

SPORT

Death knell sounding for Pinner

Cricket club on the brink

ONE of Harrow's oldest cricket clubs is set to die in two weeks time unless a dramatic last gasp rescue package can be mounted to save them.

Pinner CC, whose long history goes back, according to legend, to a match with Rickmansworth in 1790, and is certainly well over 100 years old, is threatened with closure through lack of support and mounting debts.

Last season, in the presence of the Mayor of Harrow, the club happily celebrated 100 years of playing at Montecro Playing Fields. But the prospect of another 100 years are far from rosy.

At a special meeting called for March 4, a decision is taken up this long established centre of Pinner cricket will be taken unless additional playing and financial resources can be secured.

A rapid erosion of playing

strength in recent years has had much to do with the club's current plight. Senior players have retired, others have left the area or joined other clubs and there has been no influx to replace them.

"Last season we struggled to field two teams," said long serving club president, Bernard O'Kane. "Now we would have a job fielding one."

Many avenues have been explored in an effort to revive Pinner, including talks with other clubs with a view to amalgamation, but none have proved fruitful.

Said Mr O'Kane: "There is no light at the end of the tunnel. To round off the chicken 'Whose are the knights in shining armour, and cricket gear, who will come to the rescue.'"

Coincidentally this is not the first time in their history that Pinner CC have found

themselves in this dilemma.

On May 14 1893 the Harrow Gazette (now the Observer) reported that a meeting was being held in the parish hall to consider if it was desirable to carry on the club for another season or to formally wind up its affairs, due to debt and lack of players.

The next issue reported that at the meeting a show of hands indicated the willingness of members to stick by the club.

There was no indication of the steps taken then to revitalize the club but with Pinner in a similar situation today, it is hoped that a solution can again be found.

If you have any interest in playing or rescuing the club, please come along to the meeting at 8pm in the pavilion, Montecro Playing Fields on Friday March 4. You will be very welcome.

Your chance to run in the Harrow Mini Marathons

THE annual Harrow Mini Marathons are being staged in Harrow Recreation Ground this Sunday.

The event, in its ninth year, will incorporate the Borough of Harrow's trials for under-14s, under-16s and under-18s for the London Mini Marathons, being held in con-

junction with the London Marathon on Sunday April 7.

The Harrow Mini Marathons are however open to all, whether Harrow residents or not, and also include events for under-12s and over 18s. The timetable of events is: 2.15pm under-12s; 2.45pm under-

14s; 3.20pm under-16s and under-18s; 4pm over-18s.

Entries are being taken on the day at the pavilion in the centre of Harrow Rec. Entry fees are £2 or £2.50 W over-18, and intended runners should arrive at least half an hour before their event.

Stones stunned by spot kick blow

Gravesend 4 Wealdstone 1

A CONTROVERSIAL twice taken penalty goal Gravesend on their way to victory over injury hit Wealdstone on Tuesday, writes Graham Smith.

Stones matched the home side for 35 minutes with Darren Seabrook and Paul Webb going close, but then Roger Jashek was penalised for handling.

Andy Hopping superbly saved Portway's well struck spot kick but a linesman flagged to indicate the keeper had moved and Portway made no mistake with his second effort.

This disheartened Stones and five minutes later Portway hit home a glorious 25 yard free kick to make it 2-0.

Hopping tipped over a good shot from Groom before Gravesend increased their lead in the 65th minute when Warrick's free header beat Hopping from a free kick.

Hopping made another excellent save from Groom before Portway's 68th minute run ended with a cross which the keeper could only parry and Ullshrover fired home.

Stones got a deserved consolation goal with eight minutes left when Chris Lawrence's corner was headed in by Neil Cordice.

Weather: Hopping, Dunmyr, Agnew (Anglo), Green, Punter, Jakes, Gordon, Webb, Lawrence, Seabrook (Pittman), McGeehan.



