SPORT

Scott blow for the Towers

LONDON Towers' hopes of the Budweiser Basketball League title have received a major blow with the news that their 6' 9" England forward, Kenny Scott, has a knee injury that will require surgery.

He will miss the run in to the season and is likely to be out of action for up to six months.

The Towers, who are currently second in the table behind Sheffield, face Worthing Bears at Wembley Court tonight (Thursday), tip off 8pm.

All change but defence lets down sad Wembley

Uxbridge 2 Wembley 1

WEMBLEY boss Glen Charles rang the changes after Saturday's diabolical showing at Heybridge but although he got a decidedly more committed performance from his side, the outcome was still the same thanks to two sloppily conceded goals, **writes John Comfort.**

In a game of two contrasting halves, Uxbridge certainly had the better of the first and were unlucky not to go ahead on 23 minutes when a Mark Gill header rattled the Wembley crossbar.

Guiliano Grazioli's alertness almost poached a goal for the Lions when he intercepted a poor defensive pass and had only Sean Dawson to beat. But the keeper pushed his attempted lob away and although Grazioli latched onto the loose ball he put his second effort into the side netting.

However, the visitors did take the lead on 33 minutes. A Charlie Flaherty corner was only half cleared and Dawson could only help Steve Daly's follow-up header into the net.

Wembley seemed to be getting on top after that but two minutes from the break poor marking allowed Uxbridge to level when King's corner was flicked on and Raoul Sam headed home at the far post.

Wembley easily enjoyed the better of the second half but the closest they came to restoring their lead was when Charlie Flaherty's goalbound low drive was superbly saved by the diving Dawson.

Ironically in a rare Uxbridge attack Gill forced the ball home in a scramble from a Gill corner after 73 minutes to put the home side in front.

That setback totally deflated Wembley. They never looked like recovering - and didn't.

Wembley: Fanner, Flaherty, Hollingdale, O'Brien, Walters, Daly, Barry (Sakhrasoul), Codrington (Lawrence), Smith, Grazioli.

Ivers double boosts Town

Hornchurch 0
Kingsbury Town 2

MARK Ivers notched two more goals to give impressive Kingsbury the three points at Hornchurch on Tuesday.

Against a physical and intimidating home side, Kingsbury were on the ropes for most of the first half, but they defended superbly, with Paul Gower in particularly good form, and restricted Hornchurch to long range efforts that were rarely on target.

The second half got off to a fine start for the visitors with a goal after five minutes. A short corner move involving James Moore and Richard Louch culminated in a cross to the near post where Ivers headed home to put Kingsbury in front.

For the next 15 minutes Kingsbury were back on the ropes but they weathered the storm well and with Ivers and Nelson Kumah working hard up front, they always looked dangerous on the break.

One great run from Kumah saw him go round the last defender and the keeper, but his angled shot was cleared off the line.

However, with 75 minutes gone, the visitors did get a second goal, again from a short corner move. The cross was headed on by Sean Loughlin and when Kumah's shot was parried, Ivers followed up to volley home the loose ball.

In the closing minutes Hornchurch threw everything at Kingsbury but the visitors were in no mood to concede the points which they deservedly held onto.

Kingsbury: Bonfield, Moore, D. O'Rourke, Evans, Gower, Elliott, Ivers, Loughlin, Louch, Ford (Alkley), Kumah. Other sub: Dyson.

Rob the record breaker

WASPS fly half Rob Andrew was the England hero on Saturday as they completed the Grand Slam with a 24-12 defeat of Scotland at Twickenham.

Andrew scored all the England points with seven penalties and a drop goal which took him to a career total of 317 points and made him England's new leading points scorer, surpassing the previous best of 296 of Jonathan Webb.

Wasps out to to halt Bath bandwagon

By Alan Bodenham

WASPS may be out of the Courage League championship race but they will still be all out to disrupt the Bath bandwagon when the champions visit Repton Avenue on Saturday.

