

SPORT

Observer triumph in Superleague KO Cup

THE Observer Pool League picked up its first Superleague honour on Sunday when they won the London Superleague Knock-out Cup.

A tough route to the final saw them eliminate Finchley and City PA, then Imperial 1 after being 6-1 down at one stage, and South East London League in the semi-finals.

In the final they faced pre-tournament favourites, Imperial A and raced into a 5-0 lead with frames from Stuart Jenkins, Rob Richards, Jason Cotter, Brian Evans, and Will Smeulders, who beat England professional Bill Hoven, and eventually won 10-4, other frames being won by Steve Carroll, Hughie Sutherland, Rob Richards, Brian Evans and Ray Messall.

Wembley crash in shambles

Chalfont 2 Wembley 1
A NIGHTMARE Wembley performance on Tuesday handed Chalfont their first league win of the season, writes John Comfort.

The Lions were little short of a shambles from start to finish and only Andy Smith, who had a fine game in midfield, was able to hold his head high at the final whistle.

Carless Wembley defending - a feature of the game - gifted Chalfont both their goals, the opener coming in the 6th minute when Richard Sugg was allowed a free header from Terry Hall's cross.

A needlessly conceded corner led to the home side's second goal in the 37th minute when Steve Wallace headed home unchallenged.

Wembley's goal efforts were few. Smith was denied by a bad bounce after being put free by Steve Daly, but keeper Ellis still needed two attempts to save, and Bobby Hutchinson made a great run but shot into the side netting.

There was precious little improvement in the second half although Wembley did reduce the arrears in the 76th minute when Micky Fredericks flicked home a header from Lee Enderby's corner.

But there was no sign of an equaliser - and certainly no justification for one and the closing minutes Hooper fluffed the chance of making Chalfont's win more decisive when he rounded Fanner but shot against Shields on the goaline.

Wembley: Fanner, Smith, Powell (Egbo), Clark (Bates), Shields, Daly, Sturt, Fishery, Fredericks, Hutchinson, Enderby.

Wasps all set for league opener

WASPS know exactly what to expect when they travel to Kingsholm on Saturday to take on Gloucester in their opening game in the Courage League First Division, writes Alan Bodenham.

The home side, who are renowned for their tough uncompromising forward play, will be roared on by their huge support generally accepted as the most partisan in rugby.

It is a situation that calls for coolness and a well defined game plan. The Sudbury think tank however are sure things are well in hand.

First XV coach Mike Gosling conceded that the early stages could be crucial.

"They are sure to come at us really hard in the opening period," he said. "Our job is to absorb that pressure then come back at them with our style of play."

Last season Wasps only gained victory over the west country side with a late try from Chris Oti and Gosling admitted.

"In that game we allowed Gloucester to make us play their way. This time we intend to play to our strengths and not theirs.

"We have some real match winners in our back division and we wasn't to turn them loose and let them play their part."

Wasps will not finalise their line up until after tonight's (Thursday's) training session.

One definite absentee will be England B prop Gary Holmes, still recovering from pre season injury.

On the plus side it is expected that Jeff Probyn will return to the same that played West Hartlepool last week.

Brent's borough bullion

BRENT'S athletes came home from the London Borough Champions, held at Kingston, with 9 golds, 8 silvers and 5 bronze medals - a haul which earned them the Second Division Trophy.

Garry Telfer was a double gold medalist in the 400m hurdles (55.6) and 4 x 400 relay (with Nick Davis, Jerry Delisle and Steve Pratt) as was team manager Rez Cameron in the triple jump (15.19m) and 4 x 100 relay (with Rohan Samuel, Nick Davis and Jerry Delisle).

Sophia Thorpe won the ladies 100m hurdles in 16.2 and Rupert Charles came out of semi-retirement to flop over the high jump bar at 1.95m to earn his gold.

Javelin thrower Livon Houslin, who actually designed the medals, picked up another for his collection with a throw in excess of 58m while newcomer Claire Haslam won gold in the 200m in a relaxed 25 secs.

Brent's other gold came from the Queens Park Harriers relay team of Rachel and Naomi Morrison, Nicky Watts and Michelle Renwick who won the 4 x 100m in a blistering 54 secs.

Silver medals were won by Naomi Morrison in the girls 100m, Alla Ovarova in the 500m and Enecka Ovuina in the youths 100m hurdles and shot.

Stones star suspended for four months

Sweales in ban shocker

STRIKER Paul Sweales' days with Wealdstone appear to be numbered after it was revealed this week that he is due to start an amazing four months suspension later this month.

The ban - from September 20 to January 16 - was imposed by the Middlesex County FA's disciplinary committee and is believed to be related to incidents which occurred in a Middlesex Sunday Inter-League Cup match last season involving the North Hillingdon League, for whom Sweales was playing.

But exactly what offence warranted such a lengthy suspension remains something of a mystery.

Middlesex County FA executive officer, Mark Frost, confirmed the ban had been imposed but declined to reveal the reasons.

North Hillingdon League chairman Dennis Billinghurst, who is also a Middlesex County FA councillor, was also tight lipped.

As for Wealdstone, they were not even aware of the ban. "I've not been told about it," said club secretary Ian Crossley. "But if it's right he won't play for us again, as far as I'm concerned."

Stones boss Dennis Byatt was also in the dark. "I know nothing about it," he said. "He hasn't mentioned it to me. He has always been on trial with us and I will have to review the situation, but this could put his future at the club in jeopardy."

