

# SPORT

## Hampton get on Stones' wick

**Hampton 4 Wealdstone 2**  
FIELDING only four of Saturday's squad, Stones lost this friendly on Tuesday night to a Hampton first team that included former Wealdstone striker Mark Biggins.

Dominic Sterling then Lee Walker equalisers after Hampton had twice been in front, but two late goals won it for the home side.  
Wealdstone: Middleton, McDavid, Sterling, Jones, Kutay, McGuigan, Keen, Courbold, Walker, Sheldrick, Moore. Sub: Patterson.

## Manager of Month award goes to Gordon



**Gordon Bartlett.**  
WEALDSTONE boss Gordon Bartlett has won the William Hill Bookmakers November ICIS League Manager of the Month award for Division Three but hopes it won't prove to be the kiss of death for Saturday's home clash with Clapton.

Traditionally, good runs tend to turn after the receipt of this particular honour as both the Braintree and East Thurrock managers found in the previous two months. With his side 10 points clear in the table and on a run of 11 straight league wins, Bartlett is anxious that Stones do not follow suit. "We've got to turn it round and win a few more," he said. Of the award, his second while at Wealdstone, he said: "It's very nice. It's just reward for the efforts of the players."

# Chairman makes money back pledge to fans

It's all too easy for the Lions

### Wembley 4 Hertford Town 1

EVEN with a less than full strength side, Wembley were far too good for Hertford in the ICIS League's Associate Members Trophy on Tuesday night and only a combination of good goalkeeping and inadequate finishing prevented a rout, writes John Comfort.

There were a catalogue of misses in the first half and only one goal, scored in their 31st minute by Les Thompson from Sophie Sardi's cross. Carlton Mitchell's 25 yarder onto the crossbar was Wembley's best other effort.

Thompson got his second seven minutes after the break, firing in via a post from a Nelson Kumah cross, but he wastefully squandered a host of chances to complete a hat-trick, notably when he put a point blank range header onto an upright when scoring looked easier.

Wembley complacency allowed Steve Kasha to pull one back for Hertford after 69 minutes but any thoughts of an upset were dispelled 14 minutes later when Mitchell set up Kumah to make it 3-1 and it was Mitchell who completed the scoring deep into injury time, firing home through a crowded penalty area after the visitors had failed to clear a Shaun Fleming corner.

Wembley: Glasgow, Wolfe (Cumberbatch), Wilcock, Walters, Shields, Mitchell, Thompson, I. Bates, Kumah (Boreham), Sardi (Smith), Fleming.



Paul Rumens - money back offer to fans.

A BAD day at the office for Wealdstone on Saturday when they play Clapton at the White Lion ground, could hit club chairman, Paul Rumens, severely in the wallet.

Staggered that the outstanding performances by Gordon Bartlett's team this season have failed to draw in anticipated big crowds, the ebullient Rumens has made an astonishing offer to would be fans of the club.

"I challenge people who haven't seen us yet to come along and if you are disappointed, I'll guarantee that you get your entrance money back," he said.

Although Stones are a massive 10 points clear at the top of the ICIS Division Three table, having

### By John Comfort

won their last 11 league games, and are just three short of the club all time record of 14 successive wins set back in 1951, gates are marginally down on last year when the team's inconsistency cost them the promotion that was expected.

Their biggest gate so far is 333 against Wingate and Finchley. Last season that fixture drew 540.

Rumens believes that missing out on promotion - a failure which left him with egg on his face after publicly promising in the Observer that Stones would be promoted - is the root cause of

this season's disappointing attendances.

"I believe we shot ourselves in the foot last season by not getting promoted," he said. "We were on a big roll, we were back in the borough, had a new manager, a new team and obviously expectations were high. But we didn't deliver. This season people seem to be more cautious in their expectations."

"But we definitely are the team to watch at the moment and it could be a nice surprise for people to come along and see a decent side."

However, if all doesn't go according to plan, Mr Rumens will be waiting at the White Lion turnstiles, wallet at the ready.

## Towers let cup slip away

LONDON Towers have lost their grip on one of the three trophies they won last season following their 72-70 National Cup semi final defeat to cross-town rivals Leopards on Sunday at Wembley Court.

Despite losing the first leg at the London Arena by 93-92, with US-German ace

Paul Deppisch hitting an incredible seven from nine three-point attempts for a 21 points haul, Towers were confident of overturning that slender deficit in Sunday's return. But it was not to be.

