

Bessborough are indoor champs

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SPORT

Own goal sinks luckless Stones

See page 55

Painful for Pegler and Wasps

OUCH, that hurts!
And with a Gloucester boot not exactly comfortably placed, Wasps' flanker David Pegler is perhaps entitled to be hurt after making a tackle in Saturday's Pilkington Cup clash at Sudbury.
And there was more pain to come for Pegler in the final result - Gloucester won 23-19 thanks to a last minute try.
More pictures and full match report on pages 52 and 53.
Picture by Peter Wilson.



Lynch in line for cup replay

WEALDSTONE striker Tony Lynch is in line to make his comeback after injury in Monday night's Middlesex Senior Cup replay against Hounslow at Lower Mead.
Lynch had a cartilage operation in early December but recently resumed training and this weekend will undergo an intensive rehabilitation programme at Lilliestall.
"It depends how he responds, but if he's okay he could well play against Hounslow," said Stones manager Alan Gane.
Gane hopes that Lynch's return could be just the boost Stones need to end their recent goal famine. "We've really missed him," he said. "Without him we've had no width and both Flint and Kelly have not been getting the right service."

Wiped out

HEAVY afternoon rain put the damper on both Wealdstone and Harrow Borough on Tuesday.
Both Lower Mead and Earlsmead were left awash, causing the cancellation of Stones' Middlesex Senior Cup replay with Hounslow and Borough's League match with Hayes. Stones have rearranged the Cup clash for Monday night.

Borough new boy is okay to face Forest

BEGGS FITS TROPHY BILL

HARROW Borough's FA Trophy hopes have received a shot in the arm with the news that new signing Billy Beggs is eligible to play in Saturday's all-important second round clash with Redbridge Forest at Earlsmead.

The sharp shooting former Aldershot midfielder was signed by Borough boss Tom McAlister on a free transfer last Friday and in an impressive debut against Basingstoke on Saturday scored twice to inspire a 3-1 victory.

Said a delighted Tom McAlister: "I'd had lots of good reports about him and have been chasing him since before Francis Cassidy left us.
"On Saturday he came up with the goods and proved he's a quality player at this level. If he can score two goals in every game I'll be more than happy."

Borough's Vauxhall League Premier Division rivals Redbridge, who are managed by the vastly experienced John Still, will provide a stern test for the Earlsmead club on Saturday.

In the last round they caused something of a surprise when they comfortably disposed of league leaders Slough by 3-0 in a replay, but Borough need no reminding of Forest's capabilities, having met them three times already this season.



BY JOHN COMFORT

A goalless draw in the league in early September at Earlsmead was followed a month later by a Cluball Cup clash at Redbridge's rented home at Dagenham FC which Borough won 3-2 after extra time.

A month ago Borough returned to Essex for the return league match and had a lucky escape when a floodlight failure caused the game to be abandoned at a time when injury hit Harrow were losing 3-0 and heading for certain defeat.

Tom McAlister knows that things will just as tough on Saturday. "It's going to be a good game," he said. "I think that on equal terms there's not much between the two teams."

"Having played them three times I know quite a bit about them. They're a strong side but talented."

"When we met them at home in the league they were a bit negative, but they can be a very

good attacking side. And after scoring four goals away from home last Saturday they're certain to be buzzing."

But although there are no predictions about the likely outcome, McAlister goes into the big match in confident mood. "Yes, I'm confident," he said. "If you don't think you can win it's not worth you turning up."

After Borough's exploits in previous rounds, the odds must be high on a draw. They needed a replay to dispose of Bishops Cleeve in the first qualifying round and although they beat Kingsbury at the first attempt in the next round, their third qualifying round tie against Erith was only decided at the third attempt.

And to get to this stage Borough needed a replay to knock out neighbours Wealdstone in the first round proper.

If a replay is required to settle the Redbridge tie it will take place at Dagenham FC on Wednesday evening. If inclement weather prevents Saturday's game going ahead, then it will take place at Earlsmead on Tuesday night.

