

on the opening of the football season

KICKS OFF

players have performed at Division One level before and the Kingsbury boss feels it will not be too great a gap to make up from Division Two North.

"I think we were better than our division last year anyway, so we should cope with it," he said.

"We should hold our own at least, but we will be aiming to do better than that and hope to have a really good season."

Dyson will also be looking for a good run in the FA Cup and the FA Trophy. His side tumbled out of the competitions at the first attempt last season — just as he was beginning to put his team together.

"You always need luck in Cup competitions. It would be nice to have a run in the FA Cup and the Trophy. They are the two big competitions and the ones that really put you on the map."

On Tuesday Kingsbury entertain Uxbridge and will go into the game with a psychological advantage.

Kingsbury won 3-0 at Uxbridge to lift the Middlesex Charity Cup last Tuesday and Dyson says: "The same again will do nicely."

"We will treat them with respect but will hope to beat them again."

Boro aim for better

HARROW Borough kick off their season in the Vauxhall-Opel Premier Division with a visit from Kingstonian on Saturday before making the short trip to neighbours Hayes on Tuesday.

Manager Keith Chamberlin exceeded all expectations last season after being put in charge of the first team, and this season has a larger squad with which to work.

Although it is clear that some players will have to be shown the door, there is a healthy competition for places at Earlsmead and Chamberlin is hoping that having a bigger squad will enable the side to make a positive challenge in the league.

"I was satisfied that we achieved some major progress last time round and obviously this season I am looking to improve in certain areas," said Chamberlin.

Chamberlin, who has Steve Emmanuel suspended for the opening two games, admitted that his squad is too big.

"The biggest decision I have to make is who to let go. All these players are capable of playing at Premier Division level."

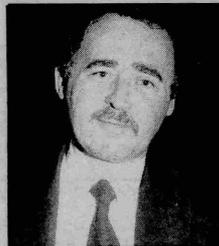
Chamberlin added: "We have the reputation of being an open attacking side and I want to retain that reputation. We have the best playing surface in the league in my opinion and therefore we must have a side capable of passing the ball and playing football as opposed to a kick and rush style."

"Needless to say, we'll be looking to improve on last year's fifth place and do well in the major cup competitions. Only time will tell if we are good enough to go all the way in the league."

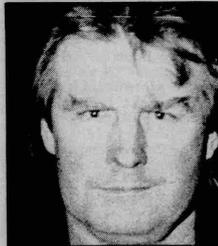
"Injuries sometimes dictate that. We've already had problems with Mark Adams and Russell Townsend who have been sidelined with nasty in-



Boro manager Keith Chamberlin



Edgware manager Brian Rider



Rayners Lane boss Don Durkin

juries. I just hope we can get them right and then stay clear of too many knocks when the season gets started.

"While I have made a few signings, this has been done primarily to increase the squad to consist of players who can do it at Premier Division level."

"Bobby Dell — a record £1,750 signing from Wycombe Wanderers — is obviously a quality player and I hope that Kenny Page and Tony Thomas can provide sufficient back-up to Lawrence Holmes in the scoring charts."

"I'm looking to Paul Dawson to come good this year. He had 20 games in the side last season and did well. He is obviously a better player for it and this time could just be his season."

"Paul Morris and Steve Bateman, although still young, are now very respected players in the league and again I'll be looking for consistency from both of them."

"The good thing about them is that they are dedicated to the club, are not interested in playing anywhere but Harrow Borough."

"They are 100 per cent players and both realise that if they do it week in and week out then we might just be there or thereabouts at the end of the day."

"Pre-season has gone well — there have been a few problems but we have had a few meetings to thrash things out."

"I'm a great believer in players expressing their point of view, providing it is constructive."

"I'm not a yes man and encourage opinions. At the end of the day I will have the final say and have to accept the responsibility of the side."

"The playing side of the club is controlled entirely by me and therefore if all goes well, then great. If things don't go well then I must hold up my hands and accept responsibility."

"Of course I'm optimistic — we all are. Who wouldn't be at this stage of the year."

"We've got a decent chance and the spirit is good. A few points in the bag early on would be nice, and then who knows."

"If we can keep this side together then we have got to be looking to step up a league inside three years."

Wembley open their Vaux-

hall-Opel Division One programme at Epsom and Ewell with Staines visiting Vale Farm the following Tuesday night.

"It would have been nice to have gone up last season," admitted Dafforn. "But we were particularly unlucky. You can only do your best and I would rather have finished third than third from bottom."

"It's a case of getting down and doing it all again."

There have been a few changes to the side that finished third in last season's promotion battle.

Goalkeeper Fred Smart has taken over as reserve team player-manager, Tony Waugh seems unlikely to fully recover from a broken leg until at least Christmas, Ian Whitehead has joined Dunstable while Spud Murphy would be the first to admit that his days of regular first team football must be numbered.

Murphy was set to retire at the end of last season but changed his mind.

"It was very important to keep Spud this year," said Dafforn. "He wanted to retire because he felt he had done everything."

"He is not in the side at the moment but I could be looking to play him in midfield depending on how things go."

"Wherever he ends up playing he will be an asset to the club. He wants to win, and he thinks the same way as I do."

Paul Bhatia has taken over Murphy's role as first team skipper while former Harrow Borough goalkeeper Jeff Fanner steps into Fred Smart's boots after leaving Hounslow.

"I've been extremely pleased with Jeff," said Dafforn. He has played well in the four pre-season games so far and looks like being a good replacement. He's solid and does the job."

Dafforn has also added midfielder Charlie Flaherty to his squad. The former Harrow Borough player was at Slough last season and has impressed Dafforn in the pre-season matches.

