

Clough steals victory for lucky Wasps

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# SPORT

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Witter is the hero for Wembley

Experience can't be replaced overnight says Wasps coach

## Smith hits back at the critics

WASPS' coach Rob Smith has hit back at the knackers following widespread criticism over Saturday's narrow victory against bottom of the table Nottingham.

"Of course I'm not completely satisfied with the performance," he said "but I never thought that the game would be that easy. A lot of people expected to come here and see us run up a big score. But given the inexperience and imbalance in our side that was not really on."

There has to be sympathy with this view, considering the current selection problems Smith and his management team are having to contend with. On Saturday for instance, No 8 Micky Harris was severely barracked by the crowd for

By Alan Bodenham

not binding in the scrum at Wasps ball. It appeared that the scrum was being pushed back because of this. After the game England international prop Jeff Probyn said "We were having terrible problems in the front row and it wouldn't have made any difference at all if Harris had been there pushing or not."

Alongside Probyn on Saturday were young players Darren Molloy and Jamie Allan. They are both terrific prospects with Molloy being tipped to go right to the top, but one has to agree with Smith when he says "you cannot replace experience and knowledge of players like Alan

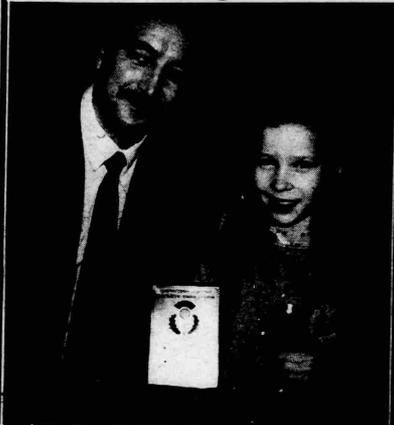
Simmons overnight."

He added "On our day we are capable of beating any side in the league and it is my job to emphasise on the players their good points and the strong aspects of their play as well as work on weaknesses. This I will do."

For Saturday's game at Rostaly Park, which kicks off at 2.30pm, Wasps are able to recall Gary Holmes to the front row, Sean O'Leary, back from studies, in the second row, while Graham Childs returns to the centre and Alan Buzzza to full back.

Huw Davies' jaw injury, sustained at Leicester in November, is on the mend. He returns for the Vandals against Saracens on Saturday.

## Dominique flies the flag for England



● Dominique receives the under-12 trophy from Bank of Scotland executive Bryan Patterson, the former Scottish junior international.

MIDDLESEX Junior Squash Champion Dominique Lloyd Walter of Choisters Wood Squash Club was the only English player to win a major event in the Bank of Scotland sponsored Scottish Junior Open Squash Championships in Edinburgh.

10 year old Dominique took the under-12 title in what is one of the largest junior tournaments held in Europe which this year was contested by 235 competitors with entrants from as far away as Malaysia, Australia, Egypt and New Zealand.

Of the eight age groups from under-12 to under-19, two were won by Scots, two by Egyptians, two by Malaysians, one by a German and one by Dominique.

Dominique got off to a great start by beating Scottish No 1 Sarah Davis 9/7, 9/5, 9/3 in the first round. She eventually won her way through to the final where she met Lancashire's stylish Jenny Evans and although she lost the first game 9/7, her superior fitness wore down her opponent and she took the next three games 9/3, 9/3, 9/3 to secure victory and the title.

## Stones are spot on for a replay

Hendon 1 Wealdstone 1 THIS Middlesex Senior Cup tie at Clarendon Road on Tuesday was a tale of two penalties writes John Comford.

A mysterious handball decision against Johnson Hippolyte, after a corner by Harwood hit him on the knee, earned Hendon the first after just 8 minutes from which Simon Clark fired the home side ahead.

Leo Donnellan then obliged from the second to put Stones level in the 33rd minute after Hippolyte had been floored by Clark.

Although Donnellan had an effort turned onto the bar by keeper Root in the opening minutes, it was Hendon who shaded the first half and they too hit the woodwork when Harwood's rasping volley was deflected there by Roach's superb save.

Roach twice denied Harwood as Hendon started the second half brightly but after an unpunished late challenge on Donnellan led to the Stones striker unwisely seeking his own justice, the game turned into an often unpleasant affair.

Hendon attention thereafter seemed centred on Donnellan, who was the victim of numerous illegal challenges. Clark was booked for his effort, but referee Peter Lavelle-Maurice showed unwarranted leniency over others.

Football wise, Stones had the better of the game from then on but Donnellan missed badly when he scooped the ball over an open goal after good work by Hopson and Hippolyte.

Steve Tapley, who had an impressive game, was unlucky when he broke upfield and, after combining with McGuire and Donnellan, fired past Root only to see Clear keen in the goalmouth.

Wealdstone: Roach, Watson, Tapley, Drummy, Barlett, Cordice, McGee, Donnellan, Hippolyte (Pearson), Hopson, Goyette (Hoag). Other subs: Adamson, Hudson.

## Trophy trauma for Hall

A MUDDLED mixture of suspicion and unavailability have left Wealdstone boss Brian Hall with a severe selection headache for Saturday's important FA Trophy clash, away to Conference club, Cheltenham Town.

Hall remarkably finds himself with the problem of having to find over half a team to take to the west country.

Defender Jim Watson's suspension, which starts on Saturday, is just the tip of the iceberg. Stones will also be without the cup tied trio of Johnson Hippolyte, Martin McGuire and Sean Pearson while both Tim Lowe and Russell Wilson are unavailable.

Jimmy Quinn can play, but loan players could well prove the final solution as Stones look to upset an ailing Cheltenham side who have slumped to bottom but one in the Conference table after gaining just three points from their last seven games.

