

SPORT

Kingsbury battle back to earn draw

Tilbury 3, Kingsbury 3
KINGSBURY battled back from a two-goal deficit to earn a point at rapidly-improving Tilbury on Saturday.

Tilbury, unbeaten in their previous five outings, took a 2-0 lead, capitalising on two defensive errors. First Logan Lewis failed to find 'keeper Steve Ardener with a back pass to gift Tilbury their first goal and then Ardener dropped a corner at the feet of a home forward for the second.

Kingsbury struck back and when Greg Zacharia's effort was only parried by the home 'keeper Stuart Atkins netted from close range. And Atkins put Kingsbury level soon after, volleying home after Cecil

Collins' cross was flicked on by Bobby Hutchinson.

Atkins returned the compliment, knocking on a Zacharia cross for Hutchinson to fire Kingsbury into the lead.

Kingsbury then had a penalty appeal turned down, before Tilbury struck an equaliser with one of their rare efforts on goal. A Steve Forbes' pass got stuck in the mud, leaving a home forward clear with only Ardener to beat.

"I can't really complain," said Kingsbury boss Terry Dyson. "We should have beaten them but they have had some good results lately and we showed a lot of character to get back into the game after falling behind."

Kingsbury: Ardener, Hill (Forbes), Shields, Laves, Fitzgerald, Collins, Zacharia, Jackson, Payne, Atkins, Hutchinson.

Uneasy Rider as 'Wares slip to fifth

Edgware 2 Southgate 2
EDGWARE slipped to fifth place in the table after squandering two points to Southgate in Saturday's London Spartan League draw.

Southgate stunned Wares with a goal after only three minutes, when centre back Ray Mangan completely missed the ball to allow a visiting forward to net.

Vince Daritus ran 20 yards to launch himself full length to head Edgware's equaliser on the half hour, with Johnny Walsh then hitting the

post with a header before the break.

But Southgate rocked Edgware by regaining their lead just two minutes into the second half.

A quick break found Edgware exposed at the back and a striker was left alone to slot the ball home.

Edgware again fought back and equalised for the second time with 10 minutes remaining. Ronnie Tully was hauled down in the penalty area and Seamus Finnerty scored from the spot kick.

Saints through in a bruising Cup clash

Pitshanger Dynamo 1 Harrow St Mary's 2
BATTLING Harrow Saint Mary's came from behind to earn themselves a place in the third round of the Middlesex Premier Cup.

Centre-half Ian Dutch popped up with the winning goal in a bruising encounter which saw four players booked and a Dynamo defender sent off.

Saints also lost Liam Nugent and Andy Hoesmen, with leg and head injuries respectively.

They were already

without strikers Cecil James and Rex Carayol. But this turned out to be a blessing in disguise as Andy Osborn — moved up front by manager Dave Stanley — equalised with a right foot shot in the 70th minute.

Ten minutes later, Dutch moved forward to head the winner from Danny Foran's corner to leave Stanley beaming.

"Steve Wicks was making his debut, Andy Osborn is normally a left back, we were without Cecil and Rex and had to use both our subs," he said.

Hayes daze struggling Borough

Harrow Borough 1 Hayes 2
FORMER Harrow Borough skipper Harry Manoe made a winning return to Earlsmead on Saturday, on his first visit back to his old club as Hayes manager.

Yet Boro had made the perfect start to the game, going ahead after just two minutes. Mark Adams broke clear down the left, drew the 'keeper and crossed for Steve Emmanuel to stab the ball home.

But Boro's joy lasted for just four minutes. Steve Bateman

was confounded by Ferdinand and, having been rounded, manhandled the forward to the ground, with Reg Leather blasting home the resulting spot kick.

The only other noteworthy effort of the first half fell to former Boro centre back Dave Silman, but Stuart MacKenzie was well positioned to hold his header.

Boro, missing the inspiration of Clevere Forde, had little to offer up front, with Lawrence Holmes going through a particularly lean patch.

Hayes struck the decisive goal in the 54th minute when Levy sent over a long cross which the diminutive Walton stooped to head home past MacKenzie.

Boro rarely looked like equalising, despite having most of the territorial advantage, with the standard of their crosses leaving much to be desired.

"It was a terrible result for us," said Boro manager Keith Chamberlain. "The penalty turned the game and after that we just got worse and worse."

"We are a bit short of confidence at the moment and badly need a couple of wins to get the show on the road again."