After their lingering injury problems earlier in the season McAlister is thankfully able to select his side from a full squad, although Everald La Ronde is cup tied which will necessitate some reshuffling in defence.

Phil Dicker's groin injury continues to persist but he is expected to be fit for selection.

Probyn is declared fit for Paris trip

WASPS' prop Jeff Probyn, who missed the Pilkington Cup clash against Gloucester, has been declared fit for England's Five Nations Championship match against France in Paris on Saturday.

Probyn had 20 stitches in an ear injury which was sustained playing for England against Ireland a fortnight ago.

Probyn is one of four Wasps players selected for Saturday's International. The others are Mark Bailey, Rob Andrew and Paul Rendall while Fran Clough and Steve Bates have been named as replacements.

League tables

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE										
Premier Division										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Dover	25	18	3	4	48	22	57			
Bath	25	15	7	3	43	19	52			
Cambridge C.	26	14	2	10	55	38	44			
Adherstone	26	12	6	8	42	32	44			
Grovestead	26	11	6	9	31	42	42			
Burton	26	11	8	7	40	29	41			
Worcester	25	11	3	11	47	40	36			
Wealdstone	25	11	6	8	27	30	35			
VS Rugby	25	9	8	8	27	24	35			
Weymouth	24	9	6	9	31	28	33			
Gromping	24	9	6	9	27	30	33			
Crawley	27	8	9	10	35	39	33			
Moor Green	25	9	4	12	37	33	31			
Ashford	22	8	6	9	27	30	30			
Dorchester	25	11	6	8	29	37	30			
Gloucester	21	7	6	8	34	36	27			
Wainfrith	25	7	5	13	33	40	26			
Chelmsford	26	9	7	14	37	50	22			
Corby	25	5	3	17	28	45	18			
Alvechurch	26	4	4	18	28	56	16			
Gosport	25	4	3	18	21	53	15			

VAUXHALL LEAGUE										
Premier Division										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Slough	25	15	5	1	48	18	53			
Wokingham	24	16	5	3	38	19	53			
Kingstonian	25	13	7	5	53	30	46			
Aylesbury	23	13	6	6	48	17	45			
Dagenham	27	11	6	8	38	29	43			
Grays Ath.	27	11	8	8	37	34	41			
Hendon	24	12	4	8	37	30	40			
Wincor	27	9	10	6	38	29	37			
Basingstoke	23	11	4	8	31	31	37			
Carshalton	26	11	3	12	37	37	36			
Leyton-W.	25	11	6	11	37	33	36			
Hayes	26	9	8	9	42	41	35			
Canvey	26	10	5	11	33	41	35			
Redbridge	25	9	4	10	40	35	34			
St Albans	27	6	12	8	37	32	32			
Staines	24	9	3	12	38	42	30			
Marlow	26	7	9	11	26	39	29			
Harrow Borough	25	11	6	8	33	28	38			
Barking	25	4	6	15	34	50	18			
Dulwich H.	26	4	6	16	19	38	18			
Bognor	25	11	2	11	20	43	17			
Bromley	26	2	7	17	18	53	13			

Division One										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Southwick	27	15	10	2	43	18	55			
Wivenhoe	23	14	6	3	51	19	53			
Dorling	23	14	6	3	42	14	48			
Woking	20	14	4	2	48	18	48			
Wicham	24	11	6	8	38	13	45			
Boreham W.	24	11	8	5	38	33	41			
Chesham	26	11	7	8	31	28	40			
Worthing	24	11	6	3	34	33	36			
Wotton	24	10	4	10	33	39	34			
Walton & H.	23	8	9	9	32	31	30			
Wokingham	24	9	6	10	34	30	36			
Whyteleafe	25	7	9	9	34	42	30			
Harlow	27	7	9	11	30	38	30			
Chalfont St P.	26	8	6	12	27	30	30			
Chalfont & M.	24	9	11	5	27	29	30			
Uxbridge	25	7	6	12	32	46	27			
Hampton	23	5	8	10	18	28	23			
Croydon	24	9	2	13	29	21	29			
Furley	25	5	6	14	22	47	21			
Wembley	24	4	7	13	33	43	19			
Kingsbury	24	4	7	13	33	41	19			
Leatherhead	25	3	7	16	18	47	16			

