

Gayts lead chase for league title

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Goyette penalty cheers Stones

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Stones struggle but Collins' goal gives them replay

Hounslow 1 Wealdstone 1 AS the Middlesex Senior Cup is one of the few items of silverware that could yet find its way into Wealdstone's trophy cabinet, something better than the meagre effort they produced at Hounslow on Monday night would not have gone amiss, writes John Comfort.

A goal from John Collins secured them a replay but they could so easily have made their exit against a side that is currently struggling in the lower reaches of the Beazer Homes League's Southern Division.

In a poor first half it was 25 minutes before either goal was threatened when Augustine put Darlington through but Kevin Foster spread himself well to block the ball.

Stones' first effort didn't arrive until the 32nd minute when Collins half volleyed wide from only 10 yards. A minute later Steve Browne latched onto Ellwood's misplaced pass and fired against keeper Crompton and Collins followed up to put the loose ball wide of an open goal.

Darlington clipped the Wealdstone bar with a great 25 yard effort but it was the visitors who took the lead in the 40th minute when Collins beat

Crompton to a Goyette cross and glanced a header into the corner of the net. A minute later only a superb save from Crompton denied Flint from a Browne cross.

It took Stones just two minutes of the second half to squander their advantage, slackness in defence allowing Augustine to net, but they had a golden chance to regain the lead when Goyette's cross found Alan Risk stealing in at the far post. But after getting round Crompton he delayed his shot, enabling a defender to recover and block.

With Stones continually falling foul of Hounslow's offside trap, the rest of the match was best forgotten. Flint did break through in the 77th minute but was forced wide by Crompton and then shot at the keeper.

Wealdstone: Foster, Smart, Price, Risk, Morris, Margerrison (Harrison), Browne (Kelly), Goyette, Flint, Collins, Gbogidi. Other subs: Wilkins, Williams, Tapley.

Wasted trip

EDGWARE made the journey to Kent on Tuesday night only to find that their London Senior Cup tie against Erith had been postponed because of a waterlogged pitch.

After so many near misses....

Could this be Wasps cup year?

IS this going to be Wasps cup year? That is the burning question at Sudbury this week as they prepare for Saturday's tough Pilkington Cup third round clash with Gloucester.

Success in a major competition is long overdue and with their hopes of taking the Courage Clubs Championship virtually ended by the pre-Christmas defeat against Bath, Cup glory is now Wasps' prime target for the season.

It is a competition in which Wasps have appropriately earned the tag of bridesmaids in recent seasons having been beaten by Bath in both the 1986 and 1987 finals. In 1988 they went out to Harlequins in the semi-finals and last year defeat came in a quarter final tie at Leicester.

Wasps would have appreciated less demanding opposition for this first hurdle in this year's competition for Gloucester will be thirsting for revenge against Rob Andrew's side who back in October inflicted a convincing 29-4 defeat on them at Sudbury in a Courage League fixture. And but for that result Gloucester would now be topping the league instead of Bath.

For that game Gloucester were without Mike Teague, who was suffering from a persistent shoulder joint injury, but the England back row player is now back in action and raring to get at Wasps.

This time round was thought likely that it would be Wasps themselves who would be without a key player following the horrific gashed ear injury to Jeff Probyn, sustained in England's defeat of Ireland at Twickenham, which required 20 stitches.

But the club are hopeful that Probyn will play which is just as well as his replacement Ian Dunston is suspended following his sending off in a club fixture against Harlequins two weeks ago.



BY JOHN COMFORT

Apart from the doubt about Probyn, Wasps expect to be at full strength although new acquisition Alan Buzza, who led Cambridge to victory in the Varsity match, will not play as he is ineligible.

The selected team is: Pilgrim, Smith, Simms, Clough, Bailey, Andrew (captain), Bates, Ryan, Pegler, Finnegar, O'Leary, Rose, Probyn, Simmonds, Rendall. Subs: Cassidy, Holmes.

Wasps have met twice in the competition before and the score at present is one win apiece. Their first meeting was a quarter final tie in 1977/78 which Gloucester won 13-3 and they went on to win the trophy, beating Leicester 6-3 in the final. Wasps gained revenge two years ago when they knocked Gloucester out in a fourth round tie by 24-13.

