

SPORT

DAYS
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Safe hands award for Tenkorang

WALDSTONE goalkeeper Rob Tenkorang has won the ICIS League Division Three Guardian Insurance 'Safe Hands' Award for November. In six league games played during the

month, he only conceded three goals. In the third round of the ICIS League's Carlton Trophy, Waldstone were an attractive away draw against their Division Three neighbours, Northwood.

No fireworks for Newcastle

Absence of ex-Wasps trio takes the sting out of club clash at Sudbury

WASPS play Newcastle at Sudbury on Saturday and when the fixture list was announced it probably hardly raised an eyebrow.

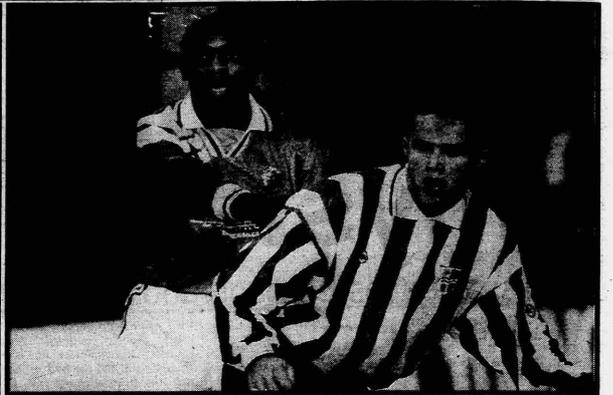
By Alan Bodenham

But a lot of water has gone under the bridge since then. England's most capped fly half, Rob Andrew, left Wasps to become director of rugby at Newcastle, and he took with him Wasps skipper Dean Ryan and his Irish international prop, Nick Poppellwell. Steve Bates will also be joining the north east club at the end of the season as a coach. At the height of the story, one Sudbury was suggested that even the club steward and bar staff would be emigrating north. Now that caused real horror!

However, anybody expecting fireworks in Saturday's match in the wake of the defections will be sorely disappointed, for none of the three former Wasps are likely to be in the Newcastle line-up. Andrew will be in the commentary box at Twickenham for England's international with Western Samoa, while Ryan is out of action following a calf operation. And with Poppellwell reportedly on a pay per play contract, it is thought unlikely that Newcastle would squander a match fee on this fixture. Wasps coach Rob Smith promptly dispelled any suggestion of conflict between the two clubs. "There will be no animosity" he said, "and there

is no bitterness against the Newcastle club or anybody there." Smith added: "We have a very important Pilkington Cup game against Sale next week and it is far more important that we get as many of our players as we can together and use this match as solid preparation." One former Wasp, Graham Childs, could be playing for Newcastle. But he left Sudbury before the start of the season for West Hartlepool, and moved on to Newcastle after Andrew's appointment. Wasps captain Lawrence Dallaglio and Damian Hopley will both be with England at Twickenham and will miss the Newcastle game, which kicks off at Sudbury at 3pm. Last Saturday Wasps had a convincing 45-19 win over

Northampton in a club match. As a contest it was all over by half time as Wasps built up a 33-0 lead, scoring five tries with Phil Hopley, Steve Bates and No 8, Tim McGuire, getting on the scoresheet. Right winger Matt Griffiths also impressed. He is one of the speediest wing men seen at Sudbury for quite a while. He got two tries and, having now served his 120 day qualification period after leaving Blackheath, will definitely be knocking on the door for league and cup selection. It took Northampton 60 minutes to get their first try through Kevin Morgan. But in the meantime Colin Bickle and Paul Delaney added further scores for Wasps in a very open and entertaining game.



Harrow Borough's David Clarke gets a bit pushy in Saturday's League match against Bishops Stortford at Earsfield.

Bob back to face Dulwich

DEFENDER Bob Dowie was carried off with a trapped nerve against Bishops Stortford, but he is expected to be fit for Harrow Borough's visit to Dulwich on Saturday. John Hurlock, however, will definitely be missing. He starts a two match suspension. Striker Brian Jones completes his lengthy ban on Sunday and Borough are hoping to arrange a friendly in mid-week to enable him to gain some match practice.

Waldstone are expecting to sign striker David Ross from Tring this week and he will be included in the squad for Saturday's visit to Harlow. Stones boss Gordon Bartlett is hopeful of having Roy Marshall, Terry Hibbert and Leigh Barnard back in contention for places, while Troy Birch, who has been missing for some weeks through injury and then a virus, is now back in training and could also be involved. Wembley visit fellow strugglers Barton Rovers on Saturday with both Sofiane Sardi, who has achilles tendon trouble, and Shaun Fleming, who is suffering from a virus, both doubtful.

Although not quite match fit, former club captain Charlie Flaherty, who recently returned from Chertsey, could be considered for selection. Edgware Town will be looking to improve their league placing on Saturday when they are at home to Bedford. Striker Don Allday could be in line for a return to the Kingsbury Town side on Saturday for their home game with Wingate and Finchley. Rayners Lane are without a fixture on Saturday.

The latest League tables

ICIS LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Division One	16	3	9	2	31	13	16
Division Two	16	3	9	2	31	13	16
Division Three	16	3	9	2	31	13	16
Division Four	16	3	9	2	31	13	16

Edgware pay for their lack of finish

Wivenhoe 3 Edgware Town 1
FOUR finishing cost Edgware a place in the next round of the FA Vase in Tuesday's rearranged match at Wivenhoe. They enjoyed lengthy spells of pressure against their ICIS Division Two rivals but at the end of the day they paid for failing to put away their chances. The first half was typical. Edgware had by far the better of it, but it was Wivenhoe who accepted a rare scoring opportunity to lead 1-0 at the break. The home side struck again early in the second half but Edgware hit back with a goal from Gerry Brennan to reduce the arrears and were playing well enough to win. However, a third Wivenhoe goal eventually ended their Vase hopes for another season.

Windless injury blow as Towers edge home

LONDON Towers take only a slender two point advantage into the second leg of their 7 UP Trophy semi final against Birmingham Bullies after their 64-62 first leg win at Wembley Court on Tuesday night. Towers were hit by an injury to American forward Tony Windless who was taken to hospital for stitches in a knee injury after crashing into court-side chairs as he attempted to keep the ball in play in the first quarter which ended with London 24-20 ahead. Birmingham, led by 23 point Tony Dorsey, then fought back from 39-31 down to lead 41-39 at half time. Towers recovered to finish the third quarter with a 55-50 advantage, but the Bullies restricted the home side in the closing minutes and their two point winning margin will hardly guarantee a place in the final for Kevin Cade's team when the second leg is played at Birmingham on Wednesday, tip off 7.30pm. Tomorrow (Friday) the Towers get the chance to avenge one of only two Badweiser League defeats they have suffered this season when they take on second placed Manchester Giants at Wembley Court, tip off 8pm. In a crucial game, victory would take the Towers four points clear of their rivals. Tickets, 56 for adults and 64 for children, can be obtained from the London Towers hotline on 0171-483-2310. On Saturday the Towers are away to lowly Leicester Riders, tip off 7.30pm.

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Kingsbury struggle through

Kingsbury Town 3 Potters Bar Town 0
KINGSBURY moved into the third round of the Middlesex Charity Cup on Tuesday, and a home tie with either Ruislip Manor or Viking Sports, but their passage was nowhere near as convincing as the final scoreline suggests, writes John Comfort. Keeper Darren Bonfield had to be in good form throughout to prevent the visitors cashing in on slipshod Kingsbury defending and it was only after the home side scored their third goal three minutes from time that victory was finally assured. Kingsbury opened the scoring in the 42nd minute. Potters Bar keeper Richard Evans could only palm a Dennis O'Rourke cross out to Jeb Hughes who promptly fired it back past the keeper into the net. Two minutes later it was 2-0. Jason Zazzera played a short corner to Dennis O'Rourke and he found Vernon Nelson who beat Evans with a good near post shot. That advantage should have been more than ample for Kingsbury but they struggled throughout the second half and always looked likely to concede goals until Hughes finally wrapped things up, taking a Kumah pass on the edge of the area and jinking round two defenders and the keeper before slotting home. Kingsbury: Bonfield, Leslie, Zazzera, Gower, Loughlin, Morris, D. O'Rourke, N. O'Rourke (Kenny), Hughes, Kurnell (Simpson), Omer sub: Perez.

Lions fail six point test

Wembley 0
Maldenhead Utd 1
FOR the first time this season the menacing spectre of relegation now seriously hangs over Wembley following their defeat in this 'Grade A six pointer' against fellow strugglers Maidenhead on Tuesday, writes Richard Markiewicz. For much of this season the threat of dropping into Division Two was perceived as nothing more than a mirage - but not anymore. The Lions are right in the mire now and will need to win games at home to justify the tag of being 'too good to go down.' In truth Wembley deserved at least a point from this battle between two ailing clubs but they never really recovered from conceding a goal in the second minute, Alec Norman scrambling the ball home after Kevin Beckles could only push a Paul McKinnon lob towards the far post. Apart from a few minor scares, Wembley practically dominated the remainder of the contest. They worked tremendously hard, but despite going close against probably the worst side they have faced this season, the equaliser simply eluded them. In the end Wembley's performance became one of those hard luck stories, but nothing will disguise the fact that they really should have beaten a very bad Maidenhead side. Wembley: Beckles, Wilcock, Lawrence (Granville), Walters, Shields, Daily, Cumberbatch, I. Bates (McLeod), Smith, J. B. Bates, Witter (Sainraou).

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