SPORT

Water, water, everywhere

TORRENTIAL rain totally wiped out the local senior soccer programme on Saturday.

All matches in the Diadora League Premier Division fell foul of waterlogged pitches, including Harrow Borough's home clash with Wokingham.

Only four games were played in the rest of the league but Wembley's match at Uxbridge, Edgware Town at home to Windsor, and Kingsbury Town, away to Lewes, were not amongst them.

Wealdstone's Beazer Homes League match at Clevedon and Rayners Lane's home Hellenic League match with Yarnton were also weather victims.

Pitches had still not recovered by Tuesday, with Wembley's Middlesex Charity Cup game at Harefield also being postponed as was Edgware's home game with Viking in the same competition.

Towers are edged out of National Cup in overtime

LONDON Towers went to overtime before sliding out of the National Cup in their quarter final tie with Leopards at the London Arena last Wednesday.

The Towers were strengthened by the return to their line-up of guard Danny Lewis following an ankle injury, but despite his efforts, there was little in it throughout. London held a slender 39-37 lead at half time, but the match ended deadlocked at 69-69 at the final buzzer.

Overtime was just as close but it was the Leopards who edged ahead by 76-75 in the final seconds to book their place in the semi finals.

Kenny Scott (20), Tony Windless (15) and Martin Henlan (14) were the top scorers for the Towers.

Towers returned to winning ways on Saturday with former England internationals Scott and Joel Moore leading the way in a hard earned 89-84 win over the Manchester Giants.

Forward Scott (30) and guard Moore (27) provided the bulk of the Towers scoring but even with those weighty contributions, Kevin Cadle's side had to be strong down the final stretch to take the points.

Behind by 50-42 at half time and then 73-66 down at the end of the third quarter, the Towers were still trailing by 77-70 with time fast running out. But then the Giants were held scoreless while the Towers hit the next seven points to draw level after which they always managed to keep their noses in front to the final buzzer.

This Saturday the Towers are away to Leicester City Riders in a Budweiser League match, tip off 7.30pm. They have already beaten the Riders twice before this season.

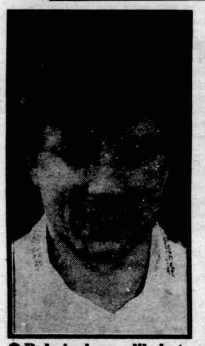
On Sunday Towers were due to face runaway league leaders Sheffields Sharks at Wembley Court but that game has been postponed. A new date for the clash has yet to be fixed.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE

	p	w	l	f	a	pts
Sheffield	21	20	1	1617	1335	40
Doncaster	18	15	3	1564	1411	30
London T.	21	15	6	1799	1693	30
Manchester	21	14	7	1825	1602	28
Thames V.	20	14	6	1832	1634	28
Leopards	22	13	9	1912	1767	26
Worthing	19	11	8	1692	1631	22
Birmingham	21	9	12	1779	1756	18
Leicester	17	5	12	1259	1383	10
Derby	18	4	14	1428	1559	8
Hemel	22	4	18	1723	2089	8
Chester	18	2	16	1434	1654	4
Sunderland	18	2	16	1337	1787	4

Wasps meet their Waterloo

But forget any talk of a big cup upset



● Rob Andrew - likely to be rested.

By Alan Bodenham

NOTHING is being taken for granted at Sudbury, but it will be a major sensation if Wasps do not progress to the quarter finals of the Pilkington Cup by beating Waterloo at Blundellsands on Saturday.

What will concentrate Wasps minds is history. Two years ago Bath travelled to Merseyside and were unceremoniously dumped out of the competition.

Wasps will not want the same thing to happen to them.

Many of the players on duty that day have now left Waterloo, however, notably fly half Paul Grayson, who played for England A against Ireland last week.

There is also a huge gap in class between First and Second Division rugby - a gap that has widened even further in the two years since the Bath defeat.

Results in the previous round are also a good indication. Wasps defeated Second Division Newcastle 58-12, while Waterloo only managed to scrape by with a two points advantage against Division Four side, Rotherham.

In rugby terms, Wasps and Rotherham are on a different planet.

