

# observer SPORT

## Rare success for Cloisters

**Success with Norman Wilby**  
THE rare occurrence of winning three out of four games in the Abbey Life Squash League made it a good week for Cloisters Wood.

With a depleted team it was a different story against Staines II as the result was a disastrous 15-0 thrashing.

The second team however had a 15-3 win when they met Western Avenue II although two of the matches were close. Paul Hyams took four games to beat Neil Davies and skipper Kevin McQuarrie came back from a 1-2 deficit to beat Steve May in five.

## Nevin double shocks high fliers

**Abingdon Old 9**  
Rayners Lane 2  
LANE pulled off a shock yet thoroughly deserved victory on Saturday against highly placed Abingdon - their first ever win over their rivals.

Lane shocked Abingdon from the off when Clements put Nevin through only for him to shoot over from close in but the home side hit back immediately and only a brilliant save from Pete Randall kept out a header from a corner.

In the 15th minute Lane went ahead when Meany put Nevin through and this time he made no mistake with a low drive into the net.

Lane now had Abingdon downing and they went further ahead when Bocking's cross was turned into the net at the second attempt by Nevin.

In the second half Abingdon battled away at the Lane defence and a tremendous shot hit the crossbar. But Lane relieved the pressure through Bocking who broke onto a through ball and fired against the Abingdon bar.

Nevin came close to his hat-trick when he flicked a corner onto a post and Abingdon replied with a good effort against the bar and had another shot cleared off the line by Clements.

But in the closing stages Lane retained the initiative and both Nevin and debut boy Manzy Fall both went close to scoring the lead.

Rayners Lane: Randall, Hodge, Lynn, Mills, Ash, Clements, Meany, Fall, Scherz, Nevin, Wooding, Str: Kelly.

## The Wembley trail ends at Earlsmead

# Borough get no charity from Spurs

**Harrow Borough 1**  
Tottenham 3  
THREE goals in the first 32 minutes ended Borough's hopes of reaching Wembley in the Russell Grant Middlesex Charity Cup on Tuesday.

Those goals saw a strong Tottenham side which included eight players with first team experience, firmly in control but to Borough's credit they came back well to make it an entertaining game.

Tottenham opened the scoring as early as the 2nd minute. A fine run and cross from Paul Moran gave David Howells the opportunity to net and he beat Lee Bozler from close range.

Borough hit back almost immediately and Jimmy Bolton should have done better when he was put in by Steve Scott's pass, but Norwegian goalkeeper Eric Thorstvedt, making his Tottenham debut, saved comfortably.

Howells got Tottenham's second goal in the 21st minute after being set up by John Moncur and the tie was to all intents and purposes killed off when Jason Cook made it 3-0.

Soon after Lee Bozler denied Tottenham a fourth goal when he saved well from Paul Moran while Steve Scott forced a good save from Thorstvedt.

After the break play flowed from end to end with Borough giving as good as they got.

Early in the half however they had Bozler to thank for two good saves which kept out efforts from Moran and Howells.

Thorstvedt also had his fair share of work with Scott forcing him to make another fine save, and Borough's efforts were finally rewarded in the 70th minute when Francis Cassidy's free kick found Richard Evans on the right and Jimmy Bolton was on hand to steer home his cross.

Borough came close to a second goal when substitute Phil Dicker was fouled just outside the area. But Cassidy's free kick was just over the bar.

In the last few minutes Mohamad Amar, Spurs' recent signing from Barcelona, fired just over and Moran was also unlucky not to score. But with both keepers looking sound there was no further score and Borough were left to rue a poor first 30 minutes.

On the brighter side they

did perform creditably against strong opposition in front of a 600 crowd, the biggest at Earlsmead this season.

**Harrow Borough:** Bozler, Payne, Day, Bateman, Howard, Scott, O'Connor (Haynes), Cassidy, Driver (Dicker), Bolton, Evans.

**Tottenham:** Thorstvedt, Houghton, Stimson, Amar, Theodorou, Polton, Moran, Robson, Cook, Moncur, Howells.

## Two off as Wares are hit for six



Brian Rider - "We should have passed them."

**Edgware 1**  
Waltham Abbey 8  
EDGWARE ended this match with only nine men as they embarrassingly lost for the second time this season to lively Abbey, by a totally unbelievable margin.

John Mangan was sent off for swearing at a linesman and Peter Grant and an Abbey player were sent off when they clashed in the second half as Edgware's title hopes took a knock against the side that earlier in the season put them out of the League Cup.

Manager Brian Rider couldn't believe what had happened. "We were so much better than them it was untrue, though you'd never have thought so by the result," he said. "We should have passed them."

Edgware's troubles began in the 15th minute when a headed Abbey goal was flagged offside by a linesman but the referee ignored him and the visitors were one up, but Wares soon levelled when Ron Tully chested down the ball on the edge of the box and crashed a great shot into the top of the net.

Martin Kidd and Peter Grant both missed chances that should have put Wares comfortably ahead at the break but two minutes into the second half they found themselves down again when Abbey cashed in on a blunder by Mark White.

Two minutes later a blatant offside goal made it 3-1 and a dubious fourth ended with Mangan sent off for his protests with Grant and the Abbey player following soon after.

The square Edgware defence was caught out again for the fifth goal and White foolishly conceded a penalty to give the visitors their sixth.