Stones Supporters Club are running a coach to Cheltenham, leaving Harrow Civic Centre at 11am. Fare is £10 for adults, £3 for juniors/OAPs and £5 for Junior Stones. Bookings can be made by ringing 0923-212916. If a replay is required it will take place on Wednesday with the Middlesex Senior Cup game against Hendon being postponed.

Harrow Borough also journey west in the Trophy to face Wealdstone's Beazer Homes League rivals, Gloucester City.

Borough's recent unhappy form gives them little chance of success but Gloucester too have slipped from grace and their 5-1 drubbing at Moor Green will give Peter Lawrence's side some hope of an upset.

Good news for Borough is that new signing Mark Harrison is not cup tied and can play and there are no injury

problems.

Away to runaway Diadora League Premier Division leaders Woking, Wembley's chances of making the second round of the Trophy must be rated as slim. But nevertheless, they should be in confident mood after their victory over promotion chasing Dulwich.

Wembley's only injury doubt is Charlie Turlinch, he has a thigh strain but should be fit for selection.

Edgware face an important top of the table clash at second placed Plackwell on Saturday and will be boosted by the return of striker Colin Chance

after two weeks holiday. Steve Newing has a swelling on the knee but hopes to be fit.

Kingsbury have defender Ray Mangan on loan from neighbours Edgware and he plays in Saturday's home game with Royston.

Rayners Lane have a difficult away fixture at joint Hellenic League leaders, Almondsbury Picksons. But after their demolition of Bishop Cleeve and having beaten Almondsbury on their last two visits to their ground, they are full of confidence. Skipper Gerry Hynes and Paul Coffey are both available after returning from holidays.

## Soccer fixtures

Saturday January 11  
FA Trophy first round: Cheltenham v Wealdstone; Gloucester v Harrow Borough; Woking v Wembley; Oldens League Division Three: Farnham v Edgware; Kingsbury v Royston (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm); Hellenic League: Almondsbury Picksons v Rayners Lane.

Tuesday January 14  
Middlesex Charity Cup: Staines Town v Harrow Borough.  
London Challenge Cup: Kingsbury Town v Clapton (Silver Jubilee Park, 7.30pm).  
Wednesday January 15  
Middlesex Senior Cup: Wealdstone v Hendon (Vicage Road, 7.45pm).

## Browne goes on the list

WEALDSTONE have transfer listed talented midfielder Steve Browne. Browne blotted his copybook when he failed to turn up for Stones' match at Cheltenham on New Year's Day. But his contract is almost up and as no

agreement has been reached on a new one, the club has decided to make him available for transfer. Wealdstone chairman David Pollock said of Browne: "On his day I think he's good enough to make the Football League."

## Gayts make their mark in League

OLD Gaytonians AC enjoyed a successful day in the fourth round of Division One of the Chiltern League at Luton on Saturday over a fast but demanding course, writes Mike Baroa.

The senior squad produced their best performance this season, packing their ten scoring athletes into the first 50 finishers and taking the team prize in front of a strong Reading team.

Nigel Flint had another excellent run to take 4th place which will put him in good stead for the Inter County Championships later this month, and Eddie Burton, in his first county outing this season, produced a fine run to finish 6th with Mark Carsons just behind in 7th.

Andy Deighton, returning

after a long absence through injury, finished 44th and Rainer Gordon produced his best run of the season to close the team in 49th position.

In the younger age groups, Steve Jones equalled his best Chiltern League performance this season, finishing 4th in the youths race but apart from the colts team, which placed first, the boys and youths teams were below strength, both finishing 3rd.

On the combined scores for all age groups, Gaytonians won the match ahead of Reading and Oxford. After four matches, Gaytonians now hold a slender 155 point lead over Reading and the fifth and final round at Ruimsig on February 15 should prove a very closely contested match.

Gayts photos  
Seniors (clockwise): 4 N. Flint 30.52; 6 E. Burton 31.22; 7 M. Carsons 31.30; 13 A. Holmes 31.58; 24 M. Baroa 32.55; 28 M. Lepps 32.51; 29 M. Purney 32.55; 33 C. Fall 33.05; 44 A. Daighan 33.53; 49 R. Gordon 34.05; 59 A. Wray 34.31; 68 M. Baroa 34.47; 72 C. Wray 34.54; 88 T. Leesman 35.38; 97 D. Orme 35.00; 117 M. Smith 37.05; 123 J. Bignall 37.31; 132 R. Godden; 143 J. Hamblin; 156 R. Fish; 159 F. Ericson; 165 T. Bush; 166 R. Krushaar.  
Youths (clockwise): 4 S. Jones 18.39; 13 N. Baroa 20.01; 15 J. Barford 20.09; 17 A. Rao 20.26; 18 J. Lamb 20.05; 29 A. Wray 20.55; 25 G. MacPherson 21.24; 27 G. Tyler 21.38; 32 E. Payne 23.27.  
Colts (clockwise): 7 C. McLuskey 20.05; 11 J. Dilly 20.25; 12 N. Luskay 20.35; 20 T. Bestonno 21.01; 24 L. R. Colles 21.24; 31 M. Lynch 21.28; 45 S. Wareham 23.34; 50 B. Luckie 28.22.  
Colts (clockwise): 9 M. Karlsruh 17.21; 11 O. Brown 17.33; 12 D. Hunt 17.37; 13 R. Spencer 17.38; 21 B. Smith 18.02; 22 M. Johnson 18.57; 38 A. Blaise 19.11; 37 J. Elliott 19.11; 40 J. Rich 19.24.

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