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It's a sudden death finish for Stones in ill-fated cup clash

WEALDSTONE will be battling to the bitter end to decide their ill-fated Cluball Cup tie with Ashford Town tonight (Thursday).

After three abortive attempts to get the game on at the Kent club's weather-beaten ground over the past month, the two clubs have decided to switch the tie to Lower Mead. And to ensure they get a result, they have agreed to both extra time and a penalty shoot out to settle the long-lasting affair.

Prize for the winners is a none too inviting visit in the quarter finals of the competition to face runaway HFS Loans League leaders Colne Dynamos but that doesn't deflate Stones manager Alan Gane who says: "Having got to this stage we might just as well try and win it."

Stones will again be well short of full

strength against Ashford. Paul Gbogidi, John Collins and Neil Price are all ineligible while Steve Browne is out with an ankle injury sustained against Weymouth and looks set to be sidelined for three weeks.

A swollen knee is troubling Steve Graham and could keep him out of the Wembley line up as they seek more points to steer clear of the relegation zone at Lewes on Saturday. Lions will be without the unavailable Fred Cummings for the match.

Kingsbury Town have signed defender Rod Findlay, who was released by Wealdstone a month ago. The much travelled Findlay is expected to make his league debut for Town on Saturday when they are at home to Boreham Wood. Having slipped into bottom but one place in the league, it is a game that Alan Daf-

form's side badly need to win.

Edgware look to maintain their Spartan League Championship challenge on Saturday when they take on North Greenford. On paper it looks a formality but Edgware have struggled to beat their rivals on two previous occasions this season. Martyn Kidd will be back in the Edgware line up after missing last week's match against Southgate and manager Brian Rider's only doubt is John Mangan who has a hamstring injury.

Rayners Lane boss Don Durkin still has injury problems with Neil Owen (ligaments), Stuart Howard (groin) and Ian Woodward (ligaments) and all are doubtful for Saturday's match against Fairford Town who beat Lane 4-0 earlier in the season when they were reduced to 10 men for most of the game.

Soccer fixtures

Thursday February 1	
Cluball Cup: Ashford Town v Wealdstone (Being played at Lower Mead, 7.30pm)	
Saturday February 3	
FA Challenge Trophy second round: Harrow Borough v Redbridge Forest (Earlsmead, 3pm)	
Vauxhall League Division One: Kingsbury Town v Boreham Wood (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm); Lewes v Wembley	
King Spartan League Premier Division: Edgware v North Greenford (White Lion ground, 3pm)	
Reyners Lane v Fairford Town (Lucas Avenue, 3pm)	
Sunday February 5	
Middlesex Senior Cup replay: Wealdstone v Hounslow (Lower Mead, 7.30pm)	
Tuesday February 6	
AC Delco Cup quarter final: Kingsbury Town v Woking (Silver Jubilee Park, 4pm)	
Wednesday February 7	
Capital League: Southend Utd v Wealdstone	

Boro' to release James?

HARROW Borough could be set to release their Welsh defender Martyn James. James, who has failed to command a regular place in the side since he arrived at Earlsmead, is said to be unhappy with all the travelling from his Swansea home, particularly as he is not guaranteed a game.

Borough boss Tom McAlister: "He has

indicated he may prefer to play in Swansea. I will be talking with him to sort things out."

James, who was signed, together with former Welsh youth international teammate Ray Penock, by former Borough boss Keith Chamberlin in the close sea son, only signed a contract with the club a month ago.

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