Wasps will pick their team from a strong squad, all their England A representatives having come through the match against Ireland last week unscathed.

Norman Hadley is also now available after recovering from back problems.

Guy Gregory will undoubtably fill the fly half spot, however. With Rob Andrew playing for England in 'Le Crunch' against France at Twickenham the following week, he will no doubt want to rest.

The two clubs have met twice before in the competition and the score is one match apiece. Wasps beat Waterloo 10-9 at Sudbury in the second round in 1977/78 but lost 21-13 on Merseyside in the fourth round in the 1984/85 season.

Wasps now have a growing army of travelling supporters and well over 100 will be making the journey to Liverpool on official club tours. Two coaches and a train have been booked, indicating the large amount of interest taken in the club in the area. Don Fowler of Wasps is in charge of the travelling arrangements and has been instrumental in getting the transport organised.

Wasps' match against Dublin Wanderers was postponed last Saturday because of an unfit pitch.

Next week's pre-international match against Racing Club of Paris has been cancelled and Wasps will therefore be without a game.

This Sunday there is a double header of cup rugby at Sudbury. At 12 midday, Wasps colts take on Old Gaytonians in a local derby clash in the Middlesex Colts Cup, and at 2.30pm Wasps ladies will play Selleyoak, from Birmingham, in the National Ladies Cup.

Cup frustration as Borough are thwarted by the woodwork

Hitchin Town 3
Harrow Borough 1

THE woodwork denied Borough three times at Top field on Tuesday night and this proved critical as they slipped out of the Carlsberg Cup, **writes Tony Booth.**

This sobering experience was poor reward for their efforts, given that Borough were already weakened through suspensions.

In the early minutes Lawford was denied only by a desperate tackle and both Knight and McKay shot wide.

Yet it was Hitchin who broke the deadlock after 17 minutes when Ripley crossed for Marshall to shoot home.

Borough responded but both Knight and Eamon O'Connor were off target before the equaliser arrived in the 35th minute.

A series of corners saw the home side penned back and from one O'Connor kick, Tony Smith drove a venomous 20 yard shot through a packed area into the net.

Two minutes later they came close to taking the lead when Neil Fraser shot onto the bar from Endersby's cross and two minutes after the break Lawford's 25 yard shot rebounded off a post and the hosts began to believe it was their night.

O'Connor twice blocked goalbound efforts, then David Hook made two good saves from Ryan and did well to block a Marshall effort.

He was, however, helpless when Scott curled a 20 yard free kick over the wall and inside a post to regain the lead for Hitchin on 72 minutes.

Five minutes later Lawford tried a similar effort after he had been fouled, but his free kick rebounded clear off the crossbar.

Hitchin responded by forcing Smith to clear off the line from Bone's shot but with seven minutes left they scored their third goal when the Borough defence failed to clear Sylvester's clearance and Marshall shot clinically into goal.

Harrow Borough: Hook, Knight, O'Connor, Pearce, Bensted, McKay, Prutton, Smith, Lawford, Fraser, Endersby. Subs: Hurlock, Seabrook.

Wealdstone agm tonight

WEALDSTONE FC hold their annual general meeting tonight (Thursday) in the Edgware Town clubhouse, starting at 7.30pm.

Main topics under discussion will be the club's move from Yeading to ground share with Edgware at the White Lion ground next season, and the possibility of transferring from the Beazer Homes League to the Diadora League.

Bobby joins The Woods

STRIKER Bobby Hutchinson, released by Wembley boss Glen Charles two weeks ago, has joined Diadora League Division Three leaders Northwood.

WEALDSTONE FC BLUE RIBBON LOTTERY

Week 33 winners £150 A-12-863; £75 M-15-867; £25 A-01-336; £20 Z-10-046; £20 member 1971.

Crucial test for Edgware's promotion hopes

EDGWARE Town's promotion hopes face a crucial test on Saturday when they visit Bracknell - the club immediately ahead of them in the league table.

Town have gone from relegation candidates up to sixth place in Division Two in the three months since Jock McGleish took over as manager but their chances of going up now rest heavily on results against the top five clubs.

