

SPORT

Stones storm through Second half surge secures cup win

Oxford City 2 Wealdstone 4
AN excellent second half performance from Stones saw them come from a goal down at half time to beat Oxford City in this third round Puma Cup tie on Tuesday night.
The game seemed likely to fall victim to the weather three hours before kick off, but work on the pitch by groundstaff and some of the Oxford players got it fit for play.
The home side went in front in the 26th minute when McCleary broke free and sent over a cross for Ferdinand to fire past Noel Imber.
Wealdstone were very poor in the opening period but they certainly turned things round after the break and equalised just two minutes after the

By **Graham Smith**

restart. A fine run from Dominic Sterling culminated in him finding Mick Swaysland and his pass gave Brian Jones the chance to hit a good shot past keeper Fleet.
Stones took the lead eight minutes later. Oxford defender Lee handled a goalbound shot from Carl Holmes and was sent off and Swaysland scored from the resultant penalty.
However, the lead only lasted two minutes before McCleary fired a shot against a post then hit the rebound past Imber for Oxford's equaliser.
But Stones soon got back in front with a strong

contender for the goal of the season when Steve Dell's fine pass found Sterling who laid the ball back for Steve Bircham to hit a glorious 30 yard shot past the home keeper.

The visitors sealed victory with a fourth goal three minutes from time when Swaysland fired past Fleet after a good run.
The Stones striker should have completed a hat-trick right on time, but shot over the bar when well placed.

Wealdstone: Imber, Dell, Sterling, Dicker, Waugh, Reid, Walton, Jones, Swaysland, Bircham (Benning), Holmes. Other subs: Fleming, McKay.

Wares take a break

EDGWARE Town's League game with Tooting on Tuesday was called off because the Surrey club were involved in a County Cup tie against Leatherhead.
Kingsbury, who lost 2-0 at Egham on Saturday, had their League game with Epsom postponed due to an unfit Silver Jubilee Park pitch.

Wares seek new chairman

EDGWARE Town are again seeking a new club chairman.
Their long search to find a successor to Michael Flynn ended

last summer when local businessman, Leon Godfrey, took over the role. But he has stepped down after less than six months in the job.

Edgware's president and former chairman, Vince Deritis, is currently standing in until a new man can be found for the post.



Wealdstone's Lewis Reid slips past a posse of Graye Athletic defenders in Saturday's match at the White Lion ground. Match report and more pictures on page 127.

Picture by **Sophie Powell**.

Burden on cue in his Embassy bid

HARROW snooker professional, Alfie Burden, opened his challenge for the £1.4m 1999 Embassy World Championship with a clinical 10-4 triumph over world no 179 Barry Hawkins.

The 77 ranked Kenton cuman utilised his quick-fire potting style to good effect in this best of 19 frame encounter, taking a commanding 7-2 advantage. Despite a mini revival by Hawkins, Burden controlled matters in rapid fashion to set up a fascinating tie with experienced New Zealander Dene O'Kane, ranking 57.
Said Burden: "I performed really well during the early part of this match and I could easily have been 9-0 ahead at the end of the first session. Barry Hawkins can be a dangerous player so it was vitally important for me to stamp my authority on the game right from the start. Winning here has given me a great chance to secure a place in the world's top 64 for next season."

Burden clashes with O'Kane at the Telford International Centre on March 29 in the first of three final qualifying rounds that could secure him a place in the televised stages of snooker's most prestigious event for the second successive season.

Borough are looking to restore their missing goal punch

HARROW Borough's recent lack of firepower was particularly evident in the defeat at Aylesbury and they will be hoping to restore it on Saturday when they play host to Bromley.

They will not be helped though by the continued absence of the injured Frank McCormack.
The unavailable Dominic Sterling misses Wealdstone's visit to Braintree, but returns for Tuesday's big Cup clash with Borough. Shaun Fleming is doubtful with a hamstring injury.

Former Stones skipper Fergus Moore, who was released by the club last week, has joined Division One rivals Chertsey Town. He was on the subs bench for their game at Whyteleafe on Saturday but did not come on in a 2-1 defeat.
Edgware will be boosted by the return

of player manager, Steve Newing, after suspension for their home game against lowly Abingdon. But Craig Elliott is still serving a ban and will be missing.

Fixtures

Saturday January 30
Ryman League Premier Div: Harrow Borough v Bromley (Earlsmead, 3pm)
Ryman League Div One: Braintree Town v Wealdstone; Wembley v Leatherhead (Vale Farm, 3pm)
Ryman League Div Two: Edgware Town v Wivenhoe Town (White Lion ground, 3pm)
Ryman League Div Three: Kingsbury Town v Aveley (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm)
Tuesday February 2
Middx Senior Cup: Wealdstone v Harrow Borough (White Lion ground, 7.45pm)
Wednesday February 3
Middx Senior Cup: Edgware Town v Wembley (White Lion ground, 7.45pm)
Capital League: Harrow Borough v Rushden & Diamonds (Earlsmead, 7.30pm)

