SPORT

Match winner Davies keeps place at Orrell

ALAN Buzza is still injured and that means Huw Davies will retain the full back spot for Wasps' visit to Orrell in the Courage League on Saturday, writes Alan Bodenham.

His presence at Edgehall Road will be as good as a red rag to a bull for the Lancastrians who will never forget what happened when the sides met last year. Then it was Orrell who were title chasing and with less than a minute left they held a narrow lead. But a 35 yard drop goal from Davies won the match and virtually ended Orrell's title chances.

A reversal of that result would likewise end Wasps' challenge, but confidence at Sudbury is at an all time high.

"We put up the performance of the season to beat Northampton on Saturday," said coach Rob Smith, "and I am eager to set up the same circumstances that prevailed when Wasps won the championship in 1990."

On that occasion Wasps won their last game of the season while other teams lost.

Bath must visit Southgate on the League's final day to play Saracens, a ground where they have struggled in the past, so optimism will be high, if Wasps can clear the Orrell hurdle on Saturday.

Saturday's XV is unchanged from that which faced Northampton.

One man determined to do well will be Steve Bates. The scrum half has been understudy to Orrell's Dewi Morris and a good performance might get him the full England shirt next season.

Bates, along with seven other Wasps, Alan Buzza, Chris Oti, Damien Hopley, Graham Dawe, Kevin Dunn, Matt Greenwood and skipper Dean Ryan were all named this week in the England party to tour Canada this summer.

[illegible]

Pollock quits over move

By John Comfort

WEALDSTONE FC chairman David Pollock has resigned over the club's deal to ground share at Yeading.

Mr Pollock made it known that his preference was for a move to Wembley and he voted against the Yeading deal at a board meeting two weeks ago. The deal was subsequently signed with Yeading last Wednesday by club vice-chairman Paul Rumens and Mr Pollock's decision to quit both as chairman and a director followed.

In a letter to his fellow directors, Mr Pollock said: "As you know it is my belief that Wembley was a far better option than Yeading and that I am concerned as to the long term future of the club by going to Yeading. However, I more than accept that I was in a minority and that you as fellow directors individually searched long and hard before deciding what to vote for. Therefore my reservations may well be unfounded. I am also fully aware that I as an individual I am not going to be right ten out of ten times and this may well be the case where the majority of the board have got it right and I have got it wrong. I am sure you will appreciate that I don't wish to be a hypocrite and rather than choose to ignore the vote of the board and do as chairman what I want to do, I have chosen to do what I believe is the right thing, and that is to resign.

"It is no secret that I have never had any wish to be chairman on a permanent basis and that I probably would have stepped down sometime over the next three, six months or a year in any event. As sad as I am about the decision I have taken, I am comforted by the fact that as a board of directors I know you have the interest of the club one hundred per cent at heart and I am sure you will be using your very best endeavours over the coming months."

Vice-chairman Paul Rumens has now taken over as chairman and he thanked Mr Pollock for "all his hard work under extremely difficult circumstances."

He added: "He has helped the club in respect of the quagmire of difficulties it is going through in respect of our litigation and also with the final deal struck with Watford and Jack Petchey to release us from our further obligations to Watford FC. "

On the decision to choose Yeading rather than Wembley, Mr Rumens said: "The deal with Yeading is financially better and the facilities there are far better for us. We want to create the stability and unity that was lost by going to Watford and we feel we can do it there.

"We are not condemning the club to an eternal wilderness, the supporters want us back in a non-league situation.

"One problem Wealdstone has had is the past is that it has never been run as a business. Until it is we can never secure our future so that was a prime consideration in choosing to go to Yeading."

Consortium pull out of takeover bid

THE Countrywide Markets consortium has finally pulled the plug of their £500,000 takeover bid for Wealdstone, and a planned move into Vale Farm with Wembley, claiming 'impossible conditions' laid down by club chairman David Pollock were the cause.

Club trustee Les Hobbs, who negotiated on behalf of the consortium, said that conditions included were that they should pay five years rent (over £100,000) in advance for Wembley to be lodged with a solicitor, and a written undertaking that the money was not a loan to the club and therefore non-returnable.

Vale Farm also needed to be brought up to Beazer Homes League standards so the immediate outlay would have been over £200,000.

With Countrywide's managing director Morris Nixon in Hong Kong and Mr Pollock insisting that the deal should be signed and sealed by close of business on Monday in order to notify the Beazer Homes League by their April 1 deadline there was clearly insufficient time, particularly as a board meeting would have had to be called and an EGM would have meant a further 14 days delay.

Said Mr Hobbs: "It was an impossible situation which was designed to make sure we couldn't successfully take over the club.

"As most people know this affair was begun some nine months ago. Isn't it strange that everything has been left right to the last minute, leaving it too late for anything to be done.

"Two months ago an EGM should have been called so that members and shareholders could have voted and made their wishes known.

"I have not spoken to one person who wants to go to Yeading. I had grave doubts about Wealdstone going to Watford and unfortunately events have proved me right.

