SPORT

Vase trips for Edgware and Stones

EDGWARE Town and Wealdstone have both received away ties in the second round of the FA Vase.

Edgware go to former Isthmian club Basildon, who are now in the Essex Senior League, while Stones are away to Ramsgate of the Kent League. Both ties are scheduled for November 22.

Both clubs have also been given away games in the next round of the Isthmian League Associate Members Trophy. Edgware are away to Ford United while Stones travel to Tilbury.

In the Full Members Cup Harrow Borough are away to Barton Rovers, while Wembley will visit Yeading if they beat Billericay in their delayed first round tie.

Shameful Stones sent crashing out in Senior Cup shocker

Wealdstone 1
Ashford Town 4

NO two ways about it - Wealdstone's performance on Tuesday was an absolute disgrace as they crashed embarrassingly out of Middlesex Senior Cup in extra time to Combined Counties League side, Ashford, **writes John Comfort.**

Manager Gordon Bartlett earmarked it afterwards as "probably the worst performance since I've been at the club."

For those with longer memories it was "probably one of the worst performances ever."

Bartlett has used matches of this nature to give squad players the chance of a run out, but despite their under-strength line-up, Stones should have been more than capable of disposing of their rivals. However, the ploy came badly unstuck on this occasion.

Early on things seemed to be going to plan.

Terry Hibbert fired against a post in a first half that Stones had the better of, and when a quickly taken free kick by Paul McKay five minutes after the break set up Dennis Greene to turn his marker and lash home a great near post shot it should have been the prelude to a comfortable passage into the second round.

But sadly Stones then lost the script, and showed a worrying lack of both character and commitment as they headed, almost resignedly, for the cup door.

When Jim Hegarty lumbered through to fire against the woodwork it should have sent out warning signals but Stones continued to be lax in all departments and it was no surprise when poor defending allowed substitute Andrew Eggington to fire in Ashford's equaliser with seven minutes to go to take the tie to extra time.

The visitors needed just 40 seconds of the extra period to inch ahead, the casual Paul Lamb losing possession to Andrew Frost who headed unchallenged for goal and somehow managed to beat Noel Imber at the near post.

Stones should have had a penalty -- and also been playing against 10 men - when Hegarty handled Fergus Moore's header off the line, but referee Nemorin-Noel, whose own performance matched that of the home side, gave nothing.

But it would probably not have made any difference, for when Wealdstone did get a spot kick after Keith Boreham had been held in the area by Hegarty, Lee Walker promptly dispatched it into orbit.

Just before that Eggington notched Ashford's third goal, firing home at the second attempt after Imber blocked his first effort, and then two minutes from time the striker completed his hat-trick, and along with it Wealdstone's misery on a night they most certainly will want to forget in a hurry.

Wealdstone: Imber, Kelly, Galloway (Boreham), Moore, Lamb, McKay, Walton, Hibbert (Walker), Greene, Celaire (Jones), Bowder.

King back to boost Wasps

Fly half is set to return for Euro Cup cruncher

By Alan Bodenham

WASPS' flagging fortunes received a welcome boost this week with the news that Alex King is winning his battle against a knee ligaments injury and is a virtual certainty to start in the European Cup quarter final clash with champions Brive at Loftus Road on Sunday, kick off 2.15pm.

The fly half, whose ability to trouble defences with incisive runs and high class positional kicking, has been sadly missed in recent defeats.

News of another absentee, Shane Roiser, is also good. He picked up a hamstring injury which kept him out of the Sale game but expects to be fit for Sunday.

Although Kenny Logan picks up the plaudits, right winger Roiser is just as dangerous, possessing speed to trouble opponents and he is also a safe defender.

Wasps' slump in form has become a major talking point and no-one seems to be able to pinpoint the reason for it. Head coach, Rob Smith, believes the players will shake off their lethargy for the visit of Brive which he describes as "a massive game."

He promised "We will be in their faces from the start. We know how disappointed the supporters have been, so one of our main aims is to get the crowd behind us early on by showing the pride and commitment that took us to the title last last season.'

Smith did admit however that "a good deal of the battle in preparing for the game will be with ourselves."

Brive are certainly a formidable side and Wasps will have a lot on their plate.

The French backs are outstanding. Christophe Lamaison, the fly half, was very much instrumental in France's Grand Slam campaign last season. Skipper Alain Penaud is an accurate kicker, Sebastian Carrat was the competition's top scorer last season, and there is also Argentinian international Lisandro Arbizu at centre.

