

SPORT

Gayts look to exit with triumph in 10

OLD Gaytonians AC's final promotion before they become Harrow Athletic Club takes place at Hatch End on Saturday when they hold their annual pre-London Marathon

event, the Icon Harrow 10 km Road Race.

The club is hoping for its first win in 10 years in the team event as a finale to the old name which has been

in existence for 76 years.

The event starts at 3pm and entries will be taken on the day at Bannister Stadium, Uxbridge Road, Hatch End, until 2.40pm.

Double that Wealdstone didn't want

Bartlett's promotion train gets derailed

By John Comfort

WAS it really just six short weeks ago that Wealdstone crushed championship rivals Braintree and seemingly had the ICIS Division Three title in the bag?

That magnificent performance seemed a million years ago on Tuesday night as, for the second successive game, Stones suffered an overdose of promotion jitters and lost 2-0 to neighbours Northwood, just three days after going down by the same score in an almost identically frustrating match against Harlow.

Having won a club record of 13 home league games in a row, Wealdstone have now remarkably been beaten in their last two - and the cracks in their seemingly impregnable armour are starting to show. Having led the table by a massive 13 points at one stage, their advantage has

now been dramatically slashed to just one, albeit with a game in hand over second placed Braintree, and although they only need one more win to clinch promotion, the sparkle has gone, the pressure is clearly starting to show and, amongst some fickle followers, doubts are even being voiced that they can make it.

Manager Gordon Bartlett, however, does not subscribe to that view and declares that a change of attitude will soon bring a change of fortunes. "It's got to the stage where it's all about results," he said. "We look desperate and frustrated, but it's only our fourth defeat of the season. We've got to stop thinking negatively, maintain a positive attitude and get back to the free flowing football we were playing earlier in the season."

Bartlett's target is four wins from the remaining five games to win the title but with four of them away, including return games at both Harlow and Northwood, that will be no easy task.

He believes that being promoted is only a matter of time. "I haven't a clue when it will happen, but we'll do it," he said.

It could be on Saturday when Wealdstone visit neighbours Kingsbury Town, hoping to be boosted by the return of Terry Hibbert and Dominic Sterling, who both missed the Northwood game through injury.



Wealdstone's Paul McKay takes on Harlow's John Scott in their clash at the White Lion ground which Stones lost by 2-0. Report on page 115.

On form Edgware floor championship chasers

Collier Row & Romford 2

Edgware Town 3

EDGWARE pulled off a famous victory over championship chasing Collier Row on

Tuesday, inflicting only the second league defeat of the season on their formidable opponents, writes Tom Hooks.

In a seven minute period midway through

Top boss

THE reason for Wealdstone's successive defeats against Harlow and Northwood has been firmly established - manager Gordon Bartlett has been named as the ICIS League Division Three William Hill Manager of the Month for March.

Ashley is best

DEFENDER Ashley Cumberbatch has been named as Wembley's Carlton Player of the Month for March.

Wealdstone's Carlton Player of the Month for March was Ian Waugh.

Office opened

WEALDSTONE have opened a new office in central Harrow. They can be located at 30 Lowlands Road. The telephone number there is 864 3744.

The pressure gets to lack-lustre Wealdstone

Wealdstone 0 Northwood 2
THE pressure of having promotion so tantalisingly near got to Wealdstone again on Tuesday night and Gordon Bartlett's team never looked remotely like securing the win that would achieve it, writes John Comfort.

They had the bulk of possession but were sadly lacking in ideas as to how to break down a solid looking Northwood defence. For their part, the visitors, were content to sit back and bide their time and wait for breaks to

come along. When they did, they snapped them up with relish to gain a deserved win that considerably boosts their own promotion chances.

In a first half of almost sheer frustration for Stones, the best they had to offer was a Paul McKay cross-shot that dropped onto the crossbar and went over.

They were constantly caught out by Northwood's dangerous breaks and, after failing to heed several earlier warnings, were punished in the 22nd

minute when Jason Zazzera put Paul Halbert clear on the left and as Darren Bonfield recklessly charged from his goal, a sweetly struck lob flew over his head into the net.

The pattern was the same after the break and although Fergus Moore had a header from a Steve Bircham corner blocked on the line, Stones created very little else.

Northwood's decisive breaks continued and from one, Ian Waugh was somewhat fortunate to escape with a

booking and not get his second red card in successive games after hauling back the goalbound Halbert.

With five minutes remaining Wealdstone's misery was completed when Northwood got a second goal, again on the break. Lawrence Holmes set up Halbert whose close range effort was blocked by McKay but he found the net with his follow up shot.

Wealdstone: Bonfield, Smith (Sheldrick), McKay, Moore, Waugh, Marshall, Walton, Hammett, Miller (Walker), Garner, Bircham.

the first half, Wares ripped apart the home defence to take a shock three goal lead.

The visitors opened the scoring after 24 minutes when home defender Danny Benstock handled Paul McCluskey's shot off the line. He was sent off as Seamus Finnerty converted the resultant penalty.

Two minutes later John Coleman hammered a great drive into the net after a Joe Lyons long throw in and on 31 minutes a Coleman cross was neatly turned in by Eugene Flynn to make it 3-0.

A penalty after McCluskey had been adjudged to have fouled Welch was dispatched by ex-Arsenal star Martin Hayes after 42 minutes and from then on Edgware had their backs to the wall.

Fulling made it 3-2 after 53 minutes but then solid defending from Wares ensured that they held onto their slender advantage to the final whistle. And Gerry Brennan almost gave them a fourth goal, firing a free kick against a post.

Edgware: Carter, Hurd, Lyons, Finnerty, McCluskey, Brennan, Coleman, Ivers, Lindo (Finch), Flynn, Kirby. Other subs: Whylock, Murphy.

SOCCER FIXTURES

Thursday April 10
ICIS League Div Two:
Banstead Ath v Wembley (7.45pm)

Saturday April 12
ICIS League Premier Div:
Yeading v Harrow Borough.

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

ICIS League Div Three:
Kingsbury Town v
Wealdstone (Silver Jubilee
Park, 3pm).

Tuesday April 15
ICIS League Div Two:
Barking v Edgware Town
(7.45pm); Wembley v With-
am (Vale Farm, 7.45pm).

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Gloucester give Wasps a championship boost

WASPS' Courage League Championship hopes were given a considerable boost on Tuesday night when rivals Leicester lost 32-30 in a vital game at Gloucester.

The Tigers seemed to have the game won until Phil Greening scored a try deep into injury time and Mark Mapleoft landed the conversion from the touchline to give Gloucester a last gasp victory.

The result leaves Wasps three points clear of Leicester at the top of the table, with the Tigers having just one game in hand.

Leicester face a tough match at Bath on Saturday. Defeat there could effectively hand the title to Wasps if they win their game at Saracens.

Wasps' other remaining games are Sale at home and Northampton and Harlequins away.



Cool customer Gareth Rees, whose last ditch conversion of an Alex King's injury time try snatched Wasps a dramatic draw with Bath on Sunday. Report on page 114.