

SPORT

Nothing goes right for unlucky Lane

Bicester Town 5 Rayners Lane 1
 LANE were on the wrong end of some poor decisions as they slumped to defeat at Bicester.

Worst of the lot was when Bicknell was pulled down by the keeper as he went round him. A penalty was awarded but the keeper did not even get a yellow card when a sending off

was the obvious decision. And to rub salt in the keeper then saved the spot kick from Mills.

Lane missed many chances in a game they could easily have won but their only goal came when Verni scored from a Matthews cross.

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

Stones are frozen out

AN uneven and frozen pitch caused the cancellation of Wealdstone's important Beazer Homes League match at Dunstable on Monday.

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-bags 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 ?

.....

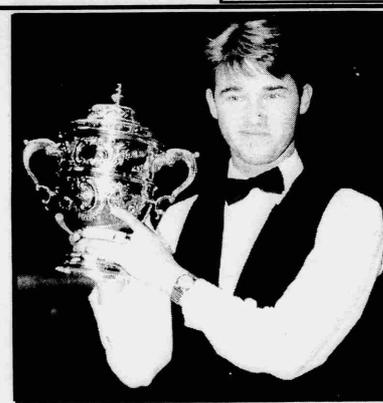
2 How many times has Stephen Hendry won the title ?

.....

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.

Lions put Glen in line for award

Wembley 2 Ruislip Manor 0
 WEMBLEY'S resurgence continued unabated on Monday when they registered their fourth successive victory by defeating Ruislip Manor and at the same time put manager Glen Charles firmly in line for the Diadora League Manager of the Month award for December, writes Richard Markiewicz.

It was a fairly comfortable win in the end, although lowly Manor made a spirited attempt in the second half to ruin Wembley's recent record.

On a pitch that resembled a half-eaten Christmas pudding, the Lions tore into their opponents from the start, regardless of the conditions. Early chances fell to Steve Lawrence, who saw his fierce drive pushed clear by keeper Mick Simmons, and to Youssef Sakhrouti, who mis-

kicked when well placed.

The Lions continued pressing although during a brief respite Manor's Steve Hurd missed a great chance at the other end when he broke clear after latching onto Sylvester Williams' neatly threaded through pass, but his tame shot was easily gathered by Jeff Fanner.

Wembley quickly re-applied the pressure and eventually opened the scoring from a penalty awarded in the 28th minute. Sakhrouti was upended by the sprawling Simmons after Micky Fredericks had split the Manor defence with a diagonal pass and Charlie Flaherty coolly despatched the ensuing spot kick.

Wembley then created enough chances to have wrapped up the game by half time. However, their failure to do so gave Manor the initiative to stage a second half

recovery. But although the visitors carved out a large chunk of possession, they caused very few problems and the Lions finally sealed three points with a marvellous second goal seven minutes from time.

Substitute Lloyd Powell, with his first touch of the ball, skillfully chested down a long clearance from the Wembley defence and fed the accompanying Sakhrouti on the halfway line. Sakhrouti immediately hit a perfect pass into the stride of the omniusing Lawrence who outpaced a couple of defenders to burst into the Manor penalty area where he thumped the ball past the despairing Simmons.

Wembley: Fanner, Flaherty, Clark, Fredericks (Powell), Shields, Daly, Sakhrouti, Lawrence, Smith, Bates, Endersty (Bennett).

Ivers lands the points for Town

Kingsbury Town 1 Feltham & Hounslow 0
 KINGSBURY did well on Monday to take the points from promotion chasing Feltham.

In a game of two distinct halves, the first belonged to Feltham and only a great save from Bonfield prevented Lacey giving the visitors an early goal. Soon after they had the ball in the net but it was ruled out for offside.

Kingsbury got into it in the latter stages and a good save from Kelly kept out a Craig Elliott header.

Kingsbury were a different side in the second half and it took them just two minutes to open the scoring. Feltham defender Walcott lost control of the ball on the edge of his area and Mark Ivers nipped in to have a shot saved by Kelly, but he followed up to fire home the loose ball.

Town should have made the final scoreline more emphatic but Nelson Kumah had a shot well saved by Kelly and John Kenny's header from the resultant corner was brilliantly kept out. Later the keeper superbly kept out a header from the unmarked Lee Talbot.

Kingsbury: Bonfield, Pashias, D. O'Rourke, Elliott, Kenny, Coleman, Ivers, Ash (Hayward), Talbot, Kumah, Brown-Petraske (Quinn).

Wembley series ends with bang

WEMBLEY Sailing Club's Autumn Series ended not with a whimper but with a bang as a Force 6 blew over the Dam and straight down the Welsh Harp.

The Merlins launched 10 boats and watchers were alerted to the power of the gusts as Geoff and Robert O'Neill capsized at the club mark while narrowly leading. It left Leslie Ross and Tony Waking's 'Financial Crisis', Jim Park and Sara Lee's 'Passion' and Colin Dacey and Nick Juttner's 'Cobra' surging down the reach to Staples Corner with boats capsizing behind them.

But on the long windward leg up to 'Passion' 'Financial Crisis' and 'Passion' both capsized and when 'Cobra' suffered a similar fate while gybing at the club mark, it left the O'Neills, who were now up, as the only finishers in a race they thought they had blown.