Edgware: Whelan, White, R. Mangan, J. Mangan, Kidd, Tully, Rider. Subs: Coleman, Gerardi.

## Wealdstone are so punchless



Tony Lynch - moneys.

**Wealdstone 0**  
Cambridge City 0  
WEALDSTONE'S poor form continued at Lower Mead on Boxing Day with this disappointing goalless draw in front of 771 fans which dealt another blow to their title chances, writes Steve Mitchell.

Cambridge came within inches on taking a shock lead in the very first minute when Lockhart intercepted a poor throw in from La Ronda. But with Williams well off his line his excellent chip shot just cleared the bar - much to the relief of the Stones' fans.

Stones struggled off that lapse to make a bright start with Lynch in particular looking threatening and City keeper Murray denied both Wilkins and Risk in a frantic opening spell.

City's Gawthrop was certainly keen to let everyone know he was playing and then engaging challenges on La Ronda. Lynch and Harrison brought no rebate from a lenient referee, a point highlighted later when Paul Morris and George were involved in an off the ball incident with Morris fortunate to stay on after aiming a kick at the Cambridge player with the official only three yards away.

Mark Harrison had a superb 25-yard drive tipped over by Murray but the nearest either side came to scoring before the break was when Wilkins caught Darren Williams off his line and his shot rebounded off the bar to safety.

After the restart Stones continued to struggle against a tough Cambridge rearguard with the visitors always menacing on the break.

Lockhart shot wide when well placed and had a rasping drive just as wide while at the other end Cordice sent a 20 yarder just over.

But Cambridge missed the chance of the match, if not the season, when Kevin Wilkin found himself in the clear. Williams did well to block his initial effort but the ball ran loose leaving the striker with an open net. However with the goal at his mercy he somehow lost his balance and ran the ball off for a goal kick.

Wealdstone were spurred into action by this remarkable miss and Lynch, Cordice and Wilkins all went close - but it was too little, too late.

**Wealdstone:** Williams, Corbin, Risk, Morris, La Ronda, C. Browne (Pedlar), Harrison, Lynch, Wilkins, Cordice, Oslaley.

Wembley 0  
Staines 2  
WEMBLEY were a big disappointment against Staines on Tuesday, rarely showing any kind of form.

Staines always looked the better side in the first half and Jeff Fanner had to save well to keep out a low header from Brian Beer.

Brian Kearns had a header from a corner stopped by keeper Lara in a rare Wembley attack but the home side's unsightly knack of conceding free kicks finally caught up with them eight or half time when Staines net surprisingly took the lead.

A free kick from Price hit the Wembley defensive wall and rebounded to Crawford who crashed it into the roof of the net.

In the second half Staines had plenty of chances to settle the issue but McCreesh cleared their best effort from Beer off this line.

But they eventually put the result beyond doubt in the 77th minute when Dawber's pinpoint cross was met by Gregory who stooped to head home.

Wembley: Fanner, Kearns, Charles, McGrath, Janaway, Walsh (Palfrey), Smith, Brown, Dalling, Hutchinson, McLeod (Phillips).

## Stones look to end the 'goal famine'

**GOAL** starved Wealdstone will be looking to end the famine on Saturday when they take on Bath City at Lower Mead.

Stones have only netted three goals in their last seven matches and they desperately need someone to find scoring form. But with Samson Oslaley so out of touch and Paul Wilkins having no luck whatsoever, the big question is who is going to come up with the goods and relieve a giant headache for manager Tony Lynch.

International clearance has come through for defender Andy Waldock and he will play for Harrow Borough in tomorrow (Friday) night's home league match with Leyton Wingate.

Wembley manager Tony Waugh will have a full squad to select from for his side's home match with Hampton on Saturday which kicks off at 2pm.

**Kingsbury Town**, who were without a match over the Christmas period, will also be at full strength for a testing away match at Waltham.

Edgware manager Brian Rider will have striker Ben Fidler back for Staines' crucial visit to follow this weekend at Abingdon.

Manager Don Dinkin adds Richard Doolan and Lee Sigmond to the Rayners Lane squad for Saturday's derby match with Woking Sports.

## Soccer fixtures

<b>Friday December 29</b>	Wendell Opti League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Leyton Waltham (Earlsmead, 7.30pm)
<b>Saturday December 31</b>	Lower Mead League Premier Division: Wealdstone v Bath City (Lower Mead, 2pm)
<b>Wendell Opti League Division One</b>	Wembley v Hampton (Val Farm, 7pm)
<b>Wendell Opti League Division Two</b>	Waltham v Woking (Waltham, 7pm)
<b>Wendell Opti League Division Three</b>	Abingdon Old v Edgware
<b>Wendell Opti League Division Four</b>	Rayners Lane v Vauxhall Sports (Earlsmead, 2.15pm)
<b>Wendell Opti League Division Five</b>	Rayners Lane v Hampton (Earlsmead, 2.15pm)
<b>Wendell Opti League Division Six</b>	Waltham v Woking (Waltham, 7pm)
<b>Wendell Opti League Division Seven</b>	Waltham v Woking (Waltham, 7pm)
<b>Wendell Opti League Division Eight</b>	Waltham v Woking (Waltham, 7pm)
<b>Wendell Opti League Division Nine</b>	Waltham v Woking (Waltham, 7pm)
<b>Wendell Opti League Division Ten</b>	Waltham v Woking (Waltham, 7pm)

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