SPORT

The weekend soccer action Pages 58, 59

Youth soccer Results round up Page 57

Rugby - page 59 Pool, golf, hockey Page 58

Axe to fall on Wembley final

New signings

KINGSBURY Town boss Alan Dafforn has signed four new players on free transfers.Midfielder Phil Larkin, forward Gary Hall and defender Denzil Williams have all arrived from Beazer Homes League club Ruislip, while utility player Kevin Morley has been signed from Spartan League, Crown and Manor.

Paul on target

PAUL Goyette scored for Wealdstone on Tuesday night as they lost 2-1 at Enfield in the Capital League.

Steve strikes

FORMER Wealdstone midfielder Steve Browne has signed for Vauxhall Opel League Barking and in his debut on Saturday scored the winning goal in their match against Wokingham.

THE axe is about to fall on the Wembley Stadium final of the Russell Grant Middlesex Charity Cup.

Protracted negotiations by the Middlesex County Football Association have failed to break the deadlock with the Stadium over the exhorbitant charges being demanded for staging the final and a meeting of the Association's finance and general purposes committee now seems sadly certain to finally pull the curtain down on the showpiece event.

The asking price for the Stadium has leapt from £5,000 last year when Wembley and Hendon contested the final to an amazing £20,000, plus 22 and a half per cent of the gross gate takings this year, and the cynics not unnaturally suggest that the increased charges have arisen due to the inclusion of several of London's glamour professional clubs.

Unable to reach a compromise with Wembley over the charges, the County FA turned to sponsorship in the hope of saving the event. But their efforts in that direction have also ended in failure.

Said a very disappointed County FA secretary Peter Clayton: "The writing is now very much on the wall.

"At the moment we have been unable to secure a sponsor to underwrite the cost and it is increasingly unlikely that we will be going to Wembley.

"Obviously it is a great shame because we were hoping to use the event to supplement the Benevolent Fund which has paid out a great deal of money on worthy causes, more this year than we have had money in."

But despite the bitter blow of not being at Wembley, the

BY JOHN COMFORT

County still plan to hold the Charity Cup Final this year and have initially approached Brentford in the hope of staging it at Griffin Park.

Other likely alternatives are Chelsea and Queens Park Rangers, who both entered the competition for the first time this season.

"The final will definitely be played this year," said Mr Clayton "and we are hoping that one of the professional clubs will host it so that we can repeat the festival event of last year, probably at the end of May."

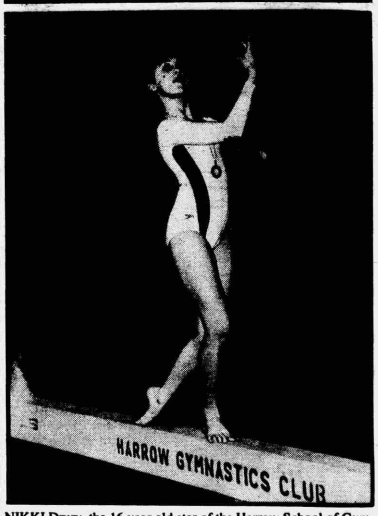
And despite the problems they have encountered over the venue for the final, the County FA are still hopeful that they will be able to return to Wembley Stadium next year.

"We will be approaching Wembley again and will start negotiations at an early date so that we know the scale of the problem we are facing and maybe we will be able to get a sponsor from the word go."

But the promise of Wembley for next season will be small consolation for the likes of Kingsbury Town who are just 90 minutes away from this year's final. They play their semi-final with Finchley at Silver Jubilee Park on Tuesday.

On the other side of the draw, Hounslow play Brentford in a quarter finals on April with the winners meeting Chelsea in the semi-finals.

Nikki breaks into top UK gym rankings



NIKKI Drury, the 16 year old star of the Harrow School of Gymnastics, has made an important breakthrough into the top flight of the sport.

Against the top 50 gymnasts in the country at the prestigious British Individual Womens Championships held at Sheffield Nikki rose to the occasion and came a magnificent sixth. She also took the bronze medal for the beam individual apparatus championship with a fine score of 17.75 - just. 30 away from the gold.

Nikki's sixth place means she has won a place in the final trial in July for the British team of six girls which will contest the World Championships in Stuttgart in October.

The Championships were Nikki's most important event since winning the thames Television Junior Gymnast of the Year Trophy.

On the first day of the competition the gymnasts worked set routines determined by the International Gymnastics Federation and months of determined training by Nikki - over 20 hours a week - paid off as she mastered the difficult elements contained in the vault, bars, beam and floor exercises and she scored a fine 35.60 out of a possible total of 40 to claim her sixth place.

