been given until that date to get their ground in order, and they were recommended for promotion.

And Petersfield, the side reprieved by Edgware's failure to achieve the recommendation, have also been given until then to repair storm damage to their Hampshire ground.

Edgware chairman John Cook said: "We are definitely going to fight this and if justice is seen to prevail, we will certainly do it. Other clubs have been given time, we have not."

And Edgware's manager Brian Rider, who says he may resign if the club is forced to spend another season in the Spartan League after doing the league and cup double last season, added: "We should be in. Petersfield even lost a relegation play-off match and should be down by now."

Even if their appeal fails, Edgware could yet squeeze in through the back door. Vauxhall-Opel first division club Oxford City have lost their ground and have been given until August 1 to find a new home. If they do not, a vacancy will occur, and with Edgware's ground improvements due to be completed by then, they will be first in line to fill it.

Club is at fault — secretary

VAUXHALL-Opel League secretary Nick Robinson said Edgware had bought the situation of being rejected again upon themselves.

"I am sorry for them but they have been aware for years what work needed to be done and they have done nothing," he said.

"We went to inspect the ground expecting it to be a formality but we were shocked. The work had not been started and they had been told their recommendation would be dependent on the work being carried out."

"August 1 was not a date we had set, we expected it to be underway."

However, Essex League side Purfleet have been accepted provided they make specific ground improvements by August 1.

Mr Robinson refuted claims that the league was carrying out a vendetta against Edgware.

"We have nothing personal against them and we hope they do the work and prove us wrong so they can come back to us again next season."

Wealdstone waiting for Cordice

WEALDSTONE hero Alan Cordice is set to decide his future with the Lower Mead club in the next week.

The 32-year-old striker, who returned to soccer in January after 19 months out through injury, is now a free agent. Stones boss Tony Jennings is hoping to keep him though and has offered him new terms.

Last time Stones were relegated to

the Southern League. Cordice scored more than 30 goals to lead them to promotion at the first attempt.

Cordice said this week: "I don't know yet what I am going to do. I have been offered terms, but I have been moving house and have not had a chance to get back to Tony Jennings. But I will be ringing him later this week to let him know."

He said he was happy with his form

after returning last season, during which he scored his 100th goal for Wealdstone. "I didn't feel too bad and I was fairly happy considering I hadn't played for so long."

Meanwhile, Jennings' signing of Chelmsford striker Paul Wilkins looks set to go through. The clubs have agreed on a transfer, and Jennings is hoping to agree terms with the player in the next few days.

Jennings welcomes expanded League

THE Capital League is to expand to 13 clubs next season, providing Wealdstone with 24 extra fixtures as they bid to bounce back into the GM Vauxhall Conference at the first attempt.

Last season, ten clubs took part in the league, set up by Wealdstone as an alternative to a reserve league, allowing clubs that do not run a second side to keep squad players match

fit. The clubs played each other just once, making a total of nine league games plus a cup competition. Now they will play home and away, with the cup optional.

But Stones boss Tony Jennings laughed off worries that the extra fixtures would take a toll on his players.

"We tend to use the Capital League to help get players fit,

or to use guest players and look at trialists. We will also squeeze games in instead of training, so it could be a useful alternative for us," he said.

The league will consist of eight clubs who competed last season: Barnet, Brentford, Enfield, Gillingham, Leyton Orient, Wealdstone, Welling and Wycombe, as well as five new clubs: Aylesbury, Cambridge

United, Colchester, Southend and Wokingham.

Dagenham have resigned from the league, as have FA Cup winners Wimbledon, who have been accepted into the Football Combination.

Wealdstone secretary Peter Braxton added: "If we did not think we could cope with it, we would not enter. It should not be a problem."

Rogers in chair



Peter Rogers, new Suburban League chairman

PETER Rogers, the vice chairman of Harrow Borough FC, has been appointed chairman of the Suburban League.

He will preside over an expanded league, which includes Borough, Wembley and Edgware Town reserve teams.

The league now has three divisions, North, South and West, and has taken in new clubs after the collapse of the Middlesex Border League.

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) XUHE

Bate Enfield bound?

FRANK Bate, the Australian goalscoring sensation Wealdstone introduced to the GM Vauxhall Conference last season, is like to sign for Stones' deadly rivals Enfield if he returns to England.

Bate made an immediate impact when he teamed up with Tom English at Lower Mead while Terry Burton was manager, scoring four goals in five games last November.

He originally came to England to play for Brentford, but they sent him on to Wealdstone when it became clear that he would only be in the country for a short time.

He was to spend the whole season at

Lower Mead but returned to Australia when his wife became pregnant and home-sick.

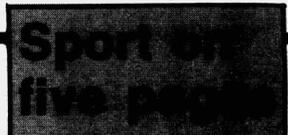
But Enfield manager Eddie McCluskey admitted to the Observer that he has spoken to Bate. "The player actually approached me and as he is quite clearly very good, we are interested."

"It depends on whether he eventually decides to come back to this country of course, but if he does I think it is quite likely that he would come to us."

Wealdstone secretary Peter Braxton said: "Frank did say he intended to come back, but did not say when. If he does we would most certainly be interested."



Frank Bate



INSIDE

Cricket



Pages 64, 65

Bowls



page 66

PLUS...

Athletics, tennis
Page 66
Cycling, golf, swimming, youth soccer
Page 67