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SPORT

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Edgware are left to sweat

Club 'hopeful' after League ground inspection visit

SPARTAN champions Edgware FC had their White Lion ground inspected by the Vauxhall League grounds committee on Saturday, and they must now sweat it out until the League's annual general meeting on June 18 when they will finally know if they are in or out.

Edgware were rejected by the Vauxhall League when they last won the Spartan title, two years ago. This time the signs are more encouraging.

Said Vauxhall chairman, Alan Turvey: "I was very impressed with Edgware. They've had their kicks in the past but have been willing to accept advice and get things right."

"They've done a lot of hard work and they should get at least the minimum C grading which will qualify them for a



**BY JOHN
COMFORT**

place in the League."

But with only two vacancies to fill, and three clubs vying for them, Edgware's fate remains in the balance.

The grounds committee still has to visit Cove, from the Dan Air League, and Thame, from the South Midlands League, and if both those clubs also receive ground gradings, then it will be down to the committee's recommendations as to which clubs get in.

After Edgware's ground inspection, club chairman, Vince Dertis, remains "hopeful" of success.

He said: "The way they spoke was very comforting,

but obviously they cannot tell us what they have decided.

"They will go to the agm and either they recommend us or turn us down. So until June 18 we have just got to sweat it out. But things do look better than they did two years ago."

One man desperate for the club to get into the Vauxhall League is manager Brian Rider. After they were turned down two years ago, he had to work miracles to keep his squad together. He doesn't think he will be able to repeat that feat if it happens again.

"I don't think a lot of the players would stay if it happens again," he said.

Croad celebrates with two county titles

MALCOLM Croad celebrated his first international selection by winning two hammer titles at the Middlesex Championships at Cophall on Saturday.

The 16 year old Hatch End thrower won the youths (under-17) event with 60.86 metres and demonstrated his developing consistency with two supporting throws over 60 metres. He also won the under-20 event with 50.42 metres, close to his best.

Croad is now in Belgium representing the English Schools team in a 30 national international.

Steve Doig dominated the senior 5000

metres event, taking the lead with eight laps to go and pulling away from the field to win in the fast time of 14.23.6.

Eddie Burton won the junior steeplechase in a brisk 6.14.2 while Gavin Crowe took the 1500 metres with the good early season time of 4.05.2. Richard Godden sliced nine seconds off his personal best to take the bronze in the youths 1500 metres in 4.20.1.

Rohan Samuel took silver in the senior 100 metres while Joseph Okafor was close to the Gayts record in placing third in the 400 metres with a fast 48.6.

Mark Cursons won silver in the senior

steeplechase in 9.21.5, his fastest for two years. Jason Rawlings set a personal best of 9.28.4 to win the bronze while Chris Finnill finished fourth.

Gayts results
Seniors: 100m: 2 Ffrench Samuel 10.8; 200m: 6 (H) Ian Beckwith 23.4; 400m: 3 Joseph Okafor 48.2, 4 (H) Dave Knox 50.7; 800m: 2 (H) Jim Meeley 1.58.3; 1000m: 1 Steve Day 14.23.6; 3000m s/c: 2 Mark Cursons 9.21.5, 3 Jason Rawlings 9.28.4 pb, 4 Chris Finnill 9.42.3.
Juniors: 200m: 6 Mark Collins 22.5; 800m: 6 Barry Hancock 2.10.8; 1500m: 1 Gavin Crowe 4.05.2; 2000m s/c: 1 Eddie Burton 8.14.2; hammer: 1 Malcolm Croad 50.42; 3 Bruce Taylor 38.78.
Youths: 1500m: 3 Richard Godden 4.20 pb; hammer: 1 Malcolm Croad 60.86.

Hardy gets the Borough vote



● Award presentation line-up (from left): Harrow Borough chairman Eric May, Paul Ripley, Eamon O'Connor, Vauxhall League chairman Alan Turvey, Phil Dicker, club director Peter Rogers, Duncan Hardy.

THE versatile Duncan Hardy was named as Harrow Borough's Player of the Year at the club's annual dinner and dance at Earlsmead on Saturday.

In a season which saw the club hit hard by injuries, Hardy found himself playing in a variety of positions and performed admirably in all of them.

Paul Ripley was named as the Young Player of the Year and awards for 100 appearances were made to Eamon O'Connor and Phil Dicker. The presenta-

tions were made by Vauxhall League chairman, Alan Turvey.

The Vice-Presidents Player of the Year Trophy was won by defender Ian Rogers. Vice-presidents chairman Henry Chinsky made the presentation.

Club chairman, Eric May, said that considering the injury problems the club did well over the season. "With five games to go Tom McAlister was struggling to put a side out. We had 11 positional injuries and that is quite a problem.

"Under these circumstances we were delighted to stay in the Premier Division and thanks go to Tom and his players for their efforts this season."

Among the guests for the evening was Wealdstone chairman, Alan Clifton and Mr May took the opportunity to stress that there was no friction between the two clubs. "We have a good relationship with them," he said. "There isn't any animosity with Wealdstone that you might read about."