The second day saw the voluntary competition with many girls featuring World class difficulty in their work. But again Nikki came up trumps and scored 35.37 for a total of 70.975 which maintained her sixth place.

It was a superb performance by Nikki and was put in perspective by the fact that she was the only girl in the top 12 not to have the supreme advantage of a deep foam landing pit for practicing difficult moves. But this is due to be put right at Harrow with the Borough set to fund the facility and as club coach Len Arnold said "This will take gymnastics in the Borough of Harrow to the highest level seen in this country."

Boro' expecting no favours from Harry

Soccer fixtures

Saturday April 8

Beazer Homes Premier Division: Wealdstone v Crawley (Lower Mead, 3pm).

Vauxhall Opel League Premier Div: Harrow Boro' v Hayes (Earlsmead, 3pm).

Vauxhall Opel League Division One: Basildon v Kingsbury Town; Wembley v Bracknell Town (Vale Farm, 3pm).

Spartan League: Bromley v Edgware.

Federated Homes League: Didcot Town v Rayners Lane.

Tuesday April 11

Middx Charity Cup semi-final: Kingsbury Town v Finchley (Silver Jubilee Park, 7.30pm).

Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Wealdstone v Gosport Borough (Lower Mead, 7.30pm).

Wednesday April 12

Vauxhall Opel League Division One: Chesham Utd v Wembley.

EX-**Harrow Borough** captain Harry Manoe returns to Earlsmead on Saturday in charge of a Hayes side that will be itching to help send Borough down the slippery slope to relegation.

Hayes hold the unenvied claim to fame this season of being the only side to lose twice to Borough this season - once at Earlsmead in the AC Delco Cup, and then again at Church Road in the League.

Manager Keith Chamberlin is expected to make several tactical changes as his side bids for the three points which will take them to the 35 he believes will mean Premier Division safety. "I said when I took over that we'd need 35 to stay up so we've got to win at least one of our last five matches," he said. "I'd like it to be on Saturday but we can expect no favours from Hayes."

Defender Andy Waddock is in line for a place in the side, and Mark Hopson should be fit after suffering a chest injury against Dagenham. Duncan Hardy is still not fit but he may well play again with his ankle injury heavily strapped up.

Boosted by their fine win at Dorchester, **Wealdstone** will be confident of putting more daylight between themselves and the Premier Division strugglers when they take on Crawley at Lower Mead. With Darren Williams still injured and Kevin Foster out of form, new signing Rhys Jones is likely to keep his place between the sticks after his confident debut against Dorchester. John Margerrison is still suspended but will return for **Tuesday's** match with Gosport.

Manager Tony Waugh will have been more than encouraged by**Wembley's** fine performance at Hitchin and the same line-up can be expected to get the nod to face lowly Bracknell at Vale Farm this Saturday.

Kingsbury Town's hopes of promotion are dead and buried but they get the chance to get into winning mood for next week's Middlesex Charity Cup semi-final with Finchley when they journey to bottom of the table Basildon on Saturday. Manager Alan Dafforn has no injury problems.

Martin Kidd has a hamstring injury which could keep him out of the **Edgware** side at Bomley.

After the inept display against Abingdon, manager Don Durkin is set to make changes for **Rayners Lane's** game at Didcot.

PRATTS MOTOR INSURANCE

CAN WE SAVE YOU MONEY?

ASK US TO QUOTE

Open 9am-9pm Mon-Fri

Open 9am-5pm Sat

Established over 50 years

IMMEDIATE COVER FROM OUR OFFICE AT

40 LONG LANE HILLINGDON

Telephone: UXBRIDGE 32212

(STD code 0895 from London) XUHE

Where the locals stand in the latest league tables

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Premier Division

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Dartford	33	19	7	7	64	30	64
VS Rugby	31	19	7	5	45	25	64
Worcester	36	15	13	8	59	46	58
Merthyr Tydfil	32	17	6	9	73	47	57
Cambridge City	37	16	9	12	61	49	57
Bromsgrove	36	14	14	8	66	46	56
Dover Ath	31	15	9	7	53	33	54
Burton Albion	35	14	10	11	67	58	52
Gosport Boro'	32	14	9	9	61	47	51
Dorchester	33	12	13	8	41	44	49
Corby Town	34	13	9	12	47	46	48
Wealdstone	**34**	**12**	**10**	**12**	**49**	**43**	**46**
Ashford Town	34	12	10	12	52	62	46
Crawley Town	35	10	15	10	46	41	45
Moor Green	34	12	9	13	49	59	45
Bath City	35	11	11	13	52	46	44
Waterlooville	36	11	11	14	53	57	44
Fareham Town	34	12	6	16	34	51	42
Alvechurch	35	11	8	16	46	51	41
Leicester Utd	35	6	8	21	39	63	26
Redditch Utd	36	5	6	25	30	88	21
Bedworth Utd	36	4	6	26	38	65	17

