

SPORT



Mark Xavier - great opening goal.

Odds slashed as things look up for Dowie's men

Harrow Borough 2 Yeading 1
THESE are heady days for Harrow Borough, writes John Comfort.

This derby win on Tuesday lifted them up to a lofty fourth place in the Ryman Premier Division table and while no-one is yet seriously talking about honours, bookmakers, William Hill, are taking no chances. Borough's odds for the title were 50/1 just a month ago but have swiftly tumbled and this week they are down to 16/1.

Against Yeading, Borough maintained their welcome pen-

chant for flowing football but will concede that on the day their lively opponents probably deserved a share of the spoils.

Certainly, had the visitors' finishing been of better quality, a point would have comfortably been attained by them.

In the first half David Hook had to block a shot from David Kellman after Jason Court's error had left him free on goal, while Ross Pickett was wide from close range after Kellman had headed a Lee Protheroe cross down to him.

Borough didn't even manage a shot on goal until the 40th minute when Mark Xavier was just off

target with a neat chip shot, but a minute before the break the striker's finishing was more accurate.

A good ball down the left from Sean James was played wide by Pat Gavin to Xavier and he cut in and lashed a great angled shot past keeper Honey into the roof of the net to put Borough ahead.

Early in the second half Honey prevented Borough adding to their lead when he somehow managed to save a point blank range header by Steve Butler from a David Clarke corner.

Ironically, though, it was soon after Yeading's Tony Houghton had fired onto the Borough cross-

Richard Markiewicz. However, anyone thinking that

Wembley's victory was a dramatic turnaround from the heavy defeat inflicted on them by Billericay on Saturday will need to realise that the Lions' win was

achieved against what was basically the

Essex club's reserve side. Wembley themselves were below strength, but they proved too strong for the visitors and dominated this contest throughout. But they were unable to

penetrate a stubborn defence and needed to produce a couple of quality second half strikes to secure victory.

New signing Hakan Altinok hit Wembley's first goal in the 53rd minute when he ran onto Asim Ahmed's excellent defence splitting through pass and perfectly planted the ball beyond the keeper's reach.

Mark Jenkins made it 2-0 with a magnificently struck 40 yard dipping volley to wrap up the game in the 71st minute.

Wembley: Miller, Cumberbatch, Fleming, Scott, S. Walsh, Burgess (Jenkins), Smith (Hall), Bates, Altinok, Thompson (Mee), Ahmed.

Edgware left in cup dark



Fabio Valenti - scored in vain for Edgware.

Ford Utd 0 Edgware Town 1
(abandoned 30 mins)

EDGWARE will have to go back to Essex again for this Associate Members' Trophy tie after a floodlight failure caused Tuesday's match to be abandoned after 30 minutes.

Sadly for Wares, they looked to be heading for a comfortable win at the time, leading with a 13th minute goal from Fabio Valenti who surged down the right and then cut in to hammer home a blistering near post shot.

When the lights went out it was discovered that the problem was a mains fuse requiring the attendance of an LEB electrician and, after a 15 minute delay, the referee decided to abandon the match. The tie has been provisionally rescheduled for December 9.

Edgware: Carter, Smart, Finnerty, Shanahan, Hurd, Brennan, Roche, Whytock, DeVita, Newing, Valenti. Subs: Sutton, McCuskey, Lyons.

WALDSTONE FC BLUE RIBBON LOTTERY Week 25
£50 683; £30 2-06-020; £65 A-10; £83; £75 M-01-796; £150 2-15-075.

Cup axe facing Stones?

Fate is awaited after club's 'We played banned player' admission

WEALDSTONE are waiting to hear their fate after admitting to the Ryman League that they had inadvertently played an ineligible player in their Guardian Insurance Cup tie at Hitchin Town two weeks ago.

Stones secured a good 2-2 draw against their Premier Division opponents in the second round match, but it was later discovered that second choice keeper, James Bush, who was standing in for the injured Noel Imber, was under suspension.

Sent off while playing for a Sunday League side, Bush had been informed by the Hertfordshire FA that his suspension for the offence was due to start on Monday November 17 - six days after the Hitchin game.

However, he subsequently

By **John Comfort**

received further correspondence from the Herts FA which indicated that his ban should have commenced on November 10, the day before the Hitchin game.

