

# SPORT

As Wasps fight ban. . .

## Andrew plays in Stadium contest

**WASPS supporters, buoyant at the news that fly half Rob Andrew has returned to the club from France, will get an early chance to see him in action at Wembley Stadium on Saturday.**

Andrew is in the England squad which will play Canada in the first ever rugby union international to be played at the Stadium.

The match, which kicks off at 3pm, is being staged at Wembley because of redevelopment work at Twickenham, and it presents a great opportunity for lovers of the game to purchase tickets for a top international which are normally only issued by the RFU through affiliated associations and clubs.

Tickets are now available at the Wembley Box Office, telephone 081-900-1234. Prices are £20, £15, £10, with seats in the Olympic Gallery at £35.

Meanwhile Wasps are considering an appeal to the Rugby Union over its decision to impose a qualification ban on Andrew.

England's most capped fly-half Andrew, 29, confirmed his decision to return to his former club last week, less than a year after leaving to play in Toulouse.

But Rugby Union rules mean that any player exchanging clubs must first observe a 120-day qualifying period.

Wasps claim the player should not be affected by the rule because Andrew is on the list of the club's registered league players which was submitted in August.

He has returned to his old club because his employers - club sponsors Debenham, Tewson and Chinnocks - now require his services back in England.

A club spokesman said: "There is a general feeling in the club that we should appeal

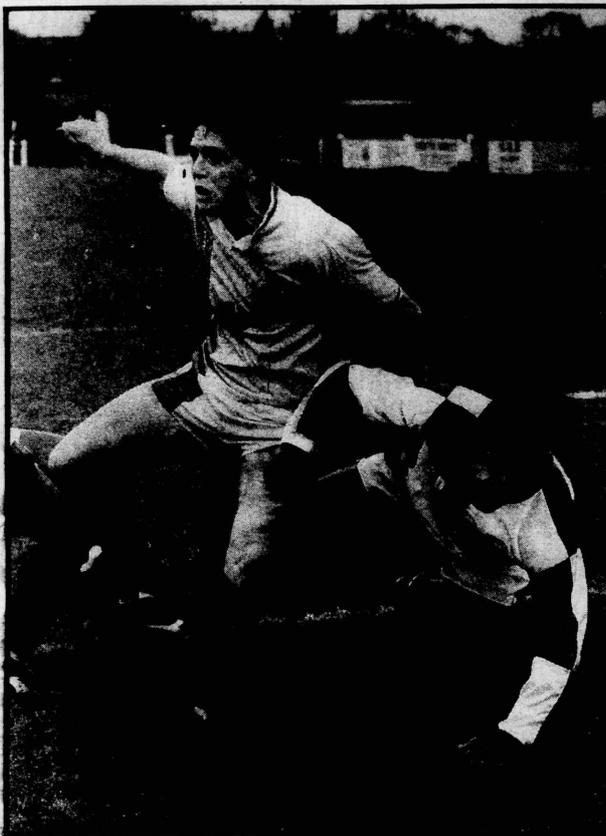
and it is under consideration. We are hopeful things will be sorted out and he will be eligible for league and cup matches very soon."

Andrew's campaign was backed by England manager Geoff Cook who stated publicly that he did not agree with the application of the 120 day rule in this case.

Meanwhile Wasps have 13 players on international and representative duty at the weekend.

Dean Ryan is with Andrew in the England team to face Canada at Wembley and Geoff Probyn, Kevin Dunn and Steve Bates are in the squad. The other eight players will play in a Courage League representative team against Ulster.

Wasps home match against Liverpool St Helen's on Saturday has been cancelled. Their next game will be against Gloucester at home on Saturday October 24.



Total commitment writ large as Wembley and Hendon players contest the ball

## Wembley win through to fourth round

Wembley 1 Hendon 0

WEMBLEY booked a place in the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup for only the fifth time in their history with a 1-0 victory over Hendon, writes Richard Markiewicz.

Bobby Hutchinson was the Lion's hero with a 84th minute winner which sank the Diadora League premier division side at Vale Farm on Saturday.

Hutchinson's strike came on his 200th appearance for the club and kept up his goal-around record.

The tie did not turn out to be the anticipated classic as tension got the better of both sides.

Hendon living up to their billing as favourites dominated early on hitting long, first time passes to exploit space behind the Lion's defence.

Wembley defended defiantly and had just one anxious moment when Henry Clark, recovered from injury, intercepted a Mark Xavier cross which was heading for the unmarked Barry Blackman.

