Sport

Wasps to shrug off Melville injury blow

Captain confident

● Steve Bates - in for the injured Melville.

'We can make Player Final again' - Pegler

By John Comfort

WASPS go into their biggest game of the season at Sudbury on Saturday without the services of their England scrum half Nigel Melville.

But club skipper David Pegler is quietly confident that they can still defeat Harlequins and book a place in the John Player Cup Final at Twickenham for the third successive year.

Fate dealt the luckless Melville an unkind blow in Saturday's England international against Ireland when he suffered a broken leg.

Melville and injuries have gone hand in hand in recent years. He only returned to the club scene this season after enforced retirement caused by serious neck injury but made a remarkable recovery and swiftly regained his England place and the captaincy with some superbly polished performances.

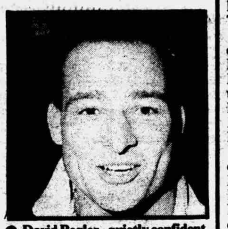
"Nigel is a class player, but I don't think his absence will make much difference," said Pegler.

"His replacement Steve Bates has played more games for us than Nigel and has played for London. We are fortunate to have such good back up."

Apart from Melville, Pegler expects to have a full strength line up for a match which he knows will be no armchair ride.

"It's not going to be an easy game, one away from the final, but we've got home advantage, we're very keen, and if we put in a good performance I think we should be okay. I'm quietly confident."

If nothing else, Wasps should have a psychological advantage over their rivals. They defeated Harlequins 17-16 at Sudbury back in January, but on that day both sides were depleted by international calls.



● David Pegler - quietly confident.

If Wasps are successful they will be bidding to make it third time lucky, having lost in the last two John Player finals at Twickenham.

Can they do it this time? "I'm just thinking about Saturday's game," said Pegler, "it's our most important game in three years. If we win it, then we'll sit down and think about the final."

Wasps warmed up for their cup clash with an easy 44-10 win over Loughborough Students on Saturday.

Morritt avoids vote by VPs

UNDER pressure Wealdstone FC chairman David Morritt side stepped another planned vote of no confidence in him when he turned up late on Monday evening for a meeting of the club's vice-presidents.

28 of the vice-presidents attended the meeting and were addressed by club vice-chairman Alan Clifton — the man who aims to depose David Morritt. But the chairman's late arrival left him with only limited time to respond.

Said Eric Fletcher, chairman of the vice-presidents: "In fairness David had already indicated that he would be late and as he did not have an obvious chance to state his case, no vote as such was taken."

Mr Fletcher added: "The meeting was called to hear both points of view and was held in a very convivial atmosphere.

"We all appreciated what both men had to say but the crunch will now come on Monday."

That is when an extraordinary general meeting of Wealdstone members takes place seeking to resurrect the club committee which controlled the club's affairs before it became a limited company in 1973.

If it is formed, Alan Clifton with his substantial grass roots support will become chairman.

Lucky Higgins winners

THE four lucky winners of the snooker competition to see Alex Higgins at north Harrow Snooker Centre on Tuesday, March 29 are:

T. W. Perera, Treve Avenue, West Harrow; Balvinder Singh, Church Road, Northolt; Simon Littler, Elmcroft Crescent, North Harrow; Roger Lamb, Hallam Gardens, Hatch End.

The correct answers to our competition were: 1 Alex Higgins has won the World Professional title twice; 2 His nickname is the Hurricane; 3 He was a member of last year's World Team title winners, Northern Ireland.

Lynch double not enough for Stones

Macclesfield 3, Wealdstone 2

TONY Lynch grabbed two goals for Wealdstone before being pulled off with a leg strain, but his valiant efforts were not enough on a rain soaked Macclesfield mud bath on Tuesday.

The Cheshire side snatched victory when their full back Micky Roberts scored his first goal in nine years just minutes before time.

Wealdstone had more than matched Macclesfield and created far more of what play was possible on a pitch ankle deep in mud and water.

Steve Burr opened the scoring for Macclesfield in the 5th minute when he broke from the halfway line to score.

Three minutes later Lynch equalised with a long high volley that sailed over the heads of defenders and as Macclesfield keeper Zelem positioned himself he slipped and the ball went in.

Jim Connor put the home side back ahead from a 35th minute free kick but three minutes before half time La Ronde crossed for Lynch to head Stones level again.

Paddy McCarthy was unlucky not to put Wealdstone ahead seconds before half time but Zelem just managed to get his fingertips to his powerful shot.

Wealdstone: Welsh, Harrison, La Ronde, Pittaway, Bowgett, McCarthy, Davies, Bailey, Hirst, (Wainwright), Oakleye, Lynch (Zacharia).

A right royal hiding

Windsor and Eton 5 Harrow Borough 2

WINDSOR look to have blown their chance of promotion and the Royalists took out their frustrations on Harrow at Stag Meadow on Tuesday night.

Defensive errors abounded on a wet and windy night and after only six minutes Emmanuel and MacKenzie let Barton in to shoot home Windsor's opener.

Holmes intercepted a back pass but had his shot cleared off the line and Windsor made Boro' pay for that miss when Richards shot home after 28 minutes.

Another defensive error saw Barnes shoot against his own crossbar but two minutes after the break Harrow were thrown a lifeline when Barnes pushed Evans and Emmanuel converted the penalty.

