

SPORT

Towers are so close!

But Euro dream is over after Moscow draw

LONDON Towers' European Cup dream is over, despite an impressive performance in the return leg of their first round proper match in Moscow against Autodor Saratov.

Towers trailed by five points from last week's first leg at Wembley and ironically it was those five points that proved crucial as the second leg ended all square at 68-68.

The Budweiser League champions were leading 27-22 five minutes before half

time to put themselves level on aggregate and they seemed in with a real chance of upsetting the Russian Super League leaders.

But then a technical foul on guard Danny Lewis sent him to the bench and allowed Saratov back into the match.

Even so, Towers still kept in the hunt and when veteran Alan Cunningham sunk a three-pointer with 22 seconds remaining, to put them two points in front at 68-66, they

were still in with a chance.

But the Russians kept their cool and when Andrei Malcev drew a foul and then sank the two free throws it was all over for the Towers.

Said coach Kevin Cadle afterwards: "We lost it in London. It's a major disappointment because I believe we were the better team."

Joe Hooks led the scoring for Towers with a 21 point haul, while Neville Austin landed 14.

This Saturday the Towers are in Budweiser League action at bottom of the table Hemel and Watford Royals, tip off 7.30pm.

On Sunday they play the second leg of their 7 UP Trophy quarter final against Leopards at Wembley Hall, tip off 7pm. Admission is £6 for adults and £4 for children, £1 more on the door. For ticket info call Towers Hotline (0171 722 6677) or Wembley hotline on 900 1234.

Win tickets to see England play Italy at Wembley Stadium

See page 123



Wembley's Steve Jones puts his back into it in the 2-0 win over Chalfont on Saturday that kept the Lions on top of Division Two. Match report, page 123.

Suicidal Borough dig their own cup grave

Staines Town 5 Harrow Borough 2
BOROUGH made their exit from the Middlesex Senior Cup on Tuesday night, a catalogue of diabolical defensive blunders sending them crashing to an embarrassing defeat in their second round replay at Wheatheaf Lane, writes **John Comfort**.

The agony began after 20 minutes when Sean James won the ball from Staines winger Jim Williams then promptly lost it back to him and when the cross came over a totally unmarked Phil Grainger slotted into an open goal.

Borough hit back and deservedly levelled on 38 minutes. Glyn Hooper swept the ball wide to Lee Endersby on

the left and then raced to the far post to head home the winger's pinpoint cross.

The visitors finished the half strongly but instead of scoring a second goal they amazingly contrived to concede one, right on half time. A poor clearance found John Gasson who quickly fed Grainger and when David Hook parried his firm shot, Steve Battams followed up to fire in the loose ball.

It was Battams who handled in the area in a goalmouth scramble to concede the penalty from which Sean James again put Borough level after 67 minutes and it appeared that the visitors were heading for a place in the third round.

But no so! The nightmare

continued, and within four minutes slack defending allowed Gasson to put Staines back in front from a Williams cross.

Only the legs of keeper Dave Brace prevented Brian Jones from scoring a third equaliser for Borough before Battams effectively killed the visitors off when he blasted a great 20 yarder into the roof of the net to make it 4-2 with two minutes remaining.

In injury time Eric Jones dispossessed Jason Court and strode through to net Staines' fifth goal to complete Borough's cup humiliation.

Harrow Borough: Hook, Clarke, James, Court, Paris, McKay (Isotti), Jones, Hurlcock, Rutherford, Hooper (Ekoku), Endersby. **Other sub:** Butler.

Wasps set for fiery cup clash

SPARKS will fly when Saracens and Wasps clash in the Pilkington Cup at Enfield FC on Sunday, kick off 3pm, writes **Alan Bodenham**.

Saracens, bankrolled by multi-millionaire Nigel Wray, and peppered with rugby legends, beat Harlequins in the Courage League last weekend and will see themselves as London rugby's top dogs if they can vanquish Wasps.

That is a situation that Lawrence Dallaglio and his teammates will not tolerate.

The Wasps skipper goes head to head with superstar Francois Pienaar, South Africa's World Cup captain, and there is another fascinating back row confrontation, with Chris Sheasby taking on Richard Hill, the man who has replaced

him in the England team.

