

**SPORT**

**Bronze bonus for Tracey**

HARROW Gymnastic Club star Tracey Curtis took third place in the Gold Top Champions' Cup at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday — and she should not have even been there.

Injury and sickness meant that two of the girls in the competition — open only to the top six gymnasts in the UK — were forced to withdraw.

And 15-year-old Tracey was called up as a replacement, with just 24 hours notice. Preparation for a big gymnastics competition usually involves a carefully planned six-week training programme designed to produce peak form at the exact time of the event.

But Tracey, and coach Len Arnold, rushed to the Albert Hall to do battle with the top girls in the country, competing in voluntary routines-on-vault, bars, beam and floor.

Among the other girls in the competition were British champion Lisa Elliott, 17, and the Welsh champion, 20-year-old Menna Samuel.

Tracey was not overawed, however, and asserted herself from the start with a magnificent straight tsukahara vault to go joint top with Elliott on 9.50.

Her sound bars routine scored 9.0 but she then dropped to second place, with Elliott taking the lead.

But disaster struck on the beam, with Tracey falling on her mount. She held the rest of her exercise together, though, performing a superb straight back somersault and finishing with a double twisting dismount to score 8.50. But the fall saw her drop to third place.

That left the floor exercise, with Tracey just 0.90 behind leader Elliott. Tracey is the only girl in this country who includes a triple, twisting back somersault in her floor routine — a move that is rated maximum difficulty and carried the vital bonus marks she needed.

Due to her lack of preparation, however, Tracey and her coach decided not to include the move in the routine on safety grounds.

Nevertheless, she went on to produce a brilliant exercise to score 9.20 and take the bronze medal with an overall score of 36.20 — despite her fall from the beam.

It was a magnificent performance and one which should attract the attention of the national selectors, with both the European and World championships coming up later this year.

Harrow's Nikki Drury, 14, was selected as reserve for the competition, while 15-year-old Maxine Davenport was also invited to the competition but declined because she was not fully fit.

Results: 1 L Elliott 37.60; 2 M Samuel 36.75; 3 T Curtis 36.20.  
© The competition will be screened by Channel 4 on February 2, at 5.15 pm.



IT'S THERE — Paul Morris (No 10) watches as his header crosses the Maidstone line for Borough's equaliser on Tuesday.

**Cup misery as plucky Boro go out**

Harrow Borough 2, Maidstone United 3

PLUCKY Harrow Borough went out of the GMAC Cup after an incident-packed match at foggy Earlsmead on Tuesday night.

The game was the only one played in London, thanks to the small army of fans and club officials who spent most of Monday clearing the pitch. But Boro were unable to reward their efforts by claiming the scalp of a Maidstone side with an impressive cup record this season.

Things might have been different, however, if Boro had taken advantage of the Kent side's chaotic start to the evening.

At kick-off time, only seven Maidstone players had turned up. The remainder of the party, including manager Bill Williams, were battling through traffic in separate cars.

When the game finally got going half-an-hour late, the visitors were still in disarray and could have gone 2-0 down within ten minutes.

Keeper Derek Richardson was forced to save a Mark Adams shot and makeshift striker Steve Emmanuel thumped a header against the crossbar as Boro refused to let Maidstone settle.

But once they had overcome their jitters, it was Williams' men who drew first blood in the 29th minute, Glover firing past MacKenzie on the turn.

Paul Morris headed a deserved equaliser for Boro in the 37th minute after Richardson had missed Robbie Johnson's corner.

Hopes of an upset were soon dashed, however, as Maidstone replied with a goal either side of the interval.

Three minutes after the Morris goal, Lynch set White up to head them back into the lead. And two minutes into the second half Steve Galloway charged through from half-way to beat MacKenzie.

To their credit, Boro refused to give up and kept Maidstone pinned back for long stretches.

Morris crashed a header against the bar with Richardson beaten, and Emmanuel had a volley saved as Boro won three free kicks in the visitors' box for obstruction.

