

SPORT

Metcalf is Lane's 'golden goal'

Rayners Lane 5 Cockfosters 4
LANE stumbled through to the quarter finals of the Russell Grant Middlesex Cup on Saturday, winning with a 'golden goal' scored by Tom Metcalfe seven minutes into extra time.

But really it should never have got that far for Lane had led by 2-0, 3-1 and 4-2 with goals from Danny Mills 2, Tony Verni and Metcalfe, only to let the visitors draw level with some apathetic defending.

However, in extra time, Lane got the decisive goal by Bicknell's corner was headed home by Metcalfe.

Rayners Lane: Randall, Verni (Coward) Smith, Bird, Coakley, Cott (Bicknell), Donnelly, Hordern, Oriot (Mitchell), Mills, Metcalfe.

Towers eye up Trophy hat-trick

ONLY Sheffield Sharks now stand between Exide London Towers and a hat-trick of triumphs in the Uniball Trophy after Kevin Cadle's team completed their passage into the final last Friday.

Their 89-89 draw at Newcastle Eagles in the second leg of the semi-finals gave them an aggregate win of 181-163 and secured their final date with the Sharks at the NEC Birmingham on Sunday March 8.

Leading by 18 points from the first leg, Towers were reeling as Newcastle ace Mark Boyd's 25 point haul saw his side into a 49-35 lead in the third quarter. But then Towers scored 12 of the next 15 points and the Eagles were never allowed to escape again.

Faul Deppisch led the Towers scorers with 20, followed by Danny Lewis (19) and Keith Robinson (16).

Towers' trophy success was marred on Sunday by a 93-83 defeat at Greater London Leopards that put a severe dent in their Budweiser League title hopes.

A closely contested game was deadlocked at 79-79 with 3.51 left but then Leopards steered clear with a 14-4 finish.

Three Towers turnovers in those dying minutes didn't help their cause.

Guard John White was the star for Leopards with 37 points. In the second period he scored five 3-pointers and at one stage hit 16 consecutive points for his team.

Robinson (20) was top scorer for Towers, followed by Deppisch (16), Austin (13) and Hamilton (13).

This Sunday Towers take on Budweiser League leaders Birmingham Bullets in Wembley Exhibition Hall 2, tip off 6.30pm. It is a game they must win to re-establish their title credentials. Six defeats from their last eight league games is hardly championship form.

But with Leopards and Sheffield, as well as Birmingham again, still to visit Wembley, the opportunity is still very much there, and as Kevin Cadle says: "It ain't over until the fat lady sings."

Pre-booked tickets for the Birmingham game on Sunday are £6 for adults and £4 for children. For tickets, call London Towers on 0171 722 6677 or 0990 232 023.



Brian Jones - superb goal for Stones.

Wealdstone 2 Windsor & Eton 0
WEALDSTONE are hot on the promotion trail after two superb goals in the space of a few minutes gave them three more vital points on Tuesday.

It enabled third placed Stones to close the gap on and second in the table Canvey Island to five points, with two games in hand, and Saturday's visit to the Essex club now becomes significantly more important.

Canvey are currently going through an in-different spell of form. They drew at home to Met Police on Tuesday, which followed a

By John Comfort

home defeat by Bantsted three days earlier. "This could be a good time to go there and play them," said Stones boss Gordon Bartlett. "I'll be happy if we can get a point and even happier if we get three."

The injured Chris Walton will miss the trip, as will inspirational skipper, Fergus Moore, who is suspended following his sending-off at Cheshunt.

Super strikes from Jones and Sterling keep Stones on course

Stones expect to have Dominic Sterling and Steve Bircham recovered from knocks sustained against Windsor and are hoping Paul McKay will be fit. A surprise new signing could also be in the line-up.

On Tuesday night Stones had to grind out

a result against a Windsor side quite content to just sit back and defend.

The first half was a dull affair with Wealdstone patiently struggling to break the visitors down. Their best scoring opportunities fell to Brian Jones.

Roy Marshall's header sent him jinking through the Windsor rearguard in the 14th minute but his low strike was parried by keeper Richard Lockey. Just before the break Simon Garner sent Jones through but his shot was kept out by Lockey's legs.

Wealdstone looked a bit livelier after the break and their patient efforts were rewarded in the 67th minute when a magnificent Jones goal finally broke the deadlock.

He picked up the loose ball just outside his own area after a Windsor spec kick had been cleared and embarked on a spectacular 65 yard run. Aided by Greene's decoy run, which punched a cavernous hole in the visitors' rearguard, Jones reached the Windsor area and then unleashed a blistering strike that netted past Lockey and crashed high into the net.

Windsor had hardly recovered from that blow when two minutes later Stones scored again - and it was another beauty.

Dominic Sterling, who had a superb match, exchanged passes with Garner before sending a stunning 25 yard drive past Lockey and into the net off an upright.

