SPORT

Stones sports quiz

AS part of the 'Bring Home the Stones' campaign, Wealdstone FC Supporters Club will be holding a sports quiz in the Upstairs Function Hall of St Josephs Community Centre in Whitefriars Avenue on Monday March 8, starting at 7.30pm. Entry fee is £20 per team of four. Contact Dave Albert on 922 8476 to enter.

Looking to clean up

WITH Wealdstone being without a game on Saturday, club supporters and any others are being invited to come along to the White Lion to assist with painting and other tasks required towards bringing the ground up to an A grading. Club general manager Kip Hewitt is leading the work party which starts operations at 10am.

Boro' protest over Hook ban

Serious foul play charge is 'unjust'

David Hook

By John Comfort

HARROW Borough have appealed to the Football Association over the sending off of goalkeeper David Hook in the recent Middlesex Senior Cup game with Wealdstone.

The club is incensed that Enfield referee Dave Buckeridge dismissed the keeper for serious foul play and not for prevention of a goalscoring opportunity. The latter offence carries only a one match ban, while the former is three matches.

Hook was red carded after just 27 seconds for a foul on advancing Stones striker Mick Swaysland.

Said Borough football director Peter Rogers: "We don't want an injustice to occur. We have taken it up with the FA and asked them to refer it back to the referee and we're awaiting their verdict.

"Clearly it was a goalscoring opportunity and we have no problem with the sending off, but we do not agree that it was serious foul play.

"It's the difference between a three match and a one match ban and we feel the penalty is wrong."

Hook starts his suspension on Saturday, missing Borough's home game with Slough, and if the FA uphold the club's appeal, his ban will end there. Otherwise he will have two more games to serve.

Borough have signed South African keeper Ryan Patterson as cover for Hook.

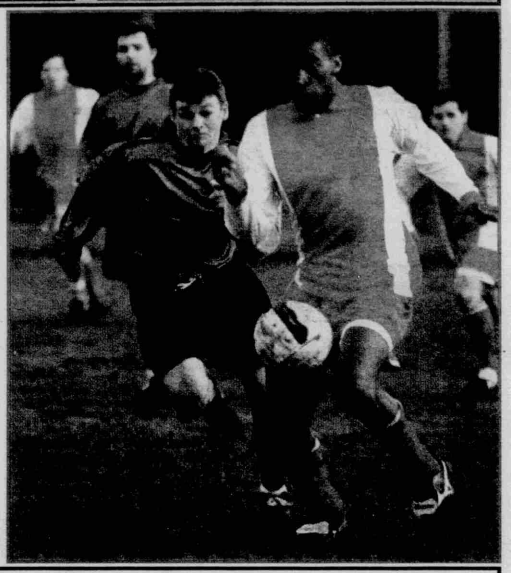
They have received international clearance for him and he makes his debut against Slough.

Patterson has recently been playing for Clydebank Reserves in Scotland and was recommended to Borough by Orient keeper, Paul Hyde, after he had trained with the East London club.

Borough have also signed England Universities striker Andy Murfin, who made his debut at Carshalton, and they also hope to add striker/midfielder Paul Harding to their squad this week.

The former Notts County captain is currently with Dr Martens League club, Halesowen Town.

Aidan O'Brien and Pat Gavin miss the Slough match through suspension but skipper Jon-Barrie Bates returns after a ban.



Super Stones crush Rebel rousers

Wealdstone 4
Worthing 1

FOUR top quality goals highlighted an excellent performance by Stones on Tuesday night as they bounced back from an abysmal opening spell to score a decidedly emphatic win, **writes John Comfort.**

The Rebels boast one of the First Division's most impressive records on the road, having not lost away since September, and they seemed set to add to that run after cashing in on some appalling Stones defending in the early stages.

Tony Holden had already headed over an open goal before the visitors went ahead in the 3rd minute, Marc Jones firing past Noel Imber after the Wealdstone defence had failed to clear Paul Kennett's long throw.

But Stones shrugged off that setback and showed great character as they battled back to draw level in the 26th minute with a goal started and finished by Mick Swaysland.

A precise pass sent Brian Jones away on the right and then he raced into the Worthing area to meet the ensuing cross and bulleted a powerful header past keeper Phil Reid.

Two goals in first half injury time then gave Stones a commading lead.

Steve Bircham blasted home the first with a great strike from 20 yards after the Worthing defence could only half clear a Lewis Reid cross.