It is four years now since Wasps last got the better of the all conquering west country outfit with a 16-15 win at the Recreation Ground in March 1991. They did however come very close this autumn, losing 9-12 in a cracking match.

Confidence is very high in the Sudbury camp that they can get the better of Bath this time. The evidence of that match would suggest that Bath looked quite vulnerable against Wasps' free running tactics. Several times in the second half they were at full stretch to stop Wasps, but just managed to hold on.

Wasps coach, Rob Smith will be calling for discipline, discipline and more discipline this time. He will be impressing upon his players not to take the law into their own hands, especially in the ruck and maul situation where the Bath forwards are notorious for sailing close to the wind.

Referee John Pearson will be a key figure, without doubt.

England Grand slam hero, Rob Andrew, will take his place in the Wasps line up and another international winner last week, Irishman Nick Popplewell, is also raring to go, while Damian Hopley makes a timely return after injury.

Two of Wasps young guns, Nick Greenstock and Peter Scrivener, will be missing though. They are on duty with the England sevens squad in Hong Kong.

A major doubt concerns flanker Chris Wilkins who was injured in the win over Nottingham ten days ago and the Wasps management doubt that he will be ready for Saturday.

The other worry concerns scrum half, Steve Bates, who was kept out of the England A side against Natal at the weekend. Andy Gomersall stands by as a replacement.

Bath will be without England stars, Jeremy Guscott and Victor Ubogu, who are also with the England Hong Kong Sevens squad, as well as prop Dave Hilton, and winger Tony Swift who are injured.

But Ben Clarke plays in the back row and Mike Catt reverts to the centre for his club role. Bath captain will be Phil de Glanville as John Hall is still injured.

The match kicks off at 2.15pm and is live on Sky Television. Extra parking will be available on Saturday at Sudbury Junior School in Watford Road.

Wares crash again

Bracknell Town 3
Edgware Town 1

ANOTHER sorry performance from Edgware saw them slide to defeat at Bracknell on Tuesday, **writes Tom Hooks.**

With the advantage of the slope, Bracknell were dominant in the first half, but Edgware defended resolutely and as half time approached it looked as if they had survived the blitz.

However, two minutes into injury time a cross was knocked down by Mark White into the path of Bracknell striker Justin Day who crashed it past the helpless Sean Griffiths to put the home side ahead.

Edgware had the slope in their favour after the break but it made little difference to their abysmal performance and only two great saves from Griffiths prevented them going further behind until the 60th minute when Dave Sue knocked the ball into the path of Wood and he fired home Bracknell's second goal.

Edgware brought on Paul Dale for John Mangan soon after and he made an immediate impact. His cross was nodded on by White and Dave Instone headed home to reduce the arrears on 65 minutes.

But the visitors joy didn't last long. Five minutes later a cross into the area saw White and Griffiths get in each other's way, allowing Wood to head in from close range.

Edgware finished the match with a flourish but the game was already out of reach.

Edgware: Griffiths, A. Dale, Mangan (P. Dale), Sue (P. Ferry), White, Finnerty, D. Ferry, Instone, Thompson, Newing, Sheridan.

Going to dogs with Stones

WEALDSTONE FC are staging a dog race night at Wembley Stadium tomorow (Friday), proceeds going to the club and St Luke's Hospice.

The club has some free tickets remaining for the evening, contact the club on 813-7800 if interested. The first race at Wembley is at 7.30pm.

WEALDSTONE FC BLUE RIBBON LOTTERY

Week 41 winners £150 M-12-930; £75 M-04-944; £25 A-02-575; £20 Z-04-169; £20 member 427.

Another bad break for luckless keeper Mark

TRAGEDY struck unlucky **Edgware Town** goalkeeper Mark Gower in his comeback match for the reserves against **Kingsbury** last Thursday.

In his first match back after recovering from a broken jaw, he broke a leg in two places in a 50-50 challenge for the ball with a Kingsbury forward. After fracturing an arm towards the end of last season, he has now suffered three different breaks within the space of a year.

