

SPORT

See England at play Uruguay



with the Observer

WEMBLEY - see page 87

No charity from card sharp ref as 10-man Wealdstone go through

Ruislip Manor 0 Wealdstone 3
AFTER having Gerry Solomon sent off in the 20th minute, 10-man Wealdstone battled on superbly to put Manor out of the Middlesex Charity Cup on Tuesday night, writes John Comfort.

Sadly though, this match will be remembered more for the performance of card sharp referee Mick Robinson than for Stones magnificent

efforts. The game was not even remotely dirty, yet the Ruislip official ludicrously managed to find cause to book seven Manor players and two from Wealdstone as well as sending off Solomon.

There was obvious sympathy for them all, with the possible exception of Solomon who spat on the ground in disgust at being booked for questioning a caution to Mark Biggins

and was promptly shown a second yellow card and then the red.

But far from bucking after Solomon's dismissal, Stones seemed inspired by it. They took the lead 10 minutes later when a great ball from Tommy Mason put Tim Buzaglio in behind the defence to crash a fine shot past keeper Holland and thereafter they were always in command. Manor's hopes of getting back in

contention were dashed just four minutes into the second half when Stones made it 2-0. Chris Balls brought Buzaglio down in the area and Steve Browne rifled home the spot kick.

Manor should have had a penalty themselves on 60 minutes but Mr Robinson turned a blind eye when Mark Hill sent Terry Flaherty tumbling in the box.

Stones completed the scoring, and an excellent team performance, three minutes from time when Browne's free kick from the edge of the area took a deflection and found the roof of the net. They now meet Wembley for a place in the semi-finals.

Wealdstone: Gerrall, M. Brown, Solomon, Hill, Findley, Mason (Birch), S. Browne, Breathwaite (Shanahan), Buzaglio, Quail, Biggins.

Stones' dinner with the Doc is a cash hit

WEALDSTONE FC expect to have made around £2,000 from their Sportsman's Dinner in the Warren Suite at Vending FC on Thursday at which the guest speaker was Tommy Docherty.

An auction alone raised £600 for the club with autographed footballs from England, Tottenham, QPR and Chelsea, an autographed Arsenal picture, and a Stones autographed shirt among the items up for grabs.

No rest day for Borough

A WATERLOGGED Earlsmead pitch caused the cancellation of Harrow Borough's Diadora League match at home to Carshalton Athletic on Saturday.

There was no rest day for the Borough players however. Manager Harry Manoe took them to Feltham to play a full scale inter-club practice match on the Division Three club's astroturf pitch.

Faced with unrealistic ground improvement demands, Feltham are leaving the Diadora League at the end of this season to join the Farnsall League.

Raysers Lane's match against Wantage was also called off on Saturday.

WEALDSTONE FC BLUE RIBBON LOTTERY
Week 23 winners
£150 14-03-94; £75 14-04-94; £25 14-05-94; £20 14-06-94; £20 14-07-94; £20 14-08-94; £20 14-09-94.

Another awayday

Tigers Cup task for Wasps with Twickenham the prize

IT'S another away tie for Wasps in this season's Pilkington Cup as Monday's semi final draw set them the task of travelling to Leicester on April 1.

Sudbury supporters, desperate for a home tie, may be bitterly disappointed at having to take on the Tigers in their lair, but they can take heart from a closer examination of Wasps' cup record.

Since the cup competition began in 1978 Wasps have never beaten two of the other semi finalists, Bath or Harlequins.

They have lost two finals to

By Alan Bodenheim

Bath and two semi finals against Quins.

On the other hand, against Leicester they have been more successful, playing two semi finals against them at Sudbury, which they lost 43-7 in 1979, but winning 13-6 in 1987.

Welford Road has seen two previous cup ties between the two rivals, both extremely close matches. Leicester won 22-18 in 1989 and Wasps were victorious in 1991 by 15-13.

Wasps Coach Rob Smith was stoical about the draw, "We will be the underdogs," he said, "but that is no bad thing. On our day we are capable of beating anyone and that's what we should be working towards."

The big irony of the draw of course is that Wasps face the same opponents in a vital Courage League game at Leicester this Saturday.

In the home leg back in October, Wasps put up what is widely accepted as their worst performance of the season, losing 23-18. It is the only occasion this term when they have abandoned their open style from the start.

It was a dull affair and many felt playing such a tight game had played to Leicester's strength, allowing Dean Richards and company to dictate affairs.

Rob Smith declared that that performance was a blip and very much part of his side's development. Wasps will have learnt from that experience, however, and having now fully committed themselves to open rugby, they could do no worse than continue it at Welford Road.

The cup semi final just adds something else to the equation.

