SPORT

THE HARROW OBSERVER POOL TEAM finished the first stage of the London Superleague in style with three straight wins on Sunday to finish top of Group 1 and well clear of the opposition.

Facing Croydon 'B' in the opening fixture, the Observer team started well with Rob Richards, Stuart Jenkins and Jason Cotter giving them a 3-0 lead. Lee Snook and Ray Miscall also secured the points and in the process, Snook took his Superleague tally to 10 wins from 10 matches.

Thornton Heath were the next victims to meet the Observer team and were easily beaten by 7 frames to 2.

In the final match of the afternoon, the Observer team were comfortable winners by 8 frames to 1 against Tower Hamlets, Ray Miscall playing an excellent frame clearing the table after a foul.

These victories were a great follow-up to the Observer's wins on the Superleague knock-out cup. Playing over eighteen frames, they took care of the City Pool Association in the preliminary round by 11 frames to 7 and then completed a great day's pool with an excellent victory over Finchley 10 frames to 8.

The Observer will now play in the finals at Angels Pool Hall, Islington, on Saturday.

Wasps gain a little weight

CANADIAN World Cup captain Norman Hadley will be weighing into the opposition soon after Wasps' season gets under way next week, **writes Alan Bodenham.**

The 19-stone star, who has also turned out for the Barbarians, is one of two big – he is 6ft 7in tall – signings to add strength to the club's championship bid, which starts on September 11.

The other hefty signature was that of 6ft 6in 20-stone Les Jackson, ex-Marlow and a former member of the Thames Valley Chargers American Football team. He is said to have "awesome potential" in rugby union.

These two recruits are likely to prove a headache for the opposition. But they have also given the club a problem. Kit makers Canterbury have already had to tailor special kits for the two giants.

But league regulations mean Hadley will not be available for matches until 120 days after he joined the club – i. e. until after Christmas.

Flanker Laurence Dallaglio's new home will also be at Repton Avenue. Regarded as one of the most outstanding young talents in the game, he was one of the England Sevens team which lifted the World Cup at Murrayfield last season – and could soon win full international honours.

Mike Wedderburn has also joined from Harlequins – whom Wasps play in their first home fixture on September 11 – and Simon Hunter from Rosslyn Park.

Also on the squad are prop Darren Molloy and No 8 Peter Scrivener, plus backs Andy Maddock and Mitch Hoare.

Damien Hopley and Paddy Dunston have confirmed they are staying despite rumours of their departure.

Strength in depth has been added with the expansion of the first team set-up to 50 players. Coach Rob Smith said: "I have to be sure that if injuries start occuring I have replacements in each position that are up to the task."

Preparations started in mid-July, with a week's training in the South of France, including a win against a French national 15 and a heavy loss to Rob Andrew's old club Toulouse – which club officials have agreed will prevent complacency setting in.

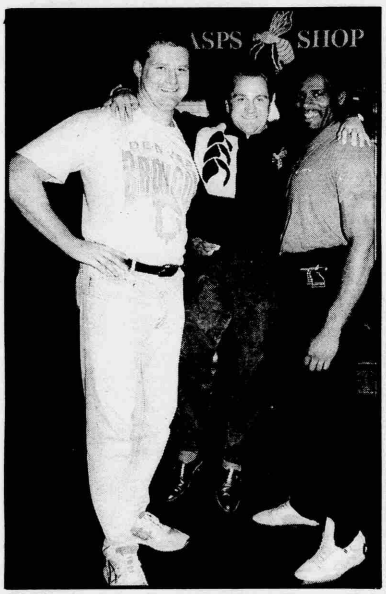
Skipper Dean Ryan hailed the work of fitness coach Pat Fox for coaxing players to a peak in time for matches. His regime last year ensured Wasps players looked much stronger as opposition squads flagged.

Players' schedules will be even more demanding this year than last, with the introduction of home and away fixtures, making the total number of matches 18. This also means Wasps do not have the chance to avenge Bath, league winners in 93, who beat them only because Wasps had to visit the Avon club this year and were beaten 22-11.

Success in the five-round Pilkington Cup, where Wasps lost out in the semi-finals last year, will also be more difficult. Players will also be called on to run out for the London divisional squad and international matches.

The club's consolation last season was winning the Middlesex Sevens at Twickenham. But this year players will be hoping to lift the title for the first time since 1990 – a task, chairman Alex Finch described as "the rugby equivalent of climbing Everest." He added: "There will be no such thing as a safe game this year. All First Division clubs are very strong."

