

Wasps lift the gloom with a win

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Last minute penalty saves Borough

Uttley assists Wasps for Bath clash

FORMER England coach and ex-Wasp Roger Uttley has been helping Wasps forwards this week before they face a critical test against the back of League Champions Bath at Sudbury on Saturday, writes Alan Bodenham.

They were taken through a rigorous training session and worked on many of the areas that need to be rock solid if a result is to come out in Wasps' favour.

Mark Rigby is more than hopeful that his team can put their troubles behind them and turn in a good performance against Bath. While admitting that recent events at the club mean that Wasps must start as underdogs for the clash, Rigby dismissed suggestions that the best his men could hope for in the match was to keep the margin of defeat down to a reasonable level.

"I would have given up the game long ago if I approached matches in that frame of mind," said Rigby.

Friday night's victory over Neath saw improved performances from many Wasps players and Rigby is adamant that the worst is over. "We are starting to operate at our expected level," he declared. "That should give us a reasonable chance."

Bath will be out to reverse the result of last season when a try in injury time from Fran Clough gave Wasps victory. It is the only time the only time the west country side have been beaten on their own ground in a Courage League match since the league competition started.



● Roger Uttley.

It is not known yet whether England Grand Slam heroes Jeremy Guscott and Jon Webb will be included in the Bath line up, but such is the strength in depth at the Recreation Ground, a powerful team is sure to turn out.

Wasp have yet to finalise their side. Full back Alan Buzza is still out injured but elsewhere in the back division the competition for places is fierce with Damian Hopley back to full fitness along with Fran Clough, Graham Childs, Chris Oti and Steve Pilgrim. Also in the reckoning is winger Dave Kennell who has come on in leaps and bounds since joining from Moseley last summer.

Jeff Probyn is rested in the pack, his place being taken by Ian Durston who played in the victory at Bath last season.

Before the big game, Wasps Colts play Leicester, kick off 2pm. On Sunday the Colts meet Saracens in the Middlesex Cup Final at Sudbury, kick off 11am.

Borough's penalty kings do it again

Harrow Borough 2 Carshalton Ath 2 (Borough win 3-1 on pens) FOR the third time this season, Borough won a penalty shoot out to decide a cup tie, and Tuesday night's success earned them a Locitex Cup semi-final place at home to Woking, writes Tony Booth.

A tie that was more than full blooded at times saw the lead change hands before its dramatic finale. But all credit to Borough for overcoming a side 15 places above them in the League, although sympathy must go to Carshalton keeper Cleaveley who performed

outstandingly. On the other hand his colleagues were less than sporting in defeat. Mark Pye was carried off at half time with a suspected broken leg and Peter Byrne was punched to the ground by Bowyer - whose challenge injured Pye - and that offence saw him belatedly sent off after 67 minutes.

Borough nearly took an early lead through Ripley's chip but had seen Bolton go close twice before Beste turned to shoot the Robins ahead on 27 minutes.

In reply Engwell and Gipp were just off the mark before Borough's 45th

minute equaliser. Engwell's cross rebounded off the bar and O'Shea's driven response was knocked on by Ripley for Steve Conroy to shoot across Cleaveley into the net.

Within three minutes of the restart Gipp and Ripley again set up Conroy and at the second attempt, Borough's recently returned striker shot home again.

Gipp was foiled twice soon after and with the visitors now down to 10 men, Borough looked favourites. Cleaveley denied Gipp and Conroy before Walkes struck home an 87th minute shot from a Wilgoss cross to force

extra time. In extra time, Cooper, Ripley, Gipp and Conroy were all decided by the visitors keeper - and it was shoot out time again.

Ironically it was Borough's Steve Crompton who now came to the fore. He pushed away three of four Carshalton penalties and although Conroy hit the bar with one of Borough's efforts, well struck shots by Gipp, Ripley and Cooper saw the home side through to the semi-finals.

Harrow Borough: Crompton, O'Shea, Engwell (Pen), May, Goo, Byrne, Pye (Shut), Barnard, Ripley, Conroy, Cooper.

Stanmore line up a South African



● Graham Pouncefort - last season as captain.

By John Comfort

STANMORE Cricket Club are in the market for another overseas player - and this year it looks set to be a South African. The last bastion for home bred players, Stanmore had steadfastly declined to join the overseas stars bandwagon of other clubs until they took on Kiwi pace bowler Jon Millmow last season.

But while club captain Graham Pouncefort admits the move was not a total success, the prospects of another overseas star being with the club this year are rated highly. "We have not rejected the idea

of the club. I've no intention of giving up my cricket." There is no indication yet who is likely to succeed him. That will doubtless be the cause of much speculation through the summer.

The club held its annual dinner at the Lord's Tavern on Friday at which John Bromley, former head of LWT Sport, was the chief guest, along with Bill Hagon of Barnard Marcus, whose sponsorship of the County League has just ended. New sponsors are Southdown plc.

