

SPORT

Gordon gets best boss award

WEALDSTONE'S Gordon Bartlett has won the ICIS League Division Three's William Hill Manager of the Month award for February. His second award of the season

comes in a month which saw Stones win all four of their league games, including a 6-0 thrashing of title rivals Braintree which has left them with one hand on the championship trophy.

The Wealdstone boss said he was "very pleased" with the award. Enfield's former Harrow Borough boss, George Borg, took the Premier Division award.

Xavier back with a bang



Mark Xavier.

Bishops Stortford 0 Harrow Borough 1

MARK Xavier highlighted his long awaited return after injury with a well deserved winning goal as Borough continued their encouraging run of form at Rhodes Avenue on Tuesday night, writes Tony Booth.

On a sodden pitch, shrouded in mist, it was not a night for pretty football but Borough adapted well from the start. They looked strong in defence, combative in midfield, and promising in attack, although they lacked finish. A propensity to fall offside didn't help, especially in the 43rd minute when Ian Rutherford smacked home a Clarke cross only to have it ruled out.

Borough continued to hold the upper hand in the second half and almost broke the deadlock when a brilliant tackle by the hard working Xavier paved the way for Nko Ekoku to drive a shot onto the crossbar.

It was no more than the visitors deserved when they notched the only goal of the game after 71 minutes. Chris Metcalfe's corner found Xavier at the far post and he controlled the ball before turning it low past the keeper. Last season's ICIS Premier Division top scorer was back on song with a good night's work rewarded in style.

Harrow Borough: Hook, David Clarke, Cooper, Court, Paris Webster, Butler (Metcalfe), Hurlock, Rutherford, Xavier, Ekoku. Other subs: Hooper, Jones.

Towers keep firm grip on 7 UP Trophy

LONDON Towers were in celebratory mood on Sunday after retaining the 7 UP Trophy with a 67-59 win over Chester Jets in the final at the Birmingham NEC.

Towers took three of basketball's top honours last season and had already let the National Cup slip from their grasp.

But they were in no mood to let the 7 UP Trophy go the same way and a powerful last quarter performance saw them home.

For Towers' coach, Kevin Cadle, the Trophy win was his 20th title in his amazing 11 years in British basketball.

Trophy final match report, plus Family Bonanza ticket offer for this Sunday's big Budweiser League clash with the Leopards at Wembley, on page 114.

Picture: Gerard Farrell



Wasps line up Logan

But it's all quiet on the Benazzi front

ASHLEY Cumberbatch (back), Paul Shields (hamstring) and Carlton Mitchell (groin) all face late fitness tests before Wembley's home game with Dorking on Saturday.

However, against a side having their annual battle against relegation, the League leading Lions, even with a less than full strength line-up, will be expecting to pick up three more vital points towards their

SCOTTISH international Kenny Logan is likely to make his debut when Wasps take on Gloucester at Loftus Road on Sunday.

The 24 year old winger, who played in his country's Five Nations win over Ireland at the weekend and has been named in the Lions party, will finalise contract negotiations this week and will be training with his new teammates for the first time today (Thursday).

On the table is a three year deal which will see Logan move to London once he has settled his business affairs north of the border.

A strong, powerful runner who is

By Alan Bodenham

solid in defence, Logan is sure to stiffen Wasps' backbone for the push towards the Courage League title.

Wasps have also been linked with French centre, Abdel Benazzi, with a three year contract worth £750,000 reported to have been offered.

But Wasps Director of Rugby, Nigel Melville, would not comment apart from saying that the big forward was 'some player'.

The Loftus Road outfit are determined to make amends for the shock defeat they suffered at the hands of

Gloucester last October. Any clash with the west countrymen means a set to with their abrasive forwards and a man who will be at the sharp end on Sunday, Darren Molloy, is convinced his teammates are ready.

"The pack have been playing well as a unit recently and we're psyched up and looking for revenge" he said.

Fly half Alex King, who missed the West Hartlepool game through injury, returns to the side and if Logan is included, they will be the only changes.

Wasps' game at Leicester on March 29 has been rescheduled because of their rivals' involvement in

the Pilkington Cup semi-finals. It will now be played on Wednesday April 2, kick off 7.45pm at Welford Road.

Wasps are reducing their prices for the remaining games at Loftus Road this season. Up to two children under 16 will be admitted free if they are accompanied by an adult.

New admission charges for members are: South Africa Road Stand £12, Ellerslie Road Stand £11, Upper Loft £11 and the East and West Paddock £8. For non members, prices are: South Africa Road Stand £15, Ellerslie Road Stand and Upper Loft £13, East and West paddocks £10.

Wembley trio face late fitness tests

promotion bid.

A waterlogged Cheshunt pitch caused the cancellation of Wembley's Middlesex Charity Cup tie with Cockfosters on Tuesday night. No new date, or venue, has yet been fixed.

Harrow Borough's recent good form will be put to the test on Saturday when they play host to title chasing Yeovil Town.

Sean James is still out injured and new signing from Hitchin, David Cooper, who has had previous experience at both Exeter City and Luton Town, will deputise.

Steve Butler, who has a knee injury, is doubtful.

Suspension rules out both keeper Andy Carter and centre back Paul McCluskey for Edgware's visit to Leighton.

Reserve team custodian, Graeme Dillon, deputises for Carter with McCluskey's place likely to be filled by Kevin Randall.

Both John Mangan and Karl Thomas are injury doubts.

