

Win tickets to see England play France SEE PAGE 96

SPORT

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A tough Trophy task for Borough

HARROW Borough's reward for their fine FA Trophy victory at Gloucester City is a tough second round tie at home to HPS Loans League Premier Division leader Stalybridge on February 1.

Stalybridge just missed out on promotion to the Vauxhall Conference when they finished second in the league last season, but they are looking certain to make that goal this season. They are currently four points clear at the top of the table with three games in hand over second placed club Buxton.

They have lost only three games all season, once in the league, once in the FA Cup and once in the County Cup. They have suffered only one defeat in their last 25 games.

Stalybridge are managed by Paul Wilson who played in FA Trophy finals for Rampton, Mowbray and Northwich. Their top scorer Chris Camden, a former winner of the Conference Gold Boot Award when with Stafford, has netted a remarkable 32 goals in 35 games.

In the first round of the Trophy Stalybridge had an excellent 2-1 win away to Altrincham who a currently 5th in the Conference.

Head coach quits the Monarchs

THE London Monarchs bid to retain the World Bowl will be made with a new head coach.

Larry Korman, the man who guided the Monarchs to their World League triumph, has joined the NFL's Seattle Seahawks as their offensive coordinator. He links up there with the Seahawks newly appointed head coach Tom Flores. The two were together at the Los Angeles Raiders for their Superbowl success.

Monarchs' new head coach is Ray Willsey who is upgraded from his post last year of defensive coordinator.

Wasps get a boost with return of Davies

HUW Davies is back for Wasps for their trip north of the border to take on Scottish champions Melrose tomorrow (Friday) night, writes Alan Boden.

The ex England fly half sustained a serious jaw injury during the heavy league defeat at Leicester in November.

He played his first match back last Saturday for the Vandals and came through unscathed, dropping a goal as Wasps second string ended Saracens Crusaders' unbeaten run in the London merit table.

Speaking after training on Tuesday Davies declared himself fit and ready. Always the joker, he added his jaw had not tempted him onto the stage as a ventriloquist, "but it was close."

Another boost for the Sudbury side is the return of experienced back row forward John Ellison to first team duty.

The return to fitness and availability of such experienced players is just the flip Wasps need if their challenge for the title is to be sustained, according to

skipper Mark Rigby. "We need some luck on the injury front," he declared. "This is the second season running we have been dogged by injuries."

"Hopefully when the really tough leagues matches against the likes of Orrell and Bath come up later in the season our whole squad will be fighting fit."

Rigby admitted that after the lack lustre performance against Nottingham a fortnight ago "we had to get back

to the basics, working on scrummaging, lineouts and concentrating on getting the simple things right."

He was satisfied that against Rostlyn Park this work had paid off and things were a lot tighter all round.

Sounding an optimistic note, Rigby said: "We have as many talented players here as any of the other top sides and although we have work to do there is no reason to think we are not capable of beating any of them on the day."

Borough go out to 10-man Staines

Staines Town 2 Harrow Borough 1 BOROUGH made it a losing start for new boss George Borg on Tuesday night when they disappointingly went out of the Middlesex Charity Cup in extra time to 10-man Staines, writes John Comfort.

The home side had their number reduced with five minutes of normal time remaining when Neil Proctor reacted to Mark Pye's perfectly fair challenge by kicking the Borough midfielder and was promptly sent off by referee John Smith.

But sad Borough - even with the attractive incentive of a home tie with Chelsea in the next round - never looked like taking advantage of the home side's plight. Their casual approach in extra time always earmarked them as likely losers, and so it proved as with seven minutes remaining Steve Cronpton could only patty a firm shot from Livey and Gary Crawshaw slipped home the loose ball for Staines' winner.

Borough had gone behind after only five minutes of the tie when Steve Shea brought down Crawshaw in the area and Josh Price converted the resultant penalty.

But they fought back well and deservedly equalised after 25 minutes when Gary Dodd's header back to Phillips was intercepted by the alert Paul Ripley who sent a superb lob over the keeper into the net.

Borough had the better of an ill-disciplined Staines side that until Proctor was sent off - and then the rot set in.

Harrow Borough: Cronpton, Singleton, Harwood, Kelly, Shea, Peacock, Harty (Pye), Pye, Ripley, Ford, Cooper. Other sub: Battersby.

Kingsbury fired up by super sub Clapton 2

SUBSTITUTE Dino Pashias turned the tide for Kingsbury, setting up three goals in the last 14 minutes as Town came back from 2-1 down to win this London Challenge Cup tie on Tuesday.

Kingsbury went behind after 22 minutes when Bowers scored Clapton's opener but they levelled in the 38th minute when Mark Ivers' shot had the visitors' keeper scrambling to save and Gerry Mulhern cracked home the loose ball.

Denny Hazle restored Clapton's lead 10 minutes after the break but when Pashias came on for Barry Coleman in the 64th minute, Kingsbury took over.

His 76th minute cross saw Vic Hardwick equalise with a flying header and Kingsbury went ahead for the first time after 85 minutes when Chris Simpson side footed in another Pashias cross.

Kingsbury wrapped it up with two minutes remaining when Pashias' cross set Ray Mangan up to score his first goal for the club.

Kingsbury: Chesebrough, Ferguson, Simpson, Hogg, Mulhern, Coleman (Pashias), Surtinis, Hardwick, Mulhern, Ivers, K. Williams. Other subs:...

