

SPORT

Win tickets for Benson & Hedges Masters

THE Benson and Hedges Masters, the oldest established tournament in the snooker calendar, returns to the Wembley Conference Centre on February 6 when the World's top 16 players will be in action, looking for a share of the £415,000 prize money.

The first prize is a massive £115,000 and former winners Terry Griffiths, Steve Davis and Jimmy White are amongst those stars looking to carry off the cash, as will the man who has dominated the event for the past five years - Stephen Hendry.

Successful at his first attempt in 1989, Hendry has yet to lose a match at Wembley, although he made a famous recovery in 1991, taking the final by 9-8 after being 7-0 down to Mike Hallett.

The Observer has ten pairs of tickets for the afternoon quarter final session on Friday February 11, together with ten Benson and Hedges Masters T-shirts to give away as prizes in a simple competition. Just answer the questions right, complete the form and send it in to arrive by the closing date. The first 10 correct entries drawn from our post-bag will each win a pair of tickets and a T-shirt.

The competition is only open to readers age 18 and over. All normal MCP competition rules apply. The Sports Editor's decision is final.

BENSON AND HEDGES SNOOKER COMPETITION

1 Who is the defending Benson & Hedges Masters Champion ?

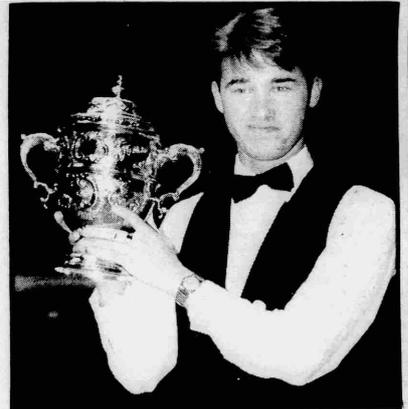
2 How many times has Stephen Hendry won the title ?

Full name.....

Address.....

The completed form should be sent to: Benson & Hedges Snooker Competition, Observer Sport, 326 Station Road, Harrow, Middx HA1 2DR to arrive no later than the closing date, first post on Friday January 28.

This competition is only open to persons aged 18 and over. Normal MCP rules apply.



● Benson & Hedges Champion, Stephen Hendry.

SOCCER

Super Lions crush Tooting

Tooting & M 1 Wembley 4
THE cultured football Glen Charles has been trying to cultivate since becoming Wembley's manager bore fruit at Sandy Lane on Saturday when his side totally annihilated second placed Tooting.

In fact Wembley's victory should have been even more emphatic as they also contrived to miss two penalties.

All this and yet they fell a goal behind after only six minutes. Mark Tompkins collected Danny Wood's clearance on the halfway line, twisted his way through the Wembley defence and then drove the ball past Jeff Fanner.

Tompkins almost extended Tooting's advantage in the 21st minute with a rasping long range strike which slapped against the crossbar. But these proved to be only minor distractions to a game Wembley dominated.

After quietly probing for openings during the first half, they had a great oppor-

By **Richard Markiewicz**

tunity to level the scores with a penalty five minutes before the break. Youssef Sakhraoui was felled by keeper Lee Orkney but Ian Bates saw his spot kick hit the crossbar and fly over.

Such a miss normally deflates sides, but it seemed to rejuvenate the Lions and in the second half they went on the rampage.

The visitors equalised in the 52nd minute. A throw from the left was dummed by Bates and when Sakhraoui cleverly backheeled the ball to wrightoff the defence, it left space for Lee Enderby to strike a glorious angled drive which went in via the far post.

Moments later the fully stretched Sakhraoui nearly added a second goal, but he eventually found the net in the 62nd minute, blasting the ball in off the crossbar

after Orkney, under pressure from Micky Fredericks, fumbled an Enderby centre.

Six minutes later Wembley were awarded a second penalty when the slippery Sakhraoui was tripped in the box, but Enderby's spot kick was pushed away by Orkney. However, Wembley pressed forward relentlessly in search of more goals to make up for the miss.

Shrugging off a defender, Fredericks forced his way to the byline to set up Sakhraoui to lash home his second goal and Wembley's third in the 83rd minute.

And two minutes later the rout was completed. Fredericks waltzed his way through a demoralised home defence to find Lawrence. He flicked the ball into the path of substitute Ray Bennett who made it 4-1 with a blistering 35 yard strike into the top corner. Magnifique.

