

SPORT

Inside
Observer
Sport

The weekend
soccer action
Pages 74, 75

Youth soccer
Results round up
Page 73

Last kick win
for Wasps
Page 74

Holdings on course for repeat in dart pairs

HOLDERS Graham Miller and Andy Egan are through to the Grand Finals Night of the Middlesex Darts Pairs Championship which is sponsored by the publishers of the Observer, Middlesex County Press Ltd.

The finals of the event, which carries a total of £1,000 in cash prizes, are to be staged at Harrow Borough FC on Friday April 21.

With the completion of the preliminary rounds, the following pairs are through to the finals:

- C. Le May & A. Porri;
- T. Message & C. Woods;
- P. Levett & I. O'Shaughnessy;
- C. Todd & P. Heaney; C. Gow & G. Gow;
- J. Huxtable & S. McNally;
- C. Searle & R. Snook;
- R. Widows & J. Hook;
- D. Vaughan & R. Cole;
- R. Duffy & B. Moran;
- R. Morgan & A. Caves;
- D. Penn & H. Fox;
- S. Duffy & V. Armstrong;
- G. Miller & A. Egan;
- C. Burles & J. Turner;
- C. Jones & C. Maslin;
- F. Saxon & S. Marquiss;
- P. Luker & T. Jenkinson;
- C. McBride & S. Cole;
- D. Bell & O. Bell;
- T. Collins & J. Howes;
- J. Murray & B. Jacobs;
- T. O'Shea & I. Looe;
- D. Austin & C. Doody;
- T. McCarthy & M. Gallagher;
- T. Haggerty & M. Gallagher;
- W. Burkesfield & D. Barksfield;
- N. Battelle & S. Johns;
- T. Reynolds & M. Davnack;
- P. Grayson & R. Williams.

Cup clash all over in just 58 seconds

Kingsbury Town 1 Finchley 0

IT took Gursel Gulfer a mere 58 seconds of this Russell Grant Middlesex Charity Cup semi-final on Tuesday night to score the goal which sunk Finchley and put Kingsbury into their second cup final of the season.

The late comers in the crowd were left cursing their poor time keeping as straight from the kick off the ball found its way back to Kingsbury keeper Fred Smart who swiftly pumped a wind assisted clearance deep into Finchley territory.



● Gursel Gulfer - winner in first minute.

Defender Glen Russell fatally misjudged the bounce and when the ball flew over his head, the alert Gulfer nipped in behind him to fire home off an upright, leaving bemused keeper Sean Griffiths to pick the ball out of the net for his first touch.

It was the dream start that Kingsbury wanted, but sadly they were unable to build on it and rarely showed the superior form that magnificently disposed of Tottenham in the quarter finals.

And far from being shell-shocked by that early reverse, Finchley, who had performed their own piece of giant killing by dumping Queens Park Rangers out in the previous round, came on strongly and could so easily have turned the game right round by half time.

Steve Newport went close with a couple of well struck free kicks while Dawson's header was kept out by a fine

save from Smart, and only the crossbar came to Kingsbury's rescue 10 minutes before the break when Forbes got free on the right and fired past Smart.

A rare Kingsbury attack a minute later saw Gulfer almost give an action replay of his goal when another Smart clearance eluded defender Matthew Ewing and put him free. But although he got past keeper Griffiths, his momentum sadly saw him run the ball out of play.

The second half was a hard fought end to end battle with both sides showing the full range of their attacking prowess.

Substitute Chris Simpson, on for the injured Henry Clarke, had an early chance for a much livelier Kingsbury when he latched onto a bad back pass from Newing but Griffiths saved bravely at his feet.



BY JOHN COMFORT

Zacharia, Bhatia and Shields all went close to adding to the lead and midway through the half the silken skills of Dwight Marshall saw him carve out a great opportunity after collecting a great pass from Atkins, but his finish failed to match his approach work.

Only a goalline clearance denied Thomas an equaliser for Finchley soon after, and with the visitors moving up a gear in the closing stages, it was Smart who came to Kingsbury's rescue as they held on grimly to book their place in the final.

He saved superbly to keep out a piledriver from Dawson and tipped over another goal-bound effort from Campbell.

