

SPORT



Andy's Appeal gets a boost from QPR legends

QUEENS Park Rangers legends, Stan Bowles, Gary Waddock and Alan MacDonald will be in action at Loftus Road on Sunday in a charity match for the Andy Fuller Marathon Appeal.

Rangers fan Andy, who played cricket for Harrow town, died from cancer last December. Despite losing his legs due to his illness, he set his sights on competing in the London Marathon while in hospital and the Appeal was set up to help him realise that ambition. When he died it was decided to continue with the Appeal.

Former Rangers players Warren Neill, Wayne Fereday and Mark Lazarus will also play in Sunday's game and there could be surprise appearances from current players as a QPR Charity XI take on a combined Venceresmos and Borough Road XI - clubs that Andy played for.

Kick off is at 2pm. Admission is £5, children under 14 free.

A trophy hat-trick for Bates



Jon-Barrie Bates with his Borough trophy haul. Picture by Paul Carter.

CLUB skipper Jon-Barrie Bates has made a clean sweep of Harrow Borough FC's honours. At the club's annual presentation dinner and dance on Saturday the star midfielder received the Players' Player of the Year trophy, the Vice-President's Player of the Year trophy and the Jim Rogers Supporters Player of the Year trophy.

One of Borough's 'foreign legion,' Yugoslavian striker Vladimir Gusavac, took the best newcomer awards thanks to his haul of 13 goals from 11 Ryman and Capital League games.

The Golden Boot award went to Pat Gavin.

David Hook received an award to mark his 300 appearances for Borough and there were 100 appearance awards for Pat Gavin, Alan Paris and Kenny Webster.

The Sharra Trophy, for services to the club, was won by John Tidd.

In Borough's 20th season in the Premier Division of the Isthmian League, they finished 9th and, said club chairman Jim Ripley, "played some of the best football I've seen since I've been at the club."

There was also praise from the chairman for the management team. "They've brought the best out of our boys, and the whole team has done us proud," he said.

High five time for Wasps?

'Men in Black' ready to taste Cup Final glory

FOUR Cup Finals and four defeats is the far from enviable record that Wasps take to Twickenham for the Tetley's Bitter Cup Final with Newcastle Falcons.

But there is an air of optimism about the club that suggests that it just could be fifth time lucky on Saturday.

This time there is no Bath, who conquered the men in black in three finals, and no Saracens, who gave them an embarrassing thrashing in last year's showpiece.

Standing in their way of cup glory on this occasion are a Falcons side built by former Wasps star Rob Andrew who left Sudbury under a cloud in 1995 to become Newcastle's director of rugby, winning few friends by taking several key Wasps players with him. His success there though is undoubted.

Securing the championship last season and, with Sir John Hall's financial clout, providing the blueprint for the future of professional rugby in England, are testament to that.

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Wasps last month and doubtless will be anxious for a repeat performance.

Newcastle also boast a host of other quality players, 19 year old Jonny Wilkinson being high on the list.

He kicked seven penalties for England in their win over France in his last Twickenham appearance and Wasps will be aware that infringing in vital areas will be severely punished.

Former British Lions, winger Tony Underwood, scrum half Gary Armstrong and second row Doddie Weir, are other aces in the Newcastle pack and Wasps supremo Nigel Melville knows only too well that it will be a tough test on Saturday.

"They are a very strong side and it will be a bloody hard game," he said.

"We didn't do ourselves justice last year but this time we're a lot wiser. We've been there, felt terrible and had a sour taste afterwards. Now we've got the opportunity to put it."

It was a view reflected by England captain, Lawrence Dallaglio, who skipped Wasps at Twickenham last year. "We're delighted to be in the final again" he said "but we recognise that it isn't enough just to get there. We want to go one step further and win."

"You get what you deserve on the big stage and when we've got to the final we've not given our best performance. But we're in a better position this time to resolve it."

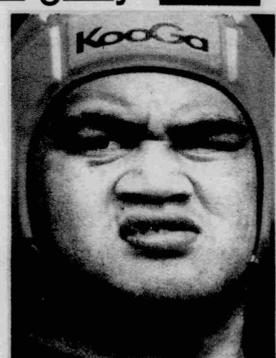
In league matches this season Wasps lost 27-19 at Newcastle but scraped home by 34-33 in a nail-biter at Loftus Road and skipper Mark Weedon is expecting another close encounter.

"Newcastle rate up with the other top premiership teams" he said. "They are very formidable and a difficult side to beat."

Past cup clashes between the clubs suggest a Wasps win, having come out on top on both previous meetings.

In 1984 they went though on tries scored after a 12-12 draw and in 1994 they crushed their rivals 58-12, with Rob Andrew scoring three tries and kicking five penalties.

Simon Shaw is Wasps only doubt for Saturday's final but he is expected to have recovered from an ear infection.



Getting in the mood for Cup Final action, Trevor Leota.



Wasps get things together in training at Bisham Abbey.

PICTURES BY GARETH BEARD



Nigel Melville supervises Wasps' pre-Cup Final training at Bisham Abbey.

Awards at the double

HARROW Borough's Alan Paris and Wealdstone's Gordon Bartlett have pulled off a local double in the Ryman League's William Hill Manager of the Month awards.

Paris deservedly receives his first managerial accolade after 18 months in charge at Earlsmead after being named Premier Division manager of the month for April. Bartlett - no stranger to these awards - took the Division One award, his second in successive months.

Wares look for helping hand from Gary

FORMER Hendon defender, Gary Hand, is the new manager of Edgware Town, writes John Comfort.

48 year old Hand, whose career started as an apprentice with Watford, also had spells with Wealdstone, Enfield and Wycombe Wanderers but is best known for his association with the Claremont Road club, for whom he played almost 700 games and won an FA Amateur Cup winners medal in 1973 as well as one of his two Isthmian League championship medals.

He also became coach at Hendon, was caretaker manager there twice, and was manager there in 1985 until the club grew impatient with his efforts to build a young side on a tight budget and sacked him.

Since then he has thrown himself into youth football, and developing young players. Two of his proteges, Kevin Amankwaa and Bryon Bubb, are with Bristol City and Millwall respectively.

He ran extremely successful youth sides at Harrow Hawks and Belmont United then returned to Hendon to manage their midweek under-18 side in the Allied Counties Youth League.

And it is to youth that he will turn to at Edgware and a clear out of the 'old guard' can be expected. Definitely out will be Sunday football, a bone of contention during the tenure of Steve Newing, who is now believed to be joining Ware as assistant manager to Steve Ringrose.

Hand is looking for a two year contract with Edgware to enable

him to develop a young side with a tie up local youth side, probably nearby Belmont, to provide continuity and a feel for the club that has palpably been missing of late.

"There are a lot of good players here but they probably need a fresh challenge elsewhere," he said. "There are four or five that I want to keep but I'll have to wait and see whether they want to stay and whether I think they've got the right attitude to stay."

"A year with a lot of kids, and a few senior players will be the basis for interest in the club and succeeding."

A healthy mid table position will be Hand's goal in his first year. "That would be success for me," he said. "A new side takes time to establish."



New boss Gary Hand (right) is welcomed to Edgware by club secretary, Barry Boreham.

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