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'Great 'Escape' takes Stones to the top

Wealdstone 3 Wingate & Finchley 2

STONES took over the ICIS Division Three top spot on Tuesday night following one of the most remarkable comebacks ever seen at the White Lion ground, writes **John Comfort**.

Few, if any, would have given them any chance as they blundered their way to a 2-0 half time deficit but in an electric charged second half that was definitely not for the faint hearted, they battled back to level terms, then, in a dramatic finale, secured victory with a Bryan Hammatt goal four minutes from time.

Stones started brightly enough but the game began to slip away from them after 21 minutes when poor defending at a corner allowed Darren Carr to lash Wingate into a shock lead.

Wealdstone had hardly recovered when they were 2-0 down, Darren Bonfield bringing down Carr in the area and Adam Hart converting the resultant penalty kick.

Stones came out for the second half in fiery mood and

within 12 minutes they had pulled one back courtesy of Steve Bircham's header from a Steve Fraser cross.

Relentless Wealdstone pressure followed and it brought its reward in the 75th minute, man of the match Chris Walton firing home the equaliser from close range.

There was no let up, and with four minutes remaining Walton put Hammatt through to drill a low shot into the corner of the net for a dramatic winning goal and Wealdstone's Great Escape was complete.

Pinner referee Bill Jordan received less than warm approval from Stones supporters for booking seven home players. But in truth, most were justified and indeed, in the decidedly heated second half atmosphere, two were perhaps fortunate to stay on the park.

Stones boss Gordon Bartlett certainly had few complaints. "In the first half we showed little passion, in the second we probably showed too much," he said.

Wealdstone: Bonfield, Massey (Hammat), Smith, Moore, Waugh, Marshall, Walton, Hibbert, Walker, Fraser, Bircham. **Other subs:** Croad, Jones.



Bryan Hammatt - hit Stones' winner.

Hemel Hempstead 0 Edgware Town 1

AFTER the shambles of Saturday, Edgware fielded a much changed team at Hemel on Tuesday night with John Shanahan and Paul McCluskey returning to central defence in a more basic 4-2-4 system, writes **Tom Hooks**.

The visitors enjoyed a good opening spell and should have comfortably put the game beyond their hosts' reach in the first half.

Steve Newing and John Coleman both had efforts saved in the early stages and it was no surprise when Edgware scored after just 12 minutes. Gerry Brennan and Coleman combined to set up Carl Lindo for a shot which Ward did well to parry but Newing followed up to hammer home the loose ball.

Lindo and Newing were guilty of the worst misses as Edgware tried hard to extend their lead, but their second half performance was best forgotten as they failed to make any impression.

In the latter stages Hemel threatened to level and only the bar prevented Flannagan from doing so. But Wares held on for a welcome if not altogether satisfying three points.

Edgware: Carter, Whytock, Mangan, McCluskey, Shanahan, Finnelly, Latty, Brennan, Lindo, Newing (Ivers), Coleman (Kirby). **Other sub:** Pett.

Wasps in transfer market

Kiwi lock Weedon is target

THE heavy 49-22 defeat at the hands of Munster on Saturday will inevitably mean that Wasps will be moving in on the transfer market.

Just as they had been at Gloucester and Cardiff in their previous two defeats, Lawrence Dallaglio's men found themselves outgunned up front in murky Limerick.

The forwards are mobile and skilful but at the moment lack the bite to compete effectively against an opposition determined to keep the game at close quarters.

The Irishmen invariably won the 50-50 ball and the lineout was again a disaster area. Wasps surrendered possession on the Munster throw and could only take scrappy possession at best on their own.

With two tries going to Munster on interceptions when Wasps were attacking, it is also clear that minds need to be much more concentrated than they have been of late.

Restoring the competitive edge to the pack seems to be the priority and one of the names being mentioned is Kiwi lock Mark Weedon. The man from North Harbour, who is an All

Black squad member, stands at six foot six, weighs in around 18 stone and is both fast and aggressive. He would seem to fit the bill.

Whoever signs on the dotted line though will not be available for selection this Saturday when Wasps face Toulouse at Loftus Road.

The European Champions defeated Cardiff last Saturday in what was reported to have been a very hard tempered encounter.

There is however some real skill in the European Champions, who are captained by French international winger Emile N'Tomack. A win would just about keep hopes alive for Wasps to qualify for Group D.

