

# SPORT



## Wasps face big cup test at Irish

WASPS journey to Sunbury on Sunday to take on London Irish in the quarter finals of the Tetleys Bitter Cup, kick off 3pm, writes Alan Bodenham.

"It's a massive game for us," said supreme Nigel Melville, "and everyone at the club knows it."

"For various reasons we have been a disappointing side in the Premiership this season but we know we are capable of a lot better. The quality is here and if we play to our true potential we fear no-one."

The Exiles produced their best performance of the season when they beat Wasps at Sunbury before Christmas. A couple of late tries narrowed the score to 22-17 but the champions would be the first to admit that they were outplayed for most of the game.

"That result has served to really focus our minds," declared Melville "and the players are determined not to make the same mistakes."

The tie gives Melville an opportunity to cross tactical swords yet again with former

Harlequins and England coach, Dick Best, who took over the reins at London Irish last week. The Wasps boss was not alarmed by the prospect, however, as the last time they met Wasps thumped Best's Harlequins convincingly in the final game of last season at the Stoop.

Centre Rob Henderson will face his old club after a long spell out with injury and Lawrence Dallaglio is also a definite starter. A rib problem kept the skipper out of the defeat at Bath but this has now cleared up and he has a steely determination to lead his side into the semi-finals.

Meanwhile Chris Sheasby has returned to Harlequins. The back row man made an outstanding contribution to last season's championship side but consistent performances from Peter Scrivener have kept him out of his favoured No 8 position for most of this season. Youngsters Joe Worsley and Dominic Walton are challenging hard for back row places so it was decided to let Sheasby return to his former club for a small fee.

## Improvement but no points for struggling Kingsbury

**Camberley 2 Kingsbury Town 1**  
THERE were some encouraging signs for struggling Kingsbury on Tuesday but sadly there were no points to show for their efforts.

It was an evenly contested game throughout with Camberley taking the

lead on 24 minutes when Paul White handled in the area and Heath fired home the resultant penalty.

Kingsbury levelled five minutes later with a fine goal, Ron Lett rising superbly at the far post to head home a pinpoint Jeff Rowe cross.

But the point Town deserved eluded them when Sills headed home a corner to give Camberley their winning goal in the 73rd minute.

Kingsbury: Moble, Page, Hamilton, O'Rourke, White (Morison), Rowe, Cornwall, Powell, Lett, Octave, Ombigabi. Other subs: Hughes, Jones.

# Xavier goes on the list

## Borough put star striker up for sale

THE worrying trend of departures from Harrow Borough shows no sign of abating, star striker Mark Xavier being the latest player looking to leave Earlsmead.

Borough have reluctantly put Xavier on the transfer list, not for the first time, and they are seeking a 'substantial fee' for him.

"Mark feels he'd like a change," said Borough football director Peter Rogers. "We'd prefer him not to go but we've put him on the list and we'll see if there's any interest."

28 year old Xavier has scored 72 times in 157 appearances since he joined Borough from Hendon. In the 1995/96 season he was the Premier

Division's leading goalscorer and this season has notched 19 in 40 games, including 5 in the recent Middlesex Senior Cup defeat of Brimsdown.

Borough's recent player crisis has been heightened by a flu bug that hit hit manager Alan Paris's squad.

Paris himself, Jon-Barrie Bates and Kenny Webster are all struggling to make Saturday's visit to St Albans, while Sean James looks to be a definite non-starter.

Paris has bolstered his squad by signing youngsters David Green, Kevin Cotton and Richard Cobden from Beaconsfield SYCOB and the signing of a midfielder is expected before the end of the week.



Mark Xavier in action on Saturday for Borough against Carshalton.

## Woeful Wares suffer Cup upset

**Edgware Town 0 Waltham Abbey 3**  
EDGWARE led the Middlesex Charity Cup slip effortlessly from their grasp on Tuesday night with an appalling poor performance against lowly Spartan South Midlands League outfit Waltham Abbey, writes John Comfort.

Gone were the pride and passion that saw Jock McGeish's side triumphantly lift the trophy last season, and in its place a dire, lack lustre display that bordered on the embarrassing.

After a miserable and goalless first

half, few believed it could get any worse - but it did. Alan Murray had a half volley cleared on the line by defender Joe Harley soon after the restart but after

Andy Carter failed to hold a rising drive from Steve Shaw in the 58th minute and Del Francis fired in the loose ball to put the visitors ahead, Edgware showed neither the aptitude nor inclination to save themselves from pending defeat.

