

# SPORT

## Weedon looks to bring Kiwi touch to Wasps

MARK Weedon goes into his first League game as Wasps skipper at Bath on Saturday, looking to put his wealth of experience to good use.

Said the 29 year old New Zealand back row forward: "Hopefully, having played in the Southern Hemisphere my experience will help us do well. I'd

like to bring the innovative Southern Hemisphere philosophy into our game. They are passionate about their rugby and they live and breath the game."

Weedon took over as skipper from Lawrence Dallaglio, relieving the England captain of the considerable pressures of skipping both club and country, but he still sees the club's star flanker as having a big role to play in Wasps' fortunes. "He is a central figure and has a lot of experience and I've got to use that" said Weedon. "But having said that I like to get everyone involved. Consulting others gets the team bond going well."

## Locals hits the FA Cup trail

WEALDSTONE Wembley and Kingsbury all hit the FA Cup trail on Saturday in preliminary rounds ties.

Stones have a difficult game at Potters Bar, who have been scoring freely in their opening Spartan South Midlands League matches.

If the tie requires a replay it will be at the White Lion ground on Wednesday. If there is a result they will play Berkhamstead at home in the League Cup on Tuesday.

Adrian Creamer will deputise for Kevin Beckles for Wembley's Cup game at Leyton Pennant should the keeper not recover from a dead leg. Dave Vincent has an ankle injury but fit again Tony Millard and Ishmail Downes are both available for selection.

Kingsbury are likely to have their work cut out in their home tie with Grays. Keeping the scoreline respectable would appear to be their best hope.

In the League, Harrow Borough visit Gravesend, one of three teams below them, and even this early in the season is has all the hallmarks of a 'six pointer'. They have both Darren Coleman and Pat Gavin out injured.

Borough have released former captain Kenny Webster, whose likely destination is Aylesbury.

Keeper Luke Garrard has been loaned to Tooting but will continue to play in Borough's Capital League games. Edgware are at Chalfont St Peter with player-manager Steve Newing likely to make his first appearance of the season after injury, although probably on the bench. "We are playing so well at the moment I don't expect to get straight back in the team," he said. Peter Sutton and John Coleman are doubtful. Definitely out is Joe Sheridan but fit again Mark Ivers is in contention for a place.

## Soccer fixtures

**Saturday September 5**  
FA Cup preliminary round: Kingsbury Town v Grays Ath (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm); Leyton Pennant v Wembley; Potters Bar Town v Wealdstone.  
Ryman League Premier Div: Gravesend & Northfleet v Harrow Borough.  
Ryman League Div Two: Chalfont v Edgware Town.  
Chitonian League Brian Wells Trophy: Harrow Hill Rovers v Ravens Lane.  
**Tuesday September 8**  
Isthmian League Cup: Harrow Borough v East Thurrock Utd (Earlsmead, 7.45pm). Wealdstone v Berkhamstead Town (White Lion Ground, 7.45pm); Wembley v Hampton (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).

# Stones to get second chance?

## League look into post problem at Grays

By **John Comfort**

WEALDSTONE seem likely to be ordered to replay their Ryman League Division One fixture at Grays Athletic after Saturday's game was played with one of the goalposts at the Essex club's Recreation ground some six inches short of the legal requirements.

The post's lack of height was noticed by referee Webb of Wokingham just before the kick off and he initially declared that the match could therefore not take place, a point apparently confirmed in a subsequent phone call made to Ryman League

chairman, Alan Turvey. But after Stones boss Gordon Bartlett and Grays officials came to an agreement that they were happy to play, Mr Webb changed his mind and the match commenced, 25 minutes late.

Wealdstone ended up losing 3-0 and rumours about a protest over the post immediately began to circulate. But Gordon Bartlett said afterwards he had no complaints.

"I've no complaints about the result although it was a game we should have won," he said. "We won't be making any protest, or at least I won't and I'll be very disappointing if anyone else at the club does."

Club chairman Paul Rumens confirmed that no appeal was intended but although Stones were content with the situation, the Ryman League are clearly not.

Said League chairman Alan Turvey: "We have a management committee meeting on Friday when we should have the referees report on the game. We

will look at it very closely and consider what action should be taken.

"This has to be looked at as a very serious matter."