On Wednesday night Courage League rugby returns to Sudbury when West Harlepool are the visitors.

The north easterners could well field Liam Botham, son of the legendary cricketer, in their line up.

If so, Wasps had better beware because it will be Botham junior's league debut and the family have a habit of causing sensations on such occasions.

Kumah doubt for return to cup demise scene

STRIKER Nelson Kumah has a damaged ankle and is doubtful for Wembley's visit on Saturday to Bracknell Town - the scene of a humiliating 5-1 FA Cup defeat for the Lions last season.

Sofiane Sardi has begun light training following a hernia operation while both Andy Smith and Hurracia Willock are now available for selection following in-

jury and suspension respectively.

After a month out injured, striker Paul Sheldrick is in line for a return in Wealdstone's match at Camberley.

Stones have received international clearance for Yugoslavian forward Ardzian Zefi and he is added to the squad, along with new signing from Wimbledon, defender Dominic Sterling.

Striker Steve Newing has a calf injury but is likely to be fit for Edgware Town's home game with lowly Egham. Otherwise no changes are expected from that which won at Hemel.

Kingsbury have a tough away game against Harlow and will be without the injured Denis O'Rourke and Craig Elliott, who is serving a suspension.



Harrow Borough's David Clarke takes on a Staines Town defender in Saturday's ICIS League game at Earlsmead which the visitors won by 2-0.

Soccer fixtures

Saturday October 26

ICIS League Div Two: Bracknell Town v Wembley; Edgware Town v Egham Town (White Lion ground, 3pm).

ICIS League Div Three: Camberley Town v Wealdstone; Harlow Town v Kingsbury Town.

Middle Premier Cup: Broadwater Utd v Edgware Tn Res; Evershed v Harrow St Marys; Hampton Res v Rayners Lane; Neasden v Cockfosters.

Tuesday October 29

ICIS League Div Two: Chesham v Edgware Town.

ICIS League Div Three: Braintree Town v Kingsbury Town.

Fireworks at the Borough

THERE will be plenty of fireworks at Earlsmead on November 5 when Harrow Borough FC hold their own fantasy fireworks display.

Gates open at 7pm and the display starts at 8pm. Tickets are £4 for adults and £2 for children or a family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) costs £10. Tickets are available on the gate or in advance from the club on 422 5221.

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Endersby on loan at Stevenage

HARROW Borough's non league England international star, Lee Endersby, has joined Stevenage Borough on loan for a month with a view to a possible transfer to the Vauxhall Conference Champions.

He made his debut on Saturday against Farnborough but although he played well, Stevenage suffered a 3-1 defeat.

Harrow have no game this Saturday but

will be staging the FA Cup 4th qualifying round tie between Staines and Welling at their Earlsmead ground.

Chertsey, with whom Staines are ground sharing, have a home league game on Saturday and the ICIS League have refused permission for it to be cancelled to allow the FA Cup tie to be played there, so it has been switched to Earlsmead.

Towers toppled by high flying Jets

THOSE expecting the Chester Jets' bubble to burst will have to wait a little longer after Budweiser Champions, London Towers, became the latest victims of the team of the moment at Wembley on Sunday.

Towers 86 Jets 91 would have been unthinkable just six months ago but Kevin Cadle's team are now only too fully aware of the title credentials of the Cheshire outfit.

Towers started well and led 31-27 at the end of the first quarter.

But an 18-2 romp by the visitors in the second quarter

saw them into a 53-42 advantage at the break.

Chester increased their lead to 14 points early in the third quarter and it took some inspirational play from Karl Brown and Tony Windless for the Towers to cut the deficit back to 63-70 as the game went into its final period.

The fourth quarter swayed too and fro but in the closing minutes Towers clawed their way back and when Danny Lewis shot a magnificent three pointer, they trailed by just two points at 86-88.

Towers could smell victory but Jets had other ideas

and a three pointer from Ricardo Leonard and a basket from Nigel Palmer clinched it for the visitors.

Lewis top scored for Towers with 23, Brown hit 18 and Joe Hooks 17.

Towers got their European Cup campaign back on course last Wednesday with a stunning 74-59 win over Hungarian club Marc Kormend.

Danny Lewis (22), Karl Brown (16) and Paul Deppisch (13) led the scoring.

Towers are in Budweiser League action away to London rivals Leopards this Sunday, tip off 7pm.