The importance of Saturday's game is therefore not lost on McGleish. "It's a crucial one," he said. "Anything less than three points and we can probably kiss our chances of going up goodbye."

Seamus Finnerty and Steve Sailsman both had run outs in the reserves at Feltham last weekend and could be in line for places.

Paul Ferry has had the stitches removed from his gashed leg but is unlikely to be risked and although Andy Murray and John Coleman are now both back in light training after injuries, they are still short of match fitness and are not in consideration.

Andy Prutton and Dave Bensted both start two match bans on Saturday and miss **Harrow Borough's** visit to Dulwich Hamlet.

With Kevin Davies and Chris Metcalfe sitting out the second matches of their respective two match suspensions, it will leave Borough decidedly short of full strength, although they will have Frank Appiah back after serving his ban.

A coach leaves Earlsmead at 12.30pm for the game.

Fit again Ashley Cumberbatch is added to the **Wembley** squad for their home match against Bognor Regis. But there are question marks over the fitness of Guiliano Grazioli, who has a knee injury, and Kenny Page, who has back trouble.

With the postponment of Saturday's match at Uxbridge, Charlie Flaherty is still waiting to serve his two match ban, which should now start on Saturday.

The Lions will be looking to score a double over their seaside rivals, having beaten them 1-0 in Sussex back in August.

Apart from Rod Brathwaite, who is recovering from his achilles tendon operation, **Wealdstone** expect to be at full strength for their home match against Braintree at the Warren. Full back Gerry Solomon returns after completing a two match ban.

On Monday Stones play their Middlesex Charity Cup game against Ruislip Manor at Edgware's White Lion ground, kick off 7.45pm.

● Jock McGleish - "It's a crucial game."

Saturday January 28
Diadora League Premier Div: Dulwich Hamlet v Harrow Borough.
Diadora League Div One: Wembley v Bognor Regis Town (Vale Farm, 3pm).
Diadora League Div Two: Bracknell Town v Edgware Town.
Diadora League Div Three: Kingsbury Town v Horsham (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm).
Beazer Homes League Southern Div: Wealdstone v Braintree (The Warren, 3pm).
Monday January 30
Middx Charity Cup: Wealdstone v Ruislip Manor (White Lion ground, 7.45pm).
Tuesday January 31
Middx Charity Cup: Harefield Utd v Wembley.
Football Combination: QPR v Wimbledon (Earlsmead, 7pm).

The latest league tables

DIADORA LEAGUE
Premier Division

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Hayes	22	13	7	2	38	19	46
Bromley	24	12	7	5	47	36	43
Slough T.	22	12	8	4	45	30	42
Enfield	22	11	7	4	49	27	40
Carshalton	25	12	4	9	44	43	40
Aylesbury Utd.	19	11	3	5	40	21	36
Dulwich Hamlet	24	10	6	8	42	42	36
Harrow Boro.	24	10	4	10	39	39	34
St Albans City	21	9	6	6	57	48	33
Molesey	22	9	4	9	37	34	31
Purfleet	23	8	7	8	43	46	31
Grays Ath.	24	7	9	8	33	39	30
Yeading	21	7	8	6	41	38	29
Hendon	24	7	7	10	32	37	28
Walton & H.	20	6	7	7	39	39	25
Sutton Utd.	24	6	6	12	34	39	24
Kingstonian	21	6	6	9	33	38	24
Chesham Utd.	22	6	5	11	38	40	23
Hitchin	21	5	8	8	31	39	23
Bishops St.	23	5	7	11	31	53	22
Marlow	22	3	7	12	24	46	16
Wokingham T.	22	4	3	15	22	48	15

