

# SPORT

## Lane are left in the dark

### Council reject latest lights plans

**HARROW** Council has dealt a body blow to Rayners Lane FC's hopes of regaining their Hellenic League Premier Division status with their decision to refuse the club's latest planning application for floodlights.

Lane were relegated to the League's First Division at the end of season because lights are now a Premier Division requirement. Had permission been granted they would have been automatically promoted, regardless of their final league position this season.

But now the future of a club which possibly does more for the local community than most others, running five senior sides, six boys sides and three girls sides, is looking decidedly grim.

The Hellenic League is expected to extend the floodlight requirement to Division One which could mean a return to park football for the club. And with the Middlesex County FA set to make lights a condition for senior clubs in three years, Lane could also lose that status and with it will go their right to enter the Middlesex Senior Cup and the FA Vase.

It is the third time in eight years that Lane's attempts to get fit up have been rejected.

Despite a petition in favour of the scheme containing 175 signatures and 37 letters of support, permission was refused on the grounds that "light spillage and glare would be visually detrimental to the amenities of the neighbouring residents" and that the floodlights "would

By **John Comfort**

result in increased intensity of use of the site at unsocial hours which by reason of increased noise, disturbance and general activity would detract from the amenities of the neighbouring residents."

With the disappointment of past refusals very much in mind, Lane's new application, for eight 16 metre high adjustable pylons, had been meticulously planned over the past 12 months, so they were not surprisingly unhappy at the incident haste with which it was dismissed at Thursday's council planning committee meeting.

Said Lane chairman Dave Blewitt: "We're all gutted. We expected that there would be some discussion on it, but there was nothing."

Lane secretary Tony Pratt, who spearheaded Lane's proposals, said: "We were aware before the meeting that it was being recommended for refusal by the planning officer but all they did was rubber stamp it. It was all over in five seconds."

"It's a considerable blow. We thought we had put together a reasonable application, addressing the previous problems that were cited. But the reasons given for refusal are the same."

Club officials are to meet next week to decide where they go from here. An appeal to the Department of the Environment is likely.

## Towers take over at the top

**LONDON** Towers have taken over at the top of the Budweiser Basketball League following back to back victories over Birmingham Bullets and Derby Bucks at the weekend.

England and Great Britain interna-

tional Martin Henlan was the star in Saturday's 77-69 success which ended Birmingham's unbeaten home run. He hit 19 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as Towers recovered from 42-32 down at half time to take control in

the second half and win comfortably. Danny Lewis and Joel Moore chipped in with 16 points apiece.

On Sunday it was Kenny Scott's turn to grab the limelight as Towers defeated Derby by 71-62 at Wembley.

He grabbed a remarkable 21 rebounds and top scored with 17 points as London built on a slender one point half time lead to secure a win that took them to the top of the table, two points clear of Sheffield Sharks.

On Thursday the Towers made heavy weather of beating Leopards 59-56 in the 7 Up Trophy at Wembley. With Danny Lewis leading the way, they seemed to be heading for an easy win as they went into the final quarter with a 44-32 lead. But poor defence then allowed the visitors to gradually chip away that advantage and in a nail biting finish, Julio Poldi brought Leopards to within a point at 57-56 with 10 seconds remaining.

But then Mark Hubbard confidently landed two from the free throw line in Towers next offence and they were home and dry when Lewis intercepted to halt Leopards' last ditch attempt to save the game.

Lewis top scored for the Towers with 17 points. Other points came from Joel Moore 12, Kenny Scott 9, Martin Henlan 8, Mark Hubbard 7, Roger Dehaeny 2, Ian Whyte 2.

Towers were away to Thames Valley in the League last night (Wednesday). Their next game is the return Trophy match at Leopards on Thursday October 20.

## Jock is the new boss at Edgware



● The new Edgware Town managerial team of Jock McGleish (left) and Peter Grant.

JOCK McGleish has taken over as the new boss of Edgware Town FC from Brian Rider, who resigned last week.

After a near two hour meeting with club chairman Michael Flynn and his board of directors, he was officially offered the job and made the decision to take it. He immediately promoted reserve team boss Peter Grant to be his assistant manager, with Bill McGregor being given the reserve team manager's post.

"We had a long talk and they were quite adamant that they wanted me as manager," said McGleish. "I had a list of questions, obviously regarding the football, and I didn't get all the right answers. But I did get answers, and I'm quite happy about the ambitions of the club."

He will now get on with the task of lifting Edgware up the table, and although they had a morale boosting win in his opener as boss at Hampton on Saturday, changes are very much in the pipeline with notices of approaches having already been made for potential new players.

"We can't just go along with the players we've got. If I bring in some new faces it should perk things up and the quicker we get those new players the better." "What we're looking for in the immediate future is to consolidate a place in mid table. Anything better than that will be a bonus."

## Try spree in prospect at Sudbury

THERE could well be a hatful of tries on Saturday when Sale are the visitors to Sudbury in the Courage League, writes Alan Bodenham.

