

SPORT

International Challenge fourth for Alison

PARKSIDE Athletic Club's Alison Wyatt took a creditable 4th place in Saturday's International Cross Country Challenge at Bessish in County Durham. The 5 km women's event was dominated by the 1992 World Junior Cross Country Champion Paula Radcliffe who won in 15 mins 37 secs, 8 secs clear of runner-up Zola Pieterse, the former Zola Budd, who won the World Cross Country title in 1985 and 1986.

Third in a top class field was Russia's 1988 Olympic 10,000m gold medalist Olga Bondarenko in 15.56, with Wyatt 4th in a time of 16.25.

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Wembley boss is Manager of Month

Charles the first

JUST nine weeks after taking over as boss of Wembley FC, Glen Charles has been named as the William Hill Division League Manager of the Month for December.

Charles, who was appointed following the resignation of Alan Duffern in October, won the Division One award for his team's astonishing record of four wins from five games during the month.

From a side seriously lacking in confidence and struggling amongst the division's potential relegation candidates, Charles has lifted the Lions with such dramatic effect that they are now in a healthy mid-table position.

And such is their new-found self assurance that the manager and his players firmly believe that they are now a live prospect to gain the promotion to the Football Division that twice so narrowly eluded the club in the mid 1980s.

"I couldn't be happier with the way things have turned out," said Charles. "We've taken 19 points from a possible 21 in our last seven games and now there's only 9 points between us and Tooting in second place.

By **John Comfort**

We've got games in hand over most of those clubs above us and if we get two or three more wins who knows what will happen? Certainly the boys are confident and we believe that promotion is on."

As for his award, the amiable Wembley boss said: "I'm pleased about it for everyone at the club. But it's all been down to the players. They are the ones who did it out on the field and I'm sure this will give them a big boost."

But while the boss was happy to pass the credit for his accolade to his charges, his club chairman Brian Gannon had no doubts as to the reason for the team's recent success.

"He has the same players here as when he took over," he said. "They weren't doing it then, but they are now and it's obviously down to Glen. He has worked hard and done a good job. The award is well deserved."



Surrounded by some of the players who have helped him to the Manager of the Month award, Wembley boss Glen Charles gets a bottle of bubbly and warm congratulations from club chairman Brian Gannon.

Lions looking to turn the tables

TWO late goals denied Wembley what would have been a deserved point when they met Bishop's Stortford earlier in the season, but the in-form Lions are confident of reversing that result when the league leaders come to Vale Park on Saturday.

Steve Lawrence, who missed Wembley's game against Beaking, should be available to return.

Paul Shields and Henry Clark are both suffering from knocks but should be fit to play, however the injured Ian Bates is doubtful.

Striker Lance Codogno is on the road to recovery. His leg is out of plaster and he

hopes to resume light training soon.

Dave Beasted should be back after a lengthy spell out injured for Harrow Borough's away match at Beadingstone on Saturday. But striker Graham Westley is again doubtful.

Wendstone, who are away to Farnham this Saturday, have made two new signings, midfielder Gerald Wiggins, who has had experience at Brentford, Wycombe and Hayes, and striker Darren Seabrook who was signed from London Colney but was previously with Hayes and Aylesbury.

Richard Mellor has a calf injury and is unlikely to return while both Eugene Saunders and Colin Robinson are also still sidelined with injuries.

Roy Johnson, who joined Stones at the start of the season, has been released.

With John Coleman now fit after injury and Steve Sallis, men available again, Edgeware boss Brian Rider has almost a full squad to select from for Saturday's visit to Beating.

Only striker Hamid Harkat remains sidelined but he is due to get back into action this week for the reserves.

Kingsbury Town have a tough game at home to promotion chasing Bracknell and hope to be boosted by the return of defender Dave Wallace back after injury.

Raysers Lane, whose Bank Holiday Monday game with Kingbury was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch, face mid-table Abingdon United who they have to beat to go above them in the league.

Lanes will be without the suspended Darrell Clements but Fergus Mearns and Kieran Creegan should be available for selection.

The latest league tables

SOUTHERN LEAGUE		SOUTHERN DIVISION		SOUTHERN DIVISION	
Pos	Club	P	W	D	L
1	Wokingham	22	11	7	4
2	Reading	21	10	6	5
3	Reading	21	7	7	7
4	Reading	21	6	8	7
5	Reading	21	6	7	8
6	Reading	21	5	8	8
7	Reading	21	5	7	9
8	Reading	21	4	8	9
9	Reading	21	4	7	10
10	Reading	21	3	8	10
11	Reading	21	3	7	11
12	Reading	21	2	8	11
13	Reading	21	2	7	12
14	Reading	21	1	8	12
15	Reading	21	1	7	13
16	Reading	21	0	8	13
17	Reading	21	0	7	14
18	Reading	21	0	6	15
19	Reading	21	0	5	16
20	Reading	21	0	4	17

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SOCCER FIXTURES

Date	Time	Home	Away
Saturday January 8	12.30pm	Bishop's Stortford v Haverhill	Wokingham v Bishop's Stortford
Sunday January 9	12.30pm	Wokingham v Bishop's Stortford	Bishop's Stortford v Wokingham
Monday January 10	7.30pm	Wokingham v Bishop's Stortford	Bishop's Stortford v Wokingham
Tuesday January 11	7.30pm	Wokingham v Bishop's Stortford	Bishop's Stortford v Wokingham
Wednesday January 12	7.30pm	Wokingham v Bishop's Stortford	Bishop's Stortford v Wokingham

Wasps are raring to return to league action

SPEAKING after Wasps cup defeat at Bath before Christmas, club coach Rob Smith said "Although it is a disappointment to get knocked out of the cup so early we still feel that we are in with a strong chance of winning the league, especially now we can concentrate on it." writes Alan Rodham.

The optimism was given a New Year boost on Tuesday when many of the players who were on the extensive December injury list turned up raring to go.

The preparations this week are concentrated on the visit of Gloucester to Sudbury on Saturday for the first Courage League encounter of 1994. Rob Andrew, recovered from the knocks that forced his early retirement from the field at Bath, is fully expected to play. Both Alan Burza and Fran Clough came through unscathed from London Division duty on Monday and Chris Oti was also training.

Although the side will not be picked until later today (Thursday) a strong line up is therefore expected.

Gloucester, although suffering a slump in the autumn, are expected to provide tough opposition as they have recently revived under coach Barry Corless and have produced some good results. Both sides will be hoping to improve on the 9-9 draw at Kingsholme in September when Wasps were only rescued with a late Andrew penalty.

At present, Saturday's game is not in doubt, despite the heavy rain. Wasps new pitch drainage system is coping well with the weather.

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