SPORT

Power sent off as Town go out in extra time

Kingsbury Town 0 Barton Rovers 1

KINGSBURY had James Power sent off and Niall O'Rourke booked in an unsavoury end to their Isthmian Associate Members Trophy run.

An extra time goal from Graham Golds, who nodded through a crowd of players when Town failed to clear a corner, had settled the issue as the game went into its dying seconds.

Then O'Rourke pushed a Barton player as he looked to get the ball from his time-wasting opponent but before the referee could administer a booking, Power got involved and said too much for his own good and was sent off.

As for the game itself, Kingsbury played some superb football and had Barton defending for long spells, but their lack of finish again proved costly.

In the first half O'Rourke had a header cleared off the line and after the break Barton keeper Leo Bonier denied Walsh, Holmes and Ivers with good saves.

Kingsbury: Small, Power, Simpson, Hide, Bhatia, Theodorou, Smythe, O'Rourke, Holmes, Ivers, Walsh (Lawer) (Coleman).

Edgware throw it away

Malden Vale 2
Edgware Town 1

EDGWARE threw away three points at Malden Vale on Monday night by conceding two sloppy goals.

They scored first in the 15th minute when Steve Newing received a good ball on the left and went past the centre half before firing a right foot shot inside the near post from 15 yards.

But ten minutes later, out of the blue, Malden Vale were presented with an equaliser. A long ball down the middle was left by John Mangan for keeper Sean Hourihan who failed to come for it and home striker Ferdinand nipped in to slot it into the net.

The second half was evenly contested but then Edgware gave away another goal sillier than the first when a ball in from the right had Brennan, Finnerty and Hourihan dithering over who should clear. Finnerty missed with a late effort to avert the danger but a Vale forward pounced to put his side in front.

Edgware were hit by the loss of the injured Steve Newing on the hour but substitute John Coleman inspired the visitors and they should have levelled after a great run by Mark Dyson. However, Derren Morris failed to get a vital touch to Dyson's telling cross in front of an inviting goal.

Edgware: Houlihan, Brennan, Finnerty, Perry, Mangan, Flynn, Dyson, Harvey, Murphy, S. Newing (Coleman), Morris. Other sub: J. Newing.

Final date

WASPS colts will defend the trophy they won last year when they play London Irish in the Middlesex Cup Final at Sudbury on Saturday, kick off 1.30pm.

Cup clash

THE Middlesex Charity Cup clash between Chelsea and Viking Sports is to take place at Harrow Borough's Earlsmead ground on Wednesday March 31.

There's no holding Borough

Harrow Borough 1 Enfield 0

BOROUGH'S remarkable rise up the Diadora League table continued on Tuesday night when they followed Saturday's win over second placed St Albans by deservedly beating third in the table Enfield, writes Tony Booth.

The recalled Mark Pye and Ian Stewart saw early shots go close before Harrow netted the decider in the 10th minute.

Warren May's free kick cut through the Enfield defence and Steve Conroy lost his marker to run clear and fire a shot inside the near post.

Unbeaten in the league for three and a half months, Borough are a match for anyone in the division now, and they nearly added to their lead when Stewart shot into the side netting, Bensted headed over and Ryan fired just wide.

Needing a win to keep their title hopes alive, Enfield threatened with shots from Collins and Hobson and a header from Britnell, but Borough's defence was as firm as ever.

Soon after the interval Andy Prutton replaced Pye and immediately had a shot saved. Engwell had a long range chip shot drift just over before the visitors took a greater hold on proceedings.

Pape frustrated his former colleagues by parrying a Collins shot, then leaping to turn away an effort by Hull.

Hobson blazed two shots off target but then Borough regained the initiative.

Conroy hooked over, Ripley was forced wide after rounding the keeper and Shaw had a shot parried away before the final whistle.

Harrow Borough: Pape, May, Engwell, Jackman, Bensted, Shaw, Pye (Prutton), Ryan, Stewart (Ripley), Conroy, Ridout.

Suspension keeps Prutton out of action

ANDY Prutton is serving a one match ban and misses Harrow Borough's home match with Windsor on Saturday.

An arm injury could keep Keith Cooper out but Paul Ripley is making steady progress from injury and should be available for selection.

Wealdstone boss Dennis Byatt was expected to boost his squad with a new signing this week in time for Saturday's home match with Poole. Neil Cordice, Kenny Gayle and Johnson Hippolyte are all carrying injuries but are likely to play.