It is viewed that while rules of a competition may be open to interpretation, the laws of the game are not and have to be adhered to. The League are hardly likely to condone the breaking of the laws, so a replay is believed to be the most likely outcome.

However, the fact that Grays lost last week to Canvey on the same pitch would also have to be considered in their deliberations.

## Kirwan super strike gives Lions first point

**Leatherhead 1 Wembley 1**  
ARRON Kirwan was Wembley's unlikely hero as his superbly struck 85th minute equaliser earned his side their first point of the season on Tuesday, writes **Richard Markiewicz**.

It was a draw they thoroughly deserved although the game itself was largely a turgid affair which only came to life during the final 15 minutes.

Neither side looked like scoring up until then. Ian Bates went closest for the Lions with a quickly taken free kick which alert keeper Scott Tarr gathered cleanly. At the other end a goalline clearance by James Wise prevented the home side scoring just before the break.

Wembley looked the stronger outfit during the second half but the initiative was wrestled away from them following the appearance of Leatherhead's ace marksman Steve Lunn as a substitute.

And in the 77th minute it was Lunn who broke the deadlock, scoring ironically after an error by Kirwan. He lost possession and from the resultant throw in Nigel Webb breached the Wembley defence to set up Lunn to fire home.

Faced with extending their winless start to four matches, Wembley admirably did not lose their composure and hit back to level eight minutes later. A Lee Smart cross was flicked on by Danny Gallagher to the unmarked Kirwan on the edge of the area and he coolly controlled the ball before thumping a powerful low drive into the corner of the net.

In the dying minutes only a brilliant save from the Leatherhead keeper prevented Jason McKoy winning it for Wembley with an acrobatic volley.

Wembley: Creamer, Brennan, Wise, Walters, Shanahan, McCluskey (Drowes), Smart, Bates, Toussaint (McKoy), Gallagher, Hall (Kirwan).



Wembley striker Chris Toussaint takes on Canvey's Scott Lindsay in Saturday's game at Vale Farm. Full report on page 123. Picture by Gareth Beard.

Although plans for the British League have been shelved, its commencement is inevitable. Allied Dunbar games start on Saturday although the fixtures list has still to receive RFU approval, but Melville insists that Wasps will be playing Swansea on September 13 in one of the designated friendly matches against the Welsh clubs.

**Wasps 1998/99 fixtures**  
September 5: Bath (a) ADP; 13: Swansea (h); 19: London Irish ADP (a); 27: West Hartlepool (a) ADP.

**October 3: Gloucester (a) ADP; 11: Newcastle (a) ADP; 18: Richmond (h) ADP; 21: Bedford (h) ADP; 25: Saracens (a) ADP.**

**November 1: Harlequins (h) ADP; 7: Northampton (a) ADP; 15: Leicester (h) ADP; 22: Sale (h) ADP.**

**December 12: London Scottish (a) ADP; 20: Cardiff (h); 27: Gloucester (h) ADP.**

**January 3: West Hartlepool (a) ADP; 6: Saracens (h) ADP; 9/10: Telford Bitter Cup 4th round; 16: Swansea (a); 23: Cardiff (a); 30/31: Telford Bitter Cup 5th round.**

**February 7: Bath (h) ADP; 13: Bedford (a) ADP; 27/28: Telford Bitter Cup quarter final.**

**March 14: London Irish (h) ADP; 27: Leicester (a) ADP. April 4: Northampton (h) ADP or Telford Bitter Cup semi final; 18: Newcastle (h) ADP; 24: Richmond (a) ADP. May 2: London Scottish (h) ADP; 8: Sale (a) ADP; 16: Harlequins (a) ADP.**

Alan Bodenham previews the new rugby season on page 222.

## Town hit for six

**Kingsbury Town 1 Wingate & Finchley 6**  
KINGSBURY crashed to their third successive League defeat on Tuesday and to complete an unhappy night had Nello Cornwall sent off for an off the ball incident in the process.

Four down to goals from Ben Stevens, Ashley Fisk, Crag Pearl and Andy Myers at the break. Town conceded two more to Stevens and Sofer, before getting a consolation goal with a Gary Dolling penalty in the dying minutes.

