

Three sent packing in battle of Elm Park WAR GAME AS FISTS FLY IN CUP

DISGRACED Wealdstone were last night branded Cup wreckers by angry Reading boss Ian Branfoot after a bruising first-round clash at Elm Park. Three players were sent off when simmering violence burst into a full-blooded brawl in the second half with all 20 outfield players joining in the punch up.

"There were people out there who were trying to prevent other people earning a living," fumed Branfoot. "Paul Bence, the Wycombe Wanderers manager, got it right last week when he described them as 'animals' after their Gola League match."

Branfoot added: "I had heard that Wealdstone were a tough side. The operative word is that they battled."

They came to stop us playing but one or two things that happened were not within the laws of the game."

The Gola champions' manager, policeman Brian Hall, said philosophically: "We have no redress because the man in black is in control. The ref could have sent off four or five, if he had wanted to."

Simmering

The runaway Third Division leaders booked their place in the next round with a 58th minute penalty by Dean Horrix after full-back Steve Richardson was pulled down by former Fulham star Brian Greenaway.

Wealdstone's Derek Doyle opened the legal hostilities in the 16th minute with a snap shot that went just wide of a post.

Horrix and Stuart Bevan both went close for Reading but the sordid side of soccer was always simmering and three players were booked by Burgess Hill referee Alan Gunn before half-time.

Former Chelsea 'keeper Bob Hles kept Reading at bay after the break, pulling off great saves to foil first Kevin Bremner and then Trevor Senior. It was after this that niggling fouls broke into open warfare.

The punch-up came nine minutes after the Horrix penalty following a tackle by Reading skipper Martin Hicks on Wealdstone substitute Vince

by HUGH BAILEY
Reading 1 Wealdstone 0

Jones. A dozen players slugged it out and the others joined in.

After peace had been restored, referee Gunn sent off Wealdston skipper Paul Bowgett, team-mate Derek Doyle and Reading midfielder Glenn Burvill. Three other Wealdstone players and Reading's Stuart Bevan were also booked.

The Wealdstone boss was far from happy with the penalty decision. "In the end we lost to a somewhat dubious penalty against the top side in the Third Division. That can't be too bad," he said.

Brave Bognor

Enfield 0 Bognor 2

BOGNOR are back on the FA Cup glory trail. They toppled past giant-killers Enfield on their own Southbury Road pitch.

The Sussex side showed tremendous character and commitment from outstanding 'keeper Alastair Sperring to marksmen Kevin Clements and Geoff Cooper to shock an Enfield team currently lying second in the Gola League.

Cooper put Bognor ahead after 21 minutes, and Clements, who was guilty of some misses, made no mistake with a close range, far post header from Cooper's cross in the 56th minute.



DEAN HORRIX