Andy O'Brien returns to the Wembley side for their home match with Chalfont St Peter on Saturday after serving a one match suspension. Kenny Page and Peter Shodeinde both have hamstring problems, while Bobby Hutchinson took a knock in midweek, but all should be fit. Lee Endersby and new signing from Hendon, Paul Shirt, who were both ineligible for the cup game at Yeading, are added to the squad.

Edgware's injury problems continue with Steve Newing and Vince Deritis both doubtful for Saturday's home game with Ware and Scott McGleish definitely out.

On the plus side Joe Sheridan might be back after a toe injury and Les Thompson returns after suspension, and both John Coleman and Martyn Kidd could be in the reckoning for places.

Kingsbury hope to have Tony Richards and Ian Brown-Peterside, who missed the Barton Cup game, back for Saturday's league visit of Hornchurch. Injured Steve Surridge and Ray Mangan could also be fit to play.

Rayners Lane face title chasing Woollen Sports in the return of the fixture which Lane lost 4-2 at home after being ahead until the last 10 minutes. Lane hope to have top scorer Danny Mills back from holiday but manager Don Durkin will probably make further changes.

Two year ground share deal is being negotiated

Stones head for Yeading

By John Comfort

WEALDSTONE FC are almost certain to be ground sharing with Diadora League Premier Division club Yeading next season.

With club trustee Les Hobbs finally relenting and signing the documents to ratify the return of their half share of Vicarage Road back to Watford, the important task of finding a home for next season has now begun in earnest.

Last night (Wednesday) the board of directors were expected to meet Yeading chairman Phil Spurden and secretary Peter Bickers to finalise a deal which will give Stones the use of Yeading's Warren ground in Beaconsfield Road, Hayes, next season with the option of another year. The deal will be for no more than two years.

Details of the cost of the ground share agreement are not being revealed but Stones will be expected to pay up in three installments, the first to be paid before March 31 and two more before the new season starts in August.

Yeading, who will have to drop their reserve side to accomodate Wealdstone, say that an agreement is about 95 per cent certain. Said Mr Bickers: "There are still lots of points to be sorted out but if they come up with the goods, the deal will go through."

However, Wealdstone chairman David Pollock declined to confirm that any deal with Yeading was imminent. "We have two or three options open to us," he said. "We hope to soon be in a position to anounce where and when we are going. And we always have the fall back of another year at Vicarage Road if we want it."

The way was opened for Stones to procede with moves to find a new home when Les Hobbs signed the legal documents to confirm the club's departure from Watford.

"I had gone as far as I could," he said. "It got to a point where it would have gone to court and a master in chambers would have signed it for me and there would have been a lot of expense.

"I had a long talk with the administrators and they gave me some confidence for thinking that there is a chance of the club surviving, although there are lots of ifs, so I signed under duress."

The £500,000 takeover bid by Countrywide Markets had been turned down by the administrators said Mr Hobbs, who engineered the move but he remains perplexed as to why.

"We had a ground sorted out, we could have paid off the club's expenses and we could have assured their future. If the board can afford to turn that down, I'd like to know exactly what they've got that's better."

Semi goes to a second replay after dour battle

Yeading 0 Wembley 0

THE prize of a place in the Middlesex Senior Cup Final was insufficient to inspire either Wembley or Yeading beyond the realms of mediocrity in this semi-final replay on Tuesday night, writes John Comfort.

Only another sound defensive performance from the Lions skipper Paul Shields brightened an otherwise decidedly dour clash that was still deadlocked after extra time.

Wembley did make an encouraging start and in the first minute home defender Alan Ardren turned a Charlie Flaherty free kick onto his own crossbar under pressure from Kenny Page.

Later Adrian Smith, with a back header from a Ray Bennett throw, and Henry Clark, with a snap shot, were narrowly off target and just before the break Phil Dicker's tackle denied Mark Witter after Tony Headlam had put him through.

The second half was little short of dire with few chances.

For Yeading, Cordery shot wide of an open goal after Jeff Fanner had blocked a close effort from Charles, while Page blundered away a similar chance for Wembley after being set up by Andy Smith.

The stalemate continued throughout extra time although Mark Hopson did clip the outside of the Wembley woodwork with a low shot.

Fanner almost threw the game away when he caught a high ball and then fumbled it back towards goal. But he saved himself from acute embarrassment by hastily recovering the ball before it crossed the line.

Wembley: Fanner, Flaherty, Clark, Morse, Shields, Headlam, Adrian Smith, Bennett (Shodeinde), Page (Hutchinson), Andy Smith, Witter. Other sub: Hughes.