Rob Andrew is set to return against Leicester and Nick Greenstock will also come back into contention for a place in a game that will settle Wasps' league aspirations for the season. Nick Poplewell will be missing because he will be on international duty the following week.

Smith however will not name his side until tomorrow (Friday) as there are several minor injuries and niggles to sort out following the cup tie at Exeter.



Charlie is spot on for Wembley

Charlie Flaherty coolly converts a penalty kick for Wembley's opener against Whyteleafe at Vale Farm on Saturday. The Lions went on to win 2-0. Full match report on page 87.

PICTURE BY GARETH BEARD

Sean steps in for Town's Cup clash

SEAN Griffiths will be in goal for Edgware Town tonight (Thursday) when they take on Southall in the Middlesex Charity Cup.

Griffiths replaces Kevin Beckles who has returned after a one match loan at Wembley but has a slight knee injury. Also back in contention for a place is striker Ted John.

Manager Jack McGleish hopes to have Beckles back for Saturday's league match with Met Police, but he will definitely be without Dave Instone who starts a two match suspension.

Tony Knight returns after suspension for Harrow Borough's visit to Grays but Kevin Davies is doubtful through injury.

A coach leaves Earlsmead at 12.15pm for the game.

Wembley boss Glen Charles is awaiting news of keeper Jeff Fanner's availability following the death of his father. Otherwise, with the exception of the suspended Wayne Walters, he has a full squad to choose from for the visit to Worthing on Saturday.

Darrell Pace completes his two match suspension and misses Wealdstone's

home game with Fisher this Saturday, as does keeper Jon Franklin, who is also banned. But Gerry Elward should be back after missing the victories at Tonbridge and Ruislip.

Graham Ash is expected to return for Kingsbury in their home match against Feltham.

Raysers Lane hope to have Roland Matthews back after injury for their home game with Easington, but Steve Cott is still short of full fitness after coming through a reserve game last week. Lane beat Easington 3-1 earlier in the season.

Thursday March 2
Middlesex Charity Cup: Edgware Town v Southall (White Lion ground, 7.30pm).
Saturday March 4
Division League Premier Div: Grays A8 v Harrow Borough.
Division League Div One: Worthing v Wembley.
Division League Div Two: Edgware Town v Met Police (White Lion ground, 3pm).
Division League Div Three: Kingsbury Town v Feltham (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm).
Harrow League Southern Div: Wealdstone v Fisher (The Warren, 3pm).
Harrow League: Raysers Lane v Eastleigh Sports (Lucas Ave, 3pm).
Tuesday March 6
Middlesex Charity Cup: Wembley v Wealdstone (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).
Division League Premier Div: Hendon v Harrow Borough.
Division League Div Two: Edgware Town v Windsor (White Lion ground, 7.30pm).
Division League Div Three: Kingsbury Town v Feltham Heath (Silver Jubilee Park, 7.45pm).
Football Combination: QPR v Ipswich Town (Earlsmead, 7pm).

Defence takes the rap as Borough slide out of cup

Hendon 3 Harrow Borough 1
MONDAY night's Middlesex Senior Cup quarter final at Clarendon Road was enacted on a gluepot pitch which was barely playable, writes Tony Booth.

Guilty of attempting to play too much skilful football when the conditions demanded the long ball and a lot of luck, Borough sank to defeat as if on quicksand.

Woeful defensive errors cost the visitors dearly in the first half, the first coming after just 50 seconds when Gallagher was completely unmarked as he netted Smart's cross to put Hendon in front.

Lawford and Bensted went desperately close to equalising but on 15 minutes a Pearce pass was intercepted and Sweetman shot over Hook to make it 2-0.

Again Borough all but scored through Fraser and Enderby, only for Hendon to show them how in the 40th minute, Gallagher's cross

being netted by the unmarked Sweetman. A minute later Hudson fumbled Enderby's shot and Lawford fired the rebound onto the post.

For most of the second half Borough were camped in the Hendon half with Metcalfe, O'Connor and Fraser all missing good chances, but in a rare break for the home side Ferdinand was unlucky to see his volley rebound clear off the Borough crossbar.

The visitors finally scored after 60 minutes. McKay's pass sent Fraser clear on the right and his cross-shot was turned in by Lawford.

A brilliant save by Hook denied Egbe in another breakthrough, but after that Borough bombarded the home goal. Enderby shot just wide, Bensted and Appiah had headers cleared off the line and McKay forced a good save, but somehow the hosts held out.

Harrow Borough: Hook, Appiah, O'Connor, Pearce, Bensted, McKay, Prutton, Metcalfe, Lawford, Fraser, Enderby. Subs: Smith, Seabrook.

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