The latest Ryman League tables

Premier Division											Division One											Division Two											Division Three										
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts																
Purfleet	22	15	4	3	51	30	49	Sogor	22	15	3	4	21	48	Bedford	22	15	4	2	48	14	32	Chesham	19	12	5	4	38	22	41													
Aylesbury	22	14	5	3	38	17	47	Braintree	24	13	6	3	26	45	Thame	24	15	3	6	59	32	48	Wingate	19	12	3	4	45	22	39													
Sl Alphas	22	13	2	7	45	28	47	Histon	21	13	6	2	44	30	45	Harrow	19	14	4	1	56	17	48	Ford	19	11	3	3	48	24	36												
Sutton Utd	22	13	4	5	43	27	43	Canvey	21	13	2	6	37	26	41	Leighton	22	10	8	4	33	25	38	Leaves	19	11	2	6	42	26	35												
Silbury	24	11	7	3	35	25	40	Claydon	20	8	4	3	28	32	35	Edgware	20	10	5	7	44	35	35	Croydon Ath	21	9	6	6	42	27	33												
Hendon	23	9	7	4	38	34	34	Orford C	20	8	4	3	28	32	35	Northwood	21	10	3	8	35	36	33	Tisbury	16	9	3	5	31	19	30												
Boreham W	24	8	10	6	38	35	34	Molesey	22	6	13	2	25	27	31	Widow	21	11	6	4	38	32	33	Cardiff City	16	9	4	3	38	22	33												
Alresford	23	8	9	4	34	34	34	Wheatstone	20	8	7	28	23	31	Widow	21	10	2	5	41	20	32	Essex	16	8	3	5	31	19	30													
Graysand	21	10	3	8	27	24	33	Worthing	21	8	7	6	31	34	31	Chalfont	23	8	7	3	38	36	32	E Tharock	16	8	5	3	41	24	29												
Erith	22	8	9	3	36	29	32	Grays	22	8	6	3	26	30	30	Hemel H	19	8	7	4	29	19	31	Wex	16	9	1	3	34	33													
Basingstoke	21	8	4	8	36	29	31	Maldenhead	22	7	8	7	32	29	29	Marlow	25	9	4	12	47	48	31	Egham	15	8	3	4	39	27	27												
Chesham	22	8	4	10	32	31	31	Rushden	20	7	6	3	35	28	28	Horsham	21	8	5	8	34	29	29	Flackwell	22	8	3	11	39	43	27												
Dagenham	22	8	6	8	34	26	30	Barton	23	6	8	2	26	27	26	Tring	19	8	4	7	24	21	29	Causton	18	8	2	8	32	28	29												
Harrow B	25	8	6	11	38	41	30	Leyton P	21	6	7	8	36	42	25	Hertford	20	8	1	11	26	36	25	Southall	19	7	3	9	31	30	24												
Bromley	24	7	11	4	42	27	27	Waltham	20	6	9	2	23	28	24	Hungerford	16	6	4	2	20	24	24	Aveley	18	7	3	8	24	24	24												
Canthamton	26	7	6	13	31	32	27	Croydon	20	6	6	8	28	37	24	Met Police	20	7	3	10	23	28	24	Handhurst	18	5	8	18	29	20	20												
Walton	24	7	11	4	42	27	27	Slanes	23	6	10	18	24	23	23	Widmore	21	6	10	3	20	34	15	Epsom	15	5	4	6	20	22	19												
South	23	6	7	10	28	38	25	Whyteleafe	19	6	4	9	28	31	22	Whitton	22	5	8	9	31	23	23	Conc	15	1	8	21	19	19													
Dulwich H	23	6	3	11	24	24	24	Leatherhead	20	5	8	10	18	24	24	Barking	20	3	7	10	20	24	15	Kingsbury	20	3	4	12	26	10	10												
Hampton	22	5	8	11	24	24	24	Slacknall	22	4	6	12	31	11	18	Backwell	23	3	14	21	12	14	14	Tring	22	2	4	16	21	10	10												
Haydock	24	5	6	13	23	22	21	Yeading	21	4	5	12	25	33	17	Abingdon	23	3	4	18	23	29	13	Donkey	18	2	14	24	14	14													
Bishop St	24	4	7	13	31	26	19	Wembley	23	3	6	18	15	35	9	Walsingham	23	2	16	18	17	17	17																				

Wasps aim to avoid Cup upset

12 months ago Wasps took on Second Division Wyke in the fifth round of the Tetley's Bitter Cup and, after an early hiccup, ran out easy 34-8 winners, writes Alan Bodenham.

Nigel Melville would be very happy with a similar outcome when his side take on Waterloo at Loftus Road on Sunday, kick off 1.45pm, but has warned that they are up against a much sterner challenge.

"Fylde were struggling at the bottom of the division whereas Waterloo are in fifth place and going well," he said. "They are a hard working side and will be ready to punish any mistakes that we make."

Melville is also wary of the Liverpoolians' reputation for upsetting top sides. Their win over Bath in 1992 probably ranks as the biggest upset of all

time. "We don't want to get on such a list," said Melville.

The Wasps supreme can pick from strength.

Alex King, rested against Cardiff, looks set to return at fly half, top scorer Kenny Logan has recovered from a bout of flu and looks certain to join him and Trevor Leota could well make an appearance.

Melville's one selection headache is in the centre where he now has a very strong hand.

Fraser Waters is firing on all cylinders after missing the start of the season through injury and looked a class act at the weekend despite the atrocious conditions.

Henderson is in the frame after missing out against Cardiff, and Laurence Scrase is also ready for a return.

Meanwhile, Melville has admitted to discussing with skipper Mark Weedon his attitude to referees.

Against Cardiff, Weedon constantly questioned the referee and, on a couple of occasions, his side incurred further punishment in consequence. The big New Zealander is often seen in deep discussions at Allied Dunbar Premiership games.

"Mark has the right to enquire of decisions," said Melville "and it has been particularly difficult in the Anglo Welsh games."

"But he is aware that things must not be allowed to go too far in crucial Premiership and Cup encounters."

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