Sports shorts

Fives chance

THE successful Elms Five-a-Side Soccer League is now entering its last few weeks and preparations are now underway for a new competition which will begin on April 20. There are two or three spare places for the new season and any teams interested in entering should contact the Elms on 954-8211 or 954-3852.

Breath of life

AS part of the national Breath of Life Week, St John Ambulancemen will be demonstrating how to give the kiss of life in the Harrow Borough FC boardroom on Wednesday March 24, from 8pm. Anyone interested is welcome to come along.

Borough date

HARROW Borough FC are to stage the Football Combination match between Queens Park Rangers and Crystal Palace at their Earlsmead ground on Thursday March 25.

Fixtures

Saturday March 20

Diadora League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Windsor & Eton (Earlsmead, 3pm).

Diadora League Division One: Wembley v Chalfont St Peter (Vale Farm, 3pm).

Diadora League Division Two: Edgware Town v Ware (White Lion ground, 3pm).

Diadora League Division Three: Kingsbury Town v Hornchurch (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm).

Beazer Homes League Southern Division: Wealdstone v Poole Town (Vicarage Road, 3pm).

Hellenic League: Woollen Sports v Rayners Lane.

Tuesday March 23

Middx Senior Cup semi-final second replay: Wembley v Yeading (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).

Isthmian Associate Members Trophy: Northwood v Edgware Town.

Diadora League Division Three: Hertford v Kingsbury Town.

Latest league tables

DIADORA LEAGUE
Premier Division

	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Chesham Utd	32	24	6	2	65	29	78
St Albans City	33	22	6	5	64	42	72
Enfield	30	20	5	5	76	41	65
Carshalton Ath	34	18	8	8	75	41	62
Hayes	31	14	9	8	58	44	51
Leighton Town	31	14	6	11	47	42	48
Aylesbury Utd	33	15	3	15	59	66	48
Sutton Utd	27	12	9	6	46	32	45
Harrow Boro	28	11	12	10	46	38	45
Hendon	32	10	14	8	43	42	44
Dulwich Hamlet	32	11	10	11	44	46	43
Grays Ath	32	11	8	13	42	46	41
Marlow	32	11	6	14	58	53	39
Yeading	32	9	10	13	50	51	37
Basingstoke T	32	9	8	15	30	35	37
Bromley	33	10	7	16	43	61	37
Staines T	34	8	10	16	50	63	34
Wealdstone T	32	10	3	20	35	69	33
Kingstonian	31	8	8	15	49	51	32
Wokingham T	31	8	8	15	43	61	32
Windsor & E	32	7	4	21	29	66	25
Bognor Regis	31	2	7	22	32	80	13

Division One

	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Hitchin	32	20	7	5	55	25	63
Dorking	28	16	7	5	51	30	55
Worthing	28	15	6	7	56	29	51
Bishops Stort	33	15	9	9	51	33	54
Billericay	31	15	5	11	56	43	50
Tooting & Mitch	32	13	10	9	54	38	49
Purfleet	31	13	10	8	51	36	49
Walton & Hersh	33	13	10	11	51	44	46
Chesham Wood	33	11	12	10	41	38	45
Abingdon Town	28	11	9	8	41	32	42
Witney	30	9	12	7	38	23	39
Leyton	33	9	11	10	49	39	38
Wokingham	30	9	8	13	33	39	35
Maidenhead	32	8	13	11	35	43	35
Uxbridge	32	8	11	13	41	53	35
Croydon	32	8	7	16	43	64	34
Chalfont St P	33	6	15	12	41	57	33
Lewes	31	8	9	14	38	50	33
Hastings Sp	29	8	6	15	35	51	30
Ruislip	32	6	8	18	35	71	26
Arlesey	29	6	6	16	32	62	24

Division Two

	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Ruislip Manor	32	19	3	10	65	27	67
Hemel Hempst	31	17	10	4	71	43	61
Chertsey Town	33	18	5	10	69	41	59
Camberley	31	17	6	8	58	34	57
Mat Pole	32	17	5	9	65	39	56
Sutton Walton	33	16	7	10	51	35	55
Banstead Town	33	14	8	11	71	67	50
Sidlesham	32	14	6	10	59	52	50
Malden Vale	30	13	8	9	52	39	47
Hampton	32	13	8	11	49	44	47
Newbury Town	33	11	14	8	46	43	47
Egham Town	32	13	8	11	51	55	47
Lacklishead	31	9	11	11	50	46	38
Banstead Ath	33	9	8	16	42	56	35
Witham	32	7	13	12	41	49	34
Tilbury	33	9	7	17	44	70	34
Berkh Rovers	30	8	9	11	24	33	33
Ware	32	7	10	15	49	56	31
Frimley Green	32	7	9	16	42	61	30
Hungerford	32	8	6	18	28	70	30
Hartfield Utd	32	7	6	19	31	53	27
Southall	31	1	4	26	22	88	7

