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**Smith cracks Gayts' record**

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**Edwards takes six of cup best**

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# SPORT

## Second half strikes lift Wealdstone

**Wealdstone 2 Dorchester 0**

TWO second half goals from Stones relieved the boredom of the fans and Dorchester of three points at Lower Mead on Tuesday night, writes John Comfort.

It was typical end of season fayre, with a poorly contested first half being particularly uninspiring.

Steve Browne should have scored in the opening minute but put a free header wide of an open goal from Goyette's corner.

Glenn Price missed another good chance five minutes before the break when Tony Lynch put him free, but with only keeper Judd to beat, he fired wide.

Price made amends five minutes after the interval when he set up Wealdstone's opener. He did exceptionally well to beat off White's challenge on the right and his cross was met at the near post by Lynch who flicked home a header off the crossbar.

Four minutes later Stones extended their lead. A great through ball from Paul Gbogidi sprang the Dorchester offside trap and Glenn Price raced clear to avoid Judd's forlorn challenge before waltzing the ball into the unguarded net.

Dorchester woke up after these setbacks but rarely threatened to crack a Stones defence in which Steve Tapley was again outstanding. However, they were unlucky in the 77th minute when Morrell's great 30 yard drive beat Darren Williams and crashed back off the crossbar into the grateful keeper's arms.

Wealdstone: Williams, Smart, Harrison, Tapley, N. Price, Gbogidi, Brown, Goyette, G. Price, Margerrison, Lynch. Subs: Fergusson, Eccles.

## Ripley saves point

**Harrow Borough 1 Marlow 1**

A GOOD second half performance from Borough saw them come from behind to earn a draw thanks to a 53rd minute goal from Paul Ripley, writes Tony Booth.

In an entertaining match, play moved from end to end in the first half with Gurney shooting just over from close range from Priddle's cross, then Harman heading a corner onto the crossbar.

A good spell just before half time saw Hopson have one shot parried and another deflected just wide and La Ronde had a fierce effort parried. But it was Marlow who took the lead in injury time when Caesar's speedy run was ended by Priddle's challenge and former Borough defender Tony Doherty stroked home the resultant penalty.

Borough pushed forward in

the second half with Hopson twice shooting just off target and the equaliser arrived after 53 minutes. Duncan Hardy's cross was first controlled by Paul Ripley and then skilfully fired in by the young striker with the outside of his boot.

Soon after, the impressive Griffiths did well to turn Regan's shot over the bar, but back at the other end Barrowcliff had a shot pushed over, Hopson shot wide and Ripley missed out on three chances that could have provided a Borough winner.

For a game of little consequence it was a pleasure to watch - something that could not be said about many of Borough's games this season.

Harrow Borough: Griffiths, M. Bennett, La Ronde, Hawkins, Priddle, O'Connor, Hopson, Hardy, Ripley, Gurney, Barrowcliff. Subs: D. Bennett, Formosa.

## Wasps snatch Courage crown

# LAST GASP CHAMPIONS



Hooker Alan Simmons holds the Championship trophy and skipper Rob Andrew the champagne as Wasps celebrate their triumph.

Wasps were jubilantly celebrating a championship triumph at Sudbury on Saturday after snatching the title in a fabulous finale to the Courage League campaign that few envisaged was possible.

Wasps' title aspirations had hinged tenuously on a decidedly unlikely combination of events - Nottingham beating league leaders and red hot favourites Gloucester, and the Sudbury club overcoming an in-form Saracens side which had already shocked Bath and held Gloucester to a draw in their debut season in Division One.

While Wasps England international fly half and skipper Rob Andrew was confident that his side could take care of their half of the task at hand, he was among a considerable



BY JOHN COMFORT

majority who couldn't see Gloucester failing at Nottingham.

But, in one of the shock results of the season, fall they did - and Wasps' comprehensive 24-0 defeat of Saracens took them to the top of the table with impeccable timing for the first occasion this season to claim the title at the last gasp.

After so many near misses they had finally shrugged off their bridesmaid's tag to cele-

brate the first major triumph in the club's 70 year history. After a season which had seen many League upsets, Andrew said "We have just been trying to take each game as it comes."

"We had a few slip ups early on against Harlequins and Bath and with sides getting used to each other there have been one or two other shock results. Bath lost three games, which nobody really expected, and Gloucester went down a

couple of times. "There's been a see-sawing which I think is due to the quality in the league getting better and we've just tried to keep plugging away and it's great for the competition that it's gone down to the very last Saturday."