Sweales, who scored the goal which won FA Vase for Wealdstone's landlords, Yeading, in the 1990 final against Bridlington, joined Stones at the start of this season from Chertsey and in three games has been book three times.

Great Graeme scoops another Britannic award



As his award Graeme will receive a trophy, a Britannic Assurance jogging suit, and tickets for a Britannic Assurance Championship match of his choice.

BESSBOROUGH CC's Graeme West has won his second Observer Britannic Assurance award of the season and his fourth in the past two years after being named Player of the Month for August.

Graeme clinched the award by showing excellent form with both the bat and bat. His top score was 104 against Alexandra Park and there were other fine knocks against Sudbrook (86), Edmonton (74) and Betchley (51 not out). But the highlight of his month was a marvellous match winning 8-50 spell against Sandringham.

Britannic Assurance

Player of the Month

There's no end to the Edgware frustration

Banstead Ath 1 Edgware Town 0
EDGWARE'S frustrating form continued on Tuesday as they had the better of their League Cup game at Banstead only to go out when the home side netted from a rare scoring opportunity 10 minutes from time.

In a one-sided first half, the pick of the chances for Edgware saw Scott McGleish head against the bar from a Martyn Kidd cross while Hamid Harak's great shot on the run was kept out by a great save by the Banstead keeper.

Edgware didn't create as much in the second half half but never looked like losing until a deep cross eluded keeper Mark Gower and was headed home at the far post.

Wares should have equalised in the last minute but McGleish blasted the ball over from six yards after being put clear.

Edgware: Gower, Louzi (Dyson), Mangan, Evans, Ferry, Kidd, Harak, McLeod, Selman, McGleish, Coleman. Other sub: Thompson.

Arch rivals clash in Cup match of the day

THE road to Wembley begins to unwind on Saturday with matches in the first qualifying round of the FA Cup, and the big local game will be at Earlsmead where Harrow Borough clash with arch rivals Wealdstone.

The sides met last season in the Middlesex Senior Cup when Borough easily won 3-0 but with the Earlsmead outfit not the force they were in their Cup double year, Stones will fancy their chances of swift revenge and their first win of the new campaign.

"This is the Cup Final whether we like it or not," said Stones boss Dennis Byatt.

"Our fans are all geared up for it and the players are as well. I hope the game matches the occasion."

Keeper Andre Nolan has cracked ribs and Rob Tenkorang stands by for a return, but otherwise Byatt is hoping to field his strongest side for the first time this season.

Borough, who beat Rayners Lane in a friendly on Tuesday with goals from Forrester and Hurlock, badly need a confidence booster themselves.

Apart from keeper Stuart Walton, who is suffering from an insect bite on the ankle, they expect to be at full strength.

If a replay is required it will take place at the Warren on Tuesday, kick off 8pm.

After their poor performance at Chalfont, wholesale changes can be expected from Wembley for their tough tie at Stevenage. Tony Headlam is set to return and both Steve Lawrence and Guiliano Grazzoli could force their way into contention for places.

Edgware, who are at home to Flackwell Heath should be boosted by the return of Eugene Flynn, but a knee injury continues to keep Joe Sheridan sidelined while Les Thompson is doubtful with a troublesome groin injury.

Conroy joins Hitchin

KINGSBURY Town hope to have Mark Ivers fit for their attractive home tie with Northwood. He missed the Newbury match on Tuesday through injury.

Rayners Lane have a difficult away league game against Milton United who they have failed to get a point against since they were promoted three years ago.

However, with two wins under their belt Lane are confident as Milton have not started as well as usual. Lane have no injury problems and select from a full strength squad.

Kingsbury make exit

Newbury Town 2 Kingsbury Town 0
TOWN went out of the Diadora League Cup on Tuesday to an ambitious Newbury side that is coached by former England coach Don Howe and is full of experienced ex-professionals.

Kingsbury got off to the worst possible start, losing the ball from the kick off and seeing a good build up end with Eddie Denton putting Mike Masters through to slot home Newbury's opener.

Andy Deamer headed a second goal in the 10th minute and an avalanche looked on the cards, but Kingsbury got their game together in the second half and did well to contain the rampant home.

Kingsbury: Bonfield, Pashes, Wallace, Ellis, O'Shea, Theodorou, Anayira (Kumahi), O'Rourke, Olin (Forrest), Simpson, Whyte.

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Soccer fixtures

Saturday September 11
FA Cup 1st qualifying round:
Edgware Town v Flackwell Heath (White Lion ground, Spny; Harrow Borough v Wealdstone (Earlsmead, Spny); Kingsbury Town v Northwood (Shear Jubbins Park, Spny); Stevenage Borough v Wembley.

Tuesday September 14
Diadora League Premier Div:
Hendon v Harrow Borough.
Diadora League Div One: Wembley v Barking (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).
Wednesday September 15
Middlesex Senior Cup: Willesden Harrows v Kingsbury Town.

Stones walk to Borough

OVER 50 Wealdstone supporters are expected to join a fund raising walk to Earlsmead on Saturday for the FA Cup clash against Harrow Borough.

Staunch Stones fan Neale Harvey, who organised a highly successful walk to Fisher last season, has set a more modest target for this season's stroll which will set off from Harrow on the Hill Station at 11am. "We're leaving plenty of time to get there to enable us to make the occasional stop en route to raise a little more and to partake of a little refreshment," he said.

It is hoped a four figure sum will be raised from the walk to boost the struggling club's finances. Anyone wishing to join the walk is invited to meet at the Hill-side entrance to the station from 10.30am.

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