The Tankard of the Year award for Stanmore's clubman of the season was won by Sam Ridgewell.

Birthday treat for Graeme

HATCH End soccer star Graeme Power celebrated his 15th birthday on Saturday by getting into the action for England Schoolboys in their 0-0 draw with Holland at Wembley Stadium on Saturday.

Graeme, of Evelyns Drive, Hatch End, came on as a substitute for the last five minutes of the match.

A pupil of Newer Hill School, Pinner, Graeme started his footballing career at the age of 8 with Parkfield Youth FC. Many of his Parkfield clubmates were at Wembley to see him make his international debut.

England Open Championship ticket winners

WINNERS of pairs of tickets for the Yonex All England Open Badminton Championship Finals Day at Wembley on Saturday in our recent competition were: Marian Lema, Bodon Road, Harrow; Mrs O. Perren, Harley Close, Wembley; Mrs Chetna Rai-choora, Regal Way, Kenton. Runners up, who win pairs of tickets for semi-finals day were: M. Oliver, Woodcroft Ave, Stanmore; B. Purdy, Roxeth Green Ave, South Harrow; S. Power, Floriston Court, Northolt.

Edgware go for Cup repeat

EDGWARE get the chance to repeat last season's Middlesex Charity Cup success over Yeading when they take on Gordon Bardett's promotion chasing Division One side in the quarter finals of this season's competition tonight (Thursday).

Leslie Thompson, who was injured against Petersfield, is a non-starter but Steve Newing, who was carried off with a locked cartilage injury, should be fit to play, along with Gursel Gulfer, who has a groin strain. Laurence Murphy also

looks set to start the game, but the return of striker Colin Chance after a month out is unlikely.

Pat Ryan returns after suspension for Harrow Borough's vital league game at Basingstoke while Craig Johnson, who has returned to Earlsmead from St Albans could be in line for a place.

Mark Pye's leg injury sustained against Carshalton looks to be severe bruising rather than a break but he is doubtful while Micky Engwell is also struggling with an injury.

The Borough coach leaves at 12.45pm. All support will be welcome.

A five match suspension for his sending off against Maidenhead and an accumulation of bookings means Paul Shields will sit out Wembley's home match with Walton on Saturday.

He is joined on the sidelines for Tuesday's visit to Whytele-

leaf by Charlie Flaherty who has a one match ban.

Wealdstone boss Brian Hall has bolstered his squad with the loan signings of Tony Lynch and Gavin McPherson from Barnet for the remainder of the season.

He has also signed David Venables from Crawley who makes a quick return on Saturday as Stones are away to the Sussex club.

Jason Dale is back after suspension for Kingsbury Town's home game with Feltham. Keith Williams, who missed the defeat at Epsom is also available for selection.

Rayners Lane's game against Bicester is important as both teams need points to get clear of the relegation zone.

Lane expect to have Ashley Cumberbatch fit after an ankle injury, while Paul Coffey and Wayne Coakley are both available after missing the defeat against Pegasus.

Machine mangled by the Monarchs

WORLD League of American Football Champions, London Monarchs, completed the third week of their Orlando, Florida, based training camp with a 20-3 win over the Montreal Machine.

7th round draft pick, running back Charlie Young, scored two touchdowns on pass receptions from second choice quarterback Fred McNair.

Monarchs will play a pre-season game against Birmingham Fire on Sunday before opening their World League season at home to the New York Knights at Wembley on Sunday March 22. Tickets are now on sale at the Wembley box office, 900-1234.

Redskins at Wembley

SUPERBOWL Champions the Washington Redskins will meet the San Francisco 49ers in the American Bowl at Wembley Stadium on August 16.

Sports quiz

HARROW Borough FC are holding a sports quiz in their Earlsmead clubhouse on Wednesday March 18, starting at 8pm. Teams of four are welcome to come along and take part.

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Soccer fixtures

Thursday March 12 Middle: Charity Cup: Edgware Town v Yeading (White Lion ground, 7.30pm).

Saturday March 14 Premier League Premier Division: Crawley v Wealdstone. Division One: Woking v Woking (Vale Farm, Spm). Division Two: Eastbourne v Edgware Town; Kingsbury Town v Feltham & Hounslow (Silver Jubilee Park, Spm). National League: Rayners Lane v Boreham Town (Lexus Ave, Spm). Suburban League: Harrow Borough Res. v Hampton (Earlsmead, Spm).

Monday March 16 Friendly: Wealdstone v Watford Sunday League (Cophth, 7.30pm).

Tuesday March 17 Division League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Sutton Utd (Earlsmead, 7.30pm). Division One: Whytelesea v Wembley.

Wednesday March 18 Premier League Premier Division: Wealdstone v VS Rugby (Vicarage Road, 7.45pm). Division League Division Three: Edgware Town v Hornham (White Lion ground, 7.30pm).

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