Wasps play West Hartlepool at home in a friendly on Saturday, before the season gets under way proper on September 11 away against Gloucester.



Waiting for their tailor made strip are Norman Hadley, left, at 6ft 7in and Les Jackson a mere 6ft 6in. To give the scale is Wasps' smallest player Chris Wright who is 5ft 2in.

ATHLETICS

QPH triumph against strong challenge

THERE was a fitting end to the mens track season as Queens Park Harriers regained the Faringdon and Jewkes Trophies for the second year in succession.

The competition has involved 10 clubs from the North London area and the win has come as a welcome boost for the QPH men after a disappointing season in the men's Southern League.

A strong challenge came from local team Thames Valley Harriers but they just could not match the class of QPH. Once again, Edward Betts set the stage for the rest to follow.

Betts was in a class of his own, winning the 400m easily in 48.8 seconds. The 800m saw Stephen Pratt, in one of his rare excursions at this distance, taking third place in 1m 58.9secs with Patrick Davis in the B race running a sensible and steady race to take a comfortable second place in 2.02.9.

Sam Nash had a very busy day, coming second in 11.9 in the 100m before achieving a distance of 6 metres 32 and taking third place in the long jump. He was partnered in the latter event by Nigel Bourne who figured one place up with a jump of 6m 45.

In the 200m, Danny Lemanning won the B race and ran his fastest time this year with 23 seconds in the B race, second place going to team mate Patrick Davis.

Field events were dominated by Ade Abu who won both the discuss (33m 54) and the shot (10m 27). The long distance races also reaped good performances from Brendan Green and John Willoughby in the 5000m whilst in the girls' 800m Irene Steins came second.

Steins was runner-up again in the long jump (4m 09) and Joanna Davis performed well for a second placing in the shot with a throw of 5m 83. The under 15 girls Alla Urova was second in the same event and for the under 15 boys A Jones excelled himself to run 14.1 in the 100m.

To cap the day QPH was second in the 4x200 in 1.39 and lifted the trophy for the second year in succession. Meanwhile, this Saturday sees the QPH ladies team travelling to Bristol to compete as league leaders undefeated in five mathes. A win on Saturday would ensure them the Championship of Division 4 and the Ladies' team captain is hoping for a good turn out.

Chances lost in finishing

Enfield 2, Harrow Borough 0

A MATCH that was full of potential emotion saw hosts Enfield take their chances with greater precision. Harrow Borough faced several of last season's successful side when they visited SouthburyRoad last Saturday and performed creditably. But they still lost out to one of the championship favourites, writes Tony Booth.

Boro' began well, Shaw and Prutton going close with shots, Bensted heading just wide. Stung into action, Enfield replied with Bailey shooting on to the bar and some robust challenges going in.

But Boro' still had the better chances – Westley's shot was parried away, Pearce and Emmanuel shot just off target.

Against the run of play, the hosts took a 33rd minute lead, when Ridout's free kick ping-ponged around the area before Roberts netted from close range.

Keen to put one over their former colleagues, Boro's faithful players went close again when Shaw headed just wide. Then Westley shaved the post from Forrester's cross.

Yet Enfield doubled their lead after 52 minutes, just beating the offside trap, when St Hilaire crossed for Bailey to shoot home at the far post.

Walton, then Jackman, did well to clear when Hobson broke free but thereafter, Boro' had the advantage, without being able to apply the finishing touch.

Overall, a spirited performance from Boro' that needed a greater thrust up front to bear fruit.

Boro': Walton, Court, Pearce, Benning (Knight), Benisted, Jackman, Emmanuel, shaw, Westley, Prutton, Forrester (Hurlock).

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XUHE

First win of season eludes 'Stones

Tonbridge 3 Wealdstone 0

THE BAD start to the season for Wealdstone continued on Monday as they lost to newcomers Tonbridge 3 - 0, **writes Graham Smith.**

The first half performance was poor. Tonbridge, newly promoted from the Winstonlead League, took the lead after only five minutes.

Hearn received the ball on the right flank and looked offside, then his cross was headed home by Freeman.

In the 24th minute, Colin Tate headed over the bar from a Liam Barham free kick. Tonbridge extended their lead in the 35th minute when Wood put a ball over the Stone's barren defence for Hearn to run on to. His cross looked harmless enough until Richard Lovegrove slipped - Booth followed up to shoot past Andre Nolan, still in for the injured Rob Tenkoran.

