

# SPORT

## Tartan test for Wasps' title challenge

**WASPS**, lying third in the Allied Dunbar Premiership, will be all out to keep their title challenge going strongly against London Scottish at the Stoop on Saturday, kick off 3pm, writes Alan Bodenham. Despite the fact that the Exiles are lying third from bottom with only three wins to their credit, Nigel Melville is expecting a tough encounter. "There are no easy games in this league" he said "and we are going to have to be at our best. They are a good side and proved how dangerous they can be when they turned Bath over recently." Melville will be boosted by the return of his internationals all fit for action. Lawrence Dallaglio, who brilliantly led England in their victory over South Africa on Saturday, will be back on duty, as will Alex King, who impressed when coming on as a second half replacement. Top scorer Kenny Logan, is another player full of confidence after notching eight tries in two Scottish internationals, five of them against Spain. Elsewhere Wasps have few injury problems. Gareth Rees is still out but is expected to return in the New Year. Another long term injury however, Peter Scrivener, is back to full fitness and will be challenging hard for a place in the back row. Wasps forwards have been really dominant in recent matches but Melville has called for a better balance. "It is understandable that the forwards might want to hang on to good ball and use it for themselves but we've got to get them to start releasing it and bringing the backs into action and letting them show their paces."

## Super Swaysland is hat-trick hero for Stones

**Yeading 2 Wealdstone 5** MICK Swaysland was Wealdstone's hat-trick hero on Tuesday night as they dumped former-landlords Yeading out of the Puma Cup and earned a third round trip to Oxford City, writes John Comfort. Stones steamrollered their rivals with a stunning second half performance that was in marked contrast to their efforts in the opening period when they were decidedly inept and indeed somewhat fortunate to turn round on level terms. Certainly it was all Yeading in the first quarter and when they opened the scoring in the 12th minute, ex-Harrow Borough striker Steve Conroy heading home from an Iain Duncan cross, it came as no surprise.

But it was on the half hour when Wealdstone equalised, not least for scorer Barry Forshaw whose slow motion strike from 20 yards through a crowded home area caught keeper Darren Honey unsuspecting and the ball trickled in off an upright. Six minutes later Yeading were back in front and the defensive wall placement of Stones keeper, Noel Imber, was brought into question as Tony Bonaventura curled an excellent free kick into the top left hand corner of the net from just outside the area. But right on half time Stones again drew level when Swaysland charged down the clearance attempt of Yeading defender Kort Davis, collected the loose ball and fired a great angled drive past Honey. Manager Bartlett's half

time words of encouragement did the trick, for in the second half Stones were a revelation and after Swaysland flicked home a header from Paul Lamb's cross to put them in front in the 54th minute, there was only ever going to be one winner. Shaun Fleming's superb pass put Swaysland through to complete his hat-trick trick three minutes later and Wealdstone were on fire. Lawrence Yaku got their fifth, firing home via a post from Lamb's cross on 83 minutes and only great saves from Honey prevented further misery for Yeading as he dived to turn away Fleming's blockbuster and tipped over Fergus Moore's goalbound header. Wealdstone: Imber, Dall, Fleming, Sterling (Moore), Horner, Lamb, Dicker (Waugh), Forshaw, Swaysland (Yaku), McKay, Benning.

## Old habits die hard as Lions run is halted

**Wembley 0 Braintree Town 3** IT was a repeat of the same old story at Vale Farm on Tuesday as the return of Wembley's bad habits resulted in their brief unbeaten run coming to a crashing end with this defeat by Braintree, writes Richard Markiewicz. However, it was somewhat ironic that the Lions produced their best football of the season during the opening 20 minutes and played their third in the table rivals off the park. But despite their dominance they were unable to score the goal to put them firmly in the driving seat. Leon Callender went closest to doing so with a well struck drive which was deflected wide and he then missed the target with a free header from the corner that followed. However the turning point of the contest came in the 22nd minute when poor marking allowed Scott Forbes to guide a looping header, from a harmless looking cross, over the despairing Adrian Creamer to give the visitors the lead. The Lions' heart disappeared as a result and they capitulated. For the rest of the game they were run ragged. Forbes notched Braintree's second goal in the 56th minute after Wembley lost possession and 12 minutes later he made it 3-0 with his hat-trick after latching onto Dave Theobald's through ball and rounding the on-rushing Creamer. There was still time for the Lions to try and redress the balance but there was a noticeable lack of pride in their attitude and although youth teamers, Leon Henderson and Simon Whall, came on to make their first team debuts, their enthusiasm failed to end Wembley's misery. Wembley: Creamer, Dee, (Henderson), Kirwan (Christie), Walters, Morris, Brennan, Bates, McCarthy, White, Vincent, Callender (Whall).