Wembley: Fanner, Doyle, Clark, Fredericks, Shaide, Daly, Sakhraoui (Bennett), Lawrence, Smith, Bates, Enderby. Other subs: Powell.

On form Lane stop the rot

Rayners Lane 3 Almondsbury Town 0
LANE halted their losing sequence with this vital win over Almondsbury on Saturday.

Despite the final scoreline the game was extremely close with both sides playing bright and attractive football in the difficult, muddy conditions.

Almondsbury started brightly and Randall had to be alert to save an early snap shot, but it was Lane who took the lead after 15 minutes when Creegan found Mark Hedge who strode forward and hit a tremendous left foot shot into the top corner of goal from 25 yards.

The visitors almost got an equaliser soon after with a well struck free kick that hit the Lane crossbar and was scrambled away, then a cross shot beat Randall but Mills hooked the ball off the line.

Hedge almost got his second with a cross-shot that was saved at full stretch and Haigh and Bicknell had efforts off target before Mills again did well to block a goalbound shot.

In the second half Lane took the game to the visitors but it was Almondsbury who came closest to a goal when another free kick was thumped against a post.

Lane finally got a second goal when Clements found Bicknell who slipped past a defender and then squared the ball to Matthews who slotted home.

Almondsbury were not yet finished and they again hit a post before Lane finally sealed the match with a third goal when Creegan put substitute Steve Hedge away and his cross was turned in by Verni.

Rayners Lane: Randall, Creegan, Mills, Clements, Cumberbatch, Bicknell, Bird (S. Hedge), Haigh, M. Hedge (Woodward), Verni, Matthews.

JUNIOR SOCCER Duncan breaks deadlock

BESSBOROUGH'S Harrow Challenge League Cup tie against Goodwill seemed likely to end in stalemate when the sides changed ends at half time with neither keeper having been troubled.

But once Duncan West had broken the deadlock, coolly rounding the keeper before scoring, the Beasborough forwards found their shooting boots with Trevor Davies 2, and Andy Carr adding further goals. Although Goodwill closed the gap, a missed penalty ended their hopes of getting back on level terms and Beasborough ran out comfortable 4-1 victors.

Old Manorians maintained their unbeaten league record with a late winner from Jimmy Murphy in a hard fought battle against Old Elmstonians Reserves.

Old Manorians: Kent, Long, Murray, Tucker, Smith, Jackson, Kane, Jennings. Other results: Manorians Res 5 (Robb-Cook 2, Khan, Morris, Turnbull), Old Elmstonians 2; Manorians 3rd 4 (Smith 2, Locke, Deacy); Cardinal Manning 3rd 0; Manorians 4th 5 (Bester 2, Jenner, Anglo, Harrie), Shere 4th 3; Manorians 5th 2 (Turling, Murphy), Dene 5th 0.

Mick Bradshaw and Dave Fox were on target for AZ Sportsworld in their 2-2 draw with Harrow Harlequins in the Harrow Challenge League.

Elms fives vacancies

THERE are still some vacancies for the Elms Five-a-side League which recommences in Harrow on January 26.

Interested clubs or companies can book their place by ringing the Elms on 954-8211 or 954-3852.

One day events for the league's teams are also being organised for the New Year with winners going forward to a regional knockout competition with representatives from other Elms Five-a-Side Leagues at Spitalfields, Dagenham, Edmonton, High Wycombe and Watford.

Battling Borough make their point

Harrow Borough 0 St Albans City 0

BOROUGH may be some way short of a side capable of making an impact in the championship stakes but as they showed against Stevenage and again on Saturday against St Albans, on their day they are adept at matching those who do have title aspirations.

Only goals were missing from an all-action game, which was surprising considering the number of chances created. But the outcome of a point apiece was a fair one.

Borough made an extremely bright start and Paul Ripley was unlucky with a cheeky lob from wide on the right as keeper Westwood suicidally raced from his goal. The ball dropped narrowly over.