Things did improve in the second half with Stone's defence more organised. But it was Tonbridge who nearly scored again when Tingley's effort was superbly saved by Nolan.

In the 69th minute play was held up for five minutes as Paul Sweales received treatment for concussion. He was taken to the Kent and Sussex Hospital, where he stayed overnight under observation.

With two minutes remaining, the home side made it 3-0 with a dubious goal. Clark passed to Freeman, who was clearly offside as he slotted the ball past the helpless Andre Nolan.

This is one of the worst starts to a season for many years, as Dermot Drummy and Paul Sweales are now added to the long injury list.

Stones: Nolan, Perry, Lovegrove, Shanahan, Pettifer (Richards), Barham, Sweales (Williams), Hedge, Cordice, Tate, Johnson.

Wealdstone 1 Canterbury 2

THE first league game at their new home ended in defeat for Wealdstone against Canterbury on Wednesday.

Much of this game was dominated by Stones but they could not find the finishing touch.

A Neil Cordice shot was goalbound only to be deflected off Paul Sweales' body for a goal kick.

Then a splendid one-handed save by debutant keeper Andre Nolan, in for the injured Rob Tenkorang, prevented Canterbury from scoring.

Stones best move in the first half came from the impressive Liam Barham, and just on half time, Paul Sweales came close to scoring from a splendid Neil Cordice cross,

However, Stones went behind in the 50th minute when their defence failed to clear a shot from Holmes.

Neil Cordice's header went just over the bar from a Paul Sweales' pass before the second goal for Canterbury came in the 68th minute; White's shot was deflected but Nolan could only palm the ball against the post before it rebounded into the net.

Wealdstone's pressure finally paid off eight minutes later when Colin Tate scored from a Liam Barham pass. Unfortunately, time ran out for the unlucky local side.

WFC: Nolan, Perry, Lovegrove, Shanahan, Sweales, Barham, Drummy (Adamson), Hedge, Cordice, Tate, Johnson, Richards (not used).

Wealdstone 1 Margate 3

THE 'STONES plunged to their third defeat in succession in the league on Saturday at the Warren.

Still without Hicks, Pettifer, Randall, Adamson and Gayle through injury, the first half was evenly matched with Stones playing some delightful football but, for the third game in a row, Wealdstone conceded a goal within five minutes of the new half and unfortunately it was Neil Cordice heading past his own keeper.

To make things worse, they scored again two minutes later. Brayne got on to a through ball and his shot beat Andre Nolan.

Liam Barham tried to get Stones back in the game when his good low shot went inches wide of the post. In the 75th minute, Margate struck again; Smith's pass was met by Lemione whose shot was deflected past the helpless Nolan.

Wealdstone's keeper was again in action minutes later when he made a fine save from Terry Cordice. The best goal of the game came from Wealdstone's Mick Perry whose thunderous shot beat Hudson four minutes from the end.

WFC: Nolan, Perry, Cordice, Shanahan, Lovegrove (Williams), Barham, Drummy (Richards), Hedge, Sweales, Tate, Johnson.

Close game stays drawn

Kingsbury Town 0 Harlow Town 0

KINGSBURY Town played out a goalless draw against Harlow Town, with both sides coming close to breaking the stalemate but honours ending even.

A Whytock cross almost ended up in the back of the Harlow net when a defender rose to head it clear but steered it against his own post.

Mark Ivers also headed a Roache cross wide from just six yards; and Kumah forced a flying left-handed save out of the visitors' keeper.

Wallace also headed wide from a Smyth cross, in the second half.

But at the other end, Small had to push a Harlow freekick out from under the crossbar twice as their striker Boyce followed up the rocketing dead ball shot with his head.

Harlow's Lovell also came close with a freekick that hit the angle and bounced out.

Kingsbury had to chance to snatch it with two minutes to go after a one-two between Roache and Whytock fell to Kumah and was flicked on to Ivers – but Harlow's keeper managed to scoop the striker's shot wide.

Kingsbury: Small, Roache, Wallace, Bhatia, O'Shea, Theodora, Smuth, O'Rorke, Kumah, Ivers, Whytock. Subs Quinn, Surridge (not used).

HOCKEY

HHC to hold trials

HARROW Hockey Club are holding their annual club trials at Vale Farm Sports Centre, Sudbury, on September 4 and 11 at 2pm.

