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St Neots Town's new manager David Batch sets his sights on promotion

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AXED GAYLE CAN STILL BE A FORCE

MATTHEW BOON believes **Marcus Gayle** will still make a top manager – despite sacking the **Staines Town** boss after one too many two-goal leads were surrendered.

The Swans are marooned at the bottom of the Vanarama Conference South and Boon took the decision to part with former Wimbledon star Gayle following Christmas Sunday's home hammering by Chelmsford City.

The NLP understands former Hampton & Richmond manager Mark Harper is a leading contender to replace the 44-year-old.

The game saw Staines blow a 2-0 lead to lose for the fifth time already this season.

Future

And Boon says that although he rates Gayle highly after working closely for two-and-a-half years, only a change would give the club any hope of clawing themselves off the bottom.

Staines claimed only 12 points before they parted with Gayle and the chairman said: "On average you need 40 points to survive and to achieve that we will have to win nine or ten more of our remaining games."

"It was difficult, but we felt we owed it to the club to give it the best chance of survival. Personally I was desperate for Marcus to do well, he did a very good job in his time here and pro-

By **Sam Elliott**

duced an excellent young side, but perhaps they needed more experience around them.

"He has a big future in football and it's a shame we made so many defensive errors. It left us in a position where a decision had to be made.

"The results this season just weren't there. You shouldn't ever lose when leading 2-0 but we have done that five times. The 5-3 defeat to Chelmsford was a result we couldn't ignore. If we could have seen those games out, we wouldn't be discussing this now."

Gayle's assistant Martyn Spong is in interim charge but with the well-respected coach due to undergo open-heart surgery in the coming weeks, Boon says morally the club must look elsewhere.

He added: "Martyn has stepped in short-term and we are very grateful to him for that, but it would be unfair of me and the club to ask him to do more."

"I have been away for Christmas in Dubai and my phone hasn't stopped ringing. People want the job but the new manager needs to have the same ethos, pushing our youth and adding a few experienced players to the squad. We aren't looking to re-invent the wheel – hopefully a new manager can provoke some kind of a reaction."



END OF THE ROAD: Marcus Gayle has been sacked after two-and-a-half years at Staines. Inset: On his arrival at Staines with chairman Matthew Boon.



TOMMY'S ON THE WRIGHT TRACK WITH CORBY

TOMMY WRIGHT has committed himself to leading Corby Town's push for the Evo-Stik Southern League Premier title.

The Steelmen are embedded in the race for promotion and have rewarded their manager with an extended contract.

The deal keeps up-and-coming boss Wright, the former Darlington, Tamworth and Grimsby striker, at Steel Park until May 2016.

Chairman Steve Noble said the board had no hesitation in offering the 30-year-old the

extension and he believes the club have every chance of earning a return to Conference North under his leadership.

Noble said: "Keeping Tommy at the club is probably one of the easiest decisions that the board of directors have

had to make since coming to the club.

"Having had the benefit of working with him for the past eight months, we are as excited as the day we placed him in charge.

"He wanted to commit him-

self to Corby and this extension is a deserved reward for all the hard work that he has put in, on and off the pitch.

"He is playing an exciting brand of football and is building relationships with the local community, too."

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