

# SPORT

**Cadle's men take title now only play-offs remain for a clean sweep of honours**

## Champion Towers



● Jubilant London Towers in celebratory mood after being presented with the Budweiser League Championship Trophy following their victory over Hemel Royals at Wembley Court. Picture by Sophie Powell.

ALL conquering London Towers have won basketball's top prize, the Budweiser League Championship.

They claimed the crown with two games still to play by beating bottom of the table Hemel Royals 114-94 at Wembley Court last Wednesday.

They followed that with wins over Thames Valley Tigers and Manchester Giants at the weekend, ending the season with a staggering run of 14 straight victories to finish four points clear of defending champions Sheffield Sharks.

Immediately after the Hemel match, club captain Roger Duhaney was presented with the League trophy, prompting wild celebrations amongst the 2000 capacity crowd.

Said a delighted Towers coach, Kevin Cadle: "It's fantastic in your career to have a team reach its potential and that's what these guys have done. They've done all the work for me. They've done an excellent job. They're so competitive in practice and they're still improving."

It was a double night of celebration for the

was named as the Budweiser League Coach of the Month for March.

It was also a big night for club owner Barrie Marshall. "The team was wonderful. Kevin Cadle was incredible. The fans were fantastic and the future's tremendous," he said.

Winning the title keeps the Towers on course for a unique fourth time, having already won both the 7 UP Trophy and the National Cup. That has only been achieved once before, by Kingston four years ago - when they were coached by Kevin Cadle.

The clean sweep was uppermost in the mind of Towers captain Roger Duhaney after the League title had been clinched. "It's nice, but there's one more to go. The fourth is a must," he said.

Towers' opponents in the play-off best of three match quarter finals are Thames Valley Tigers. The first leg is at Bracknell on Saturday, tip off 8pm, with the second leg at Wembley Court on Thursday April 18. If a third game is needed it will be at Wembley on Sunday April 21.

### Knight out of Stones crunch game

TONY Knight is serving a one match suspension and misses Wealdstone's important match at Aveley tonight (Thursday).

Leading scorer Paul Sheldrick should return, but there are injury doubts over Ian Waugh, Roy Marshall and Terry Hibbert.

For Stones, nothing less than a win will do to keep alive their promotion hopes.

Harrow Borough visit Purfleet on Saturday and will be without Brian Jones, who is banned for one match for his sending off against Yeovil.

Although he has completed his suspension, keeper David Hook is suffering from a groin injury and the impressive Tom Evans continues in goal. David Clarke is close to recovery from injury and could be in contention for a place.

Wembley's Robert Hollingdale and Tony Ponnou, who have groin injuries, are both doubtful for Saturday's visit to Leyton Pennant. There is also a question mark over the fitness of Steve Lawrence, who has a knee injury.

Matt Maran, signed from Ruislip Manor just before the transfer deadline, is added to Glen Charles' squad.

Youssef Sakhradi is out for the rest of the season after breaking his wrist in a domestic accident.

After having words with manager Jack McGleish and being pulled off and replaced by assistant manager Peter Grant in Monday's 2-0 defeat at Chalfont, Dave Instone's place in the Edgware side to face Croxson is in doubt.

Joe Sheridan and Gerry Brennan are injury doubts, as is Seamus Finnelly, who had stitches in an eye wound.

Kingsbury striker Job Hughes has a hamstring injury and is rated doubtful for Saturday's game with Harfield.

### Fixtures

Thursday April 11  
 ICS League Div Three: Aveley v Wealdstone (7.45pm)  
 Saturday April 13  
 ICS League Premier Div: Purfleet v Harrow Borough  
 ICS League Div One: Leyton Pennant v Wembley  
 ICS League Div Two: Edgware Town v Croxson (White Lion ground, 3pm)  
 ICS League Div Three: Clapton v Wealdstone (Kingsbury Town v Harfield) (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm)  
 Helnetic League: Harrow Hill v Raynes Lane

Tuesday April 16  
 ICS League Div One: Wembley v Marlow (4.50pm)  
 ICS League Div Two: Edgware Town v Hempsstead (White Lion ground, 7.45pm)  
 ICS League Div Three: Windsor v Wealdstone (Kingsbury Town v Harfield) (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm)  
 Wednesday April 17  
 ICS League Premier Div: Harrow Borough v Hendon (Earlsmead, 7.30pm)

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### The fat lady gets ready to sing for Stones

Wealdstone 2 Kingsbury Town 0

THREE useful points from a tricky derby game against Kingsbury on Monday to follow Saturday's fine win at Northwood were most welcome for Wealdstone, but with all their rivals gaining similar hauls, their frustration at being

so near to promotion, yet so far, continues, writes John Comfort.