Steve Lucas is also back at Vale Farm after a two-year spell in the United States — "He looks like he's never been away," said Dafforn — while the Wembley manager hopes

to sign former Finchley striker Glen Russell this week.

"The age of the side has come down a bit, but the spirit has gone up," said Dafforn.

"As long as we can channel that enthusiasm in the right direction and get everyone working for each other we should be up there again."

"If we continue to work as hard as we have done in pre-season then it will come down to character, and the players have got enough to make everything work."

"It doesn't matter what the results are, we have just got to keep battling together."

Dafforn knows that his side will have to find that little bit extra to lift them into the Premier Division, but he explained: "It's a case of all of us trying to make it work together."

Problems for Rider

EDGWARE are preparing to enter an exciting era under new manager Brian Rider.

They kick off their London Spartan League campaign at Brimsdown Rovers on Saturday followed by a visit from Hanwell on Wednesday.

But the new Edgware boss already has problems. Vince Deritis, the former Boreham Wood skipper signed during the summer, could be out for more than a month with a knee injury and right back Clive Vundum is doubtful for the opening Saturday with an ankle injury.

The setbacks have not dampened Rider's confidence. "I'm reasonably confident we should do well this year."

Rider, who signed midfielder Kevin Charalambous from Northwood, has just added Chris Roberts to the squad. Roberts played in Watford's South East Counties side and Rider is hoping to make one more signing this week.

"I want to get really good competition for places," said Rider, who faces his first test in management at this level.

And he promised: "The aim of the club is to get into a

higher standard of football and bring supporters back to the ground."

"This will hopefully be done through producing quality football with a young, enthusiastic team which I am sure will obtain the results within the next two seasons that will put the name of Edgware back in the limelight."

Few of last season's first team remain, but Rider will be looking to the experience of players like Ray Mangan and Andy Gerradi who have stayed on.

It is off the field as much as on that Rider is looking for improvements.

"Edgware Football Club is ideally placed to bring in the supporters. We want to attract families into the ground now that the professional game seems to have driven away this type of football fan through crowd violence."

"There is only one way for the club to go now after the bad results of the past two or three seasons."

"It is hoped that with the surge of expectation within the club, and the crop of players that we are attracting, that our ambitions will be realised."

"Just how far the club can go also depends on how long a lease the club can obtain for the ground."

"Suggestions have been made that we apply for planning permission to further improve the ground and even have a leisure area for local residents."

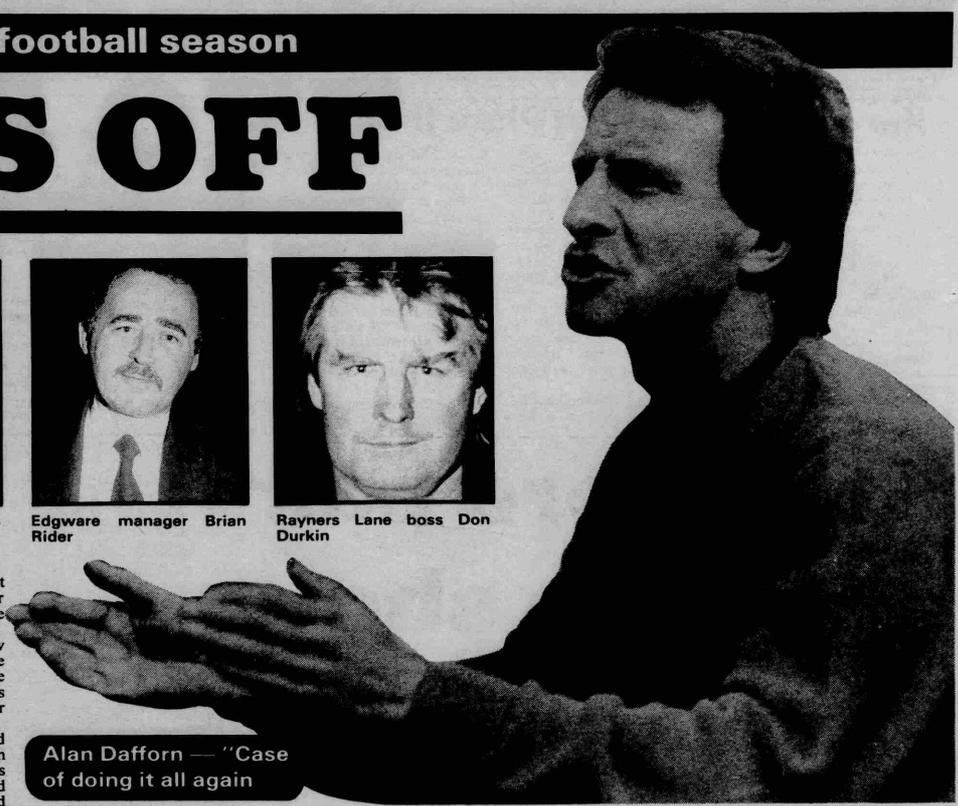
"I am sure that by the end of this season there will be a sign of a change of fortunes for the club. Getting the football right is the start, and our dreams may then be realised later."

Burt has resumed training following his hamstring injury, but Byron could be sidelined for several weeks with damaged knee ligaments.

The other newcomer who has impressed Durkin during pre-season is youngster Steven Buckling.

"He is a fast and enthusiastic forward who played in local football last year, but he has had experience with Harefield," said Durkin.

Durkin is also hoping to sign two other players before the season kicks off.



Alan Dafforn — "Case of doing it all again"

Lane face tough start

RAYNERS Lane could not have been given a harder start to their season in the Halls Brewery Hellenic League Premier Division.

They face two tough away