"I have even graver doubts about going to Yeading."

Lions tamed again in Essex

Purfleet 2 Wembley 1

A PROVERBIAL tale of two halves occured at Purfleet on Monday as Wembley were defeated by a second Essex side in three days, writes Richard Markiewicz

The Lions dominated the opening 45 minutes but were made to pay for failing to take their chances after taking the lead in the 22nd minute when keeper Mick Desborough fumbled a Henry Clark free kick over his own goalline.

Bobby Hutchinson should have extended Wembley's advantage but fired wildly over after a Paul Shirt shot rebounded nicely into his path, and then he failed to connect with a Kenny Page cross when well placed.

With the visitors failing to emphasize their superiority with more goals, Purfleet hit back towards the end of the half. Andy O'Brien lunged on the goalline to clear an effort from Alan Brett and from the ensuing corner, Jeff Fanner used his knees to prevent John Rees scoring with a downward header.

It was almost exclusively Purfleet after the interval and under severe pressure the Lions managed to hold out until a couple of refereeing decision went against them.

Gary Morse was harshly penalised for a foul on the edge of the area in the 70th minute. Wembley could only half clear the free kick that followed and the ball was pumped back into the danger zone for the onrushing Andy Weddell to hook home.

Five minutes later, moments after Weddell had struck a post with a low drive, Lee Endersby was adjudged to have handled the ball on the goalline. Paul Donovan made it 2-1 from the spot kick.

Purfleet, however, were well worth their lead and substitute Jason Spiteri came close to scoring a third with a curling shot which hit the crossbar.

But at the death Wembley almost snatched an equaliser when Shirt latched onto an O'Brien through pass only to see his shot bounce off a post to deny Lions a point.

Wembley: Fanner, Morse, Clark, O'Brien, Shirt, Headiam, Andy Smith (Obinkwo), Bates (Shodeinde), Page, Hutchinson, Endersby.

Borough waiting on St Hilaire

MARTIN St Hilaire will be undergoing treatment this week in the hope that he will be fit for Harrow Borough's home match with Yeading.

St Hilaire, who only returned last week after a lengthy absence, was taken off injured in the closing minutes of the 2-1 win at Dulwich. Mark Pye, who missed the game at Dulwich, and Micky Bingwell, who was suspended, are both added to what should be a full squad from which manager George Borg will select from.

Charlie Flaherty has been rested for two games but should be back in the Wembley squad for Saturday's match with Croydon. Adrian Smith hopes to have recovered from a virus, but Paul Shields is away on a business trip.

Wealdstone, who are without a game on Saturday, have signed Watford's third choice keeper Paul Wilkerson on Beazer Homes League forms as cover for Rob Tenkorang. Former striker Rodney Richards has also been signed.

With Steve Newing leaving the club to join promotion chasing Hemel Hempstead, Les Thompson is likely to replace him in the Edgware line up for Saturday's visit to Barton Rovers.

Edgware have lost another player in keeper Kevin Beckles who has signed for Northwood and made his debut in their 1-1 draw at Hornchurch.

Kingsbury Town visit bottom of the table Feltham and should have Steve Surridge fit to start the game. Tommy Theodorou is still struggling with a groin injury.

Rayners Lane have an interesting game against second in the table Milton United who narrowly beat Lane 2-1 away earlier in the season. Lane, full of confidence, expect to give them a hard match. Of Lane's injured players, only Roland Matthews is likely to be fit for selection.

Fixtures

Saturday April 3

Diadora League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Yeading (Earlsmead, 3pm).

Diadora League Division One: Wembley v Croydon (Vale Farm, 3pm).

Diadora League Division Two: Barton Rovers v Edgware Town.

Diadora League Division Three: Feltham & Hounslow v Kingsbury Town

Hellenic League: Rayners Lane v Milton Utd (Lucas Ave, 3pm).

Tuesday April 6

Diadora League Division One: Wembley v Abingdon (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).

Diadora League Division Three: Kingsbury Town v East Thurrock (Silver Jubilee Park, 7.30pm).

Wednesday April 7

Beazer Homes League Southern Division: Wealdstone v Witney Town (Vicarage Road, 7.45pm).

Diadora League Division Three: Edgware Town v Southall(White Lion ground, 7.30pm).