St Albans should have scored in their first attack when Ansil Bushay went clear, but the ever-reliable David Hook blocked his shot away for a corner. Allan Cockram then fired badly wide after Darren Brown's half headed clearance left him with the

By **John Comfort**

goal at his mercy. Minutes later Ripley went close for Borough with a good cross shot but the best effort of the half came from St Albans after 30 minutes when Steve Clark's goalbound header was superbly turned over the bar by the acrobatic Hook.

The second half was just as fiercely contested with the visitors having the better scoring opportunities, particularly in the closing stages when Danny Adams blazed wildly over from close in and both Clark and Bushay were denied by the magnificent Hook after they had broken clear.

For Borough, Graham Westley cut in from the right and had a near post shot well saved. Eamon O'Connor's cross shot was tipped over and Christian Metcalfe narrowly missed the target with a low angled effort.

Harrow Borough: Hook, Court, O'Connor, Prutton, Brown, Pearce, Emmanuel, Shaw, Westley, Ripley, Metcalfe.

Andy has rivals Hopping mad

Wealdstone 0 Ashford 0

IN his home league debut, keeper Andy Hopping gave a superb display to earn Stones a valuable point against high flying Ashford on Saturday.

Despite being without Dermot Drummy, Paul Holohan, Jon Hall and Eugene Saunders, there was a vastly improved performance after the debacle against Bury.

New signing from Basingstoke, Chris Lawrence, hit the crossbar after only two minutes with a 25 yard shot. Soon after Ian McGrath was just wide and the impressive Lawrence again went close.

Ashford's best chance of the half came in the 14th minute when Rieley latched onto a through ball but shot just over.

Four minutes later a Lawrence corner was headed goalward by Mick Garratt only to be kicked off the line by LeMoine, and just before the break Andy Hedge had a shot palmed over by Clewlow.

Stones had the better of the half but with the strong wind in their favour after the break,

By **Graham Smith**

Ashford were on top. Pearson missed an easy chance in the opening minute then Hopping made an excellent save from Ager. Stones were lucky in the 61st minute when Rieley seemed to score a perfectly good goal but a linesman was flagging for off-side and it was ruled out.

Hopping did well to keep out efforts from Brignall and Stanton and in the 79th minute the keeper made a superb acrobatic save to deny Ager. The ball went back to Ager whose second effort was on its way to the net when Hopping, facing goal, somehow managed to punch the ball over the bar.

Dent should have scored for Ashford but hit his shot into the side netting and in the last minute Ian McGrath nearly snatched a winner for Stones but his shot went just wide.

Wealdstone: Hopping, Pettifer, Keane, Dennis, Garratt (Shurshane), Hedge, Cordice, McPherson, Barnham, Lawrence, McGrath. Other subs: Johnson.

Rampant Wares open home account

Edgware Town 5 Collier Row 1
EDGWARE finally notched their first home league win of the season on Saturday.

But although they claimed a league goals bonus in the process, their success could have been far more emphatic had they taken the host of chances they created.

Scott McGleish alone could have had a hat-trick in the opening 10 minutes but he was off target on each occasion after being set up by Said Louzi, Steve Newing and then Paul Dale.

Then John Mangan was unlucky with a effort that hit a post from a Eugene Flynn cross.

Edgware eventually opened their account in the 20th minute. A great through ball from Mangan put Newing in on goal and his finish was immaculate.

Dale volleyed over from a Sheridan cross and McGleish missed again from close in from a Newing cross as Edgware continued to squander chances up to the interval.

The misses continued after the break

with McGleish shooting tamely at the keeper from a Kidd cross and Kidd totally missing a McGleish cross in front of an open goal.

Edgware then had to survive a spell through Collier Row pressure but weathered the storm and scored a crucial second goal after 71 minutes when a fine ball from McGleish put Newing in to fire home from 18 yards.

McGleish made up for his earlier misses when he scored with a great scissor kick when Flynn's sliced volley attempt dropped in his path in the 76th

minute and four minutes later a great run and cross by Sheridan provided McGleish with his second goal at the far post.

The visitors pulled one back when Holtby misjudged a left wing cross which drifted into the top of the net, but with 86 minutes gone Edgware restored their four goal advantage, Sheridan putting Mark Dyson through to round the keeper and score from an acute angle.

Edgware: Holtby, Louzi, Sheridan, Sue, Finnerty, Mangan, Dale, Flynn, Kidd, McGleish (Dyson), Newing. Other subs: Evans.

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