The Championship triumph ended on a gloriously high note a season which has been fraught with its lows, not least of which was the tragic death of Raphael Taagane in a car crash during the club's Easter tour.

And only last week club coach Mark Taylor abruptly quit with "player-power" reportedly behind his decision to go. Rob Smith and Tony Jordan have now taken over the coaching responsibilities.

Match report and pictures from Wasps' match against Saracens - pages 66, 67.

## Frank set to take Town job

FRANK O'Brien looks set to be relegated Kingsbury Town's new manager.

The club's former youth team boss has been in charge of the first team since the resignation of Alan Dafforn a month ago.

But he has now been offered the job permanently by club chairman Chris Larkin after some impressive performances by the side.

Although he asked for time to think over his decision, he is confidently expected to accept the post.

## Harrow trio in Vase final

THREE Harrow footballers will be treading the hallowed turf of Wembley on Saturday in the FA Vase Final.

Jon Denton, John Turner and Hector Welsh, all Harrow residents, are in Yeading's squad for the final against Bridlington Town, as is former Harrow Borough goalkeeper Stuart McKenzie. Yeading assistance manager Leo Morris also lives in Harrow.

Tickets for the final, are available from Yeading FC, telephone 848-7362.

## Rendle on spot

IN a game spoilt by enforced errors and the home side's negative offside tactics, Rayners Lane played out a 0-0 draw at Headington on Monday. Lane missed many chances but had Robert Rendle to thank for their last minute penalty.

## Soccer fixtures

- Thursday May 3
  - Capital League: Brentford v Wealdstone (7.45pm)
- Saturday May 5
  - Benson Homes League Premier Division: Wealdstone v Moor Green (Lower Mead, 3pm)
  - Vauxhall League Premier Division: Marlow v Harrow Borough
  - Vauxhall League Division One: Met Police v Kingsbury Town; Wembley v Headington (Vale Farm, 3pm)
  - Federated Homes League: Newport AFC v Rayners Lane
- Monday May 7
  - Federated Homes League: West-ape v Rayners Lane
- Wednesday May 9
  - Greene King Spartan League: Edgeware v Corinthian Casuals (White Lion ground, 7.30pm)
  - Capital League: Wealdstone v Leyton Orient (Lower Mead, 7.30pm)
  - Federated Homes League: Abingdon Utd v Rayners Lane

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## Edgeware play a waiting game in title race finale

EDGEWARE are forced to play a waiting game over the weekend as the Spartan League Championship race goes into its final furlong.

Edgeware's last match is not until Wednesday when they take on Corinthian Casuals at home, but the title could be decided before then if rivals Northwood fail to win both their final games at Beckton on Saturday and at Southgate on Monday.

Edgeware boss Brian Rider will resist the temptation of watching the Beckton game, but will be at Southgate. "I think they'll beat Beckton but Southgate will be a tough one for them," he said. "But I'm not taking anything for granted. I'm expecting them to win both and will be treating it as if we need to win against Casuals to take the title."

Edgeware beat Casuals 2-1 away earlier in the season but it will be no easy ride for them if they need to repeat that success. "They are a good side who like to play football," said Rider.

Seven of the Edgeware players are currently on holiday in Majorca but are back on Sunday. On Monday morning they will be training in preparation for the Casuals game. Rider's only injury doubt is Seamus Finnerty with a groin injury, but he is expected to be fit to play.

Wealdstone face Moor Green at home in their final game. Manager Alan Gare has no injury worries.

Defender Colin Payne is in hospital this week for an operation on his troublesome shoulder injury and misses Harrow Borough's final game away to Marlow.

Having lived with the threat of relegation for the past two months, Wembley should not find the task of finally saving themselves for another season beyond them when they face fellow strugglers Hampton in their last match of the season at Vale Farm.

"They simply have to avoid defeat by five goals or more to ensure their survival and send Hampton. With no injury problems they will be fully expected to pass the ultimate test."

Already relegated Kingsbury Town play their final game at Met Police with only the suspended Jason Dale missing from their line up.

Rayners Lane could influence the destination of the Federated Homes League title as they play two of the main contenders in their final league games, against Newport on Saturday and Abingdon on Wednesday. Lane manager Don Durkin has a goalkeeping problem as Robert Rendle is going into hospital for a leg operation. Clive Cullen will deputise.

## BUSINESSES

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