Kingsbury Town: Smart, Bhatia, S. Lucas, Zacharia, Atkins, Gulfer, Clarke (Simpson), Marshall.

Mystery man could save Wembley final

THE Russell Grant Middlesex Charity Cup Final could yet be played at Wembley Stadium - thanks to a mysterious saviour who has appeared on the horizon.

The saviour, believed to be a local businessman, is said to be prepared to underwrite any possible loss over staging the final at the Stadium after long and protracted negotiations had reached deadlock.

After charging £5,000 for the event last year, the Stadium authorities are now demanding £20,000, plus 22 and a half per cent of the gross gate takings, for this year's showpiece.

Unable to reach a compromise over the charges and unable to find a sponsor who could save the event, the Middlesex County FA had virtually resigned themselves to holding the final elsewhere - until this week.

Said County FA secretary Peter Clayton: "Even at this late stage we have not given up hope. We are hopeful that at the 11th hour someone will come along to save the event."

The County's finances and general purposes committee is due to meet next week to make a final decision over the venue for the Charity Cup Final. It was expected that they would save Wembley. Now the chances are high that they will confirm the event at football's Mecca.

And that will be good news for Kingsbury Town who beat Finchley on Tuesday to book their place in the final. Their opponents will be either Brentford, Hounslow or Chelsea.

Soccer shorts

Minor League clash

WEALDSTONE'S nursery club, Belmont United FC, will be staging a Hayes Minor League under-10 match against Hives at Lower Mead on Saturday prior to Stones' Beazer Homes League clash with Fareham. The Belmont game kicks off at 1.15pm.

One goal enough

A GOAL from Thadan Pellegrini was enough to give Edgeware Town Reserves victory by 1-0 in their Suburban League match against Feltham on Saturday.

Stones washed out

WEALDSTONE'S Beazer Homes League Premier Division match against Gosport Borough on Tuesday night was called off because of a waterlogged Lower Mead pitch.

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McKenzie set for comeback after seven months layoff



● Stuart McKenzie - in line for a comeback.

AFTER seven months out with a knee injury, goalkeeper Stuart McKenzie is in line for a return to duty for struggling Harrow Borough in Saturday's difficult match at Carshalton.

The long road to recovery has seen McKenzie successfully negotiate several reserve team games in the past fortnight. He was due to make his first team comeback in a friendly at Southall on Tuesday but it was called off.

Borough boss Keith Chamberlin confirmed that McKenzie's inclusion in place of the erratic Mark Poulney against Carshalton is a real possibility. "He's done everything asked of him and he's not far short of being ready," he said. "But I'll be making a final decision later in the week."

Borough injury doubts for the match are Paul Flynn with a trapped nerve, Phil Dicker, who has a chest complaint and Duncan Hardy with an ankle injury.

Wealdstone will be hoping to have striker Paul Wilkins fit following a rib injury for their home match against struggling Fareham.

With the relegation zone too close for comfort, Stones badly need maximum points to en-

sure their Premier Division safety.

Wembley's match at Hampton looks to be a draw banker. Seven of the last eight meetings between the clubs have ended all square.

Sylvester Williams, Derek Brown and Glen Charles all picked up knocks against Bracknell but should all be fit to face Hampton.

Kingsbury Town will be without defender Paul Fitzgerald for their match at home to Walton. Fitzgerald has a back injury and Don Lucas, who replaced him in a reshuffled defensive line-up against Finchley on Tuesday is again likely to fill the breach.

Kingsbury's other injury doubt surrounds striker Henry Clarke who limped off against Finchley with a hamstring injury.

Martin Kidd is still troubled by a hamstring injury and is doubtful for Edgeware's match at home to Walthamstow Pennant on Saturday. Andy Ferguson took a knock against Bromley but is expected to be fit.

Steve Brian is available after suspension for Rayners Lane's derby match at Viking Sports. Manager Don Durkin hopes to Danny Mills and Jimmy Schurer fit after injury.

Soccer fixtures

Saturday April 15

Beazer Homes League Premier Division: Wealdstone v Fareham Town (Lower Mead, 3pm).