Said Wealdstone director Layne Patterson: "The club was only informed after the event and it appears to have been an administrative error with neither us or the player being at fault."

Away day again in Vase

WEALDSTONE are away again in the FA Vase. Monday's third round draw gave them a trip to Essex Senior League club, Great Wakering Rovers, who beat Deal Town 2-1 in a replay on Tuesday night. The match is scheduled for Saturday December 13.

"As soon as we realised what had occurred we held our hands up and informed the league that technically we had played an ineligible player. Now we are just waiting to hear our fate."

With the replay scheduled for the White Lion ground on Tuesday, providing that Hitchin are not involved in an FA Trophy replay, an early decision is expected.

Supporters are advised to check with the club to see if the match is still on.

It's seventh time lucky for Wembley

Wembley 2 Billericay Town 0
AFTER six unsuccessful attempts, Wembley finally broke their Full Members Cup duck on Tuesday evening by defeating Billericay to record their first ever win in this competition, writes

Richard Markiewicz.

However, anyone thinking that Wembley's victory was a dramatic turnaround from the heavy defeat inflicted on them by Billericay on Saturday will need to realise that the Lions' win was

bar and down onto the line before the ball was hastily scrambled away, that the home side eventually extended their advantage in the 73rd minute, Kenny Webster blasting home a penalty kick after Butler had been fouled in the area by Mark Woods.

Within two minutes, Ehen Allen broke free to beat Hook at the second attempt and reduce the arrears but Borough had little difficulty protecting their slender lead to the final whistle.

Harrow Borough: Hook, Clarke, James, Court, Webster, Coleman, Hurlock, Metcalfe, Gavin (Rutherford), Xavier, Butler. Other subs: Denny, Bates.

Edgware Town 1

BATH City provide tough, but attractive, opposition for Harrow Borough at Earlsmead on Saturday in the third qualifying round of the FA Trophy.

It will be Borough's first ever meeting with City, who suffered relegation from the Conference last season and are currently in seventh place in the Premier Division of the Dr Martens League.

Borough will have Alan Paris available for the game after completing his suspension and new signing Keith Young, a striker formerly with Crook Town and Evenwood, is eligible if selected.

If the match ends in a draw, the replay will take place at Bath's Twerton Park ground on Tuesday, kick off 7.45pm.

Borough last night (Wednesday) played Brentford at Earlsmead in a match which gave manager, Bob Dowie, the chance to give squad players

and some trailblasts a run out.

Defender Wayne Walters could return to the Wembley line up for their home league game with Bognor on Saturday if he passes a late fitness test.

Keeper Darren Bonfield injure a shoulder during the recent Berkhamstead game and is doubtful. Former Northwood defender Simon Walsh is added to the Lions squad.

Edgware Town hope to have a new striker in their line up at Met Police. His identity is being kept under wraps until

the signing is completed but he was formerly with a rival Second Division club, and is no stranger to the White Lion ground.

Missing for Edgware will be Steve Hurd who starts a three match ban for an accumulation of bookings.

Keith Boreham, Brian Jones and Mario Celeira are all injury doubts for Wealdstone's home game with Marlow.

Returning will be defender Roy Marshall who was rested for the midweek cup game at Tilbury.

Soccer fixtures

Saturday November 29
FA Trophy: Harrow Borough v Bath City (Earlsmead, 3pm).
Ryman League Div One: Wembley v Bognor Regis Town (Vale Farm, 3pm).
Ryman League Div Two: Met Police v Edgware Town; Wealdstone v Marlow (White Lion ground, 3pm).
Ryman League Div Three: Kingsbury Town v Aveley (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm).
Russell Grant Cup: Rayners Lane v

Tuesday December 2
Broadfields Utd (Lucas Ave, 2.15pm).

Guardian Insurance Cup replay:
Wealdstone v Hitchin Town (White Lion ground, 7.30pm - check with club).

Members Cup: Barton Rovers v Harrow Borough; Yeading v Wembley (to be confirmed).

Ryman League Div Three: Kingsbury Town v Epsom & Ewell (Silver Jubilee Park, 7.30pm).