Eugene Flynn has an ankle injury and is unlikely to be fit for Edgware's visit to Cheshunt on Saturday, while Peter Petrou is still sidelined with a knee injury. Andy Dale (groin) and Dave Sue (knee) face fitness tests.

Wembley boss Glen Charles continues to pursue his youth policy for Saturday's home game against promotion chasing Chertsey with John Granville and Marcos Veiga likely to find a place in the team. Paul Shields is the only member of the 'old guard' who could force his way back into contention from an injury free squad.

Eamon O'Connor and Graham Pearce are set to return to the **Harrow Borough** line-up after injury for Saturday's home clash with Aylesbury.

Mark Biggins and John Shanahan are both suspended and will miss **Wealdstone's** visit to Fisher. They will again be without the injured Tommy Mason, while keeper Jon Franklin is also an injury doubt.

With Kenny, Tynan and Stewart all injured and Graham Ash unavilable for the rest of the season, **Kingsbury Town** boss Peter Blain has a centre back problem.

But Paul Gower excelled in the win at Hornchurch and is likely to keep his place for Saturday's visit to top of the table Collier Row.

Rayners Lane continue their run of away games when they visit Wootton Basset on Saturday.

Mark Hedge joins the suspension list with Tom Metcalfe and with Roland Matthews (injured) and Danny Haigh (unavailable) also missing, it will be a difficult game for Lane who lost 1-0 at home to their rivals earlier in the season.

● Harrow Borough's Neil Fraser celebrates scoring against Purfleet. Borough let slip a 2-0 lead and lost 5-3. Full report inside.

Saturday March 25

Diadora League Premier Div: Harrow Borough v Aylesbury Utd (Earlsmead, 3pm).

Diadora League Div One: Wembley v Chertsey Town (Vale Farm, 3pm).

Diadora League Div Two: Cheshunt v Edgware Town.

Diadora League Div Three: Collier Row v Kingsbury Town.

Beazer Homes League Southern Div: Fisher v Wealdstone.

Hellenic League: Wootton Basset v Rayners Lane.

Tuesday March 28

Middx Charity Cup: Wembley v Wealdstone (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).

Diadora League Div Three: Cove v Kingsbury Town.

Football Combination: QPR v Southampton (Earlsmead, 7pm).

The latest league tables

DIADORA LEAGUE
Premier Division

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Enfield	31	18	9	5	71	35	62
Hayes	31	17	10	4	47	27	61
Aylesbury Utd	29	16	5	8	60	35	53
Bromley	32	15	8	9	57	48	53
Slough T	27	14	9	4	54	36	51
St Albans City	27	12	9	6	72	56	45
Purfleet	33	12	9	12	66	71	45
Carshalton	32	13	6	13	50	57	45
Dulwich Hamlet	31	12	8	11	52	52	44
Kingstonian	31	12	7	12	52	45	43
Walton & H	32	11	9	12	62	55	42
Molesey	29	12	6	11	49	43	42
Harrow Boro	28	12	5	13	48	50	41
Grays Ath	32	9	13	10	42	46	40
Yeading	30	9	12	9	46	48	39
Hitchin	28	9	10	9	45	50	37
Bishops St	32	8	9	15	41	64	33
Hendon	29	8	8	13	35	48	32
Sutton Utd	29	8	7	14	43	46	31
Cheshunt Utd	30	7	7	16	45	65	28
Marlow	29	5	8	16	31	59	23
Wokingham T	30	5	4	21	31	67	18

