

# SPORT

## Skipper lands Lions award double

WEMBLEY FC skipper Paul Shields, who has been threatening to retire after making his 250th appearance for the club recently, may well have to reconsider his decision after collecting both the Player of the Year and the Players' Player of the Year awards at Saturday's end of season

presentation evening at Vale Farm. Gary Morse picked up the Clubman of the Year trophy while Jeff Fanner was also rewarded for making his 300th appearance for the club.

There was also a double winner for the reserves with defender Liam Doyle receiving

the Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year awards.

Goalkeeper Danny Gidman was the youth team Player of the Year with defender Stephen Van winning the Players' Player of the Year trophy and Alex Burton the Clubman award.

### Britannic line up cricket awards

THE Observer has linked up again with County Championship sponsors Britannic Assurance to recognise the achievements of local cricketers throughout the summer.

Each month of the season we will be making an award to the Britannic Assurance 'Player of the Month.'

The recipient will be selected from performances recorded in the Observer, and the winner will be the player considered to have made the most notable series of achievements during the relevant month.

Monthly award winners will receive a trophy, tickets for himself and his family to see a Britannic County Cricket Championship match of his choice, plus a Britannic Assurance jogging suit.

At the end of the season Britannic will also be making an additional award for the 'Player of the Season.' Last year it was won by Kenyon's Tim Holton.

### Britannic Assurance



Player of the Month

## At last - a trophy finds its way to Sudbury Wasps are in Sevens heaven

By Alan Bodenham

WASPS gained consolation for being so close to winning major honours in the 15-a-side game this season by winning the prestigious Middlesex Sevens at Twickenham on Saturday.

It was a very impressive display by Wasps which culminated in the 28-24 defeat of Northampton in one of the most dramatic and exciting finals that the tournament has seen in its long history.

In the early rounds, the Sudbury side easily brushed aside the challenge of junior club Basingstoke by 31-0 and then another excellent showing saw them defeat New Zealand club, Wellington, by 35-10. It was however the semi-final and final that had all Wasps supporters on the edge of their seats.

In the semi-final the Western Samoans, the holders of the trophy, had Wasps under early pressure. The South Sea islanders scored first following a quickly taken penalty but a try from Paul Volley after a terrific run out of defence by Mike Friday saw them only two points adrift at the break.

Samoas scored early in the second half but Wasps were again on terms when a powerful effort from England World Cup hero Lawrence Dallaglio and an outstanding touchline conversion by Phil Hopley brought the scores level.

In sudden death extra time Mike Friday pulled off a try saving tackle to deny the Samoans when they looked to have wrapped it up and then Volley crossed for the try which put them in the final.

Understandably, Wasps were somewhat weary when the final began but when Phil Hopley scored the opening try, they appeared to be carrying on where they left off in the semi.

They relaxed far too much however and allowed Northampton to build up a substantial lead. The Saints rattled in three tries and at half time the deficit was 16 points. Soon after the break Northampton added a penalty to make it 24-5.

At this point many spectators started to make an early exit from headquarters only to turn back when Wasps revival started. Hopley got a try, then Friday rounded off a magnificent tournament for himself by scoring under the posts.

The real moment of glory, however, belonged to Buster White who battled for possession with Northampton and broke away to score under the posts with seconds left on the clock. Hopley, even though faced with a simple conversion, showed remarkable nerve to land the kick and give Wasps victory.

In the absence of the injured Chris Wright, Wasps were captained by Adrian Thompson whose record in the competition is outstanding, having now been on the winning side five times since 1986.

Wasps squad: White, Dallaglio, Volley, Thompson, P. Hopley, Friday, Scrase, Abadom, Baily, Dye.

### Wasps wing in with new sponsorship

THE giant American airline, United Airlines, will be Wasps new sponsors next season.

The six figure deal, rumoured to be one of the biggest sponsorships ever for a rugby union club, is also the first by an airline in the UK.

In the midst of recession it was a great coup for the club to pull off such a deal and much of the success is owed to the wonderful season Wasps have just enjoyed.

As United Airlines marketing manager, Jonathon Sumner, remarked: "Rugby union is becoming an ever more popular game and Wasps are a particularly successful club. They had an excellent run in the Courage League this year and were deserving winners of the Middlesex Sevens last weekend."

With home and away fixtures in the League next season, the extra money accrued from this sponsorship will be of great help to Wasps whose expenses will be almost doubled.

## Magnificent seven enjoy their finest hour

OLD Gaytonians Rugby Club enjoyed their finest hour on Saturday, taking on Western Samoa, one of the world's best sevens teams, in the Middlesex Sevens Finals at Twickenham, the home of rugby.

With the large crowd firmly behind them, the 'Magnificent Seven' of Gayts performed gallantly but their marvellous efforts were in vain and they were eventually beaten 38-5.

They took the game to the Samoans from the off with Doug Maxted highlighting their endeavour right from the kick off when he made his presence felt as an opponent caught the ball.

The Samoans were penned in their half as Gayts pressed forward but they broke out to score two early tries. Only last ditch tackles prevented Gayts scoring until an overlap was

created for Nick Dickens to score in the corner, much to the delight of the crowd.

Amazingly Gayts were only 12-5 down at half time, but in the second half the superior fitness of the Samoans began to tell and they scored four more tries to settle the issue.

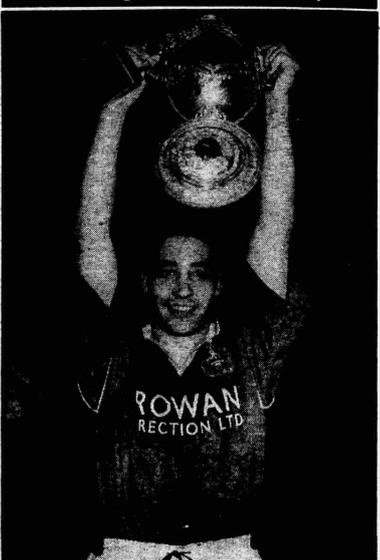
As first round losers, Gayts went on to complete in the Plate Competition and faced First Division Orell.