Boro, whose match on Saturday was their first competitive home game since the beginning of November, have several games to catch up on in their league programme.

And, although they are only seven points adrift of fifth spot, they are not too far clear of the Premier Division strugglers.

'Stones crash out of Trophy

Maidstone 2, Wealdstone 1
(After extra time; score at 90 mins: 1-1)

A GOAL in the 110th minute from mid-fielder Malcolm Stewart sent Wealdstone tumbling out of the FA Trophy in Sunday's 1st round replay at London Road.

Yet, despite the defeat, Wealdstone manager Brian Hall was delighted with his side's battling performance and feels the Christmas period has seen them "turn the corner".

"We may be out of the Trophy but it does

look like we might have turned the corner now," said Hall.

"League points are much more important to us at the moment and we can now concentrate all our efforts on getting some points in the bag and getting out of the pressure cooker at the bottom."

"If nothing else, we showed at Maidstone — and against Kettering on Boxing Day — that we are prepared to battle."

Wealdstone dominated the early proceedings at Maidstone and took a 26th minute lead. Maidstone failed to clear a corner and, although Andy Wallace missed his kick in front of goal, the ball fell for Derek Doyle to net.

Stones, with Paul Bowgett suspended and Steve Rutter still out injured, gave former Watford defender Lee Madison his debut and he had an outstanding game, before being taken off in extra time.

Doyle and Paul Miller went close to adding to the score in the first half on a heavy Maidstone pitch.

But the game was transformed with the introduction of winger Tony Lynch after the break. He was involved in most of Maidstone's attacking threats as Wealdstone were pinned back in their own half for long periods.

Bob Iles did well to save from Lynch before Maidstone finally broke through in the 53rd minute. Lynch and Steve Butler combined to set up John Barley and he swivelled to send a low shot past Iles.

Wealdstone's best second half chance saw Dennis Byatt's 59th minute free kick well saved by home 'keeper Derek Richardson, while at the other end Iles did well to block efforts from Lynch and Butler.

Doug McClure came to Wealdstone's rescue in the first period of extra time, clearing a John Glover header off the line, while Brian Greenaway twice went close to restoring Stones' lead — first heading wide and then hitting the side netting with a shot.

Wealdstone's solid rearguard action looked to have earned them another crack at the Conference high-flyers when Stewart struck with the decisive goal, cutting the ball low across Iles and into the far corner, after Butler had beaten Byatt.

League joy

Wealdstone 2, Kettering 1

WEALDSTONE moved out of the bottom three of the GM Conference with a 2-1 victory over fellow strugglers Kettering at Lower Mead on Boxing Day, writes Dave Free.

It was hardly a vintage Wealdstone display, but the three points lifted them to five places off the bottom.

Stones' boss Brian Hall admitted afterwards: "We were diabolical. But we won the game and maybe that is the change of fortune we needed."

He added: "Things are not looking as glum as they have been but it is still going to be a hard slog. We are now in the driving seat and our fate is in our own hands."

"This league is all about 42 games, not half a season and it is my job to make sure we now get as many points as we can in the remainder of the season."

Kettering had the better of the opening exchanges and took a 16th minute lead when Bob Iles could only parry an Ian Crawley shot, with Doug Keast slotting home the rebound.

Wealdstone hit back to equalise in the 27th minute with a bizarre goal. A Dennis Byatt clearance bounced over the stranded visiting 'keeper and Andy Wallace fired home the loose ball.

Wealdstone struck the winner with just six minutes remaining. A Byatt free kick was flicked on by Paul Bowgett for Robin Wainwright to apply the finishing touch.

Wealdstone: Iles, Taylor, Collins, Byatt, Bowgett, Wainwright, Greenaway (Goals: 25), Wallace, Miller, Doyle, Donnan (Temp. 80).

Townsend back

RUSSELL TOWNSEND is being recalled from Finchley to see if he can provide the spark to lift Harrow Borough in their New Year's Day clash with Yeovil.

Townsend, who is on loan to the Vauxhall-Opel Division One side, has been suffering with a toe injury but Boro boss Keith Chamberlain says:

"He seems to have recovered and will play against Yeovil. We need his experience at the moment. We are lacking creativity and hopefully he will provide that for us."

Ray Duffy, with a groin strain, is Chamberlain's only other doubt. He has an outside chance of lining up against Yeovil, but will more than likely return in the match at Kingstonian on Saturday.