The game was over as a contest and the only question remaining was could Stones score more against a now deflated defence.

Greene had a close range effort blocked from Paul Lamb's cross, with Jones following up to wastefully shoot the loose ball wide, and just before the finish Ian Waugh put Greene clear and although he got past Lockey, his angled shot was cleared by the retreating Skerritt.

Wealdstone: Bonfield, Lamb, Sterling, Moore, Waugh, Marshall, Gayle, Jones, Bircham, Greene, Garner (Borham). Other subs: Corbould, Celsaire.



Wealdstone's Simon Garner lobs for goal against Baintree on Saturday only to be thwarted by an excellent save by keeper Cherry. Match report on page 135. Picture: Gareth Beard.

Banned Lions miss seaside trip

IAN Bates, Wayne Walters and Les Thompson are all suspended and will miss Wembley's trip to the Sussex coast on Saturday to face Worthing.

The Lions also have injury concerns over Alan Mills (ankle) and Leon Latty (hamstring).

On the plus side, Ashley Cumberbatch came through a reserve

game without any ill effects and could be available for selection, while Andy Smith hopes to resume training this week.

Defender Craig Elliott has left Wembley and seems likely to join neighbours Edgware Town.

Harrow Borough have no injury problems for their home game against

Carshalton who this week were reported to be in financial trouble and on the brink of going into administration.

Edgware Town will be looking to recover from their poor performance at Egham when they take on Marlow.

Steve Bird is on holiday and misses Rayners Lane's Cup game at Spelthorne.

Soccer fixtures

RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division	W	D	L	Pts	
Sutton Utd.	30	18	7	5	60
Kingstonian	30	17	9	4	57
Dagenham	28	17	4	4	48
Boreham W.	25	14	6	5	52
Hayesbridge	27	14	4	6	51
Purfleet	30	12	8	10	48
Walton & H.	29	13	4	12	39
Enfield	29	12	5	12	45
Hendon	28	11	8	9	37
Dulwich H.	28	10	7	11	41
Bromley	27	9	9	13	31
Waltham	27	11	4	12	38
Harrow B.	27	11	4	12	38
Aylesbury	29	11	4	14	40
Gravesend	30	10	4	16	49
St Albans	26	10	3	13	33
Carshalton	24	8	7	9	27
Yeading	29	8	7	14	35
Hitchin	29	7	9	13	32
Bishops St.	30	9	2	19	32
Cheatham	27	7	6	14	27
Basingstoke	24	7	6	10	27
Oxford C.	29	6	7	16	25
Braintrree	26	18	8	0	72
Canvey Is.	28	17	7	4	78
Edgware	30	14	8	8	61
Northwood	30	14	8	8	61
Met Police	28	14	7	7	53
Windsor	29	13	5	11	58
Chalfont	28	11	10	8	44
Marlow	29	13	7	11	48
Barking	28	11	7	10	44
Bracknell	29	10	8	11	53
Tring	28	11	4	9	35
Wivenhoe	28	8	11	9	51
Rugbyford	28	8	14	40	30
Horsham	26	7	6	15	40
Leigham	28	7	4	17	32
Waltham	26	7	4	13	43
Tilbury	27	3	10	14	34
Chestrnut	26	5	7	21	26

Latest tables

RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division	W	D	L	Pts	
Aldershot	29	17	8	5	63
Hampton	29	15	10	4	50
Leatherhead	30	15	6	9	52
Grays	27	14	8	5	55
Uxbridge	28	16	2	10	47
Billycock	25	15	4	6	50
Bognor	27	13	6	8	54
Maldenhead	28	14	2	10	48
Wokingham	29	12	10	4	43
Romford	24	13	4	7	55
Wokingham	26	8	13	31	49
Berkhamstead	28	11	5	12	46
Leyton P.	27	9	10	13	44
Staines	28	8	5	12	29
Croydon	26	8	11	26	40
Barton	26	6	9	12	29
Wokingham	26	6	13	31	49
Wembley	27	5	11	21	39
Whyteleafe	26	6	13	30	45
Abingdon	26	7	3	16	32
Harlow	25	15	8	2	52
Hertford	25	16	4	5	49
Ford	25	15	6	3	60
Hemel H.	23	15	5	3	51
E Thurrock	23	15	3	5	42
Wokingham	25	12	8	2	47
Flackwell H.	25	10	6	9	37
Epson	24	10	5	9	38
Wokingham	24	10	5	9	38
Clapton	22	10	4	8	31
Wokingham	25	9	7	11	44
Camberley	21	9	6	5	20
Croydon Ath.	26	9	6	11	34
Wokingham	25	8	6	11	49
Wokingham	25	8	6	11	49
Wokingham	25	6	3	16	34
Wokingham	25	4	11	25	59
Southall	26	3	2	20	12

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