

Wasps get another league shock

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Ref slammed as 10-man Lions make final

Northwood 1 Wembley 2
 'A DISGRACE' was the damning verdict of Wembley chairman Brian Gumm on Enfield referee Vosper's handling of this Middlesex Senior Cup semi-final on Tuesday, writes John Comfort.

He sent off Charlie Flaherty, booked four other Wembley players and added an incredible eleven and a half minutes of stoppage time which allowed Northwood to come close to denying Lions a deserved place in the final against

Yeading at Hendon on Easter Monday. Flaherty's 26th minute dismissal came after he had floored Garfield Blackman en route to goal. While the punishment for that was correct, it has to be said that the Northwood striker looked way offside when he broke clear onto Vincent's through ball.

The bookings were petty to say the least, with Paul Shields and Kenny Page cautioned for innocuous fouls, Adrian Smith for kicking the ball away and Steve Lawrence for taking his time

over a throw in. Similar Northwood offences went unpunished.

As for the added time, that was totally unwarranted. 10 minutes of it had elapsed when a Billings free kick was deflected past Jeff Fanner to reduce a two goal Wembley lead but fortunately Mr Vosper discovered the whereabouts of his whistle soon after and brought proceedings to a halt before further damage was done.

Even with 10 men, Wembley always looked the better side and they took the

lead six minutes into the second half when Page put Paul Reynolds through to slot home.

When Northwood defender Martin Randall chipped a cross over keeper Lavender into his own net to make it 2-0, it should have been all over. But Mr Vosper made sure Wembley had a lengthy wait before they could savour their success.

Wembley: Fanner, Flaherty, Clark, O'Brien, Shields, Graham, Smith, Reynolds (S. Hutchinson), Page, Lawrence, Headlam. **Other subs:** Smart, Witter, Romain, Turlunch.

On form Edgware keep clear at top

Thame 1 Edgware Town 2
 AFTER Saturday's poor performance, Edgware showed great commitment to beat a very physical Thame side on Tuesday and consolidate their top of the table position.

Thame's approach was clear from the outset and it cost them dearly after only five minutes when Gerry Brennan's run into the area was ended when he was poleaxed by a defender and Steve Newing converted the resultant penalty.

The rest of the half was a dour midfield struggle with chances few and far between although Kevin Beckles did have to make one fine save, pushing over a well struck shot.

Gursel Gulfer should have added to Edgware's lead early in the second half when he got clear but lost control and shot weakly at the keeper.

Edgware settled matters two minutes into injury time when the lively Martyn Kidd cut in from the left past two defenders and sent in a scorching shot which hit the keeper and Gulfer put in the rebound. 10 more minutes went by before a scrambled goal saw Thame reduce the arrears but it was too late to deny Edgware a well deserved win.

Edgware: Beckles, Evans, Flaherty, D. Coleman, J. Mangan, Brennan, Elliot, Flynn, Kidd, Newing, Gulfer. **Subs:** Murphy, Dale.

More woe in saga of troubled Sudbury club

Wasps are not over the moon

IS there any end to the turmoil currently affecting one of the country's leading rugby clubs? That is the burning question being asked at Sudbury after a wretched month of woe for Wasps both on and off the field.

Monday's 'mooning' incident in which players bared their backsides in front of a crowd of 5,000 at the Cobra 10-a-side international tournament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is the latest in a succession of recent occurrences which

have tarnished the club's image.

Five players, tour captain Chris Wright, Lawrence Serase, Mark Brown, Paul Volley and Phil Hopley, were each fined 80 rings (£17) by local magistrates over the incident after pleading guilty to indecent behaviour.

Further action by the club could follow at a time when discipline at Wasps, it would seem, is at a low ebb.

Last month lock Richard Kinsey received a two match suspension following a training incident involving club

skipper Mark Rigby. This was followed by revelations of high jinks that took place on the club's recent trip to Paris.

On the field, a dismal Wasps League performance saw them lose to Saracens last week for the first time since 1979 and within days club coach Rob Smith resigned, citing as one of the reasons for his decision, lack of support from officials. Assistants Phil Moyle and Tony Jordan have taken over the coaching duties until the end of the season.

On Saturday another League defeat, at the hands of

previously winless London Irish, ended any hopes Wasps may have had of regaining the Courage Championship and gave credence to suggestions that they are now a fading force in English rugby.

So, what is going wrong at Sudbury?