Waiting at a bounce with teammate Richard Kinsey in Saturday's game against Leicester, Warrick prep Jeff Probyn appears to be in less than ecstatic mood. That wasn't really surprising though, for Warrick was heading for a 15-13 defeat which effectively closed the door on their club hopes for another season. Match report - page 86. Picture by Gareth Beard.

Player clear out at Wembley

WEMBLEY FC have had a mid-season clear out.

Striker Mickey Fredericks has left the club and signed for Millersley Town where he will join former Lions midfielder Paul Shurt who

left Vale Farm late last year.

Centre back Lloyd Powell has returned to Charlton St Peter, while striker Uche Egbu has been released and has rejoined his former club, Horden.

Harrow stage ladies international

HARROW Rugby Club will be staging an international clash at their Grove Field ground on Saturday evening, kick off 7.30pm, when England Ladies Students play Wales Ladies Students.

Harrow's 1st XV are playing the touring Spanish side, Los Industriales, at Grove Field tonight (Thursday), kick off 7.30pm, and tomorrow (Friday) night Harrow Colts play west country club, Hale, kick off 7.30pm.

Leaders beaten as Belmont pull off another upset

FOLLOWING their recent League Cup upset, the Belmonts landed another shock result with an impressive 6-4 win over previously unbeaten Observer Football League Division Two leaders South Harrow British Legion.

The Legion took an early 2-1 lead but J. Gleeson and J. Anthony turned the match in Belmont's favour. Dave Young levelled for the Legion but a three frame burst from M. Clark, N. Poryth and Dave Pugh secured the points for Belmont.

The Mice narrowed the gap at the

top of the table to two points with an emphatic 9-1 away win at bottom club, Middlesex Arms. Frames were won by B. Blackham, P. Layton, A. Elgiernicki, S. Smith, W. Turling, J. Americanos, G. Berry, Lee Burton and Lee Carling.

Plough Kingsbury B put themselves in the picture with an excellent 9-1 win at the Whittington. They lost the opener but then rattled off the next nine through Bob Love, Anita Gova, Sheila McAweley, Andy Lambert, Martin Davies, Bernie Gey-

tenbeek, Nicky Pardo, Steve Hothing and Richard Brodbeck.

Northolt Park continue to climb the table after their useful 6-4 victory over in farm Railway Wealdstone. The Century earned a 5-5 draw with the Bell Ruislip thanks to captain Phil Preston's final frame win. Railway Hatch had picked up a point with a 5-5 draw at home to Harrow Borough whose failure to field ten players once again cost them dearly.

In Division One the Abbey CC showed great character to break their

league duck with a 6-4 victory over Windermere. They trailed by 4-1 but then five straight frames from P. Scantlan, S. Patel, P. Palmer, D. Jones and C. Hyde saw them to a long overdue win.

St Josephs had a 6-4 victory at home to the Queen of Hearts, James McCall and Steve Daniels taking the last two frames to give Saints the points. Plough Kingsbury A looked in trouble when they trailed 3-4 at home to Abbey Hotel but snatched victory by taking the last three

frames through Martin Thompson, Will Smead and Jimmy Lee.

The Royal William moved back to third spot with a 6-4 win over the Eastcote Arms. Frame winners were Vidish Sabharwal, Uniah Williams, Rudy Hickman, Ray Gray, Vickas Sabharwal and Sid Sidhu. Tith Farm drew 5-5 with the Rayners thanks to captain Dave Bennett's last frame win while LNER's lack of players proved costly as they conceded the last two frames against the Bell and lost 6-4.

Snow go for Borough

A SNOWBOUND Griffin Park pitch caused the cancellation of Harrow Borough's Middlesex Charity Cup clash with Brentford on Monday.

A new date has yet to be set for the match.

Wembley's League game at home to Barkings on Tuesday was another victim of the weather.

Week 26 winners
£100 M-48-287; £75 M-47-286; £50 A-11-285; £30 Z-30-171; £20 member £7s.