Then Wealdstone suitably punished Damien Webber's foul on Jones out on the left. Jones took the free kick and found Chris Walton at the near post and he turned his marker superbly and crashed a great rising shot into the roof of the net.

Clearly rattled, Worthing took no prisoners after the break.

It looked like 'David Hook' all over again in the opening minute as keeper Reid brought down Swaysland to set the pattern for the half and although a linesman flagged for a penalty, referee Cairns gave a free kick outside the box - a decision which had the normally mild mannered Wealdstone managerial duo of Bartlett and Morris raging, with the former earning himself an unusual on-pitch lecture from the official.

Mr Cairns, a poor referee, ended up with five Worthing names in his book.

It should have been more and indeed the visitors were fortunate to end the game with a full compliment.

Stones dominated the half but despite playing some delightful football were only able to add one more goal, in the 68th minute when Paul Lamb's free kick was knocked back across goal by Lewis Reid for Bircham to head home his second.

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

Fixtures

Thursday February 25
Middx Charity Cup: Ruislip Manor v Wealdstone.
Saturday February 27
Ryman League Premier Div: Harrow Borough v Slough Town (Earlsmead, 3pm).
Ryman League Div One: Braintree Town v Wembley.
Ryman League Div Two: Tooting & Mitcham Utd v Edgware Town.
Ryman League Div Three: Kingsbury Town v Croydon Ath.
Chiltonian League: Binfield v Rayners Lane.
Monday March 1
Capital League: Welling Utd v Harrow Borough (7.30pm).
Tuesday March 2
Middx Senior Cup semi-finals: Hendon v Wealdstone (7.30pm); Wembley v Northwood (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).

County Final derby chance

A LOCAL derby final to the Middlesex Senior Cup is in prospect when Wealdstone and Wembley contest semi-final ties on Tuesday evening.

Stones, who have already put out Harrow Borough and Hayes in previous rounds, visit Hendon, but will be without on-form central defender Paul Lamb, who is serving a one match ban.

They warm up for that clash by playing their Middlesex Charity Cup game at Ruislip Manor tonight (Thursday), but they have no game on Saturday.

In their semi-final, improving Wembley face Northwood at home.

Coincidently, the Lions last County Final appearance was a derby - against Harrow in 1993.

The latest soccer League tables

RYMAN LEAGUE
Premier Division

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Aylesbury	27	17	6	4	46	19	57
Sutton Utd	26	16	4	6	53	30	52
Purfleet	30	16	4	10	54	38	52
St Albans	28	14	9	5	50	33	51
Enfield	27	13	6	8	47	31	45
Billericay	29	12	9	8	36	30	45
Gravesend	26	13	4	9	37	30	43
Boreham W	29	10	11	8	44	45	41
Aldershot	26	11	7	8	56	27	40
Dagenham	26	11	7	8	48	37	40
Hendon	26	10	8	8	47	43	38
Basingstoke	26	10	7	9	41	34	37
Slough	28	10	7	11	40	40	37
Harrow B	**28**	**10**	**6**	**12**	**42**	**44**	**36**
Chesham	26	9	5	12	42	49	32
Dulwich H	28	8	7	13	31	39	31
Walton	30	8	5	17	34	61	29
Carshalton	31	7	7	17	34	63	28
Bromley	28	7	6	15	40	51	27
Heybridge	27	7	6	14	27	54	27
Hampton	27	6	8	13	28	51	26
Bishops St	27	5	7	15	36	65	22

Division One

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Braintree	30	17	7	6	61	30	58
Canvey	27	18	2	7	49	30	56
Bognor	27	17	3	7	49	27	54
Hitchin	26	15	8	3	50	25	53
Oxford C	25	12	9	4	42	30	45
Grays	25	12	6	7	40	27	42
Wealdstone	**26**	**12**	**5**	**9**	**37**	**34**	**41**
Worthing	25	10	8	8	36	42	38
Chertsey	27	9	10	8	41	40	37
Romford	24	9	9	6	42	36	36
Maidenhead	26	9	9	8	36	33	36
Barton	28	8	9	11	34	35	33
Uxbridge	26	8	7	11	35	31	31
Molesey	26	6	13	9	28	38	31
Leyton P	26	7	9	10	42	49	30
Croydon	25	7	8	10	33	44	29
Whyteleafe	23	7	4	12	33	40	25
Leatherhead	26	6	7	13	33	41	25
Staines	26	5	9	12	19	39	24
Yeading	26	5	8	13	31	39	23
Berkhamsted	28	5	6	17	35	58	21
Wembley	**27**	**4**	**6**	**17**	**19**	**57**	**18**