The fat lady may not yet be singing, but as Stones manager Gordon Bartlett readily admits, with games fast running out, she is now starting to warm up in the wings.

Disappointing Kingsbury

gave them few problems on Monday after Jason Zazera conceded a penalty on the stroke of half time by flattening Lee Walker as he chased down an Ian Waugh throw-in.

Walker lashed the spot kick past Darren Bonfield and the 1-0 lead was just reward for Stones' dominance of the half.

The second half was more closely contested and although Town had a good spell midway through, they failed to test Rob Tenkorang.

Wealdstone came good again in the final quarter and sealed victory with a second goal after 79 minutes.

The flying Bonfield superbly saved a Steve Fraser blockbuster at the expense of a corner, but from Fraser's flag kick, Steve Croad headed the ball down and Lee Tackell directed it into the net.

Wealdstone can do nothing more in the race to go up than continue winning games and hope others falter.

Wealdstone is growing that the crucial slip-ups this season have already been made - by Stones.

Wembley: Tenkorang, Smart, Moore, Waugh (Buzaglio), Croad, Knight, Walton, Takell, Walker (Smith), Fraser, Bircham. Other sub: Hibbert.

Kingsbury: Bonfield, Loughlin, Zazera (Kumah), Gower, Stewart, Morris, D. O'Rourke, Moore (N. O'Rourke), Sioley, Leslie (Andrews), Ash.



● Not this time - Kingsbury keeper Darren Bonfield turns a Wealdstone shot over the bar in Monday's derby game at the White Lion ground.

### Wembley denied victory as late goal is ruled out

Wembley 2 Ruislip Manor 2

A CONTROVERSIALLY disallowed last minute goal denied Wembley victory over Manor on Monday, although having squandered a 2-0 lead, the Lions could actually have no real complaints about the result, writes Richard Markiewicz.

Wembley tore into the visitors from the start and went in front after only five minutes. Andy Smith sent Jon-Barrie Bates clear and after waiting for Manor keeper Paul Holland to commit himself, Bates coolly rolled the ball home.

Holland then twice blocked efforts from Bryan Hammatt and tipped over another J. B. Bates strike as Wembley threatened to increase their lead. But it was only shortly after Alan Mills hit the bar in a brief Manor reprieve at the other end that Wembley eventually managed to double their total. Bates nodded the ball down into the goal area for Hammatt to hammer in the second goal in the 25th minute.

In total control of proceedings, Wembley looked set to repeat the 5-0 drubbing they inflicted on Manor at Grosvenor Vale a few weeks

ago. But on the stroke of half time the visitors pulled a goal back, Steve Scott heading home Keith Cooper's near post corner.

Then 11 minutes into the second half Wembley's lead was amazingly whittled away when Richard McDonagh, with a subtle touch, slotted in a harmless crossfield pass which had pierced the home defence.

Wembley then spent much of the second half on the defensive and goalline clearances from Paul Shields and Shaun Fleming, and an excellent save by the agile Kevin Beckles, prevented Manor from taking the lead.

It was not until the 89th minute that Wembley eventually regained their composure and Hammatt looked to have scored a dramatic late winner after being set up by J. B. Bates, who had rounded the sprawling Holland. But a flag waving linesman indicated that Bates had fouled the keeper before delivering the ball and the goal was ruled out, much to Wembley's rancour.

Wembley: Beckles, Willock, Ponnou (Metherell), Walters, Shields, Cumberbatch, J. B. Bates, I. Bates, Hammatt, Fleming, Sioley, Cochrington, Granville.

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