Alex King will also have a point to prove. The fly half was passed over in favour of Northampton's Paul Grayson when the Calcutta Cup selection was made, despite being Mike Catt's understudy for the internationals before Christmas.

Another legend, Australian Michael Lynagh, will be his opposite number, giving him an ideal opportunity to show Jack Rowell the error of his ways.

It will be an interesting afternoon also for Andy Gomarsall, who has the chance to see off one of his main challengers for the England scrum half spot, Kyran Bracken.

Irish international centre, Rob Henderson, is set to complete his move

to Wasps from London Irish this week but will be cup tied.

In the absence of the departed Va'aida Tuigamala, Gareth Rees looks a good bet to move from full back to centre, with John Ufton dropping back from the wing. This leaves the door open for speedster, Paul Sampson, to make a return.

Wasps last met Saracens in the Pilkington Cup in 1993 when Wasps won a cliffhanger at Sudbury by 18-17. In their League meeting at Loftus Road in September it went in favour of Wasps by 36-21.

Those without tickets for the game are advised to arrive early at Enfield on Sunday as there will only be a limited number available on the day.

Wares go down without a fight

Wivenhoe Town 2 Edgware Town 0
A DEPRESSINGLY poor performance from Edgware saw them slump out of the Associate Members Trophy.

On a cold, bitter Tuesday night, Wares never posed any real threat. Wivenhoe dominated almost throughout and clearly wanted to win more than the visitors.

Wivenhoe took the lead after 10 minutes when Julian Hazell netted following a goalmouth scramble, and they never looked like losing it.

Steve Newing was wide with Edgware's only chance

of the first half and Mark Ivers had a similar result with their best opportunity in the second period.

However, the result was put beyond doubt with five minutes remaining when Hazell was put clear of the Edgware defence and lobbed home over the advancing Carter for Wivenhoe's second goal.

To add to Edgware's woes, Karl Thomas received another booking and put himself in line for suspension.

Edgware: Carter, Whytock, Mangan, McCluskey, Shanahan, Finney, Latty (Flynn), Thomas, Ivers, Newing, Kirby (Hurd). **Other sub:** Valenti.

Bates back for Wembley

IAN Bates is available for selection for Wembley's visit to Metropolitan Police on Saturday after completing his suspension.

However, his brother, Jon-Barrie Bates, is likely to miss the match with an injured ankle. Ashley Cumberbatch, who has a groin injury, is also doubtful.

Meanwhile, striker Nelson Kumah is expected to see a specialist in the hope of curing a cartilage problem.

After his team's disappointing defensive performance at Staines in midweek, it is perhaps not surprising that

Harrow Borough manager Bob Dowie is on the verge of signing a defender to strengthen his rearguard in time for Saturday's visit to Carshalton.

Other comings and goings are also likely within the next week as Dowie seeks a winning formula to steer Borough away from the lower reaches of the ICIS Premier Division.

Mark Xavier, who broke a wrist in the first Middlesex Cup match with Staines, is likely to be out for five weeks.

Borough have no other injury problems for Saturday's game. **Wealdstone** will be looking to avenge their most embarrassing league defeat of the season when they receive Flackwell Heath on Saturday, The Berkshire club, currently one off the bottom of the table, gave Stones a shock 4-0 beating on their own ground in the early part of the season.

Roy Marshall is starting his two match ban and will miss that match as well as Tuesday's Associate Members Trophy clash with Bracknell.

Edgware Town go to Hungerford with Carl Lindo in contention for a place after recovering from injury.

Soccer fixtures

Saturday January 25
ICIS League Premier Division: Carshalton Ath v Harrow Borough.
ICIS League Div Two: Hungerford Town v Edgware Town; Metropolitan Police v Wembley.
ICIS League Div Three: Wealdstone v Flackwell Heath (White Lion ground, 5pm).
Russell Grant Middx Cup: Rayners Lane v Neasden (Lucas Ave, 1.45pm).
Tuesday January 28
Middx Senior Cup: Hillingdon Borough v Edgware Town.
Associate Members Trophy: Wealdstone v Bracknell Town (White Lion ground, 7.45pm); Wingate & Finchley v Kingsbury Town.
Wednesday January 29
Guardian Insurance Cup: Harrow Borough v Boreham Wood (Earlsmead, 7.30pm).