VAUXHALL OPEL LEAGUE Premier Division

Leytonstone	37	23	10	4	66	35	79
Farnborough	38	23	8	7	71	48	77
Slough Town	38	21	5	12	59	39	68
Grays	36	17	10	9	55	42	61
B Stortford	37	18	5	14	62	47	59
Carshalton	32	16	10	6	46	24	58
Kingstonian	35	15	9	11	39	31	54
Barking	37	14	12	11	42	38	54
Bognor Regis	35	15	9	11	30	39	54
Hayes	36	13	12	11	51	43	51
Hendon	36	12	15	9	45	50	51
Windsor & Eton	35	13	11	11	45	37	50
Leyton-Wingate	36	12	14	10	50	46	50
Wokingham	37	13	9	15	54	49	48
Bromley	36	11	12	13	53	43	45
Dagenham	37	10	12	15	45	58	42
St Albans	37	11	8	18	47	51	41
Dulwich Ham	36	10	8	18	48	51	38
Harrow Boro'	**37**	**7**	**11**	**19**	**44**	**72**	**32**
Tooting & M	36	9	4	23	34	68	31
Marlow	37	6	9	22	35	77	27
Croydon	37	4	9	24	22	63	21

VAUXHALL OPEL LEAGUE Division One

Staines Town	34	22	9	3	68	23	75
Basingstoke	35	22	8	5	76	31	74
Woking	32	18	9	5	59	25	63
Hitchin Town	35	18	9	8	52	30	63
Lewes	35	19	6	10	62	46	63
Wivenhoe	31	18	4	9	50	34	58
Kingsbury	**33**	**17**	**6**	**10**	**56**	**36**	**57**
Uxbridge	34	16	6	12	50	45	54
Walton & H	34	15	7	12	42	32	52
Boreham Wood	34	14	9	11	50	43	51
Leatherhead	34	13	7	14	48	45	46
Wembley	**32**	**13**	**4**	**15**	**33**	**52**	**43**
Met Police	33	11	7	15	40	56	40
Chalfont St P	33	9	8	16	46	65	35
Southwick	32	7	13	12	38	44	34
Chesham Utd	33	9	7	17	39	57	34
Worthing	34	7	10	17	42	68	31
Hampton	33	5	13	15	32	51	28
Collier Row	33	7	7	20	31	68	28
Bracknell Town	33	6	6	21	27	51	24
Basildon Utd	33	5	7	21	26	57	22

Eastenders at Boro'

FORMER Eastenders star Tom 'Lofty' Watt brings Tom Watt XI to Earlsmead on Sunday to play a charity match against the Mercury Outboard Powerboat champions XI.

The match kicks off at 2.30pm and proceeds will be divided between Guide Dogs for the Blind and Cot Death Monitors.

Also playing for Tom Watt's XI will be Nick Berry, who plays Wicksy in Eastenders, and Gary McDonald, who played Darren.

The Powerboat team will include current european Champion Steve Kerton, former World champion Mark Wilson as well as ex-World champion Andy Elliott.

Derby date

THE derby match between Wembley and Kingsbury, postponed last week due to a waterlogged Vale Farm pitch, will now be played on Tuesday April 25.

Wealdstone's home match against Beazer Homes League leaders VS Rugby has been rearranged for the same night.

CAR INSURANCE

WHY PAY MORE THAN YOU SHOULD?

Immediate Cover! Best Rates on any type of car or commercial vehicle! Substantial Occupational Discounts over and above any No Claims Discounts!!

CRESCENT INSURANCE SERVICES

12 BONNERSFIELD LANE, CENTRAL HARROW

Off Station Road, near Granada Cinema

01-863 0033

Typesetting & Origination: VisualSector Limited (an Ician Communications Group Company) 0923 775576. Printed by The Chesham Press, 16 Germain Street, Chesham, Bucks. Published by Middlesex County Press Ltd. Registered at the PO as a newspaper

Image © Reach PLC. Image created courtesy of THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD.