

# SPORT

## Euro crunch time for Wasps

IT'S crunch time at Sudbury on Saturday as Lawrence Dallaglio leads his Wasps troops over the top against Sale, writes Alan Bodenham.

With Wasps in fifth place and Sale in fourth this is a real four pointer as far as European qualification is concerned, the top four Courage League clubs gaining qualification for the money spinning European tournament next season.

The Sudbury men have already beaten the Cheshire side twice this season in league and cup, both times on their own patch.

Wasps coach Rob Smith will be praying he can assemble his best available side. There was a good workout at training on Tuesday and several players vital to Smith's plans are returning to fitness, Damien Hopley, named as captain of the England squad for the Hong Kong Sevens tournament, and Matt Greenwood included.

Sale, who have been linked with boxing promoter Frank Warren, will be out to play their usual brand of open rugby and if the fine weather forecast comes to fruition, a good running game is in prospect.

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## Kelly eyes target

WEMBLEY Ladies ace Kelly Smith gave England a 42nd minute lead in their European Championship qualifying tie against Italy in Consenza. But the goal wasn't enough to give England victory, for the Italians recovered to level and eventually went on to win by 2-1.

## Lions get lift with five-goal blast

Ruislip Manor 0 Wembley 5  
 WEMBLEY'S third successive league win on Monday hoisted them out of the relegation zone for the first time since mid-October and gave a considerable boost to their hopes of avoiding the drop, writes John Comfort.

It all came right in the end, but the Lions did not start particularly brightly and it was the home side who enjoyed the better of the opening half hour, their best chance being blasted over from close range by Foster after Kevin Beckles had flapped at a high box into the area from Manor player-manager Colin Payne.

But it was Wembley who broke the deadlock in the 36th minute. Brian Ham-matt's run across the face of the Manor area ended with him finding Steve Lawrence at the far post and he crashed a fierce angled drive past keeper Danny Gillam.

Down the slope in the second half, Wembley were in charge from the off and both John Granville and Ham-matt went close before the lead was increased by two goals in a minute from Andy Smith. The first after 63 minutes came with a glancing header from a Lawrence cross.

The second was slotted past the advancing Gillam from Hurracia Willock's through ball.

Russell Adams' 80th minute challenge brought a drive worthy of the high board from Ham-matt, but convinced referee Mike Dearing sufficiently to award a penalty which Hollingdale duly despatched. A minute later Ham-matt himself completed the scoring with a superb goal, chasing a long ball out of defence on the right and cutting inside to beat a defender and then blasting a fierce shot past Gillam.

Wembley: Beckles, Willock, Hollingdale, Walters, Shields, Granville, Sardi, Lawrence (Sakthout Smith, Ham-matt, Fleming, Other subs: Child, Walsh.

## City slickers pose a tough test for Wembley

WEMBLEY'S revival run will be sternly tested at Vale Farm on Saturday when they take on league title favourites Oxford City.

The Lions may be currently out of the danger zone, but they are not yet safe from relegation, as manager Glen Charles is quick to point out. "We're not finished yet, there's still a lot of hard work to do."

Wembley will be without the suspended Tony Ponnou on Saturday but hope to have Jon-Barrie Bates recovered from flu. Ian Bates is an injury doubt.

Bob Dowie returns to the Harrow Borough side after suspension for their game at Chertsey but Christian Metcalfe and Frank Appiah are still struggling with injuries.

Waldstone look to keep their promotion hopes alive when they face Tring at the White Lion ground. Roy Marshall and Tim Buzaggio are both doubtful with injuries.

Seamus Finnerty is struggling for fitness and is a likely absentee for Edgeware Town's visit to Leatherhead. However, Steve Hurd returns after injury.

## Soccer fixtures

**Saturday March 23**

ICIS League Premier Div: Chertsey Town v Harrow Borough  
 ICIS League Div One: Wembley v Vale Farm, Spm  
 ICIS League Div Two: Leatherhead v Edgeware Town  
 ICIS League Div Three: Wealdstone v Tring Town (White Lion ground, Spm), Kingsbury Town v Clacton (Silver Jubilee Park, Spm)

**Sunday March 24**

ICIS League Premier Div: Kingstonian v Harrow Borough  
 ICIS League Div One: Wembley v Tooting & Mitcham (Vale Farm, 7.45pm)  
 ICIS League Div Two: Edgeware Town v Chalfont St Peter (White Lion ground, 7.45pm)  
 ICIS League Div Three: Wealdstone v Camberley Town (White Lion ground, 7.45pm)

**Wednesday March 27**

ICIS League Div Three: Wealdstone v Camberley Town (White Lion ground, 7.45pm)

## The latest League tables

ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division		Barrow Rovers		Division Two						
P	W	D	F	P	W					
St Albans City	31	18	9	7	62	31	18	9	7	62
Dulwich Hamlet	31	18	9	7	62	31	18	9	7	62
Hayes	31	17	10	4	52	24	61	9	3	20
Kingstonian	31	18	5	8	45	27	21	6	3	18
Yeovil Tn	31	16	9	6	55	41	57	14	6	33
Boreham Wood	28	15	8	5	42	53	23	14	7	55
Grays Ath	31	8	12	11	33	38	52	14	9	46
Aylesbury Utd	29	14	9	8	48	29	51	13	9	46
Narrow Boro	30	13	8	9	48	41	47	13	11	59
Bishop's Cleeve	31	13	7	11	43	38	46	13	5	39
Chertsey Tn	32	11	6	15	38	49	39	10	12	38
Purfleet	31	10	7	14	40	50	37	10	8	41
Grays Ath	31	8	12	11	33	38	52	14	9	46
Hatchin	32	8	16	34	56	32	29	8	14	46
Wokingham	31	6	11	14	28	45	29	8	7	40
Walton & Hersch	32	7	5	20	37	28	26	6	7	35
Hendon	31	6	19	28	54	24	31	6	19	30
Molesey	32	5	22	39	66	49	30	7	20	33
Worthing	32	4	22	31	73	18	22	6	29	32

# Towers home in on the title

'We have to lose three to mess it up' says Cadle

WITH only six games left to play, the Budweiser League title is looking set to join the 7-UP Trophy and the National Cup in the London Towers trophy cabinet.

An 87-72 victory over the Newcastle Comets on Saturday, coupled with the shock 78-72 demise of title rivals Sheffield Sharks to the Birmingham Bulls, has left Towers with one hand firmly on the championship trophy and confident coach Kevin Cadle declaring: "We'd have to lose three of our last six to mess it up now."

A crowd of 5000 in the Newcastle Arena watched Towers overcome the Comets. A tight first half ended with Towers just one point ahead at 43-42, but Cadle's team started the second half in dominant mood, netting 13 points to a solitary field goal from Scott Patterson.

That gave them a 56-44 advantage and they finished off the job with the first seven points of the fourth quarter to take an unassailable 74-54 lead and victory was in the bag.

Tony Windless led the Towers scoring with 22 points followed by Steve Bucknall with 20 and Danny Lewis with 16. Towers stretched their lead at the top of the table on Tuesday night when they soundly defeated lowly Chester Jets by 107-81.

Windless (24) was again the top scorer, with Bucknall and Lewis each landing 19.

Towers face the most difficult game of their title run in on Sunday at Wembley Arena when they take on the in-form Birmingham Bulls, who have won their last 13 games.

Tip off is at 5pm and a big crowd is expected so fans are advised to book early to ensure tickets.

The Towers hotline is 0171-722-6677.



Kevin Cadle - his team are closing in on another trophy.

**BUDWEISER LEAGUE**

P	W	D	F	Pts		
London Town	31	27	4	2712	2260	54
Sheffield	30	24	6	2495	2102	48
Birmingham	30	22	6	2794	2503	44
Leopards	30	20	10	2665	2536	40
Derby Storm	32	19	13	2822	2693	38
Man Gatts	30	18	12	2531	2479	36
Worthing	32	17	15	2899	2886	34
TV Tigers	31	12	18	2673	2704	24
Newcastle	31	11	20	2728	2969	22
Newcastle	30	9	21	2242	2711	18
Leicester	30	8	22	2242	2514	16
Chester	31	7	24	2529	2795	14
Hemel	30	5	25	2324	2671	10

## Hat-trick for Sheldrick as Stones go on goal spree



Lee Tekell keeps his eye on the ball in Wealdstone's 1-1 draw with Epsom at the White Lion ground on Saturday.

WEALDSTONE'S promotion chances may well be regarded now as slender, but they are hopes flickering with this seven goal demolition of hapless Hertford on Tuesday, and as manager Gordon Bartlett said afterwards: "It's not all over until the fat lady sings," writes John Comfort.

It took the Stones 26 minutes to open the floodgates and from then on it was merely a case of how many they would win by as they gained ample revenge for the shock FA Cup defeat they suffered at the hands of their rivals in September.

Paul Sheldrick headed in the opener after Lee Walker's shot from a Lee Smart cross had been blocked and 10 minutes later Sheldrick swept in a second from a low cross by Smart.

## Worthington Wealdstone dinner date

EX-England striker Frank Worthington is the special guest speaker at Wealdstone FC's Sportmans Dinner, which is being held at the Jarvis International Hotel in Watford on Thursday May 9.

Right on half time Tony Smith's clever flick sent Fergus Moore away to cross for Walker to lash Stones into a 3-0 lead.

Three minutes into the second half Smart smashed home a 20 yard blockbuster to make it 4-0 and a fifth followed after 64 minutes, Sheldrick completing his hat-trick with a fine near post header from Steve Fraser's pinpoint cross.

Fraser got on the scoresheet after 73 minutes when he cut in from the right and sent a blistering shot in off the far post and the scoring was completed 11 minutes from time, Smith collecting a Fraser cross and cleverly cutting inside a defender before lashing a superb shot into the roof of the net.

Wealdstone: Tenkaron, Smart, Moore, Marshall (Smith), Goad, Knight, Walton, Hibbert, Walker (Tekell), Sheldrick, Fraser. Other subs: Buzaggio.

Bookings can be made by calling Wealdstone commercial manager Layne Patterson on 381-1617.

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