They lost 32-7 but again gave a superb account of themselves.

Their try came when Gareth Fox rounded his opponent and set off for a 70m run to score in the corner and Nick Dickens converted with one of the best kicks of the tournament.

Old Gaytonians squad: O'Flaherty, Thomas, Krystofek, Maxted, Fox, Dickens, Yarrow, Newman, Bray, Doberty, McCleod.

## Jason's joy at another Borough cup triumph



WE'VE won the cup - again! Harrow Borough skipper Jason Shaw proudly lifts the Middlesex Charity Cup after the Earlsmead outfit best Haswell Town 3-1 after extra time in the final at Uxbridge FC.

Borough's triumph completed a double of County Cups, following their success in the Middlesex Senior Cup. Full match report and picture - page 95.

## Taylor man of match in League opener

OLD Gaytonians AC's international decathlete Brian Taylor was the GRC 'Man of the Match' in the opening British League Division Two fixture at Crawley where a depleted Gayts team just missed out on 2nd place to the home club in a thrilling finish which saw the outcome depend on the last event.

Taylor won the award for the best single performance of the day, winning the 110m hurdles in the outstanding time of 13.9 secs, beating fellow international Andy Tulloch into the bargain.

Taylor was also top individual scorer for Gayts with 40 points, despite failing his opening height of the pole vault where Eric Hollingsworth equalled Taylor's new club record of 4.80m to take 3rd in one of the classic events of the day.

Hollingsworth also scored heavily and was Gayts' only other individual A string winner with a discus throw that earned him victory by just 2cms over the Crawley competitor.

B string wins came from Roderic Samuel in the 100m and Rafer Joseph in the discus which gave Gayts valuable doubles in both events. Busy Joseph also won the B javelin as well as taking part in four other events.

Ian Harkness and Dave Knox were the pick of the middle distance squad that generally failed to do itself justice on a afternoon when points were hard to come by. Harkness ran well for 2nd in the 5000m against highly ranked opponents while Knox surprised everyone by stretching Kevin McKay, Sale's Olympic runner, all the way to the line in the B 800m.

Things looked good for Gayts when they moved into 2nd place after an excellent sprint relay victory but, with one point between them and Crawley, the home club piled on the pressure in the 4 x 400m and matched back the runners up spot behind Sale.

100m: A 1 Brian Taylor 16.8, B 1 Robert Samuel 18.2; 200m: A 2 Brian Taylor 21.8, B 3 Robert Samuel 22.2; 400m: A 5 Nick Davies 50.8, B 2 Dave Knox 52.8; 800m: A 5 Alan Jones 1:57.8, B 2 Dave Knox 1:59.4; 1500m: A 4 Huwaini Matthews 4:01.1, B 4 Terry Smith 4:10.3; 5000m: A 2 Ian Harkness 14:34.7, B 2 Nigel Flett 15:34.9; 10000m: A 4 John Neppel 31.1, B 5 Rafer Joseph 34.7; 1500m hurdles: A 1 Brian Taylor 13.9, B 2 Eric Hollingsworth 15.8; 400m hurdles: A 4 John Neppel 55.1, B 5 Rafer Joseph 58.9; long jump: A 5 Rafer Joseph 6.40, B 6 Roy Smith 5.95; triple jump: A 4 Roy Smith 14.27, B 5 Rafer Joseph 12.61; 800m: A 5 Mark Smith 1:55, B 2 Rafer Joseph 1:56; pole vault: A 3 Eric Hollingsworth 4.80 (red), B no fit Brian Taylor; hammer: A 4 Steve Ansell 51.48, B 3 Rafer Joseph 41.80; discus: A 1 Eric Hollingsworth 46.1, B 1 Rafer Joseph 46.98; shot: A 2 Eric Hollingsworth 14.38, B 2 Brian Taylor 13.50; javelin: A 4 Alan Jones 55.68, B 1 Rafer Joseph 51.06; 4 x 100m: 1 Old Gayts (Robert Samuel, Eric Hollingsworth, Nick Davies, Brian Taylor) 1:42; 400m: 1 Old Gayts (Nick Davies, Alan Wiley, Brian Taylor, Eric Hollingsworth) 3:24.7; 4 x 100m: 1 Old Gayts (Nick Davies, Alan Wiley, Brian Taylor, Eric Hollingsworth) 3:24.7; 2 Crawley 22.9; 2 Old Gayts 32.7; 4 Earlsmead 1:08; 5 Earlsmead 1:00; 6 Wolverhampton 1:54.

### County game at Harrow

THE Rapids 2nd XI Championship match between Middlesex and Northamptonshire at Harrow CC's Paynes Folly ground today (Thursday), starting at 11am. The three day match is scheduled to finish tomorrow.

The next County game scheduled at Harrow starts on June 2 when Middlesex play Leicestershire.

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The championship winning Harrow Weald team with Neil Foulds.



Neil Foulds with Harrow Weald ace Andy Lavin.

## Snooker ace Neil meets champs

SNOOKER ace Neil Foulds was the guest of honour at the Harrow Weald Snooker Club's presentation evening at Harrow Leisure Centre on Saturday.

In another successful season for the club, they retained the Harrow Snooker League Championship and had the League's Singles Champion in Andy Lavin, who became the first ever player to take the title in successive years.

## HARROW TOWN Y.F.C.

Are looking for top quality players to improve their under 13 side.

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For next season's under 9 team coaching assistance is also needed.

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