PRATTS MOTOR INSURANCE

Established 60 Years

ASK US TO QUOTE OUR LOWEST RATE FOR YOUR CAR

OPEN EVENINGS AND SATURDAY

Open: 9.00am-9.00pm Monday-Friday
9.00am-5.00pm Saturday

IMMEDIATE COVER FROM OUR OFFICE AT

40 LONG LANE HILLINGDON

TEL: UXBRIDGE (0895) 232212

Cordice quits Wealdstone

LONG serving Wealdstone midfielder Neil Cordice has left the club to link up with again with former Stones boss, Brian Hall, at Yeovil.

The departure of Cordice, who scored in his 493rd and final appearance for the club at Gravesend on Tuesday, along with Jon Hall's return to America and injury doubts surrounding Richard Mellor, Peter Augustine and Darren Seabrook, mean a depleted line up for the visit of Poole on Saturday.

Harrow Borough also have selection problems. Graham Pearce and Jason Court are both suspended and miss the visit to bottom of the table Wivenhoe, while Christian McCallif, Graham Westley, Tony Knight and Steve Emmannell are all struggling with injuries.

Borough were expecting last night's Middlesex Senior Cup tie with Staines to be postponed in which case it will be played this Wednesday, in place of the Carlsberg Cup clash with Grays.

The Wembley squad has a clean bill of health for their clash with Heybridge. Who plays, and where, is the only selection headache for manager Glen Charles.

Edgware have a depleted side for their visit to top of the table Chertsey.

Definitely out is the suspended Steve Newing and Scott McGieish, who is attending a family bereavement. Keeper Tony Holby is doubtful with a back injury and there are question marks over the fitness of John Coleman, Seamus Finnerty, Eugene Flynn and Dave Sue. Only good news is that John Mangan returns after missing the defeat against Newbury.

Kingsbury visit Leighton on Saturday and will again be without Craig Elliott, who completes his three match ban. Gerry Brennan came off after taking a knock against Camberley but should be fit.

Rayners Lane make their longest trip of the season when they journey to Gloucestershire to face Cinderford Town. Their only doubt is Lee Bicknell who is on antibiotics due to a tooth infection.

SOCCER FIXTURES

Saturday February 19

Division League Premier Div: Wivenhoe v Harrow Borough

Division League Div One: Wembley v Heybridge

Division League Div Two: Chertsey v Edgware

Division League Div Three: Leighton Town v Kingsbury

Essex Women League Southern Div: Wealdstone v Poole Town (The Warren, 3pm)

Sunday February 20

Middlesex Charity Cup: Wembley v Rayners Lane (Vale Farm, 7.30pm)

Division League Div Two: Mill Police v Edgware

Football Combination: CFR Res v Portsmouth (Earlsmead, 7pm)

Wednesday February 23

Carlsberg Cup: Harrow Borough v Grays Ath (Earlsmead, 7.30pm)

THE LATEST LEAGUE TABLES

MIDDLESSEX LEAGUE		MIDDLESSEX LEAGUE	
Club	Pts	Club	Pts
Wembley	27	Waltham	27
Waltham	26	Waltham	26
Waltham	25	Waltham	25
Waltham	24	Waltham	24
Waltham	23	Waltham	23
Waltham	22	Waltham	22
Waltham	21	Waltham	21
Waltham	20	Waltham	20
Waltham	19	Waltham	19
Waltham	18	Waltham	18
Waltham	17	Waltham	17
Waltham	16	Waltham	16
Waltham	15	Waltham	15
Waltham	14	Waltham	14
Waltham	13	Waltham	13
Waltham	12	Waltham	12
Waltham	11	Waltham	11
Waltham	10	Waltham	10
Waltham	9	Waltham	9
Waltham	8	Waltham	8
Waltham	7	Waltham	7
Waltham	6	Waltham	6
Waltham	5	Waltham	5
Waltham	4	Waltham	4
Waltham	3	Waltham	3
Waltham	2	Waltham	2
Waltham	1	Waltham	1
Waltham	0	Waltham	0