

SPORT

Big Wealdstone clash is switched to Chesham

WEALDSTONE'S important Division One match with Romford last night (Wednesday) was switched to Chesham United's 'Meadow' ground after Ryman League officials declared the Essex club's pitch to be in an unfit condition. The referee of Romford's game with Grays on Monday expressed his concern over the state of the pitch and when League chairman Alan Turvey later visited the ground he concurred with that opinion. The Essex club were ordered to play home games elsewhere until the pitch is brought back to suitable playing condition. Romford initially wanted to play the match with Stones at Hornchurch tonight (Thursday) but Wealdstone declined. Use of the Chesham ground was then acquired and the clubs were due to meet there last night.

Wembley penalty agony

Brave Lions hold Hendon in Final but cruelly lose spot-kick shoot out

By **John Comfort**

Hendon 2 Wembley 2 (after extra time). Hendon win 4-2 on pens) MIDDLESEX Senior Cup glory was cruelly snatched away from Wembley in a dramatic penalty shoot out at Enfield on Monday night after this pulsating final clash with Premier Division Hendon had finished deadlocked at the end of extra time. Errol Dyer's First Division strugglers had performed magnificently throughout and twice had their noses in front. But on both occasions Hendon, who were reduced to ten men when they had Tony Kelly sent off just before full time for his verbal observations to assistant referee Roger Kelly, hit back to level the scores and deny the Lions an upset victory that their enterprise would have deserved. However, at the death it came down to a shoot-out and white skipper Ian Bates and

Carl Levene confidently fired home, poor efforts by Nick Christie, who missed the target, and Avi Schwarz, whose tame kick was easily saved, sealed Wembley's fate. John-Simon White, Junior Lewis and Paul Whitmarsh all found the net for Hendon who were allowed the luxury of keeper Gary McCann blasting his spot kick high, wide and not very handsome, before Freddie Hyatt administered the coup de grace. Given Wembley's inadequacies from the spot it was perhaps as well that referee John Kirkbride did not award them what was a clear penalty after only six minutes when Kelly hauled down Les Thompson in the area after he had been outpaced to Sean

McCarthy's through pass. Assistant referee Ray Herb flagged for the obvious spot kick but Mr Kirkbride inexplicably waved play on. Although Danny Norris had to head off the line from Simon Clarke soon after, it was Wembley who looked the livelier side and on 39 minutes they opened the scoring. Norris glancing a header across goal and into the far corner of the net from Woodruffe's corner. Carlton Mitchell and David Haule both went close to extending Wembley's lead but Hendon hit back 16 minutes into the second half, Jon Daly and then White helping on a Hyatt corner for Whitmarsh to head home. Woodruffe cleared off the line from White as Hendon threatened to settle the issue but Wembley held out and when Kelly got his marching orders, the trophy was there

for the taking as the game went into extra time. When the Lions took the lead seven minutes into the first period, Haule netting from a penalty after Curtis Warmington handled in a goalmouth scramble, a big upset was in the offing. But seven minutes later Hendon levelled again. Whitmarsh scoring from the spot after he had been brought down by Wayne Walters in the area. The deadlock remained for the rest of extra time and then it went to penalties, with Hendon's clinical finishing proving decisive. But Wembley deserved much credit for their gallant efforts in a game where they confounded the pundits who had predicted a walkover. Wembley: Karamoko, Christie, Mitchell (Schwarz), Walters, Norris, Levene, Bates, McCarthy, Thompson (Callender), Haule, Woodruffe. Other sub: Whait.



Wembley's Wayne Walters gets down to his knees in his efforts to break up a Hendon attack in the County Cup Final at Enfield.



Brian Jones.

Hat-trick hero Jones is Stones avenger

A MAGNIFICENT Brian Jones hat-trick helped earn Wealdstone maximum points on Monday as they gained revenge for their shock 4-1 defeat at Broadwater just after Christmas. It was a victory that lifted Stones up to fourth in the table and gave their promotion hopes a huge boost, while defeat for Berko nailed them to the

Wealdstone 5 Berkhamstead Town 2 BY GRAHAM SMITH bottom of the League and a step closer to the drop. The home side took a 10th minute lead when Rocky Baptiste found Chris Walton who turned to hit a left foot shot past Webb. The impressive Eddie Boxford then had an effort go just wide and soon after

Stones were denied a penalty when a Steve Bircham shot was handled by Bray. However, in the 22nd minute Jones opened his account with a stunner that was another contender for goal of the season. The determined Dominic Sterling retrieved the ball after losing possession and cleverly beat three defenders before finding Jones who hit a thunderous volley

past the visiting keeper. A minute later a sloppy goal gave Berko hope as ex-Hendon striker Richardson slotted past the stranded Noel Imber. Jones restored Stones two goal lead in the 34th minute after being put clear by Baptiste but just before the break the home side conceded another poor goal, Bircham uncharacteristically losing possession,

allowing Bray to fire past Imber. 18 minutes into the second half Wealdstone deservedly scored a fourth goal. Bircham's corner was punched away by Webb but only as far as Paul Benning whose excellent shot hit a post and Baptiste was on hand to fire in the rebound. Bircham volleyed onto the crossbar from a Baptiste cross before Jones

got Wealdstone's fifth goal in the 75th minute. Keeper Webb's attempt to clear a back pass was blocked by Jones who duly ran on to slip the ball into the net to complete his hat-trick. At the final whistle the Stones striker jubilantly claimed the match ball. Wealdstone: Imber, Dicker (Copsman), Sterling (Holmes), Brennan, Boxford, Benning (James), Walton, Jones, Baptiste, Bircham, McKey.

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Edgware left doubled up by the Woods

EDGWARE made a bit more of an effort against neighbours Northwood on Monday than they did when they suffered a 4-0 drubbing at the White Lion ground back in December, but it was still not enough to prevent the Woods from comfortably completing a league double. Wares never posed a threat in the first half, the pattern for which was set in the opening minutes when only the legs of Andy Carter prevented Kevin

Northwood 2 Edgware Town 1
BY JOHN COMFORT
Cooper giving the home side the lead. Northwood eventually went in front after 42 minutes. Lawrence Holmes firing fiercely past Carter after a sweet exchange of passes with Cooper had bemused the Edgware defence. Wares' hopes of a second half

recovery suffered a mortal blow just 40 seconds after the resumption when they conceded a second goal, the unchallenged Scott Fitzgerald heading home from a Lee Passmore free kick. However, that did have the effect of livening the visitors up and they were unlucky not to pull a goal back when Lee Smart's 20 yard free kick was tipped onto the bar by Lee Carroll who was then alert enough to turn over Steve

Hurd's goalbound header from the rebound. Wares did reduce the arrears with a 68th minute Fabio Valenti penalty after Steve Dell had bundled Joe House over in the area but a well struck Steve Newing shot, that forced Carroll into a diving save, was the closest they came to saving the match. Edgware: Carter, Norton (House), Smart, Hurd, Makarian, Farry, Carr (Fion), Lyons, Moran, Glynn (Newing), Valenti.

Soccer preview, fixtures, and league tables
- see page 118

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Wasps Twickenham bound



Kenny Logan, who landed a 20 point haul, surges through the Gloucester defence in Wasps' 35-21 win on Sunday which took them into the final of the Tetley's Bitter Cup where they will meet Newcastle at Twickenham. Match report: page 118. Picture: SpedeGrafix.

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