Division One

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Boreham Wood	23	17	3	3	53	25	54
Chertsey T.	22	12	6	4	39	27	42
Worthing	22	11	7	4	48	24	40
Maidenhead	26	11	6	9	52	51	39
Staines	24	10	8	6	46	33	38
Basingstoke	24	10	8	6	50	41	38
Billericay	23	11	4	8	35	32	37
Whyteleafe	24	11	4	9	38	44	37
Aldershot T.	23	11	3	9	41	28	36
Newbury T.	24	9	10	5	36	28	34
Wembley	24	9	7	8	41	41	34
Tooting & Mitch.	22	7	10	5	28	23	31
Abingdon Town	22	8	7	7	33	34	31
Barking	23	8	4	11	43	48	28
Uxbridge	25	7	7	11	32	43	28
Leyton	23	7	4	12	35	42	25
Bognor Regis	20	6	6	8	36	36	24
Heybridge Sw.	19	6	5	8	35	37	23
Ruislip Man.	23	5	8	10	36	48	23
Berkhamsted	24	6	5	12	25	44	23
Wivenhoe	25	6	4	15	31	57	22
Dorking	21	2	2	17	19	79	8

Division Two

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Thame Utd.	25	17	3	5	54	28	54
Barton Rovers	24	15	4	5	57	31	49
Witham	22	13	5	4	49	27	44
Oxford C.	22	12	5	5	45	24	41
Bracknell	23	11	7	5	50	25	40
Edgware Town	24	10	6	8	39	31	36
Saffron Walden	22	10	5	7	37	31	35
Banstead Ath.	21	10	5	6	33	34	35
Croydon	23	11	1	11	47	37	34
Mal Police	24	9	8	9	37	43	33
Ware	24	10	1	13	34	46	31
Chalfont St P.	22	7	9	6	33	30	30
Leatherhead	23	7	9	7	33	40	30
Hampton	23	9	3	11	43	53	30
Cheshunt	24	6	9	9	37	51	27
Windsor	24	7	5	12	37	38	26
Hemel Hemp.	22	6	8	10	23	33	24
Aveley	23	7	2	14	26	48	23
Tilbury	19	6	4	9	30	27	22
Hungerford	22	6	4	12	25	40	22
Egham Town	21	4	5	12	30	38	17
Malden Vale	21	1	6	14	20	51	9

Division Three

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Northwood	23	14	5	4	42	25	47
Camberley T.	23	13	5	5	37	19	44
Canvey Is.	19	14	1	4	38	20	43
Bedford T.	22	11	8	5	51	30	39
Collier R.	17	12	2	3	36	14	38
Southall	20	10	5	5	40	27	35
Horsham	20	9	3	8	36	33	30
Kingsbury T.	20	8	6	6	37	36	30
Hertford Town	20	8	6	6	35	33	30
Harlow	21	9	3	9	33	47	30
Tring Town	21	8	5	8	39	30	29
Leighton	21	8	5	8	28	27	29
Hornchurch	22	8	5	9	33	40	29
Henfield Utd.	20	8	4	8	29	26	28
Clapton	21	7	6	8	42	35	27
Epsom & Ewell	18	6	6	6	30	30	24
Redwell Hth.	23	6	5	12	34	35	23
East Thurrock	21	5	2	14	27	58	17
Feltham & Hounsl.	21	4	3	14	32	52	15
Lewes	22	4	2	16	23	57	14
Cove	17	1	3	13	17	32	6

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE
Southern Division

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Waterlooville	20	16	2	2	44	12	50
Salisbury	20	14	2	4	43	20	44
Baldock	20	13	3	4	44	28	42
Weymouth	23	11	8	4	36	18	41
Havant	18	13	2	3	33	15	41
Ashford Town	22	11	7	4	52	30	40
Weston Super-M.	23	9	7	7	44	34	34
Clevedon	21	9	6	6	41	25	33
Margate	21	10	3	8	34	34	33
Tonbridge	21	9	6	6	46	50	33
Witney T.	21	8	7	6	24	22	31
Newport IOW	21	9	2	10	39	41	29
Wokingham	22	8	3	11	37	49	27
Fisher 93	22	6	7	9	29	32	25
Erith & Bel.	23	5	6	12	30	50	21
Poole Town	21	6	2	13	32	41	20
Braintree	21	4	8	9	31	41	20
Yate	24	4	8	12	24	47	20
Bury Town	21	5	3	13	35	51	18
Basildon	15	3	6	6	17	16	15
Burnham	21	3	4	14	21	51	13
Fareham T.	19	2	2	15	15	51	8

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