

SPORT

SOCCER

Fluent Borough are just too good for Wood

Harrow Borough 3 Boreham Wood 0 THIS was a fully merited victory on Saturday for a Borough team which dominated this match with their fluent football.

Former England striker Kerry Dixon rolled back the yards and almost gave the visitors a first minute lead when he flicked the ball over Alan Paris but was then thwarted by the diving David Hook.

By Tony Booth

It was a fast and furious opening and in the 7th minute the hosts went in front when skipper Jon-Barrie Bates lofted a pass to the left wing where Pat Gavin had his cross-shot pushed out by keeper Wilmot, but Paul Adolphe was on hand to net the rebound.

The Borough defence was tight knit but when the visitors did create chances, they found David Hook in unbeatable form, diving to hold onto Brady's header, then being in the right place to hold Gore's long range effort.

However, Harrow had by far the better of the first half but were unable to build on their lead.

Their best efforts came from Mark Cooper, whose

header from a corner by Otis Roberts was fractionally wide, while Gavin had a header palmed away by the keeper.

Confident Harrow continued the search for goals in the second half and on 58 minutes finally doubled their lead.

A Roberts throw in on the left saw McCormack run across the edge of the area and let fly with a shot that Wilmot could only parry and Gavin steered the loose ball into goal

from a narrow angle.

Now completely in control, Borough made it 3-0 in the 63rd minute.

Paris sent a through ball upfield to Roberts who laid the ball back for Paul Harding to skillfully curl a 20 yard shot around his marker and the keeper and inside the far post.

Not content to sit back, Harrow created further openings with Gavin heading a Dadds cross wide and Dadds

being denied by the diving keeper.

Near the end a Roberts corner found Gavin whose powerful header was held under the bar, then from a McCormack cross, Aidan O'Brien saw his fierce drive fly just wide of the target.

Harrow Borough: Hook, Webster, James, Roberts, Cooper, Paris, Adolphe, Bates (O'Brien), Gavin (Murlin), Harding (Dadds), McCormack.

ROAD RELAYS

National date for Harrow

HARROW Athletic Club's senior runners qualified for the National 12-Stage Road Relay championships with a nailbiting performance in the South of England Championships at Milton Keynes on Saturday, writes Tony Bush.

Needing to finish in the top 20 to claim a National spot, they eventually took 19th place after spending much of the race outside the qualifying positions. Runners alternate with long (5.3miles) and short (3.5 miles) stages around the traffic-free paths of Britain's newest city.

Mark Bryant returned to competition after a serious hamstring injury and finished 31st on Saturday for a long stage before Delroy Simon stormed through the field to 17th place with a fast 17.12, the sixth fastest time of the day. Mark Cursons dropped to 19th despite a good 26.26, before Matt Nicholls showed his potential by gaining seven places with a fast 17.36.

The next five stages saw Harrow drop ten places to 22nd spot in the usual huge field despite a good short leg from Alan Wray and solid long stages from Andy Hoiles and Steve Jones.

Gareth Noble gained one place on the tenth leg before Matthew Batson, recent winner of the Oron 5 miles cross country race, showed his strength to clock Harrow's fastest long stage and lift the club to 19th.

There was a huge sigh of relief when Stuart Taylor safely anchored Harrow to a spot in the National event.

Harrow times (in stage order): Mark Bryant 28.41; Delroy Simon 17.12; Mark Cursons 26.22; Matthew Nicholls 17.36; Andy Hoiles 27.42; Alan Wray 18.16; Steve Jones 27.45; Mike Baron 19.33; Mike Lepps 28.22; Gareth Noble 19.25; Matthew Batson 26.24; Stuart Taylor 19.03.

HOCKEY

Harrow go on a goal romp

HARROW'S ladies and mens first teams both went on goal sprees on Saturday.

The ladies had a 6-1 win at Amersham with 14 year old Shinal Patel capping a fine debut with a goal.

Simone Burns scored after a determined run and other goals came from Kerr Lendon 2, Tasha Lendon and Natalie Hilliard.

Harrow: Felder, C.Lendon, C.Burns, Addow, Cairns, Hilliard, K.Lendon, S.Burns, Adeumo, T.Lendon, Patel.

Harrow men had a 7-1 win over Southgate Adelaide with all the goals remarkably coming in the first half.

Strikers Mark Defanis and Nick Lendon both scored hat-tricks with Raj Bhudrasa netting from a penalty stroke.

Harrow: Williamson, Newberry, Wyatt, Altman, Divall, Bhudrasa, J.Smith, Zungo, R.Smith, Defanis, Lendon.

MOTOR RACING

Piers off to flyer

PINNER Porsche driver Piers Masarati began his 1999 campaign with a strong second place at Silverstone on Sunday.

Piers is now driving a 968 CS, a rather different proposition from the 911 he piloted last year.

But the second place was an excellent start for Masarati who finished 4th in the championship last year.

CRICKET

Players wanted by Harrow Weald

HARROW Weald Cricket Club, who play at Boxtree Park, Harrow, are seeking players of all standards for the new season.

Anyone interested in joining them should call Ted Hopkins on 930 2988.

Wembley lift-off

Survival hopes get a boost at York Road

Maidenhead Utd 0 Wembley 1 YORK ROAD is not one of Wembley's favourite destinations, but they managed to redress the record books slightly by beating Maidenhead to register a rare win there on Saturday.

The victory lifts the Lions off the bottom of the Division One table for the first time this season and manager Errol Dyer deserves credit for stabilising a sinking side which looked dead certs for the drop a few months ago.

Avoiding relegation, however, is still on the agenda.

But the boss will be largely disappointed by his team's overall performance on Saturday as too many silly errors and too much petty bickering between themselves, and with the opposition, almost led to their downfall.