The ladies' trials are on the 4th and any new players of any standard are welcome. Last year the ladies ran five teams and on some Saturdays, six, with the ladies first team playing in the Hockey Digest Middlesex Division 1. The club also has three other women's sides playing league hockey.

The men's trials are being held on September 11, again starting at 2pm at Vale Farm. The men's first team play in the first division of the Middlesex Berks, Bucks and Oxon regional league. Although the first team squad has been strengthened from last year, the club is still on the lookout for any new players, of any standard. The men currently run five teams, with the first two teams playing league hockey.

Harrow Hockey Club is part of the Kenton Sports Club, based at Kenton Park Avenue, Kenton. There are also cricket, tennis, table tennis, and lacrosse sections associated at Kenton.

Any new players wishing to play should contact either Tim Allman on 0923 678426 (men's) or Christine Larcombe 081 863 7869 (ladies').

BOWLS

Around the rinks

Kenton 81 Wembley 57

Kenton skips first: M. Franklin 24, N. Lyttle 17; D. Vine 14, E. Hill 12; R. Brown 19, B. Lester 18; B. Davies 24, J. Smith 10.

Kenton 47 Eastcote 33 (Coronation Shield Semi-Final)

Kenton skips first: R. Brown 23, G. Dimmock 14; J. Cooke 24, A. Young 19.

Harrow 122 Court Park 96

Harrow skips first: J. Webb 20, D. Carr 16; A. Low 25, F. Veal 17; L. de Meza 15, R. Curl 14; S. Kirby 22, P. Lane 20; R. Allen 18, G. Nye 18; W. Rose 22 K. Fitzpatrick 11.

Harrow 129 Wealdstone 129

Harrow skips first: T. Paulley 22, M. O'Grady 28; A. Low 22, R. Kirk 26; B. Elbourn 38, D. Parker 18; J. Webb 15, D. Steele 18; G. Young 13, M. Hazzard 20; D. Stewart 19, P. Rands 19.

Harrow Weald 34 Metropolitan Railway 26

Harrow Weald skips were F Anderson 18; F Oliver 9, D Wardell 16 and M Taylor 17. The side also beat Preston Park 46-35, with A Warner scoring 15, G Wolff 26, A Doman 31 and M England 9.

Edgware win despite their faults

Edgware Town 3 Feltham and Hounslow 0

EDGWARE Town are through to the next round of the FA Cup after a 3-0 win over their gutsy visitors.

It was a typical cup game where the visitors showed that what they lacked in quality, they gave in commitment.

Edgware gave their worst display so far this season with many of their passes going astray, especially in the first half.

Even so, it was Edware who had most of the chances with Feltham only having two shots at goal in the whole game – Simon Smith hitting the post with a cross drive and the tall, gangly Toma Efejuku bringing out a save from Seran Griffiths with a close-in header in the second half.

Edgware had a good chance early when Scott McGleish was put clear by Harrak. But he was caught in two minds and ended up by losing control of the ball, allowing a defender to get a tackle in.

McGleish was then unlucky when he ran 20 yards as he read a pass back to Feltham keeper Nigel Kelly. The two clashed and the ball ricocheted across the face of the empty goal.

Hammid Harrak then hit the bar with a shot from the edge of the box and Martyn Kidd should have done better when found in the clear on the far edge of the six yard box.

It was Thompson who put Edgware ahead after 25 minutes when he latched on to a through ball from Clive McCleod and neatly side-stepped the advancing Kelly to slot the ball home.

It took another duplicate move in the second half for Edgware to increase their lead, McCleod the provider to Thompson.

Thompson should have netted for his hat-trick when a great run by Harrak on the right ended with the perfect cross to Thompson who, with plenty of time, elected for a speculative volley and shot wide rather controlling it for an easy chance.

Both McGleish and McCleod then shot over from good positions as Feltham began to tire and it was left to McGleish to add the third when he finished off with a superb header from a Martyn Kidd pinpoint cross.

Team: Griffiths, Crawford, Ferry, Evans, Mangan, Kidd, Harrak, McCleod Dyson, Thompson, McGleish, subs: Murray for Dyson, Dale for Thompson.

For Saturday's Diadora League Division II game at home against Aveley, kicking off at 3pm, Edgware will be without the services of Stuart Crawford and Eugene Flynn. Joe Sheridan has a knee injury and Leslie Thompson has groin problems. There are possible chances of Ronnie Nelson being free for selection, plus John Coleman and new signing Said Louzi.

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