Brive's forwards are also formidable and the way in which they dismantled what many people thought was an invincible Leicester pack in last year's final will not be forgotten.

Whatever happens, the atmosphere at Loftus Road on Sunday should be quite something. Brive is a rugby town through and through and their travelling supporters are entertainment in themselves.

The fourth round draw for the Tetley Bitter Cup pairs Wasps at home on January 3 with bitter local rivals Harlequins. The last time the two met in the competition was at Sudbury in 1993 when Wasps lost a dramatic semi final by a single point.

Wasps centre, Rob Henderson, has been picked for the Ireland side to play the All Blacks on November 15.

Boro' at full strength for FA Trophy clash

WITH Darren Coleman having completed his suspension, and Jon-Barrie Bates now eligible for the competition, Harrow Borough boss Bob Dowie will be able to pick from a full squad for Saturday's FA Trophy tie at home to Molesey.

It is a game which Borough will be fully expected to win against a Molesey side currently languishing in second from bottom spot in Division One of the Isthmian League.

However, should a replay be required it will take place at the Surrey club's Walton Road ground on Wednesday.

Wembley captain Ian Bates is suspended and misses Wembley's home game with Chertsey Town. New signing from Hendon, Hakan Altinok is an injury doubt.

Striker Chris Toussaint has been released by Wembley.

Wembley's Full Members Cup tie with Billericay on Tuesday has been postponed, the League having given the Essex club permission to cancel because of their involvement in the FA Cup the following Saturday. The Lions have filled the void with a Middlesex Charity Cup game at home to Southall.

Graham Ash is likely to be out through injury for several weeks and misses Edgware's home clash with Wivenhoe. Striker Mark Ivers has started his comeback in the reserves and could earn a place.

After the Ashford debacle, Wealdstone boss Gordon Bartlett is likely to revert to a more familiar line up with league points at stake at Egham on Saturday with the return of Roy Marshall and Steve Bircham, amongst others, somewhat inevitable.

He does however have a couple of injury worries, in Ian Waugh and Dominic Sterling.

Fixtures

Saturday November 8

FA Trophy 2nd qualifying round: Harrow Borough v Molesey (Earlsmead, 3pm).

Isthmian League Div One: Wembley Chertsey Town (Vale Farm, 3pm).

Isthmian League Div Two: Edgware Town v Wivenhoe Town (White Lion ground, 3pm); Egham Town v Wealdstone.

Isthmian League Div Three: Croydon Ath v Kingsbury Town.

Middx County League: Rayners Lane v FC Deportivo (Lucas Ave, 2.30pm).

Tuesday November 11

Guardian Insurance Cup: Hitchin Town v Wealdstone.

Middx Charity Cup: Wembley v Southall (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).

Isthmian League Div Two: Bracknell v Edgware Town.

Wembley stop the rot

A Croydon player feels the weight of a crunching tackle by Wembley's Craig Elliott in a game at Vale Farm on Saturday that saw the Lions end a five match run of defeats by scoring a 0-0 draw. Full match report on page 131. *Picture by Sophie*

Norwegians at Earlsmead

NORWEGIAN club, Tromso FC, used Harrow Borough's Earlsmead ground for pre-match training on Monday evening prior to their European Cup Winners Cup clash with Chelsea tonight (Thursday).