Borough sack Lawrence

Borg is new boss at Earlsmead

PETER Lawrence paid the not entirely unexpected high price for Harrow Borough's recent slump towards the Diadora League Premier Division relegation zone when he was sacked on Monday.

Borough wasted no time in appointing a successor. After interviewing George Borg on the same day, the former Chesham boss was offered the job and readily accepted.

Saturday's superb FA Trophy win at Gloucester City was not enough to save Lawrence from the axe. After successful managerial spells at Hitchin Town and St Albans City, he took over the Earlsmead hot seat 15 months ago following the resignation of Tom McAlister.

He kept Borough in the Premier Division last season, but after a bright start to the new campaign they have tumbled alarmingly from a healthy 7th place to their current 19th position.

Another all-too familiar relegation dogfight is looming but the Borough board of directors were clearly not prepared to let that happen again. They met on Sunday and made the decision to dismiss Lawrence. Ironically just three weeks ago they had agreed a two year contract with him, just before the defeat at bottom club Bishop's Cleeve.

By John Comfort

gation dogfight is looming but the Borough board of directors were clearly not prepared to let that happen again. They met on Sunday and made the decision to dismiss Lawrence. Ironically just three weeks ago they had agreed a two year contract with him, just before the defeat at bottom club Bishop's Cleeve.

Said Borough chairman Martin Murphy: "We felt that a change was necessary now because we don't want a repeat of the last two years. If we had left it any longer it wouldn't have given the new manager enough time to turn things round."

He paid George Borg the compliment of being "in my view as good as Micki Tompkins" - the man who guided Borough to the Isthmian League Premier Division Championship in 1985.

"He's definitely the right man for the job," he added. "He's proved himself at every club he's been to and I'm sure he'll do the same for us."

Borg has an unrivalled managerial track record of resuscitating ailing clubs. He began by lifting Barking, his home town club, out of the doldrums and then moved to nearby Chelmsford who were promptly returned to the Beazer Homes Premier Division during his reign.

Then he made his much publicised move to big spending Chesham United who were struggling in Division One of the Diadora League. He instantly guided them to a runaway Championship success and into the Premier Division for the first time in their history.

They were in the Premier Division's top three when Borg was controversially sacked a month ago. Since then Chesham's fortunes have nosedived.

Borg took charge of Borough for the first time on Tuesday in their 2-1 Middlesex Charity Cup defeat at Staines. But he has watched Borough several times recently and said that he does not think there will be a need for any wholesale changes. However, new faces will clearly be in evidence at Earlsmead in the next few weeks.



New boss - George Borg.



Sacked - Peter Lawrence.

Edgware to face cricket ace Athey in FA Vase

GLOUCESTER and England cricketer Bill Athey will be an interesting opponent for Edgware Town on Saturday.

Athey plays in midfield for Great Mills Western League club Welton Rovers who are Edgware's opponents in the FA Vase.

Steve Newing missed Edgware's league win at Flackwell with a knee injury which could be cartilage trouble and is given only a 50-50 chance of playing in the big match.

Wealdstone's selection problems turn from a lack of players to having too many on Saturday as they look to complete a league double over Corby, who they slumped 6-2 away back in September.

Sean Pearson, Martin McGuire and Johnson Hippolyte are all available after being cup tied for the Trophy game at Cheltenham, while both Russell Wilson and Tim Lowe are back after working abroad. Jim Watson completes his ban and is also available.

Victory over Hendon in last night's Middlesex Senior Cup replay will give Stones a home tie against Wembley in the next round on Wednesday, with the Barclays Cup game against Cambridge again being postponed.

George Borg begins the awesome task of trying to revive Harrow Borough's League fortunes with a home game against Wokingham. Skipper Mick O'Shea should have recovered from injury while Steve France is available after missing the defeat at Staines.

Wembley hope to have both Bobby Hutchinson and Charlie Turlinch fit after injuries sustained at Woking for their derby clash with Uxbridge who won at Vale Farm in the Middlesex Charity Cup five weeks ago.

After beating Clapton in the London Challenge Cup on Tuesday, Kingsbury face a quick return against Clapton on Saturday, this time in the league. Kingsbury have lost recent signing Julian Alford who has joined Premier Division Staines.

Raysers Lane hope to have Paul Coffey (groin injury) and Wayne Coakley (flu) fit for their difficult game at Fairford. Definitely out though is Kevin Langston who starts a five weeks suspension.

Soccer fixtures

- Saturday January 18 FA Vase: Edgware Town v Welton Rovers (White Lion ground, 3pm) Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Wealdstone v Corby Town (Victoria Road, 3pm) Abingdon, Diadora League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Wokingham Town (Earlsmead, 3pm) Diadora League Division One: Wembley v Uxbridge (Vale Farm, 3pm) Diadora League Division Three: Clapton v Kingsbury Town. Harlow, Monday January 20 Capital League: Fairford Town v Raysers Lane. Middlesex League: Wealdstone v Wycombe Wanderers (Copthall, 7.30pm) Tuesday January 21 Lottite Trophy: Chertsey v Kingsbury Town; Purfleet v Edgware Town. Wednesday January 22 Barclays Cup: Wealdstone v Cambridge City (Victoria Road, 7.45pm) Lottite Cup: Dorking v Harrow Borough.

Where the locals stand in latest league tables

Table with 4 columns: BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Premier Division, DIADORA LEAGUE Division One, DIADORA LEAGUE Division Three, DIADORA LEAGUE Division Three. Lists teams and their positions, points, goals, and clean sheets.

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