Division Two

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Bedford	24	20	5	3	59	20	65
Thame	27	18	3	6	65	34	57
Harlow	24	17	5	2	64	23	56
Banstead	25	14	2	9	51	38	44
Leighton	27	12	8	7	42	34	44
Windsor	21	12	4	5	48	25	40
Edgware	**26**	**11**	**7**	**8**	**50**	**41**	**40**
Northwood	25	12	4	9	41	41	40
Chalfont	28	10	9	9	43	43	39
Hemel H	24	10	8	6	41	27	38
Marlow	29	11	5	13	56	52	38
Tooting	25	10	6	9	34	43	36
Hungerford	22	9	7	6	33	26	34
Horsham	25	9	5	11	44	40	32
Hertford	25	9	1	15	30	46	28
Met Police	23	8	3	12	28	34	27
Witham	27	6	9	12	37	45	27
Wivenhoe	25	7	5	13	44	53	26
Barking	27	5	8	14	29	49	23
Bracknell	27	5	6	16	29	62	21
Wokingham	28	6	2	20	26	67	20
Abingdon	28	4	4	20	29	80	16

Division Three

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Cheshunt	26	16	6	4	51	26	54
Wingate	25	15	4	6	54	30	49
Ford	22	15	3	4	60	34	48
Croydon Ath	25	11	8	6	56	35	41
Lewes	23	13	2	8	47	30	41
Ware	24	13	1	10	52	40	40
Egham	22	11	5	6	47	37	38
Camberley	21	10	5	6	47	35	35
Tilbury	22	10	4	8	37	26	34
Southall	24	10	4	10	41	37	34
E Thurrock	22	9	6	7	47	34	33
Corin C	22	10	2	10	34	38	32
Flackwell	26	9	4	13	44	50	31
Aveley	25	9	4	12	35	43	31
Epsom	21	8	5	8	34	30	29
Clapton	23	8	3	12	36	50	27
Hornchurch	23	6	7	10	27	41	25
Kingsbury	**25**	**5**	**1**	**19**	**30**	**69**	**16**
Dorking	24	4	2	18	31	71	14
Tring	26	3	4	19	24	78	13

CHILTONIAN LEAGUE
Premier Division

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Rayners Lane	**16**	**9**	**4**	**3**	**44**	**19**	**31**
Binfield	14	8	4	2	27	16	28
Finchampstead	15	7	5	3	33	19	26
Elton Wick	12	8	1	3	35	15	25
Stocklake	14	7	2	5	36	21	23
Peppard	8	6	2	0	11	3	20
Henley Town	12	5	3	4	23	17	18
Quarry Nomads	15	5	2	8	24	35	17
RB Basingstoke	8	5	0	1	14	5	15
Penn & TG	12	4	3	5	30	28	15
Taplow Utd	15	2	1	12	20	63	7
Priestwood	13	1	2	10	14	46	5
Aston Clinton	14	1	1	12	21	45	4

Wasps' Cup clash with Irish set to be a classic

SUNDAY'S Tetley Bitter Cup clash between Wasps and London Irish at Loftus Road, kick off 3pm has all the ingredients for a classic confrontation, *writes Alan Bodenham.*

Irish are the form horse of English rugby and despite losing at Leicester 10 days ago have won 12 out of their last 14 matches.

Former England coach, Dick Best, has constructed the almost irresistable blend of Irish heart and southern hemisphere nous.

Connor O'Shea and Niall Woods provide the green spirit while men such as former All Black fly half Steve Bachup and Springboks, Brendan Venter and Jake Boer, provide the hard stuff.

In contrast, Nigel Melville has an almost exclusively English personel, augmented by the odd Celt and Kiwi.

Rob Henderson should be back in the black shirt to face his former club and Kenny Logan is also expected to be on duty, having missed the last two games. Skipper Mark Weedon's hand injury has cleared up and he will lead the side.

There will be a cat and mouse game between Best and Melville this week despite protestations from both that they will not indulge. Melville was first off the mark when he described his side as underdogs, minutes after the draw was made and he sticks to that this week. "They are playing so well," he said "it is difficult to envisage anything else."

He is also concerned that two first team regulars, Shane Roiser (concussion) and Paul Volley (three white cards) will be unavailable for selection. He names his side today (Thursday) and leaves Best to respond.

Wasps officials are expecting a bumper crowd of well over 10000 and urge spectators to get to the ground early.

Tickets will be available on the day but the box office (740 2545) still has plenty.

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