Windsor however soon restored their two goal advantage. Barton grabbed their third and then Frank made it 4-1 after MacKenzie crazily threw the ball out to him.

Barnes lobbed the fifth to complete his hat-trick before Steve Cox gave Harrow some measure of consolation in the final minute when he fired home Scott's cross.

Wembley walloped

Wembley 0, Marlow 4

MARLOW showed their promotion potential at Vale Farm on Tuesday with some lethal finishing against a jaded Wembley side.

The opening exchanges were even but Marlow were first to penetrate in the 18th minute when ex-Wembley player Godfrey Cordice headed home White's cross.

Five minutes later White was the supplier as Glasgow headed in number two.

Wembley made valiant efforts to haul themselves back into the game but the nearest they came was when Lance Cadogan hit Derek Brown's cross into the side netting.

Three minutes from half time Marlow added a third when Cordice's sliced shot found Glasgow who netted.

Wembley's downfall was completed 12 minutes into the second half when Glasgow fired home Marlow's fourth for his hat-trick.

Wembley: Fanner, Flaherty, Simpson (S Smith), Murphy, Janaway, A Smith, Bhatia, Brown, Dolling (Pacquette), Cadogan, O'Connor.

5 goal comeback in vain

Kingsbury Town 5 Brentford 7

BRAVE Kingsbury staged an amazing comeback before finally bowing out of the Russell Grant Middlesex Charity Cup in extra time to Brentford in this 12 goal thriller on Tuesday night, **writes John Comfort.**

Goals from Smith and Gravett had Kingsbury reeling in the first 10 minutes and when Curren hit another on the half hour and then Smith shot Brentford's fourth, only the size of the visitors' victory seemed in doubt.

Curren rubber stamped that feeling with a fifth goal early in the second half but when Paul Goodison netted what appeared to be a consolation goal soon after, it signalled the start of Town's amazing fightback.

Substitute Woodley scored a second and when Stuart Atkins hooked home a third the Bees were in a clear state of panic. Coleman crossed for Atkins to head home Town's fourth goal and in the final minute Mooney's cross was turned in by Woodley to dramatically take the tie into extra time.

But there was no fairy tale ending for Kingsbury. Down to 10 men when Woodley limped off injured they conceded extra time goals to Bates and Curren which took Brentford through to a semi final tie with Wembley.

Kingsbury: Hale, Hill, Fitzgerald, Stapleton, Barr, Grant, Lucas, Coleman, Atkins, Goodison (Mooney), Simpson (Woodley).

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Boro take Cox on loan

HARROW Borough boss Keith Chamberlin has signed defender Steve Cox on loan from Barnet as cover for Robbie Johnson who will miss the rest of the season with damaged ankle ligaments.

Cox made his debut for Borough at Windsor on Tuesday and will be in the lineup for Saturday's home game against Leytonstone. Chamberlin was also expecting flu victims Steve Bateman and Paul Morris to be back in action.

On Tuesday Borough entertain league leaders Bromley at Earlsmead.

Former Harrow Borough midfielder Steve Smith has signed for **Wembley** from Beazer Homes League club Hounslow as manager Tony Waugh looks to strengthen his squad following the recent loss of strikers Don Lucas to Kingsbury and Peter Shodeinde to Dorking.

Wembley are away to Southwick on Saturday and on Tuesday they entertain Uxbridge at Vale Farm.

Tony Lynch and Dennis Byatt are both injury doubts for **Wealdstone's** visit to Kettering on Saturday. On Tuesday Stones continue their battle to avoid relegation whey they entertain Stafford Rangers

Dave Silman is suspended for two weeks and misses **Kingsbury Town's** home match with Basildon. But keeper Fred Smart and striker Gursal Gulfer are both available for selection after missing the **Middlesex** Charity Cup game against Brentford.

Edgward had their crucial Spartan League game at Southgate called off on Saturday due to a waterlogged pitch but they look set to get back into action this Saturday with a home match against Northwood.

Manager Brian Rider hopes to have a full squad to select from although Gary Allen is doubtful following an operation to set his nose which he broke in the recent cup win at Beaconsfield.

Rayners Lane travel to Penhill in the Hellenic League and will probably be without Cockram

Soccer fixtures

Saturday March 26

GM Vauxhall Conference: Kettering Town v Wealdstone.

Vauxhall Opel League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Leytonstone/Ilford (Earlsmead, 3pm).

Vauxhall Opel League Division One: Southwick v Wembley; Kingsbury Town v Basildon (Silver Jubilee Park, 3pm).

Spartan League: Edgware Sports v Rangers Lane.

Hellenic League: Penhill Sports v Rayners Lane.

Suburban League: Chalfont St Peter v Harrow Borough res.

Tuesday March 29

GM Vauxhall Conference: Wealdstone v Stafford Rangers (Lower Mead, 7.30pm).

Vauxhall Opel League Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Bromley (Earlsmead, 7.30pm).

Vauxhall Opel League Division One: Wembley v Uxbridge (Vale Farm, 7.30pm).

Suburban League: Ruislip Manor v Harrow Borough Res. (Grosvenor Vale, 6.30pm).

FRED PERRY ● PETER STORM ● BEN SHERMAN ● PIERRE CARDIN ● FARRAH ● WRANGLER ● LEE ● LEVI ● FALMER ● LE SHARN ● FRED PERRY ● LOIS ● TOBI ● REGATTA ● PACKMACK ● TERN ● GABICCI ●

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