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Croad demolishes club record

OLD Gaytonians AC's Malcolm Croad won the junior hammer event at the West London Schools Championships with a club record throw of 61.06m, writes Tony Bush.

It beat his own previous record of 60.02 by over a metre and sees him leap from fifth to second in the UK Junior Rankings.

Gayts young middle distance runners ran the best time in Britain for three years in winning the boys (under-15) 4 x 800m relay at Wednesday's Hornchurch floodlight meeting.

The Gayts squad clocked 8.44.8 to win the event by six seconds from Basildon

with Bexley in third place, some 23 seconds down. The time was 11 seconds better than the UK best for 1990 and five seconds faster than anything recorded in 1989.

Stannmore's Mohamoud Deria finished third of the 11 teams on the opening leg behind Bexley and Basildon. Graham Bush moved past Bexley on the first lap and then outspurred the Basildon athlete to hand over in first place.

David Williams and Leigh Sandals, who had both won their 800m events in the National Young Athletes Finals, extended the Gayts' lead to more than 40m and lapped several of the other teams in the

Bessborough triumph in County Knockout

BESSBOROUGH became one of only two clubs to have won the Middlesex Cricket Union 20 Over Knockout Trophy twice when they triumphed in the finals at Uxbridge.

In the semi-finals Bessborough were drawn against Hillingdon champions Ickenham who were restricted to 116-8 by the tight bowling of Keith Dutch (1-15), Manoj Shah (1-27) and Minesh Patel (2-19).

This target should not have given the star studded Bessborough batting line-up any problems, but at the end of the 11th over they were reeling at 50-3. However, the next over changed the whole game as Hament Patel smacked three successive sixes off Hebbert to help lift the score to 74-3.

Bessborough triumph in County Knockout

14 runs followed from the next over by Kingdom and the Ickenham heads dropped. The runs then flowed to such an extent that when Patel went for 39 at the end of the 17th over Bessborough only needed one to win. That was scored by Paul Snelling who during the mayhem inflicted by Patel had quietly moved to 26 not out.

In the final against Mill Hill, who had comprehensively beaten Winchmore Hill in their semi-final, revenge was on Bessborough minds for Mill Hill had beaten them in the semi-finals last season and two weeks ago took Borough's MCCDA League title.

Mill Hill's innings got off to a flyer. The Shafi brothers took their score to 64 in the

first 10 overs and a big total looked in prospect. However, good bowling from Hitesh Patel (3-19) and John Taylor (3-24), coupled with two superb run outs, ripped the heart out of the innings and they were dismissed for 108.

In reply Bessborough lost Shah early on but Rupert Thacker and Paul Snelling steadied things and kept them up with the run rate. Thacker was eventually dismissed for 42 and it was left to semi-final hero Hament Patel to hit the winning runs to give Bessborough victory by six wickets with three overs to spare.

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Shutdown threat to Monarchs

THE fate of the all conquering London Monarchs is hanging in the balance as the National Football League debates whether to axe next season's World League competition due to lack of support in America.

The World League was a resounding success in Europe with the Monarchs, who averaged 40,000 attendances for their home games, triumphing in the inaugural World Bowl against the Barcelona Dragons

at Wembley Stadium. But in America it was a different story with poor gates being the prime factor behind the League's financial flop with a reported \$15m loss over the season, and dismal TV ratings causing great alarm over the possibility that ABC might pull the plug on their coverage.

Several options are being looked at. A shutdown next year and reforming the League in 1993 is among them, along with a scheme to boost the League by bringing in teams from the better populated

American cities such as Los Angeles and Chicago. A final decision will be made at a meeting next month, leaving the Monarchs and the rest of the League's clubs to sweat it out.

However, the World League Champions remain optimistic about the future. A spokesman said that they were working on the assumption they will still be in business and the club's coaches were looking for potential players for the December draft.

But at a meeting in Dallas last week a decision on the League's future was deferred, although League chairman Dan Rooney said afterwards that there was overwhelming support from the League's shareholders to go on.

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Triumphant Bessborough captain Graham Salins proudly shows off the Middlesex KO Trophy.

Mulhern is Town's two goal cup hero

Kingsbury Town 2 Hillingdon Borough 1 TWO goal Gerald Mulhern rescued Kingsbury from the jaws of defeat on Tuesday night and steered them into the first round proper of the Middlesex Senior Cup, writes John Comfort.

A goalless first half saw Kings squander the only clear cut scoring opportunity when Phil Williams blazed wildly off target with only keeper Mason to beat.

But with just three minutes of the second half gone Mike Shannon fired Borough into the lead and Kingsbury showed little indication that they could save the tie. However, after 66 minutes Paul Brien set Mulhern free to beat Mason and Town were back in the hunt.

Mangan wasted a glorious chance to restore the visitors' lead a minute later when he headed over an open goal and

Mulhern made Borough pay dearly for that miss when he grabbed Kingsbury's winner with nine minutes remaining. Keith Williams found him with a free kick and from 25 yards out he turned sharply and rifled a left foot shot past Mason into the corner of the net.

Kingsbury: Coffey, Murray, Claypole, K. Williams, Kenny, Hyde, Culverhouse, P. Williams (Brien), Mulhern, Paga, Simpson. Other subs: Carroll, Maloney, Suttles.

when well placed, but United levelled through Hall after 39 minutes from their first real opening.

Borough couldn't add to their tally in the second half, with Ripley being denied three times, but they were fortunate in the last minute when Thomas's shot went just wide.

Borough confidence booster

Maidenhead Utd 1 Harrow Borough 1 BOROUGH restored some confidence on Tuesday night with a draw against Division One opponents Maidenhead in a friendly, writes Tony Booth.

In control for much of the game, they started well with Lance Pedlar shooting just wide before netting an 18th minute shot after good work by Thorpe.

Cooper hit a post and Conroy shot wide

when well placed, but United levelled through Hall after 39 minutes from their first real opening.

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Where the locals stand in latest league tables. Fixtures. BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Premier Division... DIADORA LEAGUE Division One... DIADORA LEAGUE Division Two... DIADORA LEAGUE Division Three... Saturday September 21 FA Trophy 1st qual. round: Stevenage v Wembley... Monday September 23... Tuesday September 24... Wednesday September 25...

Lions doubling up again AFTER facing Windsor twice within four days, Wembley are set for another double confrontation, this time with Stevenage. On Saturday they visit their rivals in the FA Trophy and return there on Monday for a league clash, unless the Trophy match is drawn, in which case they will meet in a replay at Vale Farm on Tuesday. Wembley hope to have skipper Paul Shields fit again for both games. Keith Cooper returns to the Harrow Borough line up for their home game with Dagenham after his three match ban. Robin Smale is in training after his appendicitis operation. Mark Hopson has an ankle injury and is doubtful for Wealdstone's trip to Dover. Barry Blackman and Steve Browne are both recovering well from injuries and could soon be in the reckoning for places. Wealdstone Supporters Club are running a coach to Dover which will leave the Harrow Civic Centre at 11.30am. Tickets, priced £10 for adults and £8 for juniors can be booked by ringing 423-3105. Edgeware hope to have both Martyn Kidd and Ray Mangan fit for their difficult league game at Hertford. Kidd has a knee injury while Mangan is suffering from ankle bruising. The recurrence of a groin injury for Phil Williams is Kingsbury's only problem for their home game with Petersfield. Rayners Lane can expect to face a difficult task against Harefield in the Middlesex Senior Cup. Mark Harewood is expected to return after injury.

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