Leopards led throughout the game and with John White hitting basket after basket they looked as if they

might run away with it as the fitness of the Towers, who were playing their third big game in five days, was firmly put to the test.

But Towers never gave up and with Tony Windless proving yet again that he's the man for the big occasion, they staged a dramatic comeback. Trailing by 15 going into the second half they went on a 10-0 run to leave them just two points behind with a minute to go.

Had MVP Windless then nailed a three point attempt it would have levelled the tie on aggregate, but agonisingly it came back off the rim and two free throws from Eric Burks sealed the game for the Leopards - and loosened Towers' grip on the cup.

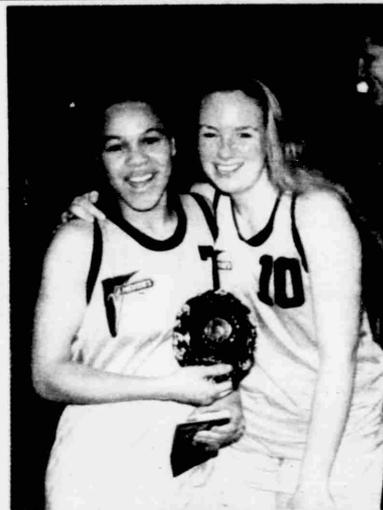
The week was not without success for Towers, however, as last Wednesday's 71-58 win over the Yugoslavians,

Podgorica, in front of a packed Wembley crowd secured their place in the knock-out stage of the European Cup - the first time it has been achieved by a British club. They now meet Russians, Saratov, in January.

Danny Lewis, as he has been so many times this season, was the provider of the bulk of the Towers offensive plays and he top scored with 27 points.

Towers completed their European Cup group matches in Hungary on Tuesday night, losing 84-79 in Hungary to Marc-Kormend.

This Sunday Towers return to Budweiser League action when they take on top of the table Sheffield Sharks at Wembley Court, tip off 7.15pm. For tickets call the Towers hotline on 0171 722 6677 or the Wembley hotline on 900 1234.



## Wasps' big game is switched

WASPS' crucial top of the table Courage League clash with Harlequins at Loftus Road has been switched from Saturday January 4 to Sunday January 5 because Queens Park Rangers have a home FA Cup tie with Huddersfield on the Saturday.

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## Claremont girls rise to challenge

Claremont High School's Siobhan Da Costa and Christine Maguire have plenty to smile about. Claremont won the Brent Schools Basketball Challenge on Saturday and the duo, shared the MVP award.  
Report and more pictures on page 86.  
Picture by Sophie Powell

## Rutherford signing boost for Borough

HARROW Borough are hoping to sign striker Ian Rutherford from Berkhamsted Town in time to play in Saturday's crucial clash with fellow strugglers, Chertsey Town, at Earlsmead.

Other new signings by new boss Bob Dowie to strengthen the squad are in the pipeline as

Borough desperately look to move away from the foot of the Premier Division - Steve Butler has recovered from a bout of flu and should be fit to face Chertsey.

Wembley face another test of their promotion capabilities with the visit of Horsham to Vale Farm.

Manager Glen Charles gave his rivals the once over on Tuesday night but will not be lulled into over confidence by the fact that they surprisingly lost 1-0 at home to Tilbury. J.B. Bates and Sofiane Sardi are both carrying knocks but should be fit to play.

Striker Lee Walker has proved his fitness after a long spell out with a knee injury and will be in contention for a starting place in the Wealdstone team to face Clapton.

Edgeware are without a game on Saturday as scheduled opponents Barking have an FA Vase match.

### Soccer fixtures

**Saturday December 14**  
ICIS League Premier Div: Harrow Borough v Chertsey Town (Earlsmead, 3pm)  
ICIS League Div Two: Wembley v Horsham (Vale Farm, 3pm)  
ICIS League Div Three: Aveley v Kingsbury Town, Wealdstone v Clapton (White Lion ground, 3pm)  
Russell Grant Middx Cup: Rayners Lane v Hanwell Town (Lucas Ave, 2pm), Neasden v Edgeware Town Res.

**Tuesday December 17**  
Guardian Insurance Cup: St Albans City v Harrow Borough  
Associate Members Trophy: Dorking v Wealdstone.  
London Senior Cup: Ford Utd v Kingsbury Town.  
ICIS League Div Two: Edgeware Town v Wivenhoe (White Lion ground, 7.45pm)  
Wednesday December 18  
FA Youth Cup replay: OPR v Bishops Cleeve (Earlsmead, 7pm) (Fixture subject to confirmation)

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