

# SPORT Tough at top for Towers

## Hard work ahead to match treble season

LONDON Towers start the new basketball campaign at Worthing Bears on Saturday night knowing that only a clean sweep of honours will emulate last season's superb treble of Budweiser League, National Cup and 7 UP Trophy.

Coach Kevin Cadle has no doubts about the tough task that lies ahead of a squad which has lost Steve Bucknall, Martin Henlan and Andy Gardner in the wake of the Bosman ruling. "We know that we are going to have a lot of work to do this year to match last season," he said. "My goal for this season is that the team competes for every game. If the guys are ready to go and are prepared to be the best for 40 minutes then I'll be happy."

With the fractured foot injury to new signing Karl Brown, Towers already have their problems. "Pre-season has been kind of

tough," said Cadle. "We're still a long way from the finalised product as far as the team's concerned. It's going to take a while but then it was early December last season before the style we finally adopted came to fruition."

In a curtain raiser to the new season, Towers finished runners up in the Sainsbury's Classic Cola Tournament at Wembley Arena at the weekend. They struggled to beat Porto 65-61 and although there was considerable improvement in Sunday night's final, they narrowly lost by 71-69 to Greek outfit Peristeri. Guesting for the Towers was ex Worthing ace Alan Cunningham.

After Saturday's visit to Worthing, Towers meet Derby Storm at Wembley Arena on Sunday, tip off 8pm and on Wednesday start their European Cup campaign away to Verona, in Italy.



**Wembley FC 1996/97**  
Back row (left to right) Sofiane Sardi, Steve Lawrence, Jon-Barrie Bates, Wayne Walters, Kevin Beckles, Ashley Cumberbatch, Eddie Mee, Andy Smith, Paul Townley, Front: James Burgess, Ian Bates, Paul Shields, Glen Charles, John Walsh, Nelson Kumah, Shaun Fleming.

**Golden Jubilee**  
WEMBLEY FC 1996/97  
WEMBLEY FC 1996/97  
WEMBLEY FC 1996/97

## 10 man Hendon sink Lions with last gasp goal

**Hendon 1 Wembley 0**  
A LAST gasp extra time goal sent Wembley tumbling out of the Guardian Insurance Cup on Tuesday night against 10-man Hendon, writes John Comfort.  
The Lions spent long periods on the defensive, but must have fancied their chances as they finished normal time strongly and in the closing minutes saw home striker Micky Banton sent off, ap-

parently for something he said to referee Dodge.  
But Wembley miserably failed to make their advantage tell in the extra half hour and it was Hendon who looked the more likely to break the deadlock.  
Simon Clark almost did so with a rasping shot against an upright but with a replay seeming certain, Clark's cross was headed home by the unmarked

Hakan Altinkoc to give Hendon a dramatic late win.  
Scoring chances were few and far between for the Lions. Ian Bates came closest, his header from a Shaun Fleming corner being pushed onto the bar by keeper Tony Wells.  
Wembley: Beckles, Cumberbatch, Smith, Walters, Shields, J.B. Bates, Mer (Lawrence), J. Bates, Boreham, Kumah (Ellis). Other sub: Burgess.

## Local quartet hit the FA Cup trail

EDGWARE Town, Harrow Borough, Wembley and Wealdstone tread the path to the two tiers on Saturday in the FA Cup first qualifying round.  
Edgware have selection problems for their clash with Ford United as both keeper Andy Carter and defender Gerry Brennan are starting bans, while John Shanahan and Steve Hurd are both injured.  
Neil Mason steps in for Carter.  
Any replay will be on Tuesday (7.45pm), the League Cup tie at Boreham Wood being postponed.

