Observer SPORT

Steve scoops Lane awards

TEENAGER Steve Wilbraham scooped three awards at the Rayners Lane FC annual dinner and dance.

Steve won the player of the year award, the players' player award and the clubman of the year award. All the awards were presented by Peter Clayton, secretary of the Middlesex County FA.

Steve Frimley won the reserve team player of the year with Paul Creswell the players' player while the third team, which won the Harrow and District Senior League named Steve Stowe as their player of the year with Tony Heslin the players' player.

The Barry Nevitt memorial award was won by Tony Betts.

The Sunday section awards saw Hastings Simpson win the player of the year and Shaun Nevin the players' player for the first team while in the reserves Peter Watling was the player of the year with Paul Weekley the players' player.

'Don't crowd me out' says Russell

Cup's Wembley future in hands of the fans

BY JOHN COMFORT

THE Russell Grant Middlesex Charity Cup Final could be staged at Wembley Stadium for the first and last time next Thursday, June 2, unless it receives sufficient backing from the county's soccer fans.

Astrologer and Middlesex campaigner Russell grant, whose enthusiastic sponsorship this season has elevated the competition from a second rate affair to something approaching star status, has hinted that if the final does not attract a good crowd then he could well consider pulling the plug on his interest.

It was entirely due to Russell's influence that the stadium was secured for the final of a competition which he has backed wholeheartedly — not just with his cash but also in his tireless efforts in promoting it. He has attended almost every game played

"No one has worked harder than I have over this and I would be very disappointed if we do not get a good crowd" he said. "If that happened I could well think that my energies could be directed in other areas."

The Charity Cup Final, which sees Wembley make their first ever Stadium appearance against Hendon, is billed as the high point of what is planned to be a Middlesex Football Festival.

Russell is hopeful that the variety of attractions that have been laid on will draw between four and five thousand people to the famous stadium.

"I'm looking for something comparable with the FA Vase Final," he said.

"I will be extremely happy if I achieve that, and anything more and I will be delighted.

"But if we get less, then I can only say that Middlesex doesn't deserve to be at Wembley.

"If the clubs and the county do not rally to this spectacle then there is something drastically wrong."

But looking on the brighter side, Russell said that he was sure the day would be a big success and be something to build on for the future, with the possibility of gates at the final approaching 20,000 in a few years time.

Plans are afoot to expand the competition next season from 22 to at least 32 participating clubs. And League sides Spurs, Chelsea and QPR have all expressed an interest in entering.

Next Thursday's Middlesex Festival at Wembley commences at 6pm with the Middlesex under-11 Cup Final between Princes Park and Ridgeway Rovers and is followed by the preliminary round of a penalty shoot out competition for under-15s.

A sparkling cavalcade precedes the Russell Grant Middlesex Charity Cup final, with mascots in the colours of all the 22 clubs who participated in this seasonscompetition leading the finalists onto the pitch in an Olympic style parade.

Russell Grant and glamorous TV presenter Jane Irving will perform a ceremonial kick off before the big match finally gets underway at 7.45pm.

At half-time the penalty shoot out final will take place together with a presentation to the Middlesex under-18 youth squad which reached the final of the FA Youth Cup.

Admission to the Middlesex Football Festival at Wembley Stadium is £4 for adults and £2 for under-16s and senior citizens.

● Russell Grant — looking for a big crowd at his Wembley soccer spectacular.

● Dave Messom — throwing to victory for Gayts.

OLD Gaytonians Athletic Club made a winning start to their British League campaign on Saturday when they defeated favourites Windsor and four other rival clubs at Bannister.

One of the highlights of the meeting was Wembley javelin ace David Messom maintaining his unbeaten league record while Phil Parry recorded his best ever performance to win the B event.

Full report and pictures from the meeting can be found on page 67.

It was a busy weekend for the Gaytonians club with four other league teams in action.

The Southern League Division Four team enjoyed a five point victory at Coptthall to move into 8th spot in the 25 strong league.

Peter Lemon made a big breakthrough in the 800 metres to record a new personal best of 1:59.0 while David Satchwill returned to the team after injury to win the triple jump and take second place in the long jump.

Alan Wray won the pole vault with the good height of 3.30 metres which equalled his personal best and his brother Colin set new bests in both the 1500 metres and the 400m hurdles.

There were also personal bests for Trevor Munday in the 400m hurdles and Robert Ng-Yu-Tin in the hammer.

Gayts B team was ravaged by injury and had to settle for fifth place in their match at Battersea.

Steve Ford won the 400m hurdles with a fast personal best of 58.7 and Austin Bainger set new figures of 60.4 to take the B string event.

15 year old Matthew Giles set a new best of 3.40 metres for second in the pole vault and Keith White's 51.8 in the 400 metres was also a personal best. Sean McKenna won the javelin with a useful 47.54 metres.

Gayts two young athletes team were were in action on Sunday at Reading and Portsmouth. The A team took second position in the top of the table clash at Reading to virtually secure their sixth consecutive appearance in the National Finals at Birmingham.

Malcolm Croad won the boys shot, discus and hammer events while Nick Shepherd won the hurdles in a fast 12.9. Mark Ferres took the long jump with a good leap of 5.47 metres.

Nigel Cowdrey won the youths 1500 metres with a personal best of 4:14.5, while Mark Hedge took the javelin. Richard Callender was an impressive winner of the colts 100 metres.

The B team won their fixture at Portsmouth to maintain their promotion hopes. Sean Jarrett produced a magnificent leap of 6.10 metres to win the long jump. Michael Francis won the boys hurdles in a fast 13.0 while Christian Leech won both the colts 800 metres and 1500 metres in fast times.

Town to get lit up?

KINGSBURY Town FC's hopes of erecting 50ft floodlights at their Silver Jubilee Park Ground were boosted this week with the news that planning permission has not been rejected by Brent Council, merely deferred.

Councillors visited the ground last week with members of the local tenants association and a final decision on the application is expected at the council's next planning committee meeting.

Said Kingsbury chairman Mark Hart: "We have had good discussions over the lights and we are trying to come to a compromise that is best for both sides."

Mr Hart is hopeful that a suggestion that the club have the lights up during the winter months and then take them down during the summer will find flavour with both the council and the residents.

Day of action

ACTION Sport takes over Wembley Stadium on Bank Holiday Monday to stage three soccer matches.

Highlight of the day will be the Action Sport Cup Final which kicks off at 1.30pm between last year's winners Longsight of Manchester and the Priory Panthers from Brent. Trophies will be presented afterwards by Coventry's England international Cyrille Regis.

The day's action starts at 10am when Flora Celtic meet New Stanmore Cosmos in the final of the Brent League Cup and this is followed at 12 noon by a ladies invitation game between a Brent Womens FA XI and a Greater London Womens FA team.

Admission to Wembley for the three games is £1 for adults and 50p for under-16s and OAPs.

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Typesetting & Origination: VisualSector Ltd (an Ician Group Company) (0923) 775576. Printed by The Chesham Press, 16 Germain Street, Chesham, Bucks. Published by Middlesex County Press Ltd. Registered at the PO as a newspaper.

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