Latest league tables

DIADORA LEAGUE

Premier Division

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Chesham Utd	34	26	6	2	87	29	84
St Albans City	34	23	7	5	68	43	76
Carshalton Ath	36	20	8	8	65	44	68
Enfield	35	20	6	9	78	44	66
Sutton Utd	31	16	10	6	54	34	55
Aylesbury Utd	36	17	4	15	65	68	55
Stevenage Boro	35	15	7	13	51	47	52
Hayes	33	14	9	10	58	49	51
Grays Ath	32	14	8	11	49	54	50
Harrow Boro	36	12	13	11	46	56	49
Hendon	35	10	16	9	45	45	46
Marlow	36	12	8	15	65	59	44
Dulwich Hamlet	35	11	11	13	47	55	44
Kingstonian	35	11	8	16	51	54	41
Basingstoke T	34	9	14	11	35	38	41
Bromley	36	11	8	16	45	62	41
Yeading	35	9	10	16	54	58	37
Staines T	37	9	10	18	53	69	37
Wokingham T	34	8	10	16	46	68	34
Wealdstone T	35	10	4	21	36	71	34
Windsor & E	34	7	6	21	31	70	27
Bognor Regis	34	3	7	24	35	89	16

Division One

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Hitchin	34	21	6	7	60	25	69
Dorking	30	17	8	5	53	31	59
Molesey	30	16	10	4	59	28	58
Bishops Stort	36	16	9	10	53	35	57
Billericay	33	16	6	11	59	45	54
Tooting & Mitch	34	14	11	9	56	39	53
Purfleet	33	14	11	8	53	37	53
Abingdon Town	30	13	10	7	50	37	49
Boreham Wood	35	12	13	10	44	38	49
Walton & Hersh	35	12	11	12	54	49	47
Wembley	31	10	12	9	38	38	42
Maidenhead	34	9	14	11	54	45	39
Uxbridge	34	9	12	13	44	51	39
Croydon	34	10	6	18	47	68	36
Heybridge Swi	32	10	7	15	39	52	37
Leyton	31	8	12	11	40	44	36
Whyteleafe	33	9	8	16	53	64	35
Chalfont St P	35	6	16	13	41	59	34
Lewes	33	8	9	16	31	61	33
Barking	33	5	6	19	37	73	30
Aveley	33	6	5	22	34	76	23

Division Two

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Ruislip Manor	36	21	10	5	68	30	73
Worthing	32	20	6	6	77	45	66
Chertsey Town	36	20	5	11	76	42	65
Hemel Hemp	35	18	11	6	74	43	65
Met Police	34	19	5	10	74	42	62
Berkhamsted	36	18	8	10	59	53	62
Saffron Walden	36	16	7	12	62	51	55
Hampton	36	15	10	11	54	47	55
Newbury Town	36	13	15	8	49	44	54
Edgware Town	36	16	6	12	77	61	53
Malden Vale	34	14	9	11	59	48	51
Egham Town	34	13	8	13	51	60	47
Leatherhead	35	11	11	13	58	50	44
Banstead Ath	29	11	9	9	48	39	42
Witham	35	8	14	13	45	52	38
Hungerford	34	10	6	18	33	73	36
Ware	35	8	10	17	54	65	34
Barton Rovers	32	8	10	14	39	46	34
Tilbury	34	8	7	19	47	60	34
Harefield Utd	36	8	6	21	32	56	30
Rainham Town	35	6	10	19	43	70	28
Southall	33	2	5	26	25	84	11

Division Three

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Aldershot Town	34	24	8	2	79	32	80
Collier Row	32	18	10	4	59	28	64
Leighton Town	32	18	7	7	75	39	61
Thame Utd	30	17	8	4	69	27	60
Cove	33	17	8	8	58	35	59
Northwood	33	15	10	8	67	63	55
East Thurrock	32	14	7	11	56	49	49
Flackwell Hth	33	14	5	14	74	64	47
Hertford Town	32	12	9	11	52	53	45
Royston Town	32	12	8	12	49	39	44
Kingsbury T	33	12	7	11	49	38	43
Hornchurch	34	10	10	14	45	47	40
Tring Town	31	10	9	12	49	53	39
Horsham	32	10	7	15	56	56	37
Epsom & Ewell	31	8	9	14	37	52	33
Camberley T	33	8	6	19	36	64	30
Petersfield Utd	33	5	10	18	33	75	28
Clapton	33	7	6	20	37	86	28
Bracknell Town	32	5	11	16	41	84	26
Feltham & Hounsl	31	5	3	23	34	82	18

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE

Southern Division

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Sittingbourne	36	22	10	4	85	37	76
Havant	35	21	4	10	71	44	67
Gravesend	37	21	3	13	82	56	66
Salisbury	33	20	5	8	66	43	65
Witney	32	18	7	7	61	31	61
Sudbury Town	34	16	10	8	72	41	58
Swanage	35	16	4	13	65	55	52
Ashford Town	33	17	6	10	75	53	57
Wealdstone	36	17	6	13	64	56	57
Erith & Bel	33	17	4	12	64	59	55
Margate	36	16	5	15	60	53	53
Poole Town	39	14	7	18	54	60	49
Baldock	37	13	7	17	55	61	46
Buckingham	32	13	6	13	52	49	45
Newport IOW	32	9	13	10	36	41	40
Burnham	36	11	7	17	43	66	40
Fareham T	35	11	6	18	58	58	39
Canterbury	33	10	7	16	42	63	37
Fisher Ath	33	8	6	19	32	76	30
Andover	37	6	8	23	36	83	26
Bury Town	36	6	5	24	34	100	23
Dunstable	35	4	8	23	31	82	20

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