Emmanuel finally made the breakthrough in the 73rd minute when he converted a Lawrence Holmes cross.

With Maidstone reeling, keeper Richardson came to their rescue near the end, saving a Robbie Johnson free kick — with his head.

Harrow Borough: MacKenzie, Payne, Johnson, Hill, Barnes, Ellis, Emmanuel, Holmes, Townsend, Morris, Adams. Subs: Duffy, Page (not used).

**Who will get 'Stones job?**

THE HUNT for a successor to departed Wealdstone manager Brian Hall began in earnest this week.

But club officials say they will not be making a hasty appointment. Instead they have advertised the job in the national press and are waiting to see what the response is.

Chairman David Morrill flew home from a business trip to Spain on Tuesday and is already believed to have spoken with at least two candidates.

Wealdstone director Alan Clifton was giving little away yesterday when he said: "It is early days yet."

"We just have not made any decision yet. An advert has only just appeared and we are waiting to see what happens."

Until an appointment is made, coach Barry Neville and club captain Dennis Byatt have taken charge of team affairs.

"We have every confidence in the players and staff at the club," said Clifton. "This is a difficult time but I'm sure we will come through it. Obviously we are sad to

lose Brian Hall and Les Reed but we wish them well."

Several names have already been linked with the club, including Kingsbury boss Terry Dyson, former Harrow Borough manager Mike Tomkys and Neville himself, who joined Wealdstone this season from Cheshunt.

Tomkys, however, virtually ruled himself out this week saying: "My departure from Harrow

**Rumours fly as the hunt gets started**



Barry Neville

Borough was due to increased business commitments.

"My situation is still such that I have been unable to consider seriously any of the offers made to me during what I consider to be an enforced absence."

Neville is saying nothing about his position, preferring to concentrate instead on getting the team ready for Saturday's tough trip to Telford.

**Borough seek an Earlsmead boost**

HARROW BOROUGH will be looking to erase the memory of their last home league game when they take on Dulwich Hamlet at Earlsmead on Saturday.

**SOCCER PREVIEW**

He also organised a full scale practice match against the reserves to try out a new-look 4-3-3 formation.

Managerless Wealdstone head for a tough fixture at Telford's Bucks Head ground with some consoling words from former boss Brian Hall.

"I think the players at the club are good enough to keep Wealdstone up," he said. "I certainly don't think they are going to go down."

Kingsbury try to revive their flagging fortunes with a home clash against Walton and Hershham, while in-form Wexley travel to Tilbury.

Brian Rider's Edgeware line up at home to Pennant on Saturday and then face Bromley in the London Senior Cup on Wednesday at the White Lion ground.

Royals Lane have striker Gary Woolsey back from injury for their trip to struggling Fairford.

**Super Steve captures title**

HARD HITTING middleweight Steve Winkworth has captured his first major boxing title after only 19 amateur bouts. The 20-year-old, who boxes for St Patrick's BC in Sudbury Hill, won the London Novices 75 kilo championship with a second-round stoppage at York Hall, Bethnal Green.

He had South London opponent Mark Psaltis down in each round before the referee finally stepped in to end the contest.

Now Steve, who only took up boxing in 1984, is aiming for the North-West Division title.

**Improved**

"Steve has come on in the last six months and has really improved," said his trainer Paddy Hogan.

Steve, who lives in Northolt, has won all but three of his fights so far and, if successful in the North-West championship, hopes to go on and challenge for the London area title.

**Cowley is named new coach**

FORMER Hemel Hempstead assistant manager Howard Cowley has been appointed coach at Harrow Borough.

He replaces Alan Randall, who quit earlier in the season. "I have known Howard for a few years since we met on a

coaching course at Bisham Abbey," said manager Keith Chamberlin.

Defender Steve Hawkins, 21, has signed Vauxhall-Opel League forms for the club after several impressive displays in the reserves.

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