Saturday's clash could not be more important for Wasps. Victory will maintain their interest in the season. Defeat will effectively end it.

● The cup tie kicks off at Repton Avenue at 2.30pm.

There's no justice for out of luck Lions

Woking 2 Wembley 1 MORE rough justice for Wembley who despite a tremendous performance, left Woking on Tuesday night empty handed, without the point their fine display richly deserved, writes Richard Markiewicz.

The defeat was Wembley's 15th league game without a victory - their worse sequence since they joined the league in 1975/76.

It was difficult to tell the difference between the team near the top of the division and the one at the bottom as Wembley more than matched their opponents with football ability.

Apart from Shane Wye's long range effort which John Walsh deflected onto a post, Wembley's defence, strengthened by the acquisition of Fred Cummings from Chalfont, prevent any further openings until the 23rd minute when the home side went ahead. Mark Franks outran his marker on the left and his cross was headed home by Bradley Pratt.

Wembley equalised eight minutes into the second half with a magnificent strike from Derek Brown. Twisting and turning 30 yards from the target, Brown made room for himself before teeing the ball up and blasting an unstoppable shot over the keeper into the back of the net.

With their tails up, Wembley went for the kill and Cummings almost marked his debut with a goal when he sent a header flashing just over.

But just as Wembley threatened to take complete control Woking went ahead again in the 67th minute, against the run of play. A brilliant instinctive save from Fanner stopped a Pratt header but the ball rebounded off the keeper into the path of Buzzaglo who lashed it home.

Wembley: Fanner, H. Hutchinson, Cummings, Walsh, Janaway, Graham (Simpson), Larkin (Murphy), Brown, P. Bryan, B. Hutchinson, Guller.

League tables

Table with columns for Beazer Homes League Premier Division and Vauxhall League Premier Division, listing teams and their league positions.

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Stones hit by injuries to Margerrison and Browne

JOHN Margerrison and Steve Browne, who both sustained ankle injuries in Tuesday's Middlesex Senior Cup tie at Hounslow, are both doubtful starters for Wealdstone's tough Beazer Homes League match at Weymouth on Saturday.

Weymouth, who caused a big FA Trophy upset last week when they knocked out Bamey, are a very much improved outfit from that which Stones beat earlier in the season in both the league and the Clubcall Cup and manager Alan Gane admitted "it's our toughest game for a long time."

As well as Browne and Margerrison, Stones also has Tony Kelly and Paul Morris struggling with lingering injuries although both should play. Places in the side look likely for Paul Wilkins and possibly Craig Johnston.

Wealdstone Supporters Club will be running a coach to Weymouth, leaving the Lower Mead car park at 11am. Cost of the trip is £10 for adults, £9 for juniors and £5 for Junior Stones accompanied by an adult. Bookings can be made by ringing 427-4064 during office hours.

With Tom McAlister recovered from his virus and Phil Dicker fit after a groin injury, Harrow Borough will have a full squad to select from for their home game with Basingstoke on Saturday.

Wembley face a vital six pointer on Saturday when they take on bottom of the table Leatherhead. Tony Waugh is likely to keep the same defensive formation that was successful at Woking with new signing from Chalfont Fred Cummings at centre half and Paul Janaway on the left. Steve Graham took a knock against Woking but should be fit.

The suspended Paul Shields will be missing when Kingsbury journey to the south coast to take on league

leaders Southwick. But Gary White is fit after injury and is available for selection.

Edgware will be without the holidaying Martyn Kidd for their tough game at Southgate, but Kevin Charalambous has returned from a week's holiday and is available for selection. Mark White has a late fitness test on an Achilles tendon injury.

Rayners Lane have an attractive fixture on Saturday when they entertain Newport AFC - the side built from the ashes of former league side Newport County - who regularly take up to 400 supporters to their away games.

Newport are going great guns at the moment, lying in fourth place with games in hand.

Lane manager Don Durkin has injury problems with Danny Mills (ligaments), Ian Woodwards (ligaments), Stuart Howard (groin) and Manny Fail (chipped bone) all doubtful for the game.

Soccer fixtures

Soccer fixtures table listing various leagues and their upcoming matches, including Beazer Homes League, Vauxhall League, and others.