

Lane off target

Supermarine 1, Rayners Lane 0
RAYNERS LANE'S impotency in front of goal again cost them dear as they fell to a one-goal defeat at Supermarine on Monday.

The only goal came after 20 minutes, a home forward heading home from close range.

But Lane had the opportunities to have won the game comfortably. Williams, back at Lane on loan from Hertford, fired just wide and a Meaney free kick saw the Lane forwards too slow to convert.

Colerwill's shot wide of an open goal, Card drove an effort straight at the keeper and Verni had a shot well saved as Lane dominated the game but failed to penetrate.

HARROW BOROUGH Reserves hung on to third spot in the Suburban League with a 4-0 win at Egham Town. John Kerr, Richard Evans (2) and Ray Duffy were the scorers.

SOCCER FIXTURES

Sunday April 26
 GM Vauxhall Conference: Wealdstone v Kidderminster Harrier (Lower Mead, 3)
 Vauxhall Opel League — Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Soper Regis Team (Edenmead, 3)
 London Sports League: Egmore v Northwood (White Lin, 3), Halls Brewery Boreham: Rayners Lane v Warrington Town (Lucas Avenue, 3)
 Middlesex County League — Division One: Harrow St Marys v Brook House (Rushmore Road, 3)
 Tuesday April 28
 Vauxhall Opel League — Division One: Wealdstone v Dulwich (Lower Mead, 3)
 Wednesday April 29
 Vauxhall Opel League — Premier Division: Soper Regis Team v Harrow Borough
 London Sports League: Egmore v Whitehall Albion (White Lin, 7.30), Halls Brewery Middlesex League: Wotgate Town v Rayners Lane
 Thursday April 30
 Vauxhall Opel League — Division One: Wembley v Hampton (Vale Farm, 7.30), Capital League: Enfield v Wealdstone.

CRICKET FIXTURES

Sunday April 26
 Watford Town v Stammers; Hertford v Wembley; Teddington v Pinner; Bowington v Keston
 Sunday April 28
 Chesham v Stammers; Wembley v Highgate; Ealing v Pinner; Keston v East Barnet; SKP v Rowdwood
 Wednesday April 29
 Cotswold Cup: Wembley v Woodford Wells

FORMER Forest United striker Paul Merson, 19, scored on his full first division debut for Arsenal in their Easter clash with Wimbledon.

Wembley's joy... but it's a final to forget

Lucas lands Cup for Lions

Hayes 0, Wembley 1

DON LUCAS won the Middlesex Senior Cup for Wembley in an instantly forgettable final at Hayes.

His 61st minute strike was the Lions only worthwhile effort of the game. But it was a just reward for Wembley's Cup exploits this season, which saw them dump both Wealdstone and Enfield out of the competition in earlier rounds, writes *William Bull*.

Hayes provided precious little opposition, despite having the home advantage at Church Road. Indeed they were lucky to put out a full team after an over officious Middlesex FA, gateman refused two of their players admission to the ground — because they did not have an official pass.

In the end, they paid to get in. But they must have wished they stayed outside — as must have the majority of a bumper Easter Monday crowd.

The bumpy, rock hard Hayes pitch and a blustery wind ruined the game as a spectacle. Wembley adapted to the conditions better than their hosts, despatched any ideas of playing pretty football and carved their name on the Cup for the second time.

"It could have been a better spectacle," admitted Lions boss Alan Dafforn. "It would have been nice to have shown people the way we can play against better sides, but you have to play to the conditions to get the right result, which we did.

"We are delighted to have won the Cup. It's just a pity we could not have done it in a more entertaining final."

His views were echoed by skipper Spud Murphy, who said the Lions had done all the hard work in reaching the final.

"We beat all the top sides in the competition and after



DON'S DELIGHT ... Don Lucas shows his joy at hitting Wembley's cup winner.

doing that we deserved to win it," he said. "We had already done all the hard work and I knew we were going to win after the first 10 minutes because Hayes had nothing to threaten us with."

Hayes' only threat came from left back Mark Harrison, with a couple of long range efforts, one of which Jeff Fanner did well to turn over the bar.

The Wembley back four were never put under any serious pressure. Wembley won the midfield battle and then Don Lucas made sure they took the Cup back to Vale Farm.