Wealdstone look to move closer to the Division Three championship when they face lowly Lewes at home on Saturday.

They have only Lee Walker and Chris Walton on the injury

list and no suspensions.

Stones have signed full back Steven Kelly who has just been released by Harrow.

Job Hughes is not back to fitness and will miss Kingsbury Town's derby game at Northwood.

Rayners Lane expect to be boosted by the return of Danny Mills after a lengthy spell out through injury for their visit to Spelthorne. But Steve Cott is unavailable.



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Soccer fixtures

Saturday March 8

ICIS League Premier Div: Harrow Borough v Yeovil Town (Earlsmead, 3pm)

ICIS League Div Two: Leighton Town v Edgware Town; Wembley v Dorking (Vale Farm, 3pm)

ICIS League Div Three: Northwood v Kingsbury Town; Wealdstone v Lewes (White Lion Ground, 3pm)

Middlesex League: Spelthorne Sports v Rayners Lane

Tuesday March 11

ICIS League Division Two: Edgware Town v Windsor & Eton (White Lion ground, 7.45pm); Hungerford v Wembley (7.45pm)

ICIS League Premier Div: Harrow Borough v Heybridge Swifts (Earlsmead, 7.30pm)

The latest soccer league tables

ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division	Division Two	Division Three
Enfield... 27 20 5 2 65 20 65	Wembley... 23 17 8 5 69 32 57	Wealdstone... 21 18 2 55 13 55
Yeovil... 27 20 5 2 65 20 65	Leighton... 23 17 8 5 69 32 57	Bramtree... 20 14 2 4 60 21 44
South... 27 20 5 2 65 20 65	Leatherhead... 23 17 8 5 69 32 57	Cheshunt... 20 13 2 5 43 26 41
Dulwich Ham... 29 12 8 9 45 40 44	Horsham... 26 15 7 4 49 28 52	Northwood... 19 10 8 1 41 20 38
Heybridge... 28 12 7 9 44 47 43	Wivenhoe... 26 14 6 10 54 42 48	Avrely... 21 11 4 6 42 28 37
Yearling... 26 11 9 6 39 27 42	Windsor... 26 14 6 10 54 42 48	Chesham... 21 11 4 6 42 28 37
Puffin... 30 12 7 9 44 47 43	Windsor & Eton... 26 14 6 10 54 42 48	Herford... 21 11 4 6 42 28 37
Dagenham... 24 11 8 5 34 17 41	Collier Row... 22 13 8 1 49 20 47	Thurrock... 21 11 4 6 42 28 37
Aylesbury... 26 11 8 7 33 30 41	Bodford... 22 13 8 1 49 20 47	Wingale & F... 21 8 4 9 33 40 28
Yeovil T... 27 20 5 2 65 20 65	Leighton... 23 17 8 5 69 32 57	Tring... 20 5 2 13 21 47 17
Carlton... 31 11 5 15 58 64 38	Edgware... 27 11 4 12 47 45 37	Clifton... 19 6 5 18 21 23
Cardinal... 29 9 8 12 37 40 35	Hungerford... 30 10 11 50 57 37	Lewes... 22 6 5 11 25 40 23
St Albans... 29 9 8 12 37 40 35	Edgware... 27 11 4 12 47 45 37	Essex & E... 19 6 5 18 21 23
Harrow... 29 8 10 11 39 43 34	Bramstead Ath... 22 11 3 8 42 32 36	Hornchurch... 21 6 3 12 18 37 21
Bishops... 28 9 6 13 29 41 33	Tilbury... 29 10 4 14 51 53 34	Tring... 20 5 2 13 21 47 17
Boreham W... 23 9 5 11 33 36 32	Witham... 21 3 1 5 17 33 37 32	Swalkell H... 21 4 5 12 19 48 17
Bromley... 27 8 6 13 42 45 30	Ware... 26 6 6 14 30 45 24	Soakham... 23 3 2 18 17 54 11
Staines... 28 7 6 15 31 44 27		

Sad Edgware are shown the Senior Cup door

Staines Town 4 Edgware Town 1 Edgware bowed out of the Middlesex Senior Cup on Tuesday with a less than adequate performance in this semi-final tie at Wheatheaf Lane, writes John Comfort.

Staines go ahead in the 23rd minute as John Coleman lost possession and then had a sudden rush of blood to the head as he crazily backed down home forward Justin Mitchell in his effort to retrieve the situation. David Jones netted the resultant penalty.

Phil Grainger drilled in a low shot to make it 2-0 after 42 minutes but Edgware bounced back within a minute. Danny Kirby's fine run was

ended when John Gasson sent him tumbling in the area and Steve Newing crashed home the spot kick. Wares went looking for an equaliser after the break but the game began to slip away from them after 63 minutes when referee Mick Robinson saw nothing amiss when Carter seemingly had the ball kicked from his grasp after saving a Grainger header and Gasson forced it in to make it 3-1.

Edgware striker Carl Lindo on the ball in Saturday's ICIS League Division Two match against Bracknell at the White Lion ground which Bracknell won 1-0. Match report and more pictures, page 115.

Beckles is tops GOALKEEPER Kevin Beckles has been named as Wembley's Carlton TV Player of the Month for February.

WEALDSTONE FC BLUE RIBBON LOTTERY Week 39

Eugene Flynn, Kirby and Carl Lindo all failed to score when put clear then Mark Ivers hit a post and Edgware were made to pay for those misses with six minutes left when Mitchell seized onto a poor headed clearance attempt and netted to seal Staines' place in the final.