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St Gregory's take top honours in battle of the borough event

► **Football**

by Dan Mobbs

St Gregory's Year 7 side can claim to be the best in the borough after lifting the Brent Cup in a seven-goal thriller with Capital City, thanks to Sam Webb's player of the tournament performance.

It was the losing side which took the lead, but Felix Amoah levelled the score, before Webb took hold of the game and gave St Gregory's the advantage in the seven-a-side final at Wembley Stadium Power League.

Capital City refused to concede the game in the shadow of the national stadium and Kahlil Francis restored parity, but the inform Webb restored the Saints' lead and then combined with Amoah to make it four.

Power

Again City pulled themselves back into the game through the pace and power of Francis to make it 4-3, but it proved to be too little too late, as Webb lifted the cup for the Saints.

Ark Academy were cruelly denied having two teams in the final, after their A and B sides both



► Brent Cup winners St Gregory's with event organiser Paul Lawrence (back left)

suffered narrow defeats in the last four.

Capital City edged past Ark's A-side thanks to goals from Kahlil Francis and Drilon Krasniqi, despite Yasin Abdallah finding the net for the Academy.

And the B-side lost the other semi to the eventual winners by the same score. Sam Webb twice found the net for Saints, including an extra-time winner from the spot to cancel out Oran Wells strike for Ark.

Originally formed as the Copland Cup, event organiser, Paul Lawrence has extended the tournament to schools across Brent, with tournaments for students up to Year 10 planned for the coming week.

Harrow's Adomah jets off for Brazil

► **Football**

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When discussing his rise to the international stage, Adomah remains typically humble.

"When I was playing for Harrow, I would have to get up at 6am to start work, stand in the cold waiting to get the bus and then rush to training in the evening," he said.

"It wasn't much money but I had to make it last. It's made me appreciate what I'm doing now a lot more. To be able to do something that I love every day is just amazing."

Making the leap from Sunday football to the second tier of English football with Middlesbrough is an enviable achievement that countless only dream of, but competing on the world stage could be seen as a step too far.

Battling for places with Asamoah Gyan, Kevin-Prince Boateng and Andre Ayew in a group that includes United States, Portugal and Germany, Adomah will have his work cut out if he is to continue his rise to prominence.

Howell, however, has no doubt that his protégé can make the step and swells with a professional pride and personal delight that Adomah has been rewarded with such an opportunity.

"He's not the stereotype footballer you'd imagine. He's the complete opposite," said Howell. "He's well mannered, really polite, a humble person and very respectful."

"I'm just pleased that someone like him has been rewarded with a World Cup, it's just absolutely unbelievable. I've been banging the drum about him for ages saying he's good enough to play in the Premier League."

"I've always said that he had the potential to be anything he wanted to be and I felt he was good enough to play in the Premier League."

"And I've got every confidence that he won't let himself down and he'll do well for Ghana."

Stones sign up two as Hendon offload

► **Football**

Wexfordstone have announced the capture of midfield pairing Tom Hickey and Joe Turner from Hampton & Richmond Borough.

Both players had been long-term targets for Stones manager Gordon Bartlett and follow the signings of Carl Martin and Tom Collins at The Vale.

Hickey will be familiar to Stones fans, having left his mark on Gordon Bartlett's side twice last season.

The 21-year-old found the net in the league and the cup for Borough, but is now set to help Stones prepare for life in the Conference South.

Meanwhile, Hendon manager Gary McCann has confirmed that Michael Bryan and Anthony Thomas are set to depart Earlsmead.

Bryan has signed for Ryman Premier rivals Hampton & Richmond Borough, having made 42 appearances and scored one goal for the Greens.

Meanwhile, Thomas is expected to sign for Canvey Island this week after finding the net 20 times in 59 appearances for the club.

"Both players have been made very good offers," said McCann. "They go with our very good wishes, and our thanks for all their efforts throughout last season."

"The management team are disappointed to see them both move on, but we have to turn the page."

Zittel rolls back the years for Willesden at retro Nocturne

► **Cycling**

A late charge for the line from Tom Zittel handed the Willesden CC rider victory in the inaugural Retro Criterium at the 2014 London Nocturne.

Zittel rode a 1960s Claud Butler Super Torino in the nostalgic race and he survived an early collision to maintain pace at the front, before making a dash for victory in the 20 minute plus three lap event.

"From the gun, the race was quick and after three laps a touch of wheels brought down the riders directly in front of me," said Zittel, who wore a vintage Willesden CC jersey courtesy of clubmate Ray Kelly.

"Miraculously I avoided com-

ing down with some very quick reflexes and a bit of luck. I then bridged to the three riders up the road who had been in front of the crash."

Attack

"With three laps to go Will Downing [who finished second] attacked but I held his wheel. Half a lap later I decided that it was time to make my move and go for the win."

Zittel was joined at the Nocturne by clubmate Jayne Paine, who rode in the Elite Women's Criterium, but pulled out to conserve energy for the National Masters Road Race Championships in Bedfordshire the following day.

Paine narrowly missed out on

victory at the Masters, but took silver in an event she described as "brutal".

Meanwhile, on the track, Roger Woodford took victory from his nephew Connor – who is still a junior rider and led with five laps remaining – in the 10 lap senior scratch at Welwyn.

Roger Woodford also won the 10 lap block handicap and Connor secured second place in the points event.

Alex Pierce took second in the BC West Thames event and was followed across the line by Tony Lusardi in 14th.

Elsewhere, Ray Turner was on national duty for Team GB in the ITU World Duathlon Championship and recorded a sixth place finish in the 70-74 group.



► Willesden's Tom Zittel (right)

Wreckers complete an exciting season with World Cup win

► **Football**

Gibbons Wreckers Under-13s completed an impressive unbeaten season with a surprising league and World Cup double.

Wembley FC's Vale Farm replaced Brazil as the venue, which saw Wreckers donning the colours of Japan as they competed in an alternative World Cup tournament.

Having eased past England, Argentina and Nigeria in the knockout stages, a determined Brazil team awaited Wreckers, who play at Gibbons Recreation Ground on Bridge Road.

However, Wreckers battled hard to earn a 2-0 win and set up a final clash with Spain.

In a tight and hard-fought en-



► Gibbons Wreckers Under-13s triumphed in an alternative World Cup

counter, both sides went close to scoring, but the game remained

goalless, so once again the world's premier football tournament was

decided by the lottery of a penalty shoot-out.

Spain converted their first three kicks and Wreckers matched them, as Razvan, Jack, Damani, and Dominik all found the net.

Impressive

The advantage swung towards Wreckers, though, as Walid made a vital stop for Japan to keep the score at 4-4.

And showing few signs of nerves, Blake stepped up and blasted the ball past the Spain goalkeeper to secure an unlikely double for Japan and Wreckers.

Wreckers: Daniel, Delgado, Milan, Darnell, Shpresim, Damani, Ansar, Wesmore, Jack, Blake, Razvan, Amin, Walid, Ronaldo, Dominik.