

SPORT

Facing up to bleak future

TOP LOCAL basketball sides Blackhawks and Amazons need a £12,000 cash injection to survive in the National League.

The teams, pillars of the New Harlesden and Brent Basketball Club, need the cash to carry on competing in the league in the future.

The Blackhawks are the men's team and play in the National League Division Four and the Amazons are the women's team and they compete in the National League Division Two.

Sponsorship is needed to keep the teams, based at Kilburn College and Bridge Park Leisure Centre, on the road to the top.

Playing in the National League, which the teams graduated to two years ago, is an expensive business with clubs having to stump up to hire training facilities, transport all over the country and kit.

They have struck a deal with sports manufacturers Converse to provide the kit but cash is still needed.

Each member pays £50 a year to belong to the club but many are students or unemployed and there is little prospect of more money coming from fees.

On top of other commitments the club arranges for professional coaches to visit Brent schools - at the moment they are doing it voluntarily - and this encourages new talent.

"This summer has been tough," said Byron Miller, coach of the women's team. His sister Keren not only plays for the team she is also a national player.

"We have the motivation to get into the top rank leagues," said Byron, a professional rugby league player with the Hemel Hempstead club. "It is just the finance we lack."

The club, which has one of the top coaches in the country in Charles Luke-Bannerman, who coaches the men's team, will be delighted to hear from anyone who can help them out of their financial predicament. Just call club administrator Debbie Galley on 908 7645.



Time out for Brent's basketball players to ponder on where the money is coming from

Mark's shirty trip back

UNITED STATES international Mark Williams returned to his old club Wasps this week to provide an extra bit of decoration for the Sudbury clubhouse.

Williams, a centre with the US World Cup squad, added his international shirt to that of other Wasps players who have reached international level at a special ceremony at the club on Wednesday.

Joining the club in 1981, he was part of the Wasps squad which won the 1985 Middlesex Sevens but emigrated to the US later that year. Before he returns home the club is hoping he will be able to don their colours again in a friendly.

Stars out for awards

FORMER Olympic javelin champion Tessa Sanderson was guest of honour at the fourth Right Guard Middlesex County Sports Awards.

The highlight of the evening was when she was joined by another great athlete, Linford Christie, to receive his award, presented by the Federation of Middlesex Sports at Twickenham Rugby Ground's Rose Room last Friday.

Kenneth Wolstonholme, commentator on England's World Cup win in 1966, made a cameo appearance to present awards to five Middlesex clubs celebrating their centenaries.

The two top awards went to Ealing golfer Ricky Willison and Middlesex cricketer Gillian

Smith as sportsman and woman of the year.

The Contim-Middlesex Award for Courage and Endurance went to Denise Smith, a disabled water skier.

She is the world record holder of the ladies seated skiers in slalom and has travelled the world in her determination to pass on her skills to other disabled skiers.

Her colleague from the British Disabled Water Ski Association based at Wraysbury, Steve Woodcock, picked up the award for Disabled Sportsperson, sponsored by Thames Television Sports.

Doug Campbell, the international coach from Barnet Coptah Swimming Club, was awarded Coach of the Year, while Terry Venables pipped George Graham for Manager of the Year.

Spurs secretary Peter Barnes, sitting with the FA Cup beside him, picked up the award on Venables' behalf.

The Bovis Club of the Year was the amazing Hounslow Hurricanes Wheelchair Basketball Club, who have blazed a trail in the sport.

Dusty Rhodes, Sports Veteran of the Year proved a big hit. He entertained the guests with his own cabaret and a penny farthing that Tessa Sanderson had problems getting on. He is taking part in his 11th London Marathon next year.

Hounslow Hockey Club's Jon Potter was another popular award winner as was Debbie Brown, chairman of the inaugural Women's Rugby World Cup Competition.

Commendations were handed out for four dedicated servants of Middlesex Sport: Colin Downey, Lawrie Jones, Iris Moss and Harold Whiddon.

Harrow host international peace team

By Dave Edwards

HARROW RFC will be lining up against international opposition in a special match in its centenary programme, organisers confirmed this week.

A Harrow XV will take on a squad from Yugoslavia after confirmation came through from the country, torn by civil war, last week.

A sign of their predicament is that they are calling themselves The Rugby for Peace Select XV from Yugoslavia, rather than the Yugoslavia national side. The squad are touring England, Scotland and Wales until the rugby World Cup final. Their hosts are the Middlesex County Rugby Football Union.

The news follows weeks of careful organisation and can they/can't they speculation.

The main problem was one of communication said Middlesex County Rugby Union vice president David Hudgell, who has been busy making

the arrangements for the visit.

A combination of phone, fax and post brought an early morning call from Yugoslavia and a definite 'yes'.

Yugoslavia were due to arrive in England yesterday (Wednesday) and play a match in Scotland before coming back to London to prepare for their clash against Harrow at the Grove Field, Wood Lane, Stanmore.

The game is being held on Sunday at noon, after which the two teams will watch one of the World Cup semi-finals on the club's big screen television.

As well as matches in Scotland and Wales the Yugoslavians will be a Middlesex County Clubs squad at Centaurs ground on October 31 at 2.30pm.

The Yugoslavians are a long way from the top of the international ratings but have a reasonable squad - with two New Zealand based players drawn from the country's strong Slav community and three players who

play in the French league.

"They have improved a great deal over the last few years," commented Mr Hudgell. "They are more than a match for anyone."

Club chairman Terry Walker said: "To coincide with the World Cup we are trying to promote interest in rugby. This match is an ideal opportunity. We hope to revitalise the game in the borough with several initiatives."

The club has already played a match against a Classical England XV. A veterans (over-35) ten-a-side competition is to take place on November 24. The contest will feature 16 sides playing up to five hours of rugby.

Floodlit matches against north west London clubs are also to take place throughout the season. A battle against a Middlesex County XV is also set to be staged.

Mini-tourneys for eight to 15-year-old boys and girls every Sunday has also been launched.

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The 100 per centers Soccer fixtures

Saturday October 26

Beazer Homes League: Wealdstone v Waterlooville (Vicarage Road 3pm)

Diadora League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Basingstoke (Earlsmead 3pm)

Division One: Walton and Hershaw v Wembley

Division Three: Edgware Town v Eastbourne United (White Lion ground 3pm); Feltham and Hounslow v Kingsbury Town.

Tuesday October 29

Beazer Homes League: Dartford v Wealdstone

Diadora League Premier Division: Windsor v Harrow Borough

IN THE Second Division of the Observer Pool League the two remaining teams with 100 per cent records - The Honeypot and the South Harrow British Legion - met and it was the home side (Honeypot) who won 6-4 to put themselves level with the legion with a game in hand.

Two Second Division teams notched up their first victories of the season.

The Whittington beat the Kings Head 6-4 and Northolt Park B turned the tables on their A side winning 6-4.

The Royal William also beat Harrow Irish 6-4, St Joseph's conquered the Red Lion 7-3, and the Centaur beat Heather Park 7-3 helped on their way by Aedan Kidd, James Poole, Simon Turner and Kieran O'Brien who gave them a 4-0 start.

In the First Division joint leaders LNER were beaten 6-4 by the Abbey Foot for

whom Steve Barry, Vikas Sabharwal, Jason Cotter, Phil Harris and Rudy Hitchman took all the last five frames to snatch a dramatic victory after LNER had taken an early 4-1 lead.

This leaves the Kingsbury Plough who beat the Alexander Club 7-3, out on their own in first place. However hot on their heels are the Windermere who beat the Lyons SC 6-4 and are just one behind with a game in hand.

Two First Division teams scored their first wins of the season, Alpertown Plough who beat The Bell 6-4 and Harrow Borough who beat Abbey CC 7-3.

Results: Division One: Alpertown Plough 6 The Bell 4; Harrow Borough 7 Abbey CC 3; Alexandra 3 Kingsbury Plough 7; Abbey Hotel 6 LNER 4; Lyons 4 Windermere 6. Division Two: Red Lion 3 St Joseph's 7; Century 7 Heather Park 3; Kings Head 4 Whittington 6; Honeypot 6 S. Harrow BL 4; Harrow Irish 4 Royal William 6; Northolt Park A 4 Northolt Park B 6.