A great run by Paul Doyley and a square pass set up Francis for his second goal in the 65th minute and Wares were

as good as out.

Steve Fraser headed weakly at Hickman from close range and Murray hooked in a shot that the keeper tipped over the bar in a brief Edgware flurry before the home side were finally put out of their misery in the dying seconds as a near post Francis back-header from a Mark Mennell corner completed his hat-trick and a shock, but well deserved, win for the visitors.

Edgware: Carter, Smart, Sheridan, Ash Finerty, McCluskey, Harmer (Lyons), Murray Fraser, Newing (Hurd), Glynn (Coleman).

## Boreham is the hat-trick hero for Stones

**Witham Town 3 Wealdstone 4**  
A KEITH Boreham hat-trick and a goal from substitute Mario Celeaire secured maximum points for Stones on Tuesday in a see-saw match that saw them cruising at 2-0 up, but then having to fight back after trailing 3-2, writes Graham Smith.

The visitors went ahead in the 13th minute when a Brian Jones through ball was deflected back to Boreham who slotted past advancing keeper. The goal was duly given by referee Ross even though his assistant was flagging for offside.

Stones extended their lead 17 minutes later, Dominic Sterling's cross being fired home by Boreham with the Witham defence again disputing the goal, arguing that Dennis Greene was coming back from an offside position.

Stones had a let off in the 35th minute when Paul Lamb was adjudged to have pushed Guiver in the box. Darren Bonfield made an excellent save from Shiri's spot kick but on half time the keeper was beaten when a

mistake by Roy Marshall let in Guiver to cross for Delphin to score.

A minute after the break Witham were level from a fine strike by Constantinou and unbelievably they went ahead two minutes later when Shirt fired home a 25 yard free kick while Stones were still waiting for the whistle.

Wealdstone eventually hit back in the 74th minute when a Jones corner was headed on by Celeaire and the keeper fumbled, allowing Boreham to complete his hat-trick.

Two minutes later Stones scored a dramatic winner, Celeaire heading home another Jones corner and then the visitors managed to hold on for three points in a game that should have been sewn up by half time.

Wealdstone: Bonfield, Lamb, Sterling, Horner, Waugh, Marshall (Celeaire), Gayle, Jones, Boreham, Greene (Garner), Bircham. Other subs: Imber.

**Stones at home in semis**  
WEALDSTONE have been drawn at home to Epsom and Ewell in the semi-final of the Ryman League's Vandanel Trophy.



Keith Boreham - hat-trick hero for Stones.

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## Tragic break for Cumberbatch

ASHLEY Cumberbatch's return from injury suffered a tragic blow on Saturday when he suffered a broken leg playing for Wembley Reserves in their Suburban League game against Ruislip Manor at Vale Farm on Saturday.



Ashley Cumberbatch - broken leg tragedy.

The game, which was goalless at the time, was abandoned just before half time, as a result of the injury.

Wembley have Ian Bates, Wayne Walters and Les Thompson suspended and they will all miss this Saturday's home game with Leyton Pennant. However, the Lions hope to have striker Alan Mills fit for action.

Fergus Moore is still banned and misses Wealdstone's home game with Hungerford, while Roy Marshall and Dennis Greene are injury doubts.

Special knee strapping could aid Paul McKay and Chris Walton to make unexpected returns from injury. McKay had additional good news on Friday when his wife gave birth to their first baby, a son named Sam.

Stan Bowder had an operation to cure his cartilage injury last Thursday. Wealdstone are looking to loan out keeper Noel Imber to enable him to get regular

match action.

Christian Glynn has a groin injury and is doubtful for Edgware's visit to Chalfont St Peter. New signing Craig Elliott could get a place in the squad.

Wembley have made a seven-day approach for Wares' striker Fabio Valenti.

Gary Dolling is suspended and misses Kingsbury's visit to Corinthian Casuals.

## Fixtures

Saturday February 28  
Ryman League Premier Div: St Albans City v Harrow Borough  
Ryman League Div One: Wembley v Leyton Pennant (Vale Farm, 3pm)  
Ryman League Div Two: Chalfont St Peter v Edgware Town; Wealdstone v Hungerford Town (White Lion ground, 4pm)  
Ryman League Div Three: Corinthian Casuals v Kingsbury Town

Tuesday March 3  
Middlesex Senior Cup semi-final: Harrow Borough v Uxbridge (Earlsmead, 7.30pm)

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