

SPORT

Fare cop as Wasps go into cab business

HOW do you get a rugby team into the back of a taxi? Easy — give them one each.

This is not a scheme to save money but a novel idea to promote Wasps Rugby Club.

by Rosalind Ryan

Since turning professional, Wasps players have got used to more publicity but this is a different ball game. Sporting a striped hair do in Wasps

colours for the launch, hooker Trevor Leota confided: "We're not really doing it to promote ourselves personally but for the game of rugby as a whole. Anything to promote the sport is a good idea."

The fleet of fifteen numbered taxis are distinctively marked with the Wasp's logo and pictures of the similarly numbered players. Each taxi also sports the signatures of the rugby stars and they can be seen all over London until the season ends next May.

Marketing Manager, Emma Ward, said: "This is a great opportunity to promote the club. The taxis have been on the roads since last Thursday so the chances for promoting the team have been tremendous."

Wasps flanker and England captain, Lawrence Dallaglio, added: "With five other rugby clubs in London, we can't afford to be complacent. We need to bring more fans into the game and the taxis will help to do that."

Teammates agree. Each player having a taxi emblazoned with their photos not only boosts the image of the club but could also do wonders for their personal lives.

However, even though Wasps are doing their best to raise the profile of the club, some players are still getting left behind.

"Lawrence, someone's nicked your taxi," shouted one player. "Wouldn't be the first time," he replied.

Wasps face a tough awayday

WASPS face a tough assignment on Saturday when they travel to Northampton in the Allied Dunbar Premiership, writes Alan Bodenham.

Saints leapfrogged over Wasps at the weekend thanks to a good victory over Gloucester and are always a tough proposition on their own ground. Wasps however have travelled with optimism this season and wins at Saracens, London Irish and Gloucester are testament to that.

Nigel Melville was given some good news on the injury front when told that Will Green, who missed the game with Harlequins with a sore neck, was fit again and ready to face South African hard man Gary Pagan in the front row on Saturday. Alex King, who limped off against Quins, should be fit to resume his duties as should Kenny Logan, another who left the field early on Sunday.

The match should be a tough one for Trevor Leota who again faces a tough opponent in the shape of Argentinian hooker Frederico Mendes. Elsewhere Northampton's side is full of stars, including the man voted the best player in the premiership last season, Western Samoan, Pat Lam.



Wasps players try out the Dallaglio cab for size. Picture by Gareth Beard.

Stones book Boro' date

Wealdstone 5 Feltham 1 'BRING on Borough' was the cry at the White Lion ground on Tuesday night after Stones lined up a mouth watering home clash with their arch rivals after effortlessly disposing of Combined Counties League minnows, Feltham, in this Middlesex Senior Cup first round tie.

Wealdstone's date with Harrow - scheduled for January - was never in doubt after they opening the scoring after only two minutes

By John Comfort

with a superb opportunist goal from Paul Lamb.

Feltham keeper Colin Ryder did well to beat Brian Jones to a through pass on the edge of his area, but when he hacked the ball clear it fell to Lamb, some 40 yards out, who promptly sent it sailing back over the stranded keeper into the back of the net.

After that, only the size of

Wealdstone's win was in doubt - and the often eccentric handling of Ryder suggested it might be a big one.

Jones and Carl Holmes combined well to set up Steve Bircham to drill home Wealdstone's second goal in the 13th minute, and others soon followed.

Jones provided the crosses for Mick Swaysland to make it 3-0 after 22 minutes and Holmes to score Stones' fourth on 35 minutes but just before the break a rare excursion upfield by the visi-

tors ended with Lee Channel firing past Noel Imber to reduce the deficit.

The second half was little more than target practice for Stones and only a string of excellent saves from the suddenly inspired Ryder prevented a rout.

The only addition to the score came 10 minutes into the half when Richard Horner netted from yet another telling cross by Jones.

Wealdstone: Imber, White, Bircham, Moore, Horner, Dicker (Walton), McKay (Dale), Jones (Kent). Swaysland, Holmes, Lamb.



Wembley skipper Ian Bates holds off the challenge of an opponent in Saturday's game against Bognor.

AN unfit Vale Farm pitch caused the cancellation of Wembley's Middlesex Senior Cup clash with Bedfont on Tuesday night. The tie has been

rescheduled for Tuesday November 17. Kingsbury's tie at Hillingdon Borough was also called off. No new date has yet been arranged.

League order replay of Grays game

The Ryman League has ordered the Division One match between Grays and Wealdstone to be replayed.

However Grays have appealed against the decision and the matter will now be considered by the Football Association's appeals committee.

The game was originally played in August and although the match referee found that one of the goalposts at the Essex club's Recreation ground was shorter than required by the laws, he allowed the match to go ahead and Grays went on to win by 3-0.

Stones are still waiting to hear the League's decision after they admitted playing Rocky Baptiste in their League Cup game with Berkhamsted. Baptiste is contracted to Willesden Constantine and therefore not eligible to play for Wealdstone.

Wares duo to miss Vase clash



Banned - Steve Newing.



Banned - Steve Hurd.

EDGWARE Town are in FA Carlsberg Vase action on Saturday when they journey to East Anglia to face Diss Town of the Jewson League in a first round proper tie.

Wares will be without player-manager, Steve Newing, and Steve Hurd, who are both suspended. But they will be boosted by having Joe House back after recovering from an ingrowing toe nail, and they are also hopeful that both Fabio Valentini and Christian Glynn will be fit to play.

If a replay is required it will take place on Tuesday evening at the White Lion ground with the scheduled league game against Leighton Town being postponed.

Harrow Borough will be without Pat Gavin and Jon-Barrie Bates, who are both suspended, for their visit to Billericay Town, but both will be okay for Tuesday's visit of Leyton-Pennant in the Puma Cup.

Good news for the Earlsmead outfit is that they have no injury problems.

Striker John Lawford has left Harrow and rejoined his former club, Chesham, after the Bucks side made a seven day approach for him.

After league leaders Bognor last week, Wembley face another stern test this Saturday when they visit third placed Oxford City.

The Lions will again be without Jason McKay, who is suspended, but Luke Alliday is available after completing his ban.

Wealdstone have slight injury doubts over Phil Dicker and Paul McKay for their home game with Canvey Island.

Stones will play their FA Trophy replay against Dagenham on Monday, providing the Essex club get a result in their FA Cup match with Stevenage Borough, due to be played this week.

Kingsbury Town have no league game this Saturday. They return to action on Tuesday with a Vandelan Trophy match at Chalfont St Peter.

Soccer fixtures

Saturday November 7
 FA Vase first round: Diss Town v Edgware Town.
 Ryman League Premier Div: Billericay Town v Harrow Borough.
 Ryman League Div One: Wealdstone v Canvey Island (White Lion ground, 3pm); Oxford City v Wembley.
Monday November 9
 FA Umbro Trophy first round replay: Wealdstone v Dagenham & Redbridge (White Lion ground, 7.45pm).
Tuesday November 10
 Puma Cup: Harrow Borough v Leyton-Pennant (Earlsmead, 7.45pm); Wembley v Bishops Cleeve (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).
 Vandelan Trophy: Chalfont St Peter v Kingsbury Town.
 Ryman League Div Two: Edgware Town v Leighton Town (White Lion ground, 7.30pm).

Fireworks at Boro'

THERE'S going to be fireworks at Harrow Borough FC's Earlsmead ground tonight (Thursday). The club is holding a fantasy fireworks display. Admission is £4 for adults and £2 for children. Further details from the club on 422 5221.

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