Fortunately the off-colour and out of tune Magpies failed to capitalise. The all-important and decisive goal arrived in the 8th minute when skipper Ian Bates, back in his accustomed mid-field role, delivered an inch perfect floated defence-splitting pass into the path of Davis Haule who had time to pick his spot and thumped the ball into the roof of the net.

The visitors controlled proceedings thereafter but their annoying tendency to lose possession and needlessly give away free kicks almost resulted in Maidenhead levelling matters.

The home side's finishing however was woeful to say the least with Chuck Agudosi firing wide after breaking clear on two separate occasions, while Micky Creighton missed the target from close range and in the second half was denied a certain goal by Nick Christie's brave intervention.

Otherwise there was no real danger of Wembley losing their slender advantage and they could have wrapped up the contest.

A timely tackle prevented Haule bursting through, while Les Thompson, breaking the hosts' rearguard to latch onto Leon Callender's pass, saw his strike deflected wide by the goalkeeper.

However, one goal was sufficient for another vital Wembley victory.

Wembley: Karamoko, Christie, Mitchell, Walters, Norris, Thompson, Bates, McCarthy, Callender, Haule, Woodruff, Sabs; Levene, Schwarz, Matthews.

By Richard Markiewicz

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Borough sparkle at Rushden

Rushden & Diamonds 2 Harrow Borough 2

BOROUGH became only the third team to take a point from the Capital League leaders when they held Rushden to a draw at their impressive Nene Park ground last Wednesday, writes Tony Booth.

In a match that could have gone either way, Rushden took a 19th minute lead when Vandervalden lofted the ball from his own half and Capone ran on to chip it into goal.

Within minutes Borough had an escape when Hamsher's 35 yard drive rebounded back to David Hook off the crossbar, but the visitors bounced back with both Bates and Clarke having headers saved and Dadds shot on target.

Borough took the game to their unbeaten hosts in the second half but after McCormack's 20 yard lob came back off the bar, Rushden made it 2-0 when Gary Hedges fouled Ndweke in a rare home attack and Hamsher netted the 62nd minute penalty.

It looked as though Harrow's efforts would go unrewarded. However, with seven minutes left, Frank McCormack's 25 yard shot flew past the keeper to reduce the arrears and four minutes later Ishmael Dadds fired home from 20 yards to equalise.

Harrow Borough: Hook, Webster, James, Roberts, Cooper, Paris, Adolphe, Bates (O'Brien), Gavin (Murlin), Harding (Dadds), McCormack.

Promotion bandwagon takes Stones up to fifth

Wieldstone 2 Yeading 0 CERTAINLY not one of Wealdstone's better performances, but it's another three points, they are up to fifth in the table and the promotion bandwagon is rumbling impressively on.

And with five wins and a draw from their six games in March, the League's Manager of the Month award for the charismatic Gordon Bartlett looks almost inevitable.

Not for the first time this season, the Stones boss had to lift his team at the break after an inadequate first half showing.

Tiredness after four games in eight days was perhaps a contributory factor and they could easily have turned round a couple of goals in arrears.

Keith Boreham should have scored for the visitors in the opening minutes when a long clearance from Yeading keeper Danny Honey was missed by Ian Waugh and left the

By John Comfort

former Stones striker with only Noel Imber to beat. But fortunately he shot weakly wide.

Later Gerry Brennan had to clear off the line when Steve Ashley headed a Jason Tucker corner goalwards.

Lack-lustre Stones only began to pose a threat in the latter stages of the half and they should have scored after 37 minutes when Paul McKay put Rocky Baptiste clear. But Honey got a hand to his low effort and kept it out.

Wealdstone looked more enterprising after the break but 18 minutes elapsed before they broke the deadlock.

A firm low angled drive from Baptiste was blocked by Honey and when Brian Jones laid the loose ball back to Paul Benning, the midfielder's shot from 20 yards found the net

with the aid of a deflection.

Two minutes later a second Stones goal effectively sealed victory, but it was a dubious nature.

Only an eye ailment could excuse referee Torrance's failure to notice Baptiste's clear push on Steve Hedge as he beat the Yeading defender to McKay's pass on the right. A perfect square ball across the area found Jones running in and his finish was clinical.

Former Harrow Borough midfielder Jeremy Lord came close to reducing the arrears for Yeading when his angled 20 yarder came back off the crossbar, but Stones ended the game on top. Carl Holmes firing just wide after good work by Baptiste, while Dominic Sterling's late effort was deflected narrowly off target.

Wealdstone: Imber, Waugh (Boxford), Sterling, Brennan, Bircham, Benning, Walton, Jones (Fleming), Baptiste, Holmes, McKay. Other subs: Copman.

Jones earns point for Wealdstone

Grays Ath 1 Wealdstone 1 HAVING lost 3-0 in the original fixture in August, which was declared void because a goalpost was found to be the wrong height, Stones returned from Grays on Thursday a point better off thanks to a Brian Jones goal which earned them a hard earned point.

Wealdstone were by far the better side and started brightly with a goalbound shot from Paul

By Graham Smith

McKay being headed clear and the impressive Carl Holmes going close.

But in the 36th minute the home side went ahead against the run of play.

The Stones defence failed to clear from a throw in and the unmarked Hazle fired home from close range.

Brooks into the net.

Six minutes later a good save from Brooks prevented Benning putting Stones ahead with a header from Steve Bircham's cross, but Odegbami missed a great chance for Grays a minute later, missing the target after breaking free with only Noel Imber to beat.

Wealdstone: Imber, Dicker (Waugh), Sterling, Brennan, Bircham, Benning, Walton, Jones, Baptiste, Holmes, McKay. Other subs: Fleming, Copman.

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