Obviously the departure of fly half Rob Andrew to France was a great loss but one player's departure doesn't mean the whole thing should start collapsing. And while Wasps supporters have been spoilt by success in recent seasons - the club has not finished out of

the top three since the League was introduced - it is disturbing to see such a rapid reversal of fortunes.

Not all blame the players. Some members point the finger of responsibility for lack of morale on the pitch at officials in the Sudbury hierarchy.

Anxious members are now calling for club supremo Ivor Montlake to call a special meeting in order to clear the air and explain to the rank and file just what has been going on behind the closed doors of the Sudbury clubhouse.

Another Borough blank for Stones

Wieldstone 1 Southend 4
 HARROW Borough is no happy hunting ground for Stones. Monday's defeat was their third successive 'home' Capital League reverse at Barlamed, writes Graham Smith.

Martin McGuire cleared off the line from Sussex and David Huson saved well from Martin as Southend made a lively start.

Hyslop's 25 yard shot gave the visitors the lead after 26 minutes and although Stones equalised in the 35th minute from Mark Hopson's penalty after Hyslop handled, South-

Stones join Borough in struggle to beat drop

WITH Harrow Borough already deep in the mire at the bottom of the Diadora League, neighbours Wieldstone also found themselves sucked into a relegation battle following Tuesday night's Beazer Homes League results.

Now just three points above the drop out zone, it made Stones' clash at fellow strugglers Athenstone last night (Wednesday) crucial to say the least.

Manager Brian Hall was looking to sign Crawley midfielder David Venables to add to his squad, hopefully in time to face Athenstone.

On Saturday Stones have a tough task away to league leaders Bashley. Keeper Wayne Roach is struggling with a groin injury, but Sean Pearson, Andy Hedge, Martin Blackler and Jimmy Quinn are all likely to be fit.

With three going down from the Diadora League this season, the current fine form of Wivenhoe appears to be the greatest threat to the survival of Borough who continue their struggle to avoid the drop with a home game against St Albans on Saturday.

George Borg's team has a clean bill of health but a slice of good fortune is

overdue after a fine performance at Kingstonian went unrequited.

Wembley seem set to avoid relegation worries this season. They return to league action on Saturday with no injury problems for their home game with Dorking.

Edgware Town's injury plight continues. They face Petersfield at home on Saturday with Leslie Thompson's ankle injury adding him to those sidelined.

Bad news about captain Vince Sheridan is that the knee injury he sustained at Guiseley will require an operation

and he is out for the rest of the season.

Kingisbury Town look to maintain their good form away at Epsom. Andy Ferguson is their only injury problem. Keeper Mark Gower looks set to keep his place at the expense of John Cheeswright.

Rayners Lane get back to league action at home to Pegasus Juniors, still needing points to steer clear of the relegation zone. They lost 2-0 away to Pegasus earlier in the season in one of their best performances. Only doubt for Lane is Cumberbatch who has a knee injury and is unlikely to play.

Arsenal soccer stars at Cloisters

ARSENAL soccer stars will be at Sunday's Open Day at the Cloisters Wood Country Club in Wood Lane, Stanmore.

David Rocastle, Steve Bould, Lee Dixon, Nigel Winterburn, Paul Merson, David Seaman, Colin Pates, Ian Wright and David Hillier are all expected to be at the Club at 1pm to sign autographs and chat with members and the general public.

Wembley date for schools ace Graeme

HATCH End soccer star Graeme Power set it out on the subs bench as England Under-15 Schoolboys drew 2-2 in their international against Wales at Burnley on Friday.

He is in the squad for Saturday when England take on Holland for the Smiths Crisp Challenge Cup at Wembley Stadium and will be hoping to get into the action.

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Soccer fixtures

Saturday March 7
 Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Bashley v Wieldstone
 Diadora League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v St Albans City (Earlmead, 3pm)
 Diadora League Division One: Wembley v Dorking (Vale Farm, 3pm)
 Diadora League Division Three: Edgware Town v Petersfield (White Lion ground, 3pm); Epsom & Ewell v

Kingisbury Town.
 Hellenic League: Rayners Lane v Pegasus Juniors (Lucas Ave, 3pm).

Tuesday March 10
 Leettle Cup: Harrow Borough v Carshalton Ath. (Earlmead, 7.30pm).

Wednesday March 11
 SixSix Charity Cup: Wembley v Brentford (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).

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