Division Three

	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Aldershot Town	31	22	7	2	70	30	73
Leighton Town	31	17	7	7	66	37	58
Thame Utd	29	16	4	9	45	28	57
Collier Row	28	16	9	3	51	24	57
Northwood	31	15	9	7	68	57	54
Cove	30	15	7	8	53	33	51
East Thurrock	30	13	6	11	51	47	45
Royston Town	30	12	7	11	46	36	43
Flackwell Hth	31	12	7	12	41	40	43
Hertford Town	29	11	8	10	51	51	41
Kingsbury Town	30	11	7	12	49	38	40
Hornchurch	32	10	9	13	43	44	39
Tring Town	29	10	8	11	48	50	38
Harlow	30	10	6	14	53	50	36
Camberley T	31	7	6	18	34	58	27
Epsom & Ewell	27	6	7	14	33	46	25
Binfield Town	30	5	9	16	37	61	24
Petersfield Utd	31	4	9	18	29	74	24
Clapton	30	6	5	19	36	64	23
Feltham & Hounsl	29	5	3	21	34	82	18

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE
Southern Division

	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Sittingbourne	32	21	9	3	81	33	72
Gravesend	33	21	3	11	62	54	66
Salisbury	31	19	5	7	61	40	62
Witney	30	17	7	6	57	29	58
Havant	31	16	4	11	66	40	58
Baldock	30	16	3	12	62	52	57
Sidlesham Town	31	15	8	8	67	40	53
Ashford Town	30	15	8	8	60	50	53
Whitstable	30	16	4	10	65	56	52
Erith & Bel	30	16	3	11	57	53	51
Andover	30	15	5	10	56	50	50
Buckingham	30	13	6	11	59	44	45
Poole Town	32	13	6	13	46	46	45
Basingstoke	32	12	5	15	47	49	41
Fareham T	30	10	6	17	57	56	36
Newport IOW	32	9	10	13	34	40	34
Canterbury	30	9	7	14	40	50	34
Banbury	32	9	6	17	39	65	33
Tiverton Ath	31	8	6	17	35	51	30
Andover	28	6	7	23	35	62	25
Dunstable	30	4	8	21	30	77	20
Bury Town	32	4	5	23	31	83	17

Wasps appeal over Clough

AFTER a close study of the television film, Wasps officials have decided to appeal against the sending off of centre Fran Clough in Saturday's top of the table match against Bath, writes Alan Bedenham.

Club secretary Ivor Montlake has set the wheels in motion by writing to the Middlesex Rugby Union disciplinary committee and it is hoped that the matter will be dealt with at the committee's meeting on Monday.

The dismissal carries an automatic 30 days suspension, ruling Clough out of vital League matches against Northampton on March 27 and Orrell on April 3 and the Pilkington Cup semi-final clash with Harlequins on April 10.

If Clough's appeal is successful, the ban would be lifted and he would become available immediately.

If the evidence of the cameras is anything to go by, Clough has a very strong case. He was sent off for allegedly throwing a punch at Bath's Jeremy Guscott. BBC Rugby Special cameras clearly showed that he did not.

There is also extreme provocation to be taken into account as the film clearly shows he was stamped on by Guscott and also kicked by another Bath player.

Observer Sport opinion

THE controversial sending off of Wasps centre Fran Clough in Saturday's vital League match at Bath was nothing short of disgraceful.

On the evidence of his dismissal and earlier incidents in the game, rugby's laws, and their interpretation by referees of the calibre of Saturday's official, David Matthews, would seem to require a thorough review.

Where is the sense, or justice, in laws which permit a referee to merely wag his finger at players after blows are exchanged in several violent flare ups, and then decree that a sending off is required for the victim of a stamping because of his angry reaction, when no punches are thrown.

Had it been a soccer match, those who threw punches would have walked. The same should apply in rugby - on every occasion and not only when a weak referee feels it is appropriate to implement punishment.

In the meantime justice for Clough should now be seen to be done. His appeal should be upheld and his ban immediately lifted.

Pat on title trail

HARROW Weald bantamweight Patrick Mullings bids to move a step closer to his second successive ABA title tonight (Thursday).

Having won through his bouts in the North West Division and the London semi-finals he is fighting Marlon Jones of the Repton Club in the London Final at York Hall.

The winner goes through to the ABA finals.

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