The midday race saw Bobi Barkani make a splendid start only to capsize 'Bare Essentials' just before the club mark. The O'Neills, sailing 'Loaded Dice', had a splendid duel with 'Financial Crisis' and could well have won again had they not touched a turning mark and decided to retire, leaving Ross to win from Colin Dacey.

The GPs were the only other fleet to launch in the first race but none got very far before capsizing. The rest decided to keep their boats intact for the New Year's Day Wembley Wassaui Pursuit Race.

HARROW INDOOR 5-A-SIDE CRICKET LEAGUE

Results
 Division Two
 Hatch End 118-5 (Goymer 48*, Jackson 37) at Belmont 59 (Freeman 24, Williams 2-14) by 58 runs.
 Kodak 70-5 (Rogers 19) at West Harrow 55 (Umshash 34) by 21 runs.
 Harrow II vs Brentford Park.

Borough late with the Christmas gifts

Yeading 2 Harrow Borough 0
 BOROUGH were still hanging out Christmas presents on Monday and Yeading were delighted to receive three welcome points from their generous visitors, writes John Cornford.

Two goals in the last 12 minutes saw the home side to victory in a game in which Borough for the most part had

looked the more accomplished side, except where it mattered most - putting the ball into the back of the net.

Certainly they should have gone ahead as early as the 8th minute when a good run by Philip Ripley ended with his low cross being touched out by keeper Stuart MacKenzie to Steve Emmanuel whose close range shot was blocked, as was Christian Metcalfe's

close range follow up effort.

But despite their dominance of play, Borough created little else before the break although Emmanuel did have an effort turned away by MacKenzie after a good build up involving Andy Prutton and Ripley.

Borough had two good scoring opportunities early in the second half but were unable to put them away. A great ball from Terry Benning put Emmanuel through but he put his shot wide and then Jason Shaw won the ball and played a great one-two with Prutton to get clear only to have his low shot blocked by the legs of the advancing MacKenzie.

With 12 minutes remaining Yeading took a shock lead when a Hector Welsh cross

was half cleared to Eddie McIlvenna who slotted home and with two minutes left the points were clinched when the unmarked Paul Sheldrick headed home a Steve Cordery cross.

In injury time there was almost a third goal when David Hook left his area to show off his dribbling skills but failed to match them with a decent clearance kick. Cordery promptly lofted the ball goalward but Hook raced back, launching himself at Welsh with sufficient force to make put his effort over an open goal. Had a penalty been given there could have been few complaints.

Harrow Borough: Hook, Court, O'Connor, Prutton, Knight, Pearce, Emmanuel, Shaw, Benning, Ripley, Metcalfe (Smith). Other subs: Brown.

103rd minute goal robs Edgware

Hemel Hempstead 1 Edgware Town 1
 EDGWARE were left fuming at Luton referee Mr R. Dodge on Monday as he played a full, and totally unjustified, 13 minutes of added time, allowing Hemel to snatch a point.

"He just kept the game going on and on," said Edgware boss Brian Rider. "And when they scored their equaliser in the 103rd minute it soured the whole game."

The visitors seemed to be heading for a much needed win on the strength of a 20th minute goal scored when Martin Kidd cleverly brought the ball down and sent a looping angled ball over the Hemel defence for Scott McGleish to beat advancing keeper Pearson with a chip shot.

Hemel's best chance of the half had seen Tony Holtby make a great save to keep out Barnard's 18 yard effort.

Early in the second half Edgware should have increased their advantage when McGleish got through but fired against Pearson. The ball ran out to Kidd who also hit the keeper and Steve Newing followed up and had his effort blocked on the line.

Newing and McGleish both had good efforts saved but with the game going into stoppage time, Edgware seemed to have done enough to secure victory. But although there were only two minor hold ups, Mr Dodge played on and on with 103 minutes gone Mark McGinty stabbed in an equaliser for the home side. Not surprisingly, the referee restarted the game and then immediately blew up for time - and left Edgware raging.

Edgware: Holtby, Lord, Sheridan, Flannery, Morgan, Sue, Dale (Rygon), Flynn, Kidd, McGleish, Newing. Other subs: Farry.

Latest league tables

DIADORA LEAGUE		Malden Vale	
Pos	Pts	Pts	Pts
1	11	7	4
2	10	8	3
3	9	7	2
4	8	6	1
5	7	5	0
6	6	4	0
7	5	3	0
8	4	2	0
9	3	1	0
10	2	0	0
11	1	0	0
12	0	0	0
13	0	0	0
14	0	0	0
15	0	0	0
16	0	0	0
17	0	0	0
18	0	0	0
19	0	0	0
20	0	0	0

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Soccer fixtures

Monday January 1
 Diadora League Prem Div: Harrow Borough v Hendon (Earlsmead, 3pm).
 Diadora League Div One: Barkley v Wembley.
 Diadora League Div Two: Edgware Town v Barton Rovers (White Lion ground, 3pm).
 Beazer Homes League Southern Div: Wealdstone v Buckingham Town (The Warren, 3pm).

Monday January 3
 Beazer Homes League Southern Div: Wealdstone v Baldock (The Warren, 3pm).
 Helleslie League: Rayners Lane v Kirby Rangers (Lucas Ave, 2.30pm).

Tuesday January 4
 Diadora League Div One: Wembley v Turfite (Vaia Farm, 7.45pm).

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