Tony Waugh set up the goal with a right wing cross, which Lucas met with glancing header past Paul Hyde. "I could not really miss," he said. "It was a perfect cross."



SKIPPER'S JOY ... Wembley captain Spud Murphy lifts the Middlesex Senior Cup.



HIGH KICKERS ... Lions' Eammon O'Connor and Hayes' Steve Cory battle for the ball.

Stones duo heading for Enfield?

STEVE TAPLEY and Mark Graves could both be making their last appearance for Wealdstone in Saturday's home clash with Kidderminster.

Enfield have both men high on their wanted list and are said to be planning a summer swoop.

The duo, along with the rest of Lower Mead playing staff, are not under contract, and there is little manager Colin Meldrum could do to stop them moving.

Tapley, the former Fulham full back, has long been admired by Enfield manager Eddie McCluskey.

After Brian Hall resigned, Tapley said he would not desert the club, but added: "I will be reviewing my position at the end of the season."

Ex-Plymouth striker Graves, Stones top scorer this season with 15 goals, rejected a move to Wycombe Wanderers last year.

If the pair are tempted away, it would be a severe blow to Meldrum's re-building plans.

Kerr back in the USA

HARROW BOROUGH'S sought after striker John Kerr headed home to the USA this week still undecided about his future.

Kerr, 21, will play for the US national side in two friendlies and then spend the summer in the American Indoor League.

During that time he must decide whether to accept a one-year deal with Portsmouth or continue his studies and possibly return to Harrow Borough in August.

He will tell Boro boss Keith Chamberlin his decision when he joins the club on its tour of Portugal in June.

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Stones hanging on

Wealdstone 0, Barnet 0

WEALDSTONE cashed in on Barnet's title jitters to virtually guarantee their GM Vauxhall Conference survival at Lower Mead on Monday.

Gateshead and Frickley are already doomed to the drop and only a miracle will keep Welling United up at the expense of either Stones or Nuneaton, writes *Simon O'Neill*.

To make certain, they need only one point from their last match, at home to FA Trophy finalists Kidderminster on Saturday.

With the memory of the Enfield debacle still fresh in everyone's minds, Stones at least salvaged some pride with a solid but uninspiring performance in front of another disappointing Easter crowd of 1,420.

They restricted Barnet to only a handful of chances, the best of which resulted in Andy Haxton brilliantly tipping Dave Sansom's 49th minute header over the bar.

Stones had their moments at the other end, notably when Brian Greenaway skimmed the top of the Barnet bar in the 51st minute and Paul Bowgett glanced a header just wide soon afterwards from Tapley's driven cross.

Barnet did have the ball in the net after 15 minutes, when Evans bundled Keith Alexander's cross over the line. But he was also adjudged to have bundled a Stones defender off the ball.

Apart from that, Barnet looked a shadow of the side that has taken the league by storm this season.

Even the news that leaders Scarborough had slipped to a surprise 2-1 defeat at home to Runcorn could not bring a smile to the face of their usually jovial manager Barry Fry afterwards.

"We've struggled against Wealdstone twice this season," he said. "they defended well and we got what we deserved. My players were full of fear today."

In the end, Stones could have scuppered Barnet's hopes altogether and were only denied by the alertness of keeper Steve Humphries, who raced off his line to smother the ball at Byron Walton's feet.

Spurs manager David Pleat dashed straight to the game from his side's match at West Ham. But with both teams running out of time and ideas, he departed quietly ten minutes from the end.

Referee John Harris, who handled this potentially volatile encounter well, booked Byron Walton and Dennis Byatt of Wealdstone and Barnet's Dave Sansom.

Wembley: Hutton, Tapley, Hester, Bryant, Bowgett, McClure, Greenaway, McCarthy, Waterright, Groves, White, Sible, Corrie, Meadows.

GM Conference bottom five						
Wembley	P	W	D	L	F	A
Wembley	41	11	10	20	59	67
Wotgate	41	10	13	18	47	72
Welling	40	9	10	21	60	81
Walsley	39	7	10	22	52	73
Gateshead	40	5	13	22	45	91



JUMP TO IT — Barnet keeper Steve Humphries wins an aerial duel with Mark Graves (left) and Byron Walton.

More sport inside on pages 21, 22 and 23