Wealdstone face two crucial games in their bid to pull away from the GM Conference relegation zone, travelling to Kettering on Thursday and entertaining Frickley on Saturday.

Both Kettering and Frickley are languishing towards the bottom and victories will be vitally important to Wealdstone, who will

SOCCER PREVIEW

McDonough has been sidelined for a month with a fractured cheekbone, but Dyson says:

"He wants to play. I don't know if he is ready yet but the decision will be his."

Desmond Dennis is also expected to return from injury, while Alan Murray is suspended.

Kingsbury travel to Berkhamsted for a friendly on Saturday.

Wembley face two home matches as they hope to continue stealing up the table.

They face Hampton at Vale Farm on Thursday and entertain Epsom on Saturday.

Kingsbury boss Terry Dyson hopes to welcome back 'keeper Mick McDonough for the New Year's Day clash with Finchley at Silver Jubilee Park.

NEW YEAR FIXTURES

Thursday, January 1
GM Vauxhall Conference: Kettering v Wealdstone.

Vauxhall Premier: Harrow Borough v Yeovil (Earlsmead, 3); Dromex One — Wembley v Hampton (Vale Farm, 3); Kingsbury v Finchley (Silver Jubilee Park, 3).

Saturday, January 3
GM Vauxhall Conference: Wealdstone v Frickley (Lower Mead, 3).

Vauxhall Premier: Kingstonian v Harrow Borough; Blidun One — Wembley v Epsom and Ewell (Vale Farm, 3); London Spartan League: Gowers v Brimstone Rovers (White Lion, 3).

GM Vauxhall Conference: Frickley v Kingsbury; Berkhamsted v Kingsbury; Southern League: Harrow Borough v Berkhamsted (Ud. Uddridge v Wembley).

Shodeinde seals Wembley victory

Stevenage 0, Wembley 1

A SOLITARY strike by Peter Shodeinde 11 minutes from time was enough to earn Wembley full points from Saturday's visit to Stevenage Borough.

And Shodeinde's goal gave the Lions sweet revenge for a 3-0 defeat at the hands of Stevenage at Vale Farm back in October, writes Richard Markiewicz.

An even first half saw the first chance fall to Stevenage, a long, hopeful shot striking a post, while at the other end a deep cross by Steve Lucas saw Paul Janaway's low drive pushed aside by home 'keeper Des Gallagher.

Stevenage's vulnerability to the high crossing of Steve Lucas was often exposed, with Gallagher struggling to gather the ball cleanly, but the Wembley forwards failed to capitalise.

Stevenage rocked Wembley with a volley by Nigel Wilson, which hit the post after 25 minutes, before the Lions struck back to 'net' twice, but both efforts were ruled out.

First Gallagher failed to cut out a Shodeinde cross and although Don Lucas put the ball into the net, referee Mr Wright had spotted the Lions forward control the ball with his hand.

Then Gallagher, under pressure from Don Lucas, failed to handle a Steve Lucas cross but Janaway's strike was ruled out for an illegal challenge on the 'keeper by Lucas.

The last action of the first half saw Lions 'keeper Jeff Fanner tip a Wilson effort over the bar.

After the interval, Wembley began to assert greater authority, with Paul Bhatia and Tony Simpson controlling the midfield.

And it was Don Lucas who went closest to putting the Lions ahead. After 50 minutes he broke through the middle, only to see his shot palmed away by Gallagher and then fired just wide from a Shodeinde cross.

Bhatia latched on to a bad back pass in the 65th minute but his chip sailed just over the bar. But the Lions' persistence was finally rewarded in the 79th minute.

Eamon O'Connor flicked the ball through the middle and Shodeinde eluded his marker to slide the ball past Gallagher for his 15th goal of the season.

Stevenage's only second half effort saw Fanner again thwart Wilson, while Don Lucas nearly stretched Wembley's lead three minutes from time, forcing a fine save from Gallagher after being put clear by Simpson.

Wembley: Fanner, Kaur, S. Lucas, Murphy, Janaway, Smith, Simpson, Bhatia, Shodeinde, D. Lucas, O'Connor.



PETER SHODEINDE: FH Lions' winner at Stevenage.



DON LUCAS: Went close to stretching Wembley's lead.

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Wembley: Fanner, Kaur, S. Lucas, Murphy, Janaway, Smith, Simpson, Bhatia, Shodeinde, D. Lucas, O'Connor.

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