

SPORT

Stones away in Trophy

IN the quarter finals of the Ryman League Associate Members Vandanel Trophy, Wealdstone have been drawn away to East Thurrock United. The full draw is: Bedford Town v Northwood/Canvey Island; East Thurrock Utd v Wealdstone; Epsom & Ewell v Marlow; Egham v Corinthian Cas/Southall.

Greenstock booster for Wasps

NICK Greenstock returns to the Wasps side on Sunday for the Tetley Bitter Cup fifth round tie against Fylde at Loftus Road, kick off 3pm, writes Alan Bodenham.

The international centre has not played since England's match against South Africa in November where he scored a fine try.

A dislocated shoulder whilst preparing for the New Zealand game that followed has kept him out of action and his return is a major boost.

Scrum half Andy Gomarsall will also be included in the squad. A back injury has kept him out since the autumn but he came through a second team outing with no adverse reactions.

Skipper Lawrence Dallaglio however will again be resting his shoulder but he should return for the clash with Bristol next week.

Fylde are well adrift of the bottom of the Second Division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership and suffered a 50 point drubbing against Bedford last week.

But they will come determined to embarrass the champions.

"Of course we will be on our guard and show them respect," said supremo Nigel Melville. "But we will be totally ruthless."

Federation awards date

RUSSELL Grant, the Lord of Ashford in Middlesex, will be hosting the 10th anniversary Federation of Middlesex Sports Awards ceremony.

The awards are being held, appropriately, at the Middlesex County Football Association headquarters in Harrow where the Federation was inaugurated by Sir Peter Yarranton, chairman of the Sports Council.

The 1997 awards will be made to outstanding clubs within the county. Young competitor Incentive Grants will also be made, to financially help young sportspeople who hopefully will be the champions of the future.

WEALDSTONE FC BLUE RIBBON LOTTERY
Week 23
£50 1811; £80 2-11-201; £85 A-07-684; £75 M-02-509; £150 M-07-645.



Borough and boss part company

HARROW Borough FC have parted company with manager Bob Dowie.

The decision, by mutual agreement, to end his 14 months tenure, was taken at a meeting with club officials at the end of last week and followed a spell of indifferent form by the Earlsmead outfit which had seen them accumulate a mere one point from their previous seven league games, whilst collecting an unhealthy record of dismissals and cautions on the way.

Said Borough football director, Peter Rogers: "We felt we needed a change of direction and needed to do things differently and hence the decision.

"Obviously results were one of the issues, but there were several, including discipline. We spoke with Bob and the decision was made. Everything was done with great dignity."

The lack of animosity in the parting was reflected in the fact that Dowie agreed to take charge of the side for Saturday's league match at Aylesbury.

He also offered to continue for Monday evening's Full Members Cup game at Dagenham, but this was declined.

Senior Borough player, Alan Paris, has now taken over the managerial reins. The former Notts County and Watford

defender was Dowie's first signing for the club and was initially his assistant manager until the arrival this season of Dave Anderson, who has also now departed.

Paris is Borough's number one choice to take over the job permanently.

"We have now got to look at the situation and see if Alan's future is taking up the role or whether we need to look elsewhere," said Mr Rogers.

"Certainly he is our preference. He agreed to lead after the team on Monday and will do it again on Saturday and see if it's right for him. It's a big decision from his point of view."

Depleted side make Cup exit

Dagenham & Red 3 Harrow Borough 1

BOROUGH struggled to piece together a team for Monday night's Full Members Cup tie at Victoria Road but they gave the game the full treatment, writes Tony Booth.

The visitors played their part in an early spell that saw both teams on all out attack.

Good defensive work by Jason Court and Nko Ekoku was supplemented in midfield by the brightest performance

yet from Jon-Barric Bates, while Chris Metcalfe again impressed his many admirers.

Ricky Denny had a shot saved but it was the home side that had more attempts at goal.

David Hook had to be at his best to tip Pratt's 20 yard drive away from the top corner of the net before Dagenham took the lead in the 23rd minute when Pratt crossed for Bird to score from close range.

However, Borough had the

confidence to return to the attack and they drew level four minutes before the break after Ekoku had been fouled.

Denny's free kick was flighted to the far post and Pat Gavin rose above international keeper Gothard to head down into the net.