The latest soccer league tables

RYMAN LEAGUE										
Premier Division										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Dagenham	19	13	4	2	41	17	43			
Sutton Utd	18	10	5	3	38	21	35			
Kingstonian	18	9	7	2	35	19	34			
Harrow	18	10	1	8	27	23	31			
Boreham U	17	8	4	5	36	22	28			
Purfleet	17	7	5	7	28	31	26			
Hayes	16	8	1	6	32	27	25			
St Albans	16	7	6	6	21	24	24			
Walton & H	16	7	3	8	24	30	24			
Aylesbury	16	7	3	9	23	24	24			
Hendon	16	6	5	5	20	23	23			
Bromley	16	5	7	6	24	23	22			
Dulwich H	16	5	6	7	30	28	21			
Bishop C	16	5	9	3	35	20	20			
Bishop's	16	6	12	3	35	19	19			
Yeading	16	4	6	8	21	27	18			
Carshalton	13	4	5	4	21	24	17			
Grays	13	5	10	2	23	17	17			
Basingstoke	13	4	4	5	16	25	16			
Hitchin	12	3	7	7	19	23	14			
Oxford C	12	2	12	4	15	14	10			
Division One										
Grays	18	12	5	1	45	18	41			
Aldershot	18	10	5	2	36	17	38			
Leatherhead	18	11	3	5	27	33	36			
Hampton	17	9	6	3	33	24	33			
Maidenhead	17	10	1	6	34	17	31			

Worthing	17	9	2	6	33	32	29			
Salisbury	16	9	1	3	34	12	28			
Romford	14	8	2	4	33	21	26			
Chertsey	14	7	5	7	39	37	26			
Uxbridge	17	8	1	8	24	31	25			
Leyton P	15	7	5	7	26	24	22			
Wynfield	15	5	4	6	19	23	19			
Staines	15	6	1	8	21	27	19			
Bognor	13	5	3	5	24	17	18			
Wembley	13	7	7	17	14	18	18			
Division Two										
Croydon	14	4	4	6	16	27	16			
Wokingham	16	4	4	8	21	31	16			
Barton	16	3	6	7	17	31	15			
Berkhamstead	16	2	12	27	42	10	10			
Thame	16	2	4	10	10	40	10			
Abingdon	14	2	3	9	16	25	9			
Molesey	16	1	4	11	11	32	7			
Division Three										
Edgware	15	10	1	4	37	21	36			
Croydon Ath	15	10	1	3	39	11	33			
Brantree	13	10	3	0	41	16	33			
Met Police	14	2	2	24	12	32	7			
Marlow	17	8	4	5	35	25	28			
Seaford	17	7	3	7	19	18	30			
Chalfont	18	7	4	28	24	28	20			
Loxley	17	8	3	6	27	21	27			
Barking	17	3	6	28	32	27	17			
Wealdstone	14	7	5	2	27	18	28			
Northwood	17	7	2	8	17	23	23			
Bracknell	15	5	7	3	31	36	20			
Hungerford	16	5	4	7	29	27	19			

Barnet	16	5	4	7	24	27	19			
Leigham	14	6	1	7	17	24	19			
Wendover	16	3	3	8	28	14	18			
Wotton	16	3	7	6	22	27	16			
Witham	15	3	5	7	23	14	14			
Honsham	16	3	3	10	19	29	12			
Tilbury	16	1	7	8	20	31	10			
Egham	16	2	12	17	44	8	8			
Cheshunt	16	1	3	14	18	44	6			
Division Three										
Hertford	13	10	2	1	31	11	32			
Harlow	13	7	5	1	26	16	26			
Clapton	12	7	3	2	13	25	19			
Ford	12	7	3	2	25	13	24			
E Thurrock	12	6	3	4	25	15	24			
Ware	12	7	2	3	23	14	23			
Hornchurch	16	4	6	28	28	22	20			
Hackley	12	6	3	3	32	15	21			
Croydon Ath	15	6	2	7	23	20	20			
Flackwell H	11	5	3	3	13	25	19			
Tring	13	4	4	5	17	15	16			
Wingate & F	11	4	3	4	14	19	15			
Canvey Island	11	3	5	3	19	15	17			
Epsom	12	4	2	6	23	28	14			
Dorking	13	4	2	6	23	28	14			
Aveley	13	3	2	8	17	16	14			
Corinthian C	12	3	3	6	22	12	12			
Kingsbury	13	3	1	9	17	30	10			
Leaves	13	1	2	10	12	35	5			
Southall	14</									