Latest league tables

ICIS LEAGUE		Premier Division		Division Two	
P	W	D	L	F	A
Yeovil T.	20	15	3	2	34
Enfield	20	13	5	2	43
Sutton Utd	19	11	6	2	42
Dagenham & Red	19	11	5	3	31
Dulwich Ham	22	10	5	7	38
Oxford C.	22	10	5	7	46
Aylesbury Utd.	21	9	6	6	23
Heybridge Sw.	21	10	3	8	28
Purfleet	22	9	4	8	30
Staines T.	19	7	6	6	31
Kingstonian	23	8	3	12	39
Carshalton Ath.	22	6	7	9	27
Hitchin T.	22	7	4	11	26
Bromley	16	6	4	6	28
St Albans C.	17	6	4	7	31
Boreham Wd.	19	7	1	11	39
Bishops Stort.	21	6	4	11	20
Hendon	19	4	8	7	24
Harrow Boro.	21	6	2	13	22
Grays Ath.	18	4	5	9	23
Chertsey T.	23	4	3	16	24
Wembley	23	13	6	4	57
Leatherhead	21	13	5	3	54
Bedford T.	23	12	4	7	39
Windsor & E	24	11	9	4	41
Horsham	18	11	4	3	33
Barking	21	10	7	4	31
Wivenhoe T.	23	11	4	8	36
Leighon T.	22	9	7	6	35
Edgware T.	20	9	3	8	22
Met Police	20	10	3	7	33
Chalfont St P.	22	8	7	7	31
Hungerford	24	8	7	9	43
Bracknell	19	2	2	22	29
Collier Row	15	7	1	3	17
Banstead Ath.	18	9	1	8	27
Witham T.	22	8	4	10	23
Tilbury	21	7	4	10	36
Cheshunt	23	5	1	17	22
Dorking	22	7	3	15	25
E Thurrock	19	3	3	12	18
Egham T.	23	2	4	17	21
Hemel Hemp.	23	2	4	17	10
Wingate & Finchley	16	6	1	9	24
Lewes	16	5	2	9	21
Bramreth	14	10	2	2	50
Tring T.	14	10	1	3	32
Northwood	14	8	6	0	37
Camberley T.	17	8	3	6	34
Hertford T.	16	7	10	3	33
E Thurrock	15	8	0	7	29
Wingate & Finchley	14	7	2	5	33
Wingate & Finchley	16	7	3	6	26
Wingate & Finchley	16	6	1	9	24
Hornchurch	16	5	2	9	14
Tring T.	14	10	1	3	32
Clapton	14	4	3	7	12
Epson & E.	14	3	3	8	27
Flackwell H.	13	3	6	13	15
Southall	17	2	1	14	12

CHEQUECASHING

Don't have a bank account?
Don't want to use your bank account?
If you have received a wages cheque, a tax rebate, a council cheque, a DSS cheque or any other cheque from a recognised company - then we can cash it while you wait!
This includes cheques crossed "Account Payee Only" and "Not Negotiable"

PROOF OF IDENTITY REQUIRED
248 HIGH ROAD, HARROW WEALD
IS NOW OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 10AM-6PM
(CLOSED TUESDAYS) SATURDAY 10AM-5PM
0181-933 2244

Flint Insurance

Registered Insurance Brokers

COMPETITIVE QUOTATIONS

We guarantee unbeatable rates for all lady drivers FOR MOTOR INSURANCE

SPECIAL RATES FOR: Young Drivers

High Performance Cars
Hot Hatches!!

HOUSEHOLD INSURANCE

Buildings and Contents

TEL: 0181-427 6464
Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 Sat 9.30-12.30

C. C. FLINT & CO. LTD.
51 STATION ROAD, NORTH HARROW
MIDDLESEX HA2 7SR

COME & MEET CHANNEL 4 RACING CELEBRITY DEREK THOMPSON

on Friday 24th January at 11.30am at

William HILL
HIGH ROAD, WEMBLEY
(opposite the Ealing Road)