Wags will continue to play their open game and the visitors, newly promoted, are also well known for their commitment to expansive play.

The Sale skipper and coach, the mercurial Welsh fly half Paul Turner, sees it as their best chance of staying in the Courage top flight and good wins against Northampton and Gloucester have vindicated this approach.

Although Rob Smith has yet to finalise his side, a likely returnee to the Wags side is Damian Hopley. The big centre narrowly missed the trip to Bath but his knee injury has now recovered and he should play.

There is a doubt however about Jeff Probyn who has a severely swollen ear.

Nick Poppelwell, the Ireland and British Lions prop, played his first match in Wags colours last weekend, coming through unscathed in the Vandals match against Bath United.

## Borough away

IN the second round of the Diadora League's Carlsberg Cup, Harrow Borough have been drawn away to Chessham United. In the Carlsberg Trophy, Edgware are at home to Collier Row while Kingsbury visit Hemel Hempstead.

Week 10 winners  
 £150 2-4-250; £75 11-15-250; £25 A-14-G15; £50 2-50-250; £250 number 2257.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE		W		D		L		PTS	
London T.	6	5	1	464	289	90			
Sheff. Sharks	5	4	1	256	277	6			
Derby	4	3	1	278	241	6			
Walsley	4	3	1	279	231	6			
Thames V.	4	3	1	329	231	6			
Wokingham	4	3	1	377	327	6			
Sheff. Stars	4	3	1	347	307	6			
Dorset	4	2	4	483	529	4			
Leopards	4	2	4	483	529	4			
Chesham U.	4	1	5	538	598	2			
Hampton	4	1	5	250	303	2			
Leather	4	1	5	257	303	2			
Northampton	4	1	5	288	482	2			



● Kenny Scott - excelled against Derby.

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## Trophy action for Borough, Stones and Lions

**HARROW** Borough, Wembley and Wealdstone are all in action in the second qualifying round of the FA Trophy this weekend.

Borough's tie sees them make their first ever visit to Gravesend on Saturday and they will be without skipper Andy Prutton who is still suspended. If a replay is required it will take place at Earlscourt on Wednesday.

Unable to claim a permanent place in the Borough side, striker Paul Ripley has been placed on the transfer list.

Skipper Charlie Flaherty misses Wembley's visit to Beazer Homes League Premier Division Rushden and Diamonds with a collar bone injury. Ian Bates, fit after injury, returns to the side as a ready-made replacement.

With landlords Yeading playing their Trophy match at the Warren on Saturday, Wealdstone have been forced to switch their clash with Purfleet to Sunday, kick off 3pm.

Stones will have Tommy Mason back after missing the defeat at Poole but Rod Brathwaite, Steve Griffiths and the influential Gerry Elward are all sidelined with injuries.

The supporters club will be running a coach to the match, leaving Harrow Civic Centre at 2pm.

If a replay is required it will take place at Purfleet on Wednesday, kick off 7.45pm. Paul McIntosh and Stuart Crawford have completed their suspension and are available for selection for Edgware's visit to Met Police in the league on Saturday.

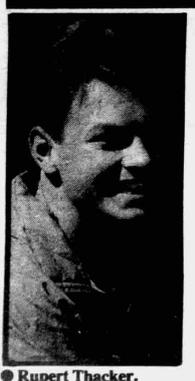
Niall O'Rourke is the latest 'defectors' to return to Kingsbury from Leighton and all three are in line for selection for Town's visit to Feltham and Hounslow.

Rayners Lane are away to fourth placed Eastington.

Line boss Don Darkin has signed former Wealdstone, Harrow Borough, Hayes and Maidstone defender Mark Harrison who began his career at Lane.

Saturday October 15  
 FA Trophy 2nd qualifying round: Gravesend & Northfleet v Harrow Borough; Rushden & Diamonds v Wembley.  
 Diadora League Div Two: Met Police v Edgware Town.  
 Diadora League Div Three: Feltham & Hounslow v Kingsbury Town.  
 Hellenic League: Eastleigh Sports v Rayners Lane.  
 Sunday October 16  
 FA Trophy 2nd qualifying round: Wealdstone v Purfleet (The Warren, 3pm).

## Thacker is our Britannic Cricketer of the Year



THE Observer's Britannic Assurance Cricketer of the Year award has been won by a Beasborough player for the second successive season.

Last year Graeme West took the honour. This season his clubmate Rupert Thacker is the recipient.

Rupert had a remarkable campaign, helping Beasborough to another successful season in which they won the Thames Valley League Second Division Championship and also retained the Mayor of Harrow's Knockout Trophy.

July was a particularly prolific month for the talented opening batsman. He scored four centuries in the month, 115 against Tiddington, 105 not out against Lydney, a marvellous unbeaten

137 against Keaton and 136 against Fleet. Hardly surprisingly, those achievements won him the Britannic award for that month.

But the runs flowed from his bat throughout the campaign and he signed off with a typical flourish, making a fine unbeaten 100 against Acton in the final weekend.

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