County cricket comes to Payne's Folly

MIDDLESEX 2nds begin their defence of the Bain Clarkson 55 overs KO Trophy at Harrow CC's Payne's Folly ground on Tuesday when they take on Essex.

Each county is permitted to field two 'capped' players and Middlesex will be led by assistance coach Clive Radley and they will be looking to continue their recent impressive re-

cord at Harrow against an Essex side led by Keith Fletcher.

Both sides should be fielding strong line-ups for the fixture with many established County players expected to be in action in what should be a highly entertaining day's cricket. Play begins at 10.45am.

The Trophy game will be followed on Wednesday, Thursday and Fri-

day with a three day Rapid Cricketline 2nd XI County Championship match between the two counties.

Middlesex are the reigning 2nd XI champions and their matches on the good Harrow wicket, with its fast outfield, traditionally produce high scores, so a great week's cricket looks certain. Play begins at 11am

on each day.

Entrance to both the Bain Clarkson Trophy and County Championship games is free.

The bar is open all day, refreshments are available, and spectators will be more than welcome.

Harrow CC's Payne's Folly ground is in Wood End Road, Sudbury Hill, Harrow.

Silver double for Parkside's Alice

PARKSIDE athletes performed well in the Middlesex County Championships at Barnet with Alice Brakham taking silvers in the girls 1500 (4.56.0) and 800m (2.22.4), both in personal best times.

Susanne Miller took silver in the 75m hurdles (12.5) while Liz Bowers made the finals in the 800m, taking fifth place in 2.28.8 and seventh in the 1500m in 5.14.0.

In the intermediate events there was bronze for Thalia Bestonso in the 800m (2.23.6).

Eleanor Cave took silver in the senior 100m hurdles in 15.1. Michelle Harries took silver in the 800m (2.12.9) with Geraldine Coyne (2.15.7) taking the bronze. L. Beckett won silver in the javelin (36m).

Forecast winners

THERE were 14 winners in our recent FA Cup Final forecast who each win £71.42 for correctly predicting that the score after 90 minutes would be 2-2.

Winners were: Neil Brodie of Ruislip; Doris Sparks of Hillingdon; Mr Wozniak of Greenford; Kevin Rose of Hillingdon; K. Velain of Wembley; David Joy of Hayes; B. Hemmings of Uxbridge; I. Quinan of Hillingdon; Chris Drew of Pinner; Andrew Brazle of Northolt; Miss A. Howard of Hammermith; Alan St John of Greenford; Mrs P. Davies of Ruislip; Mr T. Martin of Harefield.

Blundell is top player at Gayts

OLD Gaytonians Rugby Club held their annual end of season dinner on Friday when Alan Cooper, chairman of the Combined London Old Boys Rugby Club, was among the guest speakers.

Retiring Gayts' captain Paul Minihan presented the annual awards with the Players' Player award going to Robin Blundell and the Most Improved Player Trophy going to Mick O'Flaherty.

Clubman of the Year was Steve Campbell and the Captain's Shield was awarded to Danny Thomas. The Goal Kicking Trophy was won by Dave Jones.

The Shepherd Trophy for the club's best team went to the Extra A XV.

Middlesex leads way with Federation initiative

THE Federation of Middlesex Sports was inaugurated at the Middlesex County FA headquarters in Harrow last Wednesday with Sports Council chairman, Peter Yarranton, warmly praising the initiative being shown by the County.

After unveiling a commemorative plaque, Mr Yarranton spoke of his pride that Middlesex was the model county leading the way with this venture.

"It is a concern which I hope will blossom in every county," he said. "It gives a focal point, an inspiration and a chance for people to talk to each other and find that people do care."

"Our country is not called Great Bri-

tain for nothing. There are far too many knockers and not enough flag wavers around. The Federation will give the opportunity for all sports to get together and get the flag waving higher."

The Federation came into being at the instigation of sports bodies in membership with the Friends of the County of Middlesex, and county campaigner and Observer astrologer Russell Grant was a leading light in its formation.

Middlesex had become the first county to do this he said because they felt threatened as a county more than most.

Among the Federations ideals, he listed sport working with business to help clubs; youth development; encourage-

ment to all sportsmen, particularly those with special needs such as the disabled; sport working for the good of Middlesex charities; equal opportunities in sport, and cooperation, hopefully culminating in a Middlesex Games to foster community spirit; advice and help to clubs threatened, particularly by unfair local authority decisions; the fostering of good relations through sport, both nationally and internationally.

The Federation will be recognising the meritorious performances of its sportsmen and women at the Right Guard Middlesex County Sports awards evening which will be held at Lord's on Friday October 5, thanks to

a generous £5,000 sponsorship by Gillette.

Appropriately the Federation's birth came on Middlesex Day and in a ceremony that also marked the official opening of the County FA headquarters, the Mayor of Harrow, Cllr Phyllis Harkett, raised the Middlesex flag outside the impressive new building in Roxborough Road.

A letter of congratulation and support from Minister of Sport, Colin Moynihan, was read out by County FA secretary, Peter Clayton.

The first official meeting of the Federation of Middlesex Sports will take place at the County FA headquarters on Thursday June 28.

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