The Lions moved their defence deeper to counter the Hendon long-ball game and this problem solved, they began displaying attacking skills of their own.

In a flurry of excitement midway through the first half, Steve Lawrence made the first of several penetrating runs down the right and delivered the ball to Hutchinson who saw his near post shot blocked by Hendon keeper Dave Root.

Hendon failed to clear the ensuing corner and survived a couple of fortunate moments when two passes flew across the face of the goal.

Wembley continued to press and a superbly struck 30-yard drive from Adrian Smith produced an acrobatic save from Root.

The second half followed a similar pattern with Hendon lively in the early stages and Blackman hooked the ball

wide when well-placed.

Wembley responded and Root had to pluck an testing Adrian Smith cross from the head of Hutchinson.

Wembley's persistence was rewarded with the decisive goal six minutes from time.

Lawrence forced his way through the Hendon defence and Root pushed away his low cross.

From the corner that followed Hutchinson rose at the near post to head over a crowded goal area into the back of the net.

Wembley: Fanner, Flaherty, Clark, O'Brien, Shields, Hesellan, Adrian Smith, Andy Smith, Lawrence, Witter (Page 74) Hutchinson. Sub Charles.

## Stones: some light in the tunnel

WEALDSTONE'S directors are cautiously optimistic over the club's future following last week's crisis meeting.

The Save the Stones meeting organised by the supporters club last Thursday was set up in response to the financial crisis which threatens the future of the club.

More than 60 supporters and local residents attended the meeting at Wealdstone Social Club.

Administrators Buckler Philips warned before the meeting that unless membership could be increased to bring in a monthly income of £6,000 they will be forced to shut down the club.

Before last week's meeting membership stood at just 500 people who each contributed £1 to a weekly lottery scheme.

If the scheme is to provide the necessary £6,000 the club needs 2,000 paying members who contribute a fixed monthly donation towards the scheme.

Following the meeting and the desperate efforts of the club officials and supporters, membership now stands at 1,100.

Several supporters have pledged to personally buy up blocks of 10 memberships to push the figure closer to 2,000.

Newly-appointed director and former secretary of the club's supporters' club Layne Patterson said: "It was great to see the support for the club at the meeting and I am certainly more optimistic than I was two weeks ago when things looked very bleak."

"There is still a lot of work to be done but there is some light at the end of the tunnel."

He added: "The club is a part of the community and that is why we held the meeting at Wealdstone Social Club rather than on our own premises."

## Wasps tighten grip

Rugby 3 Wasps 34

THERE are no easy games in the Courage League first division these days even against sides like Rugby who went into this side without a win.

But once the Wasps forwards had got the upper hand at Webb Ellis Road on Saturday the issue was never in

With Bath's defeat at Northampton and Orrell's slip-up against London Irish, Wasps

have a two point lead at the top of the table and are the only unbeaten side in the division.

Rugby's forward pack made things difficult for Wasps early on and even shoved them off the ball at a couple of set-pieces.

Maplecroft gave the home side the lead with a penalty but Buzzza soon cancelled that.

Just before half-time there was a portent of things to come. Charles broke through the midfield and after an exchange of passes between Maddock, Pilgrim and Buzzza flanker Buster White was well up in support to finish the move.

Buzzza converted to give Wasps a half-time lead 10-3.

In the second-half, Wasps' backs opened up to great effect. Full-back Buzzza came into the line and after breaking through a couple of tackles scored the first of his two tries.

Chris Oti then scored in the corner, a move started by Pilgrim who picked up a missed touch clearance.

Skipper Dean Ryan got in on the act with a try scored directly from a tap kick and Buzzza rounded things off with a magnificent try just before the end, beautifully wrong-footing the pedestrian Rugby defence.

Wasps: Buzzza, Pilgrim, Maddock, Childs, Oti, Thompson, Bates, Holmes, Dunn, Probyn, Ryan, Kinsey, White, Greenwood, Emeruwa.

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### Soccer fixtures

**Saturday October 17**  
Diadora League Premier Division: Windsor v Harrow Borough.

Diadora League Division Two: Ware v Edgware Town.

Diadora League Division Three: Hornchurch v Kingsbury Town.

Beazer Homes League Southern Division: Wealdstone v Erith & Bel (Vicars Road, 3pm).

**Tuesday October 20**  
Diadora League Division One: Wembley v Chalfont St Peter (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).

Diadora League Division Three: Flackwell Heath v Kingsbury Town.

**Wednesday October 21**  
Barclays Cup first round second leg: Buckingham v Wealdstone.

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