Vauxhall Opel League Premier Division: Carshalton Ath v Harrow Borough.

Vauxhall Opel League Division One: Kingsbury Town v Walton & Hertham (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm); Hampton v Wembley.

Greene King Spartan League Premier Division: Edgeware Town v Walthamstow Pennant (White Lion Ground, 3pm).

Federated Homes League Premier Division: Viking Sports v Rayners Lane.

Tuesday April 18
Vauxhall Opel League Division One: Kingsbury Town v Woking (Silver Jubilee Park, 7.30pm).

Wednesday April 19
Capital League: South-end Utd v Wealdstone.

Where the locals stand in the latest league tables

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE											VAUXHALL OPEL LEAGUE				VAUXHALL OPEL LEAGUE								
Premier Division											Premier Division				Division One								
	p	w	d	f	a	pts		p	w	d	f	a	pts		p	w	d	f	a	pts			
Dartford	34	20	7	7	65	30	Leytonstone	38	24	10	4	68	36	82	Staines Town	35	23	9	3	70	22	78	
VS Rugby	34	20	7	6	48	29	Farnborough	38	23	8	7	71	48	77	Basingstoke	37	22	8	7	78	34	74	
Worcester	37	16	13	8	60	46	Slough Town	39	23	12	20	60	44	64	Woking	34	20	9	5	63	25	69	
Merthyr Tydfil	33	18	6	9	75	48	Gray	37	18	10	9	58	44	64	Hitchin Town	34	20	9	5	63	25	68	
Cambridge City	38	16	10	12	62	50	Carshalton	34	17	11	6	51	27	62	Wventon	33	20	4	9	54	34	64	
Bromsgrove	37	14	15	8	67	47	Kingsnarian	37	17	9	11	49	33	60	Lewes	36	19	7	10	65	49	64	
Dover Ath.	34	16	9	9	54	35	B Stovford	38	18	6	14	63	48	60	Kingsbury	34	18	6	10	59	38	60	
Burton Albion	36	15	11	5	55	35	St Albans	38	12	15	11	47	61	51	Udridge	35	17	6	12	52	46	57	
Gosport Boro	33	14	10	9	62	48	Bognor Regis	36	15	10	11	30	39	55	Waltham & H	35	16	12	45	32	55		
Corby Town	36	14	9	13	50	47	Hayes	37	14	12	11	53	44	54	Boreham Wood	36	14	9	13	50	46	51	
Dorchester	34	12	13	9	41	45	49	Hendon	38	12	15	11	47	61	51	Wembley	34	14	8	18	38	54	47
Crawley Town	36	11	15	10	49	42	Bromley	37	11	13	13	55	45	46	Leatherhead	36	13	7	18	47	49	46	
Moor Green	35	13	13	50	49	48	Windsor & Eton	35	13	11	11	45	37	50	Met Police	35	7	10	19	43	72	31	
Bath City	36	12	11	13	56	46	Leyton-Wingate	37	12	14	11	52	49	50	Chesham Utd	35	10	8	17	43	58	38	
Alvechurch	37	13	8	16	51	54	Wokingham	38	13	10	15	54	49	49	Chalfont St P.	35	9	8	18	47	71	35	
Wealdstone	35	12	10	13	50	46	Wokingham	37	11	13	13	55	45	46	Southwick	33	7	13	13	39	48	34	
Astford Town	36	12	10	14	52	67	46	Dagenham	38	10	12	16	46	60	42	Hampton	35	5	13	17	33	57	28
Waterlooville	37	11	11	15	54	59	44	Dulwich Ham.	37	10	9	18	49	52	39	Collier Row	36	7	7	22	32	74	28
Fareham Town	35	12	6	17	37	55	42	Harrow Boro	38	7	11	20	48	74	32	Bracknell Town	35	6	7	22	31	55	27
Leicester Utd.	35	6	8	21	39	63	26	Tooting & M.	37	6	9	22	35	77	27	Basildon Utd.	35	5	7	23	27	65	22
Redditch Utd.	37	5	6	26	30	89	21	Marlow	37	6	9	22	35	77	27								
Bedworth Utd.	37	4	7	26	39	66	18	Croydon	38	4	9	25	24	66	21								