

Wasps in mood for league action

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Another spot of bother for Stones

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Confident Wasps all set for Harlequins clash

IN the words of club coach Rob Smith "there is both optimism and quiet confidence" at Wasps on the eve of the Courage League season. As for the game against Harlequins, both Smith and club skipper Mark Rigby admit there is a 'real edge.' The rivalry between Harlequins and Wasps is well known. Both see themselves as the top rugby club in London.

The record shows that as far as the Courage League is concerned Wasps

By Alan Bodenham
has always come out on top, finishing above their rivals every season since the league started. In fact in four seasons of the championship Wasps have never been out of the first three. The Sudbury club were champions in 89/90 and runners up last season and in 87/88.

This does not detract from the healthy respect between the two sides.

As Mark Rigby put it "There is more than just club rivalry when we play each other, there is also a good deal of personal rivalry springing from the fact that the players all know each other very well due to their representative commitments for England, London and Middlesex."

On Saturday England wing Chris Oti is included in the Wasps XV but Rob Andrew is still taking a break following England's World Cup campaign.

Andrew will be a spectator at the match, his fly half berth being taken by the experienced Huw Davies, an ex-England international.

Andrew will be in the stand alongside several of his England colleagues who play for Harlequins as only Harlequins skipper Peter Winterbottom and prop Jason Leonard are expected to play.

Newspaper stories concerning Andrew's departure to French club Toulouse still persist but the player is

denying them.

Skipper Rigby will lead Wasps. The flanker has been dogged by hamstring problems but is fully fit and raring to go. His side also include other England internationals Dean Ryan and Fran Clough. The match will be a baptism of fire for young prop Darren Malloy who was formerly with Old Gaytonians.

In the third round of the Pilkington Cup, Wasps have been drawn at home to High Wycombe.

Wembley pay dearly for misses

Wembley 1 Tooting 3
WEMBLEY'S failure to take their chances cost them dear on Tuesday as two late goals saw Tooting snatch an undeserved victory, writes Richard Markiewicz.

The visitors tore into the home side and went ahead after only two minutes when the unmarked Ralph Cowan headed home a Micky Stephens corner.

Shaken Lions took time to settle but eventually hauled themselves back into the game with Charlie Turluch missing the target after a penetrating run and Steve Lawrence having an angled drive blocked by the keeper.

Wembley continued the pressure in the second half with Mark Witter having two efforts blocked and then badly miscuing with only the keeper to beat from Henry Clark's through pass.

They eventually levelled in the 62nd minute with a powerful header from Andy O'Brien after Paul Shields flicked on a Clark corner.

Rampant Lions should then have killed Tooting off but missed a glorious chance when Bobby Hutchinson headed over an empty net from four yards.

Tooting hit back and when Fanner misjudged Cowan's harmless 83rd minute downward header, the ball curled in.

In the final minute with Wembley committed to attack Mark Irwin scored a fine solo goal to put the result beyond doubt.

Wembley: Fanner, Faherty, Turluch, O'Brien, Shields, Bennett, Lawrence, Headam (Bhatia), Clark, B. Hutchinson, Witter. **Other sub:** Guller.

STONES SACK KELLY



By John Comfort

TRANSFER listed striker Tony Kelly has been sacked by Wealdstone for a 'serious breach' of his contract.

Kelly, who was the club's then record signing when former manager Tony Jennings brought him for £10,000 from Stones' Diadora League neighbours Hayes two years ago, is said to have been caught playing Sunday football for Harrow Challenge League Premier Division club, Forresters FC.

Said club secretary, Peter Braxton: "He is in serious breach of his contract and has been given two weeks notice

Striker show door for playing Sunday soccer

that his contract is to be terminated. But we have not given up the right to any transfer fee should he wish to join another club."

A letter confirming the club's decision has been sent to the player and he has been given the opportunity to appeal. He has not yet indicated that he will do so.

Copies of the letter have been sent to the Beazer Homes League and also to the Football Association and that is likely to land Kelly in hot water with the sport's governing

body. Playing for a club other than that to which a player is contracted is regarded as a very serious offence.

Kelly is not the only Wealdstone player leaving Vicarage Road this week. David Gipp, who succeeded Kelly as Stones' record signing, has been released and was thought to be joining Premier Division rivals Dover.

Defender Sean Gore, one of three players released by manager Brian Hall last week, has joined Fisher Athletic.

Wasps appointment for Sara



● Sara Rigby with husband Mark (left) and Sir Pat Lowry.

WASPS Rugby Club has appointed Sara Rigby as the club's Marketing Manager.

Sir Pat Lowry, chairman of the club's promotion company, said: "The successful marketing, through sponsorship and other activities, of a first class rugby club like the Wasps is a vital ingredient of its continuing success. Sara Rigby brings to the job a wealth of marketing and public relations experience."

"Sara is married to the captain of the club, Mark Rigby, but we have a very clear understanding. She will not be telling Mark how to lead the team on the field and Mark will not be

telling Sara how to manage our marketing activities! In the unlikely event of any problem, my services as the former chairman of ACAS will be available."

The current main sponsorship agreement with Debenham, Tewson and Chinnocks expires at the end of August 1992 and the club are seeking a new sponsor for a three year term commencing September 1992.

Further details on opportunities for sponsorship, corporate hospitality and advertising can be obtained from Sara Rigby on 903-6066.

Wealdstone make cup exit

Wealdstone 1 Sutton Utd 2
STONES went out of the Capital League President's Cup on Monday when they lost by the odd goal at Cophthall, writes Graham Smith.

Sutton made a great start and only 35 seconds had gone when Feltham's shot was parried by David Hudson and Seagroatt slotted home the losing ball.

Stones hit back swiftly and in the 4th minute a Danny Ruebens cross was headed home by

Sean Adamson for the equaliser.

Sutton restored their lead two minutes before half time when a corner found Feltham who turned and shot past Hudson.

Wealdstone pressed hard for an equaliser and were unlucky not to get one when a shot from Leo Donnellan was excellently saved by keeper Addai just before the end.

Wealdstone: Hudson, Drummy, Harrison, Richards, Bartlett, McGuire, Donnellan, Goyette, Adamson, Fuesher (Browne), Pearson. **Other sub:** Wright.

Ripley puts Borough through

Harrow Borough 1 Basinstoke 0
BOROUGH ended a three match losing streak on Tuesday when Paul Ripley's 71st minute goal put them into the last 16 of the Isthmian League Cup, p writes John Comfort.

Neil Henry's superb pass behind the square Basinstoke defence set up the goal and Ripley raced through to clinical-ly keep Bloxham.

The game had got off to an eventful start with Nigel Wilson being put clear in the opening minute. He stumbled in the

box under a challenge from behind by a defender but still got in a shot that Bloxham blocked and when the ball was hacked upfield, Worsfold raced clear into the Borough area and went down when Steve Crompton plunged at his feet. A penalty was awarded but Crompton superbly saved Maskell's spot kick.

Crompton deflected Worsfold's close range effort over the bar minutes later but Borough hit back and Ripley got round Bloxham and fired goalward only to be denied by Cummings who got back to

make a last ditch clearance.

Just before half time Bloxham saved from Wilson after he had latched onto a poor Jones back pass.

In the second half O'Shea had a great rising shot turned over by Bloxham, and Smale shot straight at the keeper after being put clear by O'Shea before Ripley finally notched Borough's winner.

Harrow Borough: Crompton, Johnstone (Singleton), Barnard, Payne, Powell, Henry, O'Shea, Pys, Smale, Ripley, Wilson. **Other sub:** Bainbridge.

Lawrence shuffles the Borough pack

HARROW Borough boss Peter Lawrence will again be counting heads before selecting a side for Saturday's home game with Staines.

Steve Conroy, Steve Shea and Craig Johnstone are all struggling with injuries and youngsters Lloyd Powell and Scott Singleton, who have both impressed as stand ins, look set to retain their places.

Wealdstone are hoping to have Russell Wilson fit for Saturday's game with Gloucester after a hamstring injury prevented him from playing at Rugby. Steve Tapley is still struggling with his achilles tendon injury.

John Mangan's hamstring injury will keep him out of Edgware's team to visit Royston on

Saturday. Keeper Kevin Beckles has a badly bruised arm and new signing from Wembley Sean Griffiths stands by.

With Steve Graham, Glen Charles and Tony Headlam all carrying injuries, Alan Daffern has selection problems for Wembley's home game with Croydon.

Kingsbury hope to have Chris Simpson back for Saturday's home game with Hertford for which Alan Westlead and Keith Williams are again doubtful with injuries.

Rayners Lane have a difficult home game against Swindon Athletic but with the injury situation getting better, only Ian Woodward and Tony Verni are still out.

Ferguson sent off as Town crash out

Kingsbury Town 0 Northwood 4
NEW signing from Edgware Andy Ferguson and Northwood's Rod Findlay were sent off for a bout of fistcuffs in the Jyng minutes as Kingsbury crashed out of the Middlesex Charity Cup.

On another unhappy night for Kingsbury, they went behind after 39 minutes when John McCormack netted after a defensive mix up and two second half goals from Paul Rogan put the visitors firmly in the driving seat.

Ex-Kingsbury player Peter Augustine added the coup de grace in the 84th minute with a superb 25 yarder for Northwood's fourth goal.

Kingsbury's best chance came in the second half when Ferguson was put clear only to lose control and the keeper blocked his shot.

Kingsbury: Gower, Cook, Simpson, Hild, K. Williams, O'Shea, Surridge, Hardwick, Mulhern, Burgher (Rose), Ferguson.

Soccer fixtures

Saturday November 16

Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Wealdstone v Gloucester City (Vicarage Road, 3pm).

Diadora League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Staines Town (Earlsmead, 3pm).

Diadora League Division One: Wembley v Croydon (Vale Farm, 3pm).

Diadora League Division Three: Royston v Edgware Town; Kingsbury Town v Hertford (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm).

Hellenic League: Rayners Lane v Swindon Ath. (Lucas Ave, 2.30pm).

Suburban League: Hendon Res. v Harrow Borough Res.

Tuesday November 19

Diadora League Premier Division: St Albans City v Harrow Borough.

Wednesday November 20

Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Wealdstone v Cambridge City (Vicarage Road, 7.45pm).

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