# Another disaster for Borough

**Bromley 3 Harrow Borough 0**  
ANOTHER Tuesday night, and another disaster for Borough, writes **Simon Trigor**.

They made a bright start to this game but three goals in a 20 minutes spell either side of the break totally killed them off, and further exposed the frailties that manager Alan Paris must urgently correct.

Nelson Kumah was just over and John Parsons, making his competitive debut, shot narrowly wide as Borough began encouragingly, and when Adolphe's cross shot flew across goal on the half

hour, Harrow were well on top. Bromley's only real threat came from the exotically named Lahdry Zahna-Oni and it was he who set the home side up to take the lead after 36 minutes. Sean James had no answer to his trickery and when his cross arrived at the far post, the unmarked Wolfe fired home.

At half time Borough were well in the game, but for the third time in week, showed an alarming lack of concentration on the restart and conceded a second goal within a minute, Carroll netting at the far post.

10 minutes later the game went right out of Borough's reach. Paris let a ball bounce when he should have headed it, got robbed, and Kyte was set up to hammer it past Hook.

Borough played some reasonable football in the last half hour, but it was far too late to make any difference against a team going to the top of the table.

Having released Kenny Webster to free some more money, manager Paris may need to spend some of it sooner rather than later.

Harrow Borough: Hook, Adolphe, Nwaokolo, Lord, James, Pate, Bates, Parsons, McCluskey, Brown (Dodds), Kumah, Tomlinson. Other sub: Mutch.

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**Watson saves point for Stones**  
  
Chris Walton - late goal saved Stones.  
Wealdstone 2 Baintree 2  
A CHRIS Walton goal nine minutes from time saved Stones a well deserved point on Tuesday against unbeaten Baintree, writes **Graham Smith**.  
Wealdstone almost took an 11th minute lead as Baintree defender Knight's back pass nearly beat his own keeper, and soon after Paul Benning came close from a Steve Bircham corner.  
However after 23 minutes Stones did go in front with the goal of the season so far.  
Milton lost possession and Brian Jones won a challenge with Gunn to claim the ball then outpaced two defenders before chipping the keeper into the top far corner of the net.  
Benning almost made it 2-0 but his header ran along the goaline with no-one to touch it home.  
In the opening minute of the second half Walton's pass found David Kellman but his effort was blocked by Cherry.  
However, on the hour the visitors equalised. Noel Imber called but failed to gather the ball which hit Fergus Moore and fell into the path of Milton who shot home.  
Soon after Imber made amends with excellent saves to deny first Smith, then Bailey.  
But Stones fell behind in the 79th minute. Moore was adjudged to have fouled Smith in the penalty area and Milton scored from the spot.  
However, with nine minutes to go Stones secured an equaliser. Dominic Sterling found Kellman who did well to hold off a defender and found Walton whose accurate shot beat Cherry. Jones almost won maximum points for Stones in the dying seconds but his powerful shot went inches wide.  
It was the first point that Baintree had dropped this season and Stones boss Gordon Bartlett was much happier with his side's performance after their disappointing display at Grays.  
Wealdstone: Imber, Dell, Stagg, Moore, Benning, Lamb, Walton, Jones, Kellman (Celair), Bircham (Waugh), McKay. Other sub: Kent.

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# Wares wonders halt Wivenhoe

**Wivenhoe Town 0 Edgware Town 3**  
WARES picked up three good points on Tuesday with an outstanding performance which ended Wivenhoe's unbeaten record.  
The physical home side

found Edgware in great form and it was obviously all too much for them.  
They picked up six bookings during the game and their frustration finally boiled over in the 71st minute when they were reduced to ten men when

Geoff March brought down Christian Glynn to receive his second booking and his dismissal.  
From the ensuing free kick Craig Elliott rocketed the ball into the roof of the net from 25 yards to seal Edgware's superb

victory with their third goal. Earlier Wares had opened the scoring on the half hour, Joe House cutting in from the right and curled a great shot past the keeper and into the top corner.  
The impressive House also

notched Edgware's second goal in the 63rd minute.  
He was put through on the left and cut in to drive a firm shot low into the net.  
Edgware: Carter, Valenti, House, Evans, Elliott, Makaman (Whytock), Ash, Hurd, Murray (Glynn), Hoche, Harmer (Ahmed).