Division One

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Boreham Wood	29	22	4	3	67	28	70
Chertsey T	32	17	8	7	90	39	59
Worthing	31	15	10	6	71	36	55
Billericay	32	14	8	10	49	40	50
Staines	32	13	10	9	60	46	49
Basingstoke	31	13	9	9	68	54	48
Maidenhead	33	13	9	11	53	52	48
Aldershot T	29	14	4	11	50	36	46
Wembley	33	11	10	12	68	60	43
Abingdon Town	31	11	10	10	49	50	43
Tooting & Mitch	31	10	12	9	39	32	42
Newbury T	31	10	12	9	48	42	42
Whyteleafe	31	12	6	13	44	57	42
Uxbridge	32	11	8	13	43	54	41
Ruislip Man	32	10	10	12	59	62	40
Barking	31	11	6	14	56	62	39
Bognor Regis	28	10	8	10	46	44	38
Heybridge Swi	29	11	5	13	49	58	38
Berkhamsted	30	10	7	12	35	50	37
Leyton	30	9	9	13	43	50	33
Wivenhoe	33	7	5	21	35	71	26
Dorking	31	2	2	27	29	125	8

Division Two

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Thame Utd	32	21	3	8	66	39	66
Barton Rovers	32	20	5	7	75	39	65
Bracknell	31	17	9	5	67	31	60
Witham	32	16	6	10	64	47	54
Oxford C	29	15	7	7	58	32	52
Saffron Walden	32	14	10	8	52	44	52
Croydon	32	16	2	14	65	51	50
Hampton	32	15	4	13	55	62	49
Chalfont St P	32	13	9	10	50	38	48
Met Police	32	12	9	11	48	51	45
Banstead Ath	29	12	6	11	43	47	42
Ware	31	12	5	14	48	57	41
Edgeware Town	31	11	7	13	43	43	40
Cheshunt	31	10	10	11	49	60	40
Leatherhead	30	9	11	10	45	55	38
Egham Town	31	8	10	13	44	49	34
Windsor	31	8	7	16	45	53	31
Anstey	31	9	4	18	36	64	31
Tilbury	29	8	6	15	43	58	30
Hemel Hemp	28	7	6	13	29	43	29
Hungerford	27	6	6	15	34	56	24
Maldon Vale	29	2	8	19	27	66	14

Division Three

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Collier R	26	19	3	3	54	18	60
Canvey Is	26	19	2	5	59	27	60
Northwood	32	17	7	8	61	38	58
Bedford T	29	15	8	6	67	36	53
Camberley T	29	15	7	7	46	24	52
Southall	28	13	7	8	61	46	46
Leighton	30	12	8	10	44	37	44
Clapton	29	11	8	10	58	44	41
Kingsbury T	27	11	8	8	44	43	41
Horsham	28	12	4	10	46	44	40
Harlow	29	11	6	12	42	58	39
Epsom & Ewell	27	10	7	10	45	41	37
Hornchurch	29	10	7	12	42	49	37
Tring Town	29	9	9	11	50	48	36
Hertford Town	29	9	9	11	46	52	36
Harefield Utd	27	10	5	12	41	44	35
East Thurrock	29	10	3	16	45	71	33
Feltham & Hounslow	28	9	3	16	51	66	30
Flackwell Hth	28	7	3	18	42	68	24
Lewes	31	4	4	23	29	84	16
Cove	25	2	4	19	26	57	10

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE
Southern Division

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Salisbury	30	21	5	4	65	27	68
Waterlooville	28	20	4	4	56	18	64
Baldock	30	18	8	4	61	34	62
Havant	28	17	4	5	53	22	55
Weymouth	30	13	10	7	45	29	49
Ashford Town	28	12	11	5	66	44	47
Weston Super-M	29	12	8	9	56	40	44
Tonbridge	29	11	8	10	56	64	43
Clevedon	30	11	9	10	52	41	42
Newport IOW	29	13	3	12	52	53	42
Margate	27	12	4	11	42	44	40
Witney T	28	12	6	9	39	32	39
Wealdstone	30	11	6	14	53	62	39
Braintree	28	7	9	12	45	53	30
Erith & Bel	29	8	6	15	34	53	30
Bashley	25	7	8	10	34	32	29
Fisher 93	29	6	11	12	37	49	29
Yate	29	8	11	14	36	56	29
Poole Town	29	8	3	18	42	61	27
Bury Town	28	7	4	17	40	62	25
Burnham	31	5	7	19	29	62	22
Fareham T	27	3	4	20	21	67	13

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