The latest league tables

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

Premier Division	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Dagenham	17	11	4	2	33	15	37
Sutton Utd	14	10	2	2	33	15	32
Boreham W	15	7	4	4	33	19	25
Kingstonian	13	6	5	2	24	14	23
Uxbridge	12	7	1	4	26	18	22
Harrow B	**13**	**7**	**1**	**5**	**18**	**18**	**22**
Purfleet	14	6	4	4	17	17	22
Enfield	16	6	4	6	23	25	22
St Albans	13	6	3	4	18	14	21
Bromley	17	5	6	6	23	22	21
Hayden	15	5	5	5	18	21	20
Bishops St	16	6	1	9	23	28	19
Dulwich H	15	4	6	5	28	24	18
Gravesend	14	5	2	7	26	26	17
Yeading	14	4	5	5	17	18	17
Walton & H	15	5	2	8	20	28	17
Aylesbury	15	5	2	8	14	28	17
Carshalton	12	4	4	4	20	23	16
Basingstoke	12	4	3	5	15	24	15
Chesham	15	4	2	9	25	27	14
Hitchin	15	3	5	7	13	17	13
Oxford C	16	2	3	11	13	39	9
Division One							
Grays	13	11	2	0	35	8	35
Lesterhead	16	10	3	3	30	16	33
Aldershot	15	8	4	2	27	13	31
Maidenhead	14	9	0	5	28	15	27
Hampton	14	7	5	3	25	19	26
Billericay	12	8	1	3	30	12	25
Chertsey	16	7	4	5	34	29	25
Worthing	15	7	2	6	30	31	23
Uxbridge	15	7	1	7	19	24	22
Romford	11	5	2	4	21	17	17
Leyton P	14	4	5	5	23	23	17
Staines	12	5	1	6	16	19	16
Wokingham	13	4	3	6	17	25	15
Bognor	11	4	2	5	20	15	14
Berkhamsted	15	4	2	9	24	36	14
Croydon	11	3	4	4	13	17	13
Whyteleafe	12	3	4	5	13	21	13
Wembley	**12**	**2**	**6**	**4**	**12**	**14**	**12**
Barton	13	2	5	6	13	23	11
Thame	13	2	2	9	9	35	8
Molesey	14	1	4	9	9	26	7
Abingdon	12	1	2	9	13	23	5
Division Two							
Edgware	**14**	**9**	**4**	**1**	**33**	**10**	**31**
Canvey Is	13	8	4	1	32	10	28
Met Police	12	8	2	2	20	11	26
Bedford	14	6	5	3	15	8	23
Northwood	14	7	2	5	16	18	23
Marlow	13	6	4	3	25	20	22
Chalfont	15	5	7	3	23	20	22
Braintree	9	6	3	0	26	12	21
Tooting	13	6	3	4	21	16	21
Barking	14	6	3	5	24	30	21
Wealdstone	**12**	**5**	**2**	**20**	**12**	**20**	
Hungerford	13	5	4	4	27	20	19
Banstead	13	5	3	5	22	19	18
Leighton	12	5	1	6	14	20	16
Bracknell	13	3	4	6	23	27	13
Witham	12	3	3	6	20	23	12
Wivenhoe	12	2	6	4	15	18	12
Horsham	13	2	3	8	18	26	9
Windsor	12	2	3	7	17	28	9
Tilbury	13	1	5	7	14	24	8
Egham	13	2	2	9	13	35	8
Cheshunt	15	1	2	12	12	35	5
Division Three							
Hertford	11	9	2	0	27	10	29
Clapton	10	7	1	2	17	11	22
Harlow	11	5	5	1	21	15	20
Ware	9	6	1	2	20	8	19
Hemel H	11	5	3	3	29	14	18
E Thurrock	9	6	0	3	18	11	18
Ford	9	5	2	2	20	11	17
Hornchurch	13	4	4	5	22	23	16
Croydon Ath	12	4	2	6	16	16	14
Tring	10	3	4	3	14	15	13
Wingate & F	9	3	3	3	11	13	12
Aveley	9	3	2	4	15	12	11
Flackwell H	7	3	2	2	11	8	11
Epsom	10	3	2	5	16	23	11
Dorking	10	3	2	5	18	34	11
Kingsbury	**11**	**3**	**1**	**7**	**16**	**26**	**10**
Camberley	8	1	5	2	14	12	8
Corinthian C	9	2	2	5	17	20	8
Lewes	11	1	2	8	11	29	5
Southall	11	1	1	9	8	30	4

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Towers Euro Cup hopes fade with another defeat

THE European Cup hopes of the London Towers took a dive on Tuesday night when they lost by 69-78 at Wembley to Hapoel Eilat - their fifth defeat in six games in the competition.

The Israeli team dominated the first half to lead 38-28 at the break and although Danny Lewis lifted Towers with 18 second half points, for a final tally of 27, Eilat hit eight three pointers to seal victory.

On Sunday Towers notched their ninth win from ten games, and went four points clear at the top of the Budweiser Basketball League table, by beating Leicester Riders 80-70.

However, the victory wasn't as easy as London's 13-0 start to the game, in which Lewis hit seven points in a row, suggested it might be.

Leicester fought back to trail by just six after the first quarter and in the second period they managed to tie the scores at 30-30 before a three pointer by Karl Brown triggered an 8-0 Towers run to close the half at 44-34.

After the break Towers opened the lead to 57-44 before Leicester again hit back to trail by just 60-51 going into the final period.

With three minutes remaining Jaron Boone took the visitors to within three points at 68-65 but then a 12-5 by the Towers saw them finally hold off the brave comeback by the visitors.

Lewis top scored for Towers with 23 points and was well supported by James Hamilton and Brown, who notched 12 points each.

Towers' next match is away to Milan in the European Cup on Tuesday

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