## 'Don't write off Wembley'



Picture by Sophie Powell.

## Town pay for spot kick miss

**Kingsbury Town 1 Cheshunt 2** A MISSED penalty proved costly for Kingsbury on Tuesday and Cheshunt claimed three points to take them to the top of Division Three. It was a better performance from Town, who went behind after 20 minutes when they lost the ball in their own half and ex-Kingsbury player Steve Obeng put the visitors in front. However, they equalised five minutes later after a good run by Vincent Cave and a one-two with Niall O'Rourke which set up Rondall Ambersley to score. Kingsbury might have taken the lead when Cheshunt keeper Sealey mishandled after a strong run by Ambersley and the ball was hacked off the line, but they certainly should have 20 minutes into the second half when Ambersley was tripped by Chandler to earn a penalty. However, Kingshott fired the spot kick wildly over. Five minutes later Town were made to rue that miss when Obeng scored his second goal that proved to be a winner for the visitors. Kingsbury: Lavender, Kinsey, Hamilton, Perez, Freeman, Kingshott, Cave, Donnelly, Watson, Ambersley, O'Rourke. Subs: Ryan, Byrne, Jaccopovitz.

### Soccer fixtures

**Saturday December 12**  
Ryman League Div One: Wembley v Wealdstone (Vale Farm, 3pm).  
Ryman League Div Two: Edgware Town v Chalfont St Peter (White Lion ground, 3pm).  
**Monday December 14**  
Ryman League Premier Div: Purfleet v Harrow Borough (7.30pm).  
**Tuesday December 15**  
Middlesex Charity Cup: Ashford Town v Wembley.  
Ryman League Div Two: Edgware Town v Tooting & Mitcham Utd (White Lion ground, 7.30pm).

## They'll be up for derby clash says Stones boss

ON paper, the outcome of Saturday's Ryman League Division One local derby clash between Wembley and Wealdstone at Vale Farm looks to be a foregone conclusion, but Stones boss, Gordon Bartlett, is having none of it. "They've had some good results lately, it's a local derby, and they'll be up for it," he said. "We'll have to earn the right to win."

**By John Comfort**  
With his squad stretched to the limits by suspensions and injuries, that might prove a problem and Bartlett said he could be forced to make some new signings before the game. He will be without Brian

Jones and Paul Lamb, who are banned, the injured Chris Walton and Steve Bircham, and Dominic Sterling is doubtful. Bottom of the table Wembley gave a good account of themselves against Braintree until going two down, and manager, Jock McGleish, looks for a repeat of that form against Stones. "They're local rivals, they're going well and we need to keep

our chins up and show a bit of pride," he said. Lions hope to have Davis Haul recovered from a facial injury, while Wayne Walters, Richard Dee and Dave Vincent should all be okay despite taking knocks against Braintree. Leon Woodruffe, who missed the Braintree game due to work commitments, should also be available for selection.

## Dinner raises bumper £4832

**FORMER Liverpool star, Tommy Smith, attracted a sell out crowd of almost 200 people to Cloisters Wood in Stanmore last Thursday for a Sportsman's Dinner, the first major event of the 'Bring Home the Stones' campaign.** The evening was a spectacular success, raising £4832 - almost 10 per cent of the campaign's £50,000 target. Wealdstone FC chairman, Paul Rumens, and his fellow directors had pulled out all the stops to ensure the event was well supported. The highlight of the

night was the bidding for a real collector's item, featuring framed, signed sketches of Stones' old boys, Vinnie Jones and Stuart Pearce, set against the club crest. Supporter, Tony Platt, dug deep to pay £475 for what seems certain to become a highly valuable piece of football memorabilia. The other big bid of the evening came from Alan Brown of club sponsors, Albro Windows. He paid £150 for the privilege of being a substitute in one of Wealdstone's pre-season fixtures next year. The campaign's aim is

to raise £50,000 by next July towards the cost of building Wealdstone's new stadium at Prince Edward Playing Fields in Canons Park. The money will go towards a behind the goal terrace.

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