David Hook returns in goal for Harrow Borough who take on Eastern Counties League Stowmarket at Earlsmead.  
But Chris Metcalfe and Paul McKay are both doubtful, though Dave Clarke could return after injury.  
If a replay is required it will take place on Wednesday, kick off 7.45pm.  
Sofiane Sardi has had a hernia operation and misses Wembley's tie at home to Royston. Sean Fleming is also doubtful through injury.  
The Lions have sold their talented defender Rob Hollingdale to Premier

Division Boreham Wood.  
Wealdstone have Tony Knight, Ian Waugh, Stewart Jones and Steve Fraser all in contention for places for their tie at Horsham. Paul Sheldrick is also expected to have recovered from a knee injury.  
Any replay will take place on Tuesday, with the league game against Hertford being cancelled.

## Tuigamala to make debut at Bath

VA'aiga Tuigamala makes his debut for Wasps at Bath on Saturday and his inclusion will add further momentum to Wasps' season after their exciting Loftus Road debut.  
Tuigamala, who played a prominent part in Wigan's

premiership win over St Helens, will take his place in the centre, and could well face Wigan colleagues Henry Paul and Jason Robinson.  
"Wasps will not just use him as a battering ram though," said rugby supremo

Nigel Melville. "He is a class player, fast and skilful. We will be using subtly as well as brute force"  
Describing Saturday's test against Bath as "the first of many big examinations this season," Melville was quick to point out that Bath are still a strong outfit. "They don't have many weak points," he said "but we're getting fitter and stronger and will be going to break our record tackle count of 99 we set last Sunday."

Chris Sheasby, who went off injured near the end of a very impressive debut against Saracens, will be fit to rejoin the back row but apart from Tuigamala's inclusion at the expense of insteal, Aaron James or Nick Greenstock, Melville does not expect to change a winning lineup.

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## Edgware get it right at last!

**Flackwell Heath 0 Edgware Town 3**  
EDGWARE found the winning formula - it's called scoring goals - and belatedly dumped Flackwell out of the FA Cup in this preliminary round second replay on Monday, writes John Comfort.  
A 9th minute goal from Bobby Hutchinson gave them an early boost as he cleverly

turned his marker on the edge of the area and drilled home a low angled drive.  
Danny Kirby, Dave Instone and John Coleman all missed chances of adding to that score and it wasn't until the 54th minute that the lead was doubled. Kirby miskicked as he attempted to convert a Steve Newing cross but Coleman followed up to score.  
Newing hit the woodwork

before Wares got their third with a 56th minute penalty from Seamus Finnerty after Hutchinson had been felled in the area by Richards.  
Edgware: Carter, Brennan, Mangan, McCluskey, Instone, Flynn (Whylock), Kirby (Murphy), Finnerty (Buckley), Hutchinson, Newing, Coleman.  
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## Nko is the hat-trick hero as Boro' win 11-goal bonanza

**Berkhamsted Town 5 Harrow Borough 6**  
THIS 11 goal Guardian Insurance Cup bonanza on Tuesday was a goalkeeper's nightmare but a spectator's delight, writes Tony Booth.  
Nko Ekoku landed a hat-trick for Borough, his first coming after 15 minutes when he headed in a Sean James corner.  
Rutherford levelled for Berkhamsted within a minute and by the 36th minute the underdogs had gone into a 3-1 lead following further goals from Butler and Rutherford.  
But Borough bounced back and were level before the break. Brian Jones laid the ball off for Issott to score a 42nd minute goal, then Ekoku found Mark Xavier, who

beat four defenders before firing home from 25 yards for an injury time equaliser.  
Borough went ahead after 53 minutes when Ekoku netted from a Paul Benning cross but four minutes later Mills levelled and after 61 minutes Coles put the hosts in front.  
Two minutes later Xavier's throw set up Ekoku to blast Borough's equaliser via an upright to complete his hat-trick.  
The deciding goal came two minutes into added time, Endersby's cross being driven goalwards by Jones and being diverted into the net by defender Bartlett to put Borough into the next round.  
Harrow Borough: Schwens, McKay (Robinson), James, Court, Dawie, Banning, Jones, Issott (Hurlock), Ekoku, Xavier, Endersby, Other sub: Santos.

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