An excellent save by David Hook denied Cobb at the start of the second half which began to be one way traffic towards the Borough goal and Dagenham restored their lead in the 65th minute.

Pratt cut in from the wing and when his 30 yard shot was blocked, the ball fell to Howard who drove home a fierce 25 yard shot.

Five minutes later Pratt's free kick rebounded off the angle of bar and post, but with 76 minutes gone the Dagers got their third goal, Conner crossing for Double to shoot into goal on the turn.

Harrow Borough: Hook, Isott, Ekoku, Court, Paris, Webster, Bates, Metcalfe, Gavin, Denny, Butler. Subs: Xavier, James.

Wembley back on the winning trail



plus all the weekend soccer action See page 135

Defeat hits Harrow promotion hopes



plus Wasps miss injured skipper See page 134

Wares wonders cane Canvey



John Comfort - boss of the local professionals.

Edgware Town 3 Canvey Island 0

EDGWARE threw the Ryman League Division Two title chase wide open again on Tuesday with a superb performance to beat league leaders Canvey, writes John Comfort.

The big spending Essex outfit are still firm favourites for the championship but on the night they were given a sound lesson in finishing by Jock McGleish's team whose victory gave their own promotion hopes a big boost.

The assured visitors could have had the points in the bag by half time had

they known there whereabouts of the Edgware goal.

Andy Jones was thwarted by James Goodman after going clear, Simon Liddle's shot was cleared on the line by Fabio Valenti, Alan Brett was thwarted by a flying save, while Liddle and Jones both missed the target with the goal at their mercy.

The best of Edgware's meagre efforts came just before the break, Andy Murray firing badly over when set up by Lee Smart after a great run.

The second half seemed set to be played in similar vein when Garry Brinnell went clear after just two min-

utes and fired wide, but with 53 minutes gone the game turned on its head as Edgware ruthlessly punished the visitors for their poor finishing by scoring twice in just over a minute.

Murray's perfect cross was headed home by Steve Fraser for the opener, and Canvey had hardly recovered from that shock when great work by John Coleman on the right ended with a cross to the far post where Valenti controlled the ball superbly and then rifled it past keeper Ashley Harrison.

Sound defending ensured there was to be no coming back for the visitors before Edgware finally killed them off

with a 3rd goal in the 72nd minute, deservedly scored by the peerless man of the match, Lee Smart.

His magnificent 30 yard run from halfway did enjoy some good fortune with a kind ricochet off a challenging defender, but it ended with him bursting into the Canvey area and firing a great strike under the diving Harrison to round off what has to be Edgware's best performance of the season.

Edgware: Goodman, Smart, Sheridan, Hurd, Finnerty, McCluskey, Lyons, Murray, Fraser, Coleman (Whytock), Valenti. Other subs: Sutton, Roche.

Problems pile up for Paris

HARROW Borough struggled to get a side together at Dagenham on Monday and it looks like a similar situation will face caretaker boss Alan Paris for Saturday's visit to Walton.

Although Dave Clarke returns after suspension, Pat Gavin starts one, Mark Xavier and Sean James are struggling with injuries and Ian Rutherford and Darren Coleman have flu.

With John Harlock having departed to join Chesham, Borough's resources are currently thin on the ground.

Wayne Walters comes back into the squad for Wembley's visit to fellow strugglers, Molesey after serving a suspension. However, skipper Ian Bates starts a two match ban and is out.

The injured Stan Bowdler misses Wealdstone's visit to Bracknell and there are also doubts about Paul Lamb, Steve Bircham and Paul McKay.

After their great win over Canvey, Edgware are almost certain to be unchanged at home to Witham. Steve Newing is still missing through suspension.

Soccer fixtures

Saturday January 24
Ryman League Premier Div: Walton & Herisham v Harrow, Borough.
Ryman League Div One: Molesey v Wembley.
Ryman League Div Two: Bracknell Town v Wealdstone; Edgware Town v Witham Town (White Lion ground, 3pm).

Ryman League Div Three: Ford Utd v Kingsbury Town.
Middlesex County League: Rayners Lane v Ealing Shamrock (Lucas Ave, 2.15pm).
Tuesday January 